



Sustainability Appraisal
(Incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment)
- Interim Report

Local Development Plan

2020-2035



Belfast
City Council

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CONTEXT

The Local Development Plan (LDP) is fundamental to delivering sustainable development that reflects the vision and aspiration of local communities. It will address the needs and opportunities of Belfast in terms of housing, economy, community facilities and infrastructure as well as a basis for safeguarding the environment, adapting to climate change and ensuring good design.

A Sustainability Appraisal is a methodical process that is undertaken during the preparation of the Local Development Plan. It promotes sustainable development by assessing the extent to which the emerging plan, when appraised against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve the environmental, economic and social objectives as set out in the Scoping Report and presented in Table 2 of this report.

A series of questions (or sub objectives) within the SA/SEA Framework contained within the Scoping Report is used to structure the assessment. The process allows an opportunity to consider ways the LDP can contribute to improving the environment, economic development and social conditions. It also flags up potential adverse effects and means of mitigating or enhancing effects. This process can ensure that the options outlined in the Preferred Options Paper (POP) are the most appropriate given the reasonable alternatives. The SA is an iterative process that informs the development of the emerging LDP.

The appraisal of reasonable alternatives in chapter 4 identifies the options considered and a matrix of compatibility of each option against the SA objectives. The matrices identify the potential significant positive and negative effects of policy options, considers where they would arise in the short, medium or long term and whether effects would be permanent or temporary. It also considers cumulative effects of policies including secondary and synergistic effects which may have an indirect impact on the environment.

What happens next?

In accordance with the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, the procedures for engaging the public and stakeholders are outlined. Alongside this, the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004 Regulation 12 (1-6) outlines the consultation procedures for the SEA.

The SA/SEA Interim Report including the SA/SEA Scoping Report will be published for consultation alongside the POP for a period of 12 weeks. This will facilitate a more meaningful public consultation process by encouraging interested parties to make informed judgements when submitting representations on the POP.

Belfast City Council will consult on the POP and Interim SA Report between 26th January and 20th April 2017 and will take account of the views raised. Further details of the community consultation process is set out in the Council's Statement of Community Involvement¹

The next stage in the plan process is the development of the draft Plan Strategy which is expected for publication in 2017.

¹ <http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.aspx?IID=18462&sID=14056>

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BELFAST CITY COUNCIL AREA – KEY CHARACTERISTICS

The name Belfast comes from the Gaelic 'Beal Feirste' which derives from the River Farset which translates as 'mouth of sand ford'. The history of Belfast is inextricably linked to the Industrial Revolution with the rivers providing power to powering factories and supplying essential water to the Linen Mills. Belfast was renowned for its linen industry, tobacco and rope making. With the opening of Harland and Wolff in 1862, saw a rapid expansion in the ship building industry with one of its most famous ships, albeit ill fated, the RMS Titanic became a product of the growing industry and it soon became the biggest and most productive ship building yard in the world.

The legacy of Belfast's troubled past is still felt today and has had major impacts on the physicality of the City from its spatial layout to the design of its buildings as well as its fragmented and duplicated service provision across the city. Almost 20 years after the implementation of 'The Good Friday Agreement', Belfast has seen significant redevelopment, investment and regeneration in the City. However, segregation continues in parts of the city in 2016 with 88² different security barriers and forms of defensive architecture, known as 'Peace Walls', are still located within and between communities.

In April 2015, the Belfast City Council Area boundary expanded to incorporate areas that were formally parts of Lisburn City Council, Castlereagh Borough Council and North Down Borough Council (see below figure 1). The new areas include the localities of Gilnahirk, Tullycarnet, Braniel, Castlereagh, Merok, Cregagh, Wynchurch, Glencregagh (formerly in Castlereagh Borough Council), Belvoir, Collin Glen, Poleglass, Lagmore, Twinbrook, Kilwee and Dunmurry, (formerly in Lisburn City Council) and a small section from North Down Council

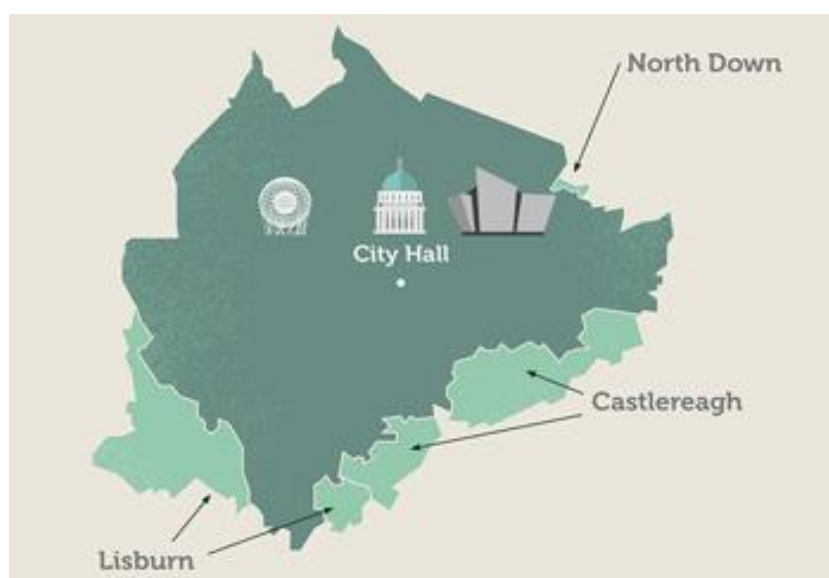


Figure 1: Updated Belfast City Council Boundary

1.2 Geography

Belfast is Northern Ireland's capital city. The Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2035 recognises the important role Belfast plays in generating regional prosperity through industry, employment, commerce and cultural amenities.

The Belfast City Council area covers a total area of 137.7 square kilometres; of which 30% of its land is defined as 'rural' i.e. 'Rural' is defined as land outside the settlement development limits. In 2014, the new Belfast City Council Area had a total population of 336,830. By 2015, the population is estimated to have risen to 338,907, which is 18.3% of the Northern Ireland Population. This population increased as the city boundary expanded to take in around 53,000 additional residents from areas that were formally parts of Lisburn City Council, Castlereagh Borough Council and North Down Borough Council. Belfast City Council Area is the largest of the 11 new Local Government Districts and has over 130,000 inhabitants more than the next largest new council area, Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon.

² Figure from BCC Good Relations Unit

Belfast is bordered by three neighbouring local authority areas, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and North Down and Ards District Council. Belfast is the main settlement in the Belfast City Council area along with 3 smaller settlements of Edenderry, Hannahstown and Loughview located on the rural fringes.

1.3 Belfast Local Development Plan

To enable the city to grasp the opportunities available to it, and to overcome the challenges, the Local Development Plan will be guided by an overall Vision, which describes where the city wants to be by 2035. The vision provides an over-arching context for the Plan that shows how economic, social and environmental considerations can be balanced to deliver sustainable development up to 2035. With the publication of the Statement of Community Involvement and publication of the Local Development Plan (LDP) Timetable in June 2016 the plan process formally commenced.

The Local Development Plan is guided by the following NI Executive and Council Strategies that outline their visions and policy objectives that are relevant for guiding the future development of Belfast.

- Draft Programme for Government Framework 2016 – 2021 “to build a shared and better future for all”.
- Regional Development Strategy 2035 – Overarching Spatial Plan for NI
- Strategic Planning Policy Statement
- Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP)
- Sustainable Development Strategy 2010
- Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future – A new approach to Regional Transport
- Belfast Conversation public consultation to inform the emerging Belfast Agenda and the Community Plan
- Belfast City Council Corporate Plan 2016-2017
- Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy 2015
- Belfast Investment Programme 2015
- Belfast Future City Making it happen 2015
- Belfast Master Plan 2014

These Strategies have helped to inform and shape the Local Development Plan Vision:

Belfast LDP VISION:

Belfast will be a globally successful, dynamic, smart, 21st Century Regional City, that is environmentally resilient with a vibrant economic heart, bustling with sustainable mixed use businesses that attracts investment, talent and visitors; and is surrounded by thriving well connected neighbourhoods where people love to live.

The City will be a gateway to opportunities locally, nationally and worldwide with a strong local economy supporting progressive, healthy, safe and vibrant communities

To help deliver the vision for 2035 there are a series of strategic aims which have been identified below:

Local Development Plan Strategic Aims

- **Creating a Vibrant Economy** – a strengthened Belfast as the regional economic driver.
- **Shaping a Liveable Place** – promoting development which enhances the health and wellbeing of communities, neighbourhoods and places.

- **A Smart Connected and Resilient Place** – improving connectivity supporting the efficient movement of people, goods, energy and information to create a dynamic innovative 21st century city attractive to investors, businesses, residents and visitors, and encourage the capacity for adaption to environmental challenges and the transition to a low carbon city.
- **A Green and Active Place** – a protected, enhanced and attractive natural setting comprising the surrounding hills, coastline, Belfast Lough and the Lagan Valley Regional Park by reinforcing their uniqueness and accessibility to all who live, work and enjoy the City.

Local Development Plan Strategic Objectives

The strategic objectives will outline how the Local Development Plan will address the key issues and shape future development to deliver the vision for Belfast 2035. In supporting the strategic aims the following objectives are set out below:

1. To maintain a strong and growing economy by ensuring a range of suitable sites for employment uses are available and able to be developed to meet the future growth of the economy and employment.
2. To support the local economies by promoting development of suitable land and buildings for retail, leisure, office and commercial uses within the City Centre and district centres ensuring the future needs are addressed and their continued vibrancy and viability maintained.
3. To strengthen the potential of local tourism and the development of suitable tourism infrastructure, cultural facilities, and accommodation for this important sector of the economy.
4. To support the connectivity and the continued regeneration of disadvantaged and deprived areas.
5. To grow the population of Belfast and connect with other cities across the UK and Ireland in supporting a greater level of inward investment.
6. To address current and future residential needs through ensuring sufficient suitable land is available to meet future requirements, and that new residential development is of an appropriate type, size, tenure and mix.
7. To promote and deliver high quality design by including policies to protect and enhance the built environment that fosters local distinctiveness.
8. To improve community safety and reduce the potential for antisocial behaviour or crime through an approach to new development focused on design quality.
9. To improve access for all groups in society to public services through the design and location of new development.
10. To protect and enhance the historic environment through effective management of proposed development and ensuring high quality design.
11. To build stronger communities by protecting and improving social, economic, green, digital and physical infrastructure through supporting its development and enhancement, and through securing contributions from new development.

12. To ensure availability of land to facilitate sustainable patterns of development and promote travel by more sustainable modes of transport.
13. Address the local elements that could contribute to wider environmental challenges through ensuring new development is designed to minimise carbon emissions, use resources efficiently, and be resilient to longer term implications.
14. Adapt for the potential implications of environmental changes through management of development within areas of risk and designing new development to reduce future risk from flooding.
15. Ensure new development minimises the production of waste and supports recycling.
16. To support healthy lifestyles through ensuring sufficient land availability for accessible play, sport and recreation opportunities.
17. To protect, enhance and link the natural environment and biodiversity by managing the location and design of new development.
18. To protect and conserve the natural asset of Belfast's countryside, coast and hills by managing proposed development in sensitive areas.
19. To safeguard the environment by ensuring new development proposals address the potential risks in respect of environmental pollution or damage.

1.4 The purpose of an Interim Report

This Interim Report forms part of the Council's duty to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC) of its Local Development Plan (LDP) until 2035.

The Interim Report is part 2 of the first stage (Stage A) of the SA process. Stage A (1) which covers the Scoping Report involves:

- Reviewing relevant plans, policies and programmes, and objectives relevant to the plan with information on synergies or inconsistencies;
- Collecting baseline information;
- Identifying the economic, social and environmental issues and objectives the Council proposes to address in helping to deliver sustainable development through the LDP;
- Developing the proposed framework by which the strategic options and detailed policies and proposals of the LDP will be appraised; and,
- Consulting on the scope of the SA/SEA in accordance with the SEA Directive which has been transposed into Northern Ireland law by the 'Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004 EAPP (NI) Reg 11.

Stage A (2) requires the preparation of the environmental report which involves:

- Identifying, describing and evaluating the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan;
- Considering Reasonable alternatives taking into account the geographical scope of the plan and reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with;
- Description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties encountered in compiling the required information.

The Interim Report has been developed to enable statutory authorities and other interested bodies to make comments on the scoping and Interim Environmental Report for the SA/SEA. Any significant gaps in the information gathered can be identified and steps taken to remedy these before the LDP is developed further.

1.5 What is the Preferred Options Paper (POP)?

The POP provides the basis for consulting with the public and stakeholders on a series of options for dealing with key issues in the Belfast City Council area. It aims to stimulate public comment and help interested parties to become involved in a more meaningful way at this earliest stage of plan preparation.

Public and stakeholder participation as part of the preparation of the POP is regarded as crucial, particularly in identifying relevant local issues which need to be considered from the outset of plan preparation. Effective community and stakeholder engagement also strengthens the evidence base for plans and strategies which in turn, is used to inform the preparation and help justify the 'soundness' of the local development plan³.

The POP takes account of strategic objectives and spatial issues identified through the Belfast Agenda process to ensure there is a shared approach in terms of the spatial aspirations for the city. The Preferred Options also respond to the regional context set out in the Regional Development Strategy 2035 and by the Government Departments.

1.6 Structure of the Report

The section has introduced the context of the Belfast Local Development Plan and the process of the Preferred Option. The remainder of this report is structured into the following sections:

- **Chapter 2: Legislative Context and Methodology** provides the context and requirements of the legislation of the SA, the other assessments associated with the LDP process which may be included as part of or complement the SA, an outline of the SA process and a description of the approach that has been taken to the SA of the LDP to date and introduces the SA framework used in the appraisal.
- **Chapter 3: Sustainability Context for Development in Belfast** summarises the relationship between Belfast LDP and other pertinent relevant plans, policies and programmes, summarises the distinctive social, economic and environmental trends in Belfast and identifies the key sustainability issues. The SA for the LDP Vision, Aims and Objectives is also set out.
- **Chapter 4: Sustainability Appraisal of the Reasonable Alternative Options** carried out in parallel with the preparation of the Preferred Options Paper (POP), for delivering the objectives of the Belfast LDP, against the SA Framework as set out in the Scoping Report.
- **Chapter 5: SA findings for the Preferred Options** against the SA Framework which summarises the likely cumulative and significant effects, along with consideration to possible mitigation or enhancement measures. Potential recommendations are outlined for ways in which to maximise the benefits of the LDP and minimise any adverse effects.
- **Chapter 6: Monitoring** outlines the approach that should be taken for monitoring the likely significant effects of the plan.
- **Chapter 7: Next Stages** describes the consultation process and the next steps to be undertaken in the plan preparation process.

The report is supplemented by a number of appendices:

- Appendix 1: Scoping Report Consultation Responses.
- Appendix 2: Plans, Policies and Programme Review
- Appendix 3: Baseline Information for Belfast
- Appendix 4: Matrices of Reasonable Alternatives.

³ http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/advice/practice-notes/dp_practice_note_5_pop.pdf

2.0 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Requirements

The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 requires Council, under statutory duty, to undertake a SA. SA is a tool for appraising policies to ensure they reflect sustainable development objectives (that is social, environmental and economic factors). This is required in relation to both development plan documents, the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan, and will involve consultation on the scope of the appraisal alongside the Preferred Options Papers (POP) consultation.

Section 25 of the Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006 requires all NI Departments and a council, in exercising their functions, to act in the way they consider best calculated to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Section 5 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (the 2011 Act) copper-fastens this duty by requiring those who exercise any function in relation to local development plans to do so with the objective of furthering sustainable development.

Furthermore, Sections 8(6) and 9(7) of the 2011 Act requires an appraisal of sustainability to be carried out for the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan, respectively. As the SA for each of these development plan documents will incorporate an assessment of environmental effects, it must also comply with the requirements of the European Directive 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.

2.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Requirements

The SEA is set out in European Directive 2001/42/EC and is transposed into Northern Ireland law by the 'Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (NI) 2004 (EAPP (NI) 2004), referred to as 'SEA Regulations'. The SEA is a procedure that contributes to the integration of environmental considerations in the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes. The EAPP (NI) 2004 Regulations set out more detailed requirements for the process and content of the environmental assessment of plans and development.

The SEA will be undertaken in relation to both development plan documents as an integral part of the SA process above. The draft POP outlines the vision, objectives, key planning issues affecting the City, possible patterns of new development and planned growth, and the justification for the Council's Preferred Option for Belfast.

The SEA integrates environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans with the aim of protecting the environment and promoting sustainable development.

Article 1 of the SEA Directive states that its objective is:

"to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development".

The SEA Directive requires the Council to assess the likely significant effects of its plans and programmes on: *"the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship of the above factors"* including *"secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium, and long-term, permanent and temporary positive and negative effects"*.

2.3 Differences between SA and SEA

The main difference between SA and SEA is that SA is wider in scope as it covers the social and economic effects of plans, as well as the more environmentally focused considerations of SEA as required by the SEA Directive. The objective of the SEA Directive is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with the view to promoting sustainable development.

Similar to SEA, SA must be carried out from the outset and in parallel with the local development plan preparation process. In doing so it will help ensure that decisions are made will help contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Whilst the requirement to carry out a SA and SEA are distinct, it is possible to satisfy both these requirements through a combined appraisal process.

The key output of the SA/SEA process is an Environmental Report that will present information on the likely effects of the draft LDP.

This Interim Report provides an appraisal of reasonable alternatives of the options for delivering the objectives of the LDP against the SA Framework developed in the Scoping Report.

2.4 Meeting the requirements of the SEA Directive

An Environmental Report is the output required by the SEA Directive. The Scoping Report includes the initial requirements of the Environmental Report as outlined in the SEA Directive and the Interim Report is the assessment of reasonable alternatives against SA/SEA Framework. Table 1 below sets the stages of the Environmental Report and highlights the relevant sections that are covered in this Interim Report. To ensure consistency and compliance with the SEA Directive, the table below will be included in the full SA Report and at each stage of the SA.

Table 1: Meeting the Requirements of the SEA Directive

SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in this Interim Report?
<p>Preparation of an environmental report in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated. The information to be given is (Art. 5 and Annex I):</p>	<p>The full SA Report for the Belfast Local Development Plan will constitute the 'Environmental Report', and will be produced at a later stage in the SA process.</p>
<p>a) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;</p>	<p>Chapter 2 provides an outline of the contents, main objectives of the Belfast LDP and 3 outlines the relations with other relevant plans and programmes. Appendix 2 provides a review of the Plans, Policies and Programme which are relevant to the Belfast LDP.</p>
<p>b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;</p>	<p>Chapter 3 and Appendix 3</p>
<p>c) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;</p>	<p>Chapter 3 and Appendix 3</p>

SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in this Interim Report?
d) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC.;	Chapter 3 and Appendix 3
e) The environmental protection, objectives, established at international, Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental, considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;	Chapter 3 and Appendix 2
f) The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. (Footnote: These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects);	Interim Report: Chapter 4 and Chapter 5 and Appendix 4
g) The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme;	Chapter 4 and 5 and Appendix 4
h) An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information;	Chapters 2, 4 and 5 and Appendix 4
i) A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Art. 10;	Chapter 6 and Table 7
j) a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings	A separate non-technical summary document has been prepared to accompany this full SA Report.
The report shall include the information that may reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, its stage in the decision-making process and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process to avoid duplication of the assessment (Art. 5.2)	Addressed in this Interim Report and will adhere to this requirement.
<p>Consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> authorities with environmental responsibility, when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental report (Art. 5.4) 	Consultation on the Scoping Report was undertaken between November 2016 and December 2016. The Scoping Report was published on 26 th January 2017 along with the Interim Report and the Preferred Options Paper.

SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in this Interim Report?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> authorities with environmental responsibility and the public, shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme (Art. 6.1, 6.2) 	<p>Consultation is being undertaken in relation to the Preferred Options Paper from 26th January 2017 for a period of 12 weeks and will be undertaken for all future iterations of the plan. The current consultation documents are accompanying by this Interim SA Report.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other EU Member States, where the implementation of the plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment of that country (Art. 7). 	<p>Not relevant as there will be no effects beyond the UK from the Belfast City Local Development Plan.</p>
<p>Taking the environmental report and the results of the consultations into account in decision-making (Art. 8)</p>	
<p>Provision of information on the decision: When the plan or programme is adopted, the public and any countries consulted under Art.7 must be informed and the following made available to those so informed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the plan or programme as adopted A statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental report of Article 5, the opinions expressed pursuant to Article 6 and the results of consultations entered into pursuant to Art. 7 have been taken into account in accordance with Art. 8, and the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and the measures decided concerning monitoring (Art. 9) 	<p>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</p>
<p>Monitoring of the significant environmental effects of the plan's or programme's implementation (Art. 10)</p>	<p>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</p>
<p>Quality Assurance: environmental reports should be of a suffience standard to meet the requirements of the SEA Dorective (Art. 12).</p>	<p>This report has been produced in line with current guidance and good practive for SEA/SA and this table demonstrates where the requirements of the SEA Directive have been met.</p>

2.5 Other Assessments Applicable to the LDP

2.5.1 Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

Section 102 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010) requires a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) to be undertaken during the preparation of a LDP, if necessary.

The purpose of HRA is to assess the implications of a land use plan for European sites, in view of the sites' conservation objectives. Such sites are defined in Regulation 10 of the Habitats Regulations as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Ramsar sites are also considered in HRA as a matter of policy. HRA should ascertain whether the

plan, on its own or in combination with other plans, is likely to adversely affect a site's integrity. If this is the case, or the Council is unable to ascertain that fact, it must examine alternative solutions which better respect the integrity of the site.

The Shared Environmental Services (SES) team that has been set up in Mid and East Antrim Council which provides support to Council on a range of specialist functions including the HRA on planning applications and during the preparation of the LDP to assess and advise on the impacts of European Sites. This function will support Council to ensure the legal requirements of these habitats/sites are fully met in accordance to the Habitats Directive and other Environmental Legislation and to reduce the risk of challenge to planning decisions, development plans and policies.

2.5.2 Health Assessment

The first of the core principles in Northern Ireland's two tier planning systems is 'improving health and wellbeing'. The SPPS states: *"the planning system has an active role to play in helping better the lives of people and communities in Northern Ireland and supporting the Executive's key priority of improving health and wellbeing."*⁴

The LDP can influence policy that can contribute to improving health and wellbeing, for example, ensuring sustainable access to green and open spaces and considering the need for adequate public amenity space within all residential developments.

Whilst a Health Impact Assessment is not a formal requirement of the LDP, provision for health and wellbeing has been identified and examined within the 'Social' aspect of the SA and will be a key theme within the Plan Strategy and Local Plan Policies.

2.5.3 Equalities Impact Assessment

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, Equality of Opportunity, places a statutory requirement on each public authority to carry out their functions with due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation; between men and women generally; between persons with a disability and persons without; and between persons with dependents and persons without.

In addition, without prejudice to the above obligations, public authorities are required to have regard to the need to promote good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

A council is therefore required to ensure that their local development plans are prepared in accordance with Section 75 statutory obligations. Consequently, a council will have to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) to determine if there will be any potential impacts upon Section 75 groups as a result of the policies and proposals contained in their local development plans.

The principle of promoting equality of opportunity and good relations between people must be a key objective behind the Local Development Plan. In land use planning terms this means ensuring everyone benefits from quality housing, employment, and access to public services and recreation facilities. Council is therefore required to ensure that their local development plans are prepared in accordance with Section 75 statutory obligations. Consequently, the Council is undertaking an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) to determine if there will be any potential impacts upon Section 75 groups as a result of the policies and proposals contained in its local development plans.

⁴ SPPS 2015 DOE (pp.15)

2.5.4 Rural Proofing

Rural proofing is the process where any major policy and strategy are assessed to determine whether they have a differential impact on rural areas, and where appropriate, make adjustments within their plans to take account of particular rural circumstances.

The Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 received Royal Assent in May 2016 and will commence for local Councils on 01st June 2017. It places a duty on public authorities to have due regard to rural needs when developing, implementing or devising policies, plans or programmes. There is a requirement to inform the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) on how they have fulfilled this duty on an annual basis. DAERA have produced guidance on rural proofing in 'Thinking Rural – a guide to rural proofing'⁵.

The SA will incorporate the rural proofing element to ensure rural areas are considered as part of the plan process.

2.6 Role of the Consultation Body in SA and SEA

The SEA Directive requires authorities with environmental responsibilities to be consulted at specific stages in the SEA process. The EAPP (NI) 2004 Regulations refer to these authorities as the 'consultation body'. The consultation body must be consulted by responsible authorities (the bodies which prepare plans and programmes subject to the Directive) in this case a council in the preparation of its LDP.

Regulation 4 of the EAPP (NI) Regulations designates the Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) as the 'consultation body' and delivery of this function is led by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA). A council will usually contact the consultation body at four stages during SEA:

1. Screening: When determining if a plan or programme requires a SEA (Article 3(6) of the SEA Directive);
2. Scoping: When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the Environmental Report (Article 5(4));
3. Public consultation: When consulting the public on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying Environmental Report (Article 6(2));
4. Decision to adopt: When making information available on the Plan adopted, consultations, decisions made, and monitoring measures (Article 9(1)).

As the Council must undertake a SA which incorporates the legislative requirements of SEA, it must also consult the consultation body as part of the combined SA and SEA process. The Council may also consult other bodies and/or the public depending upon the nature of the information required e.g. social and economic objectives/issues relating to SA. Therefore, judgement will be used in relation to the level of consultation required to ensure that the SA framework used to appraise the LDP is sufficiently robust and justified.

The Interim SA Report, consisting of the SA Scoping Report and appraisal of alternatives will be published for consultation along with the POP. This will facilitate a more meaningful public consultation process by enabling interested parties to make more informed judgements when submitting representations on the POP. Regulation 12 of EAPP (NI) Regulations sets out the requirements for consultation on an environmental report.

⁵ <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/rural-proofing>

2.7 Outline of the SA Process

As previously mentioned, the SA process should be fully integrated into the local development plan making process and for developing monitoring arrangements for the implementation of the plan.

Figure 2 shows the linkages between the key stages of the LDP and SA process. The SA process involves the following key stages:

- Stage A (1): SA Scoping Report - preparation of the evidence base to inform the appraisal, establishing the SA framework / objectives for undertaking the appraisal and seeking agreement with Consultation Body;
- **Stage A (2): Interim SA Report: consists of the SA Scoping Report, assessment of reasonable alternatives against agreed SA framework and undertaking public consultation along with the Preferred Options Paper;**
- Stage B: Assessment of alternatives and any likely significant effects of the draft plan against SA framework, taking into account the evidence base and where necessary, proposing mitigation measures for alleviating any adverse effects;
- Stage C: SA Report to document the appraisal process and findings;
- Stage D: Consultation with the public, environmental authorities and any EU member state affected on the sustainability appraisal report and draft plan;
- Stage E: SA Statement to show how the SA and opinions / consultations have been taken into account, the reasons for choosing the plan as adopted and the proposed measures to monitor the plan;
- Stage F: Monitoring: establishing arrangements to monitor the significant effects of the implementation of the plan, to identify unforeseen adverse effects and undertake appropriate remedial action.

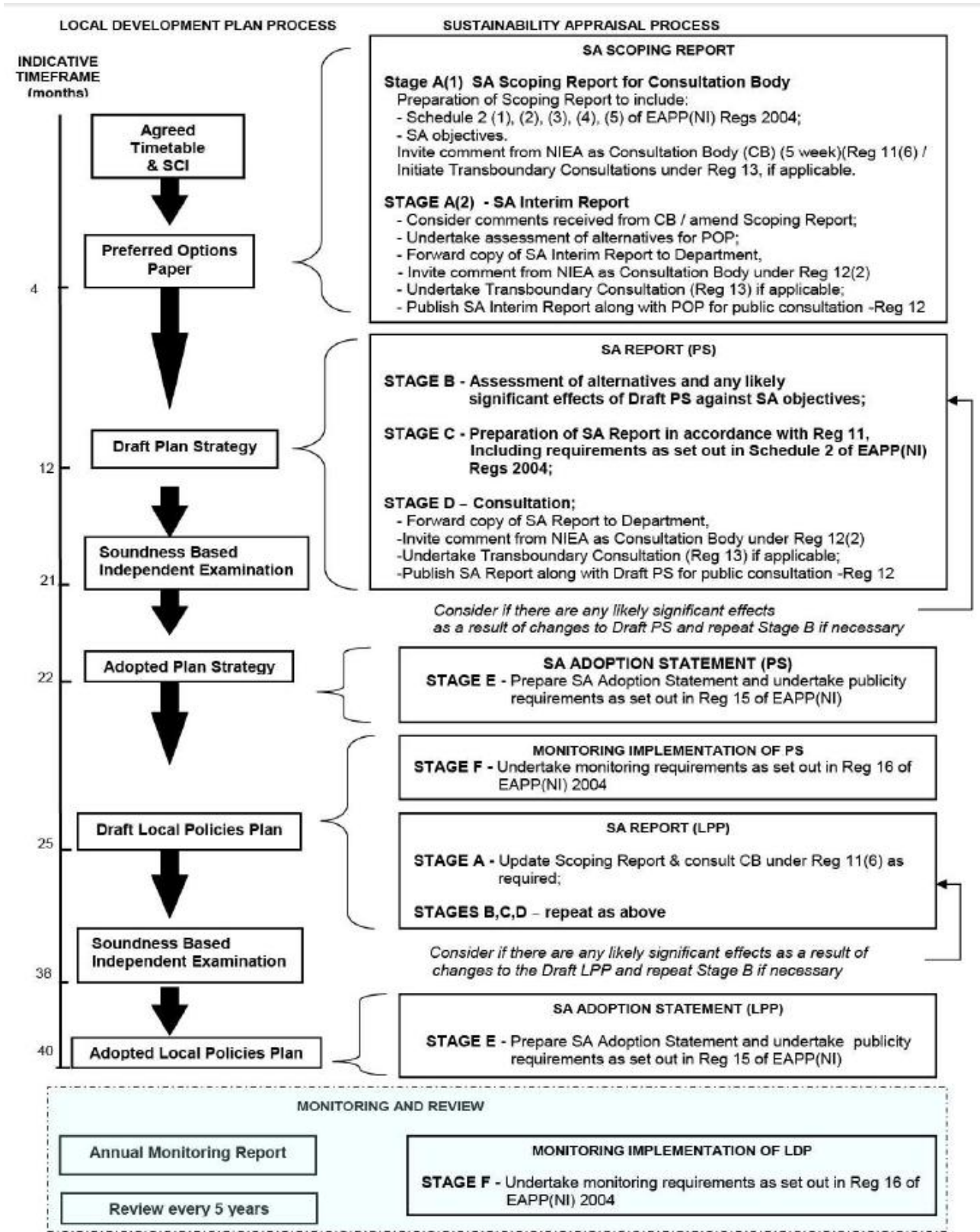


Figure 2: Local Development Plan and Sustainability Appraisal Process
 Source: Development Plan Practice Note 04: Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (2015) Department of the Environment (pp.8)

2.8 Stages in the SA/SEA Process

The SA/SEA is developed in tandem with the LDP process. It also sets the monitoring arrangements for the implementation of the plan in order to identify problems and will inform the review of the LDP. There are two main outputs of the SA/SEA:

- a. A **Scoping Report** which is set out in Schedule 2(1) of the EAPP (NI) Regulations, and establishes the context for undertaking an appraisal and the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the plan; and
- b. An **Environmental Report** which includes the likely significant effects on issues such as the economy, population, human health, biodiversity, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage), landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.

The SA/SEA comprises of 5 stages:

- Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope.
- **Stage A (2): Interim SA Report: consists of the SA Scoping Report, assessment of reasonable alternatives against agreed SA framework and undertaking public consultation along with the Preferred Options Paper;**
- **Stage B:** Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects.
- **Stage C:** Preparing the Environmental Report.
- **Stage D:** Consulting on the draft plan and the Environmental Report.
- **Stage E:** Monitoring implementation of the plan.

2.9 Appraisal Methodology

A number of key tasks have been undertaken to inform the preparation of the POP and the evidence base for the LDP. A series of elected member's workshops were undertaken on various themes and topics relevant to the development evidence base including Population, Housing, Economic Development, City Centre, Tourism, Development in the Countryside, Open Space and Outdoor Recreational, Natural Heritage, Urban Design and Built Heritage, Flooding and Coasts, Environmental Quality, Transport, Utilities, Public Services and Employment. The topic papers presented the social, economic and environmental conditions and characteristics of Belfast.

The topic papers were key in developing the Scoping Report as part of the SA/SEA process. The following sections describe the approach that has been taken to date.

Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope.

The Scoping Report forms part of the Council's duty to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC) of its Local Development Plan (LDP) until 2035. The SA process began in the summer of 2016.

The Scoping Report is the first stage (Stage A) of the SA process and it involves collecting information on the social, economic and environmental characteristics as well as:

- Reviewing relevant plans, policies and programmes, and objectives relevant to the plan with information on synergies or inconsistencies;

- Collecting baseline information including the SEA 'topics' - biodiversity, population, human health, flora, fauna, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the inter relationship better the above factors. Information on social and economic issues were also gathered and taken into consideration.
- Identifying the economic, social and environmental issues and objectives the Council proposes to address in helping to deliver sustainable development through the LDP. Consideration was given to the likely evolution of each issue if the LDP was not to be developed;
- Developing the proposed framework by which the strategic options and detailed policies and proposals of the LDP will be appraised; and,
- Consulting on the scope of the SA/SEA in accordance with the SEA Directive which has been transposed into Northern Ireland law by the 'Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004 EAPP (NI) Reg 11. The Consultation Body, NIEA received the Scoping Report in November 2016 for review for a period of 5 weeks.

The Scoping Report has been developed to enable statutory authorities and other interested bodies to make comments on the scope of the SA/SEA. Consideration of the objectives of the SA/SEA for carrying out the assessment and indeed their consistency with other plans and programmes can also be reviewed by consultees and interested bodies. Any significant gaps in the information gathered can be identified and steps taken to remedy these before the LDP is developed further.

Appendix 1 of this report presents a table which lists the comments received from the Consultation Body, namely Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) and Historic Environment Division (HED), and describes how each comment has been addressed. Several amendments have since been made in each section of the Scoping Report to reflect the suggestions and comments made by the Consultation Body. These amendments have also been fed into the Interim Report being presented in Appendix 2: Plans, Policies and Programme Review and Appendix 3: Baseline Information for Belfast which is also summarised in Chapter 3.

Table 2 below presents the 19 SA objectives in the SA framework and shows how all the SEA topics have been covered by SA objectives.

Table 2: SA Objectives

SA Theme	SEA Directive Topic	SA Objective
Social	Population	1. Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society
	Population Human Health	2. Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.
	Population	3. To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs
	Population	4. Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour
	Population	5. To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities
	Population	6. Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities
Economic	Population	7. To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities
	Population	8. Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's roles as a regional economic driver
	Population Air Climatic Factors	9. Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel
	Climatic Factors	10. Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy
Environmental	Biodiversity Flora Fauna	11. Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species
	Soil	12. Protect and enhance soil quality
	Cultural Heritage (including architectural and archaeological) Material Assets	13. Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings
	Landscape	14. Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.
	Landscape	15. Protect and enhance open space and natural greenspace including Belfast's countryside asset
	Material Assets	16. Promote the sustainable management of waste
	Water Material Assets	17. Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources
	Air	18. Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality
	Climatic Factors	19. Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.

Stage A (2): Interim SA Report: consists of the SA Scoping Report, assessment of reasonable alternatives against agreed SA framework and undertaking public consultation along with the Preferred Options Paper;

This report focuses on Stage A (2) of the process which presents the background information and decides the scope of the SA/SEA. The Interim Report considers comments received from the Consultation Body on the Scoping Report (see Appendix 1). The Scoping Report has amended to reflect these comments and have also been fed into the Interim Report being presented in Appendix 2: Plans, Policies and Programme Review and Appendix 3: Baseline Information for Belfast and is also summarised in Chapter 3.

The Interim Report undertakes an assessment of reasonable alternatives to the options contained in the Preferred Options Paper. A description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties encountered in compiling the information is required.

The appraisal of reasonable alternatives against the sustainability issues, as set out in Chapter 3 of this Report, can help to determine the preferred option for the preparation of subsequent development plan documents. It also provides a sound evidence base to justify the decision-making process around the preferred options.

SA Stage B: Developing and Refining the Alternatives and Assessing their Effects

This stage of the SA process should be undertaken in parallel with the preparation of the draft development plan document (Plan Strategy or Local Policies Plan), which forms the next stage of the LDP process, which builds upon existing SA information and taking account of comments received from the consultation process.

The appraisal for reasonable alternatives for the draft plan should follow the same methodology used for the appraisal of options in the POP. The difference at this stage is that the range of reasonable alternatives considered should now be within the context of a council's preferred options and focus on the strategic options and policies for delivering the objectives of the Plan Strategy.

Stage C: SA Report to document the appraisal process and findings;

The Interim SA Report and this Non-Technical Summary describe the process that has been undertaken to date in carrying out the SA of Belfast's LDP, in particular the current process of the Preferred Options Paper (POP). They set out the findings of the appraisal of options and draft policies, highlighting any likely significant effects (both positive and negative, and taking into account the likely secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long term and permanent and temporary effects). The reasons for selecting the preferred option are also described.

Stage D: Consultation with the public, environmental authorities and any EU member state affected on the sustainability appraisal report and draft plan;

Belfast City Council is inviting comments on the Belfast LDP's Preferred Options Paper and the Interim SA Report and Non-Technical Summary. These documents are being published on the Council's website for consultation between 26th January 2017 and 20th April 2017 for a 12 week consultation period.

Stage E: SA Statement to show how the SA and opinions / consultations have been taken into account, the reasons for choosing the plan as adopted and the proposed measures to monitor the plan.

Consultation comments received in relation to the Interim SA Report will be considered during the next stage of the SA and will be addressed in the next iteration of the SA Report. This will include how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan, the reasons for choosing the plan as adopted in light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with, and the proposed measures to monitor the plan.

Stage F: Monitoring: establishing arrangements to monitor the significant effects of the implementation of the plan, to identify unforeseen adverse effects and undertake appropriate remedial action.

Proposals for monitoring the sustainability effects of the LDP are set out in Chapter 7 of the Interim SA Report and are further described in this Non-Technical Summary.

2.9.1 Approach to the Appraisal of Reasonable Alternatives Methodology

The appraisal of reasonable alternatives against the Sustainability Objectives, presented in table 2, helped to determine the preferred options for the POP. The appraisal compares all reasonable alternatives including the preferred option and assesses these against the baseline environmental, economic and social characteristics of Belfast and the likely evolution without the LDP. Within the justification, the appraisal draws upon other policies, plans and programmes relevant to the plan, in particular, the SPPS and the RDS.

The reasonable alternatives (which includes the preferred option), have been appraised against the 19 SA objectives in the SA framework with scores attributed to each option to indicate its likely sustainability effects on each objective as follows:

Symbol	Likely Effect	Symbol	Likely Effect
++	Significant positive effect	--	Significant negative effect
+	Minor positive effect	-	Minor negative effect
0	No effect or relationship	?	Uncertain – effect unknown
+/-	Mixed Effects		

Table 3: Key to symbols and colour coding used in the Reasonable Alternatives Methodology

The likely effects of the reasonable alternatives need to be determined and their significance assessed, which inevitably requires a series of judgments to be made. This appraisal has attempted to differentiate between the most significant effects and other more minor effects and record these using the symbols shown above. The dividing line in making a decision about the significance of an effect is often quite small. Where either (++) or (--) has been used to distinguish significant effects from more minor effects (+ or -) this is because the effect of a reasonable alternative on the SA objective in question is considered to be of such magnitude that it will have a noticeable and measurable effect taking into account other factors that may influence the

achievement of that objective. However, scores are relative to the scale of proposals under consideration.

In this report, Chapter 4: Sustainability Appraisal of the Reasonable Alternative Options was carried out in parallel with the preparation of the Preferred Options Paper (POP), for delivering the objectives of the Belfast LDP, against the SA Framework as set out in the Scoping Report. An appraisal of the SA findings for the Preferred Options is thus presented in Chapter 4 and the corresponding matrices along with the justification of scores can be found in Appendix 4.

2.10 Difficulties Encountered

It is a requirement of the SEA Regulations that consideration is given to any data limitations or other difficulties encountered during the SA process. Since the POP aims to stimulate public comment and interest, the preferred options are strategic in their nature and at this stage do not apply policy, which at times made it difficult to identify other alternatives and their effects which are currently uncertain until detailed policy and site proposals are known. Due to the POP's strategic nature, many of the specific effects arising from the options are subjective and depend on individual interpretation. It is anticipated that effects will be better established during the next stage of the LDP process, draft Plan Strategy.

Due to Local Government Review and the alignment of the new Council boundaries, it was difficult to distinguish trends in data which related to the new Belfast City Council boundary.

In some instances, up to date data was difficult to retrieve and the best data available is used to reflect current conditions which may not provide an accurate picture of conditions in 2016. Other data was provided on a regional scale or at a specific plan level so localised data directly relating to Belfast LGD was not available. This was particularly true of data in relation to water. Belfast falls within the North-Eastern River Basin and some elements of data do not relate directly down to the Belfast Council Area. Similarly, it was difficult to obtain accurate or up to date datasets on natural heritage lists including the Priority Species List for Belfast.

3.0 SUSTAINABILITY CONTEXT FOR DEVELOPMENT IN BELFAST

3.1 Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

Regulation 11 of the EAPP (NI) 2004 provides information of the preparation and the matters to be included as part of the Environmental Report and should include “an outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes”. It also states “the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account.”

The review of plans, programmes and strategies pertinent to the Belfast Local Development Plan has been carried out to establish a coherent policy context for the SA/SEA and to ensure the emerging LDP is cognisant of and complies with international, national and local policies such as:

International and European Plans, Policies and Programmes:

- SEA Directive
- Habitats Directive
- Birds Directive
- Nitrates Directive
- Air Quality Directive
- Water Framework Directive
- Waste Framework Directive
- Kyoto Protocol
- UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

National Plans, Policies and Programmes:

- Regional Development Strategy 2035
- Strategic Planning Policy Statement
- A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland
- Planning Policy Statements
- Biodiversity Action Plans
- White Papers
- Sustainability Strategy
- Draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-21
- Cross Departmental Working Group on Climate Change (CDWGCC) Annual Report (2016) and Greenhouse Gas Action Plan 2015/16.
- Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme.
- UK Climate Change Projections (UKCP09)
- Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2014
- UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 Evidence Report – Summary for Northern Ireland

Local Plans, Policies and Programmes:

- Belfast City Centre Regeneration Investment Strategy
- Belfast Integrated Tourism Strategy
- Belfast Integrated Economic Strategy
- Belfast Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2007

Originally presented in the Scoping Report, Appendix 2 of this report illustrates the plans and programmes that have been considered and provides a brief synopsis of the plans or programmes, an outline of its scope and objectives, how it potentially relates to the LDP, and whether it is likely to have in-combination effects.

3.2 Links with 'The Belfast Agenda'

The LDP will enable the planning system to move away from a land use focus towards a 'place-shaping' approach which incorporates a spatial analysis and visioning process. Alongside the power of Community Planning, the Council have an opportunity to tailor fit for Belfast, a joined-up approach to other functions such as regeneration, economic development. The LDP therefore provides the spatial reflection of the community plan.

There is a statutory obligation for the evolving LDP to take account of Belfast's Community Plan, 'The Belfast Agenda'. The Council, working along with key statutory agencies will develop a joint vision for Belfast outlining how the Council will work with statutory, business and community partners to shape future development and growth by setting medium and long term goals for social, economic and environmental improvements over the next 15 years.

The 'Belfast Conversation' brought together key stakeholders across the sector for consultation event to gain a better understanding of residents', community groups' and partner organisations' aspirations for the city and how they would like to see it shape and develop over the next 15 years.

The response of participants was overwhelmingly positive with each workshop generating a wealth of ideas to help shape the Belfast Agenda. There were many recurring themes and ideas which centred around:

- Enhancing the city's public transport infrastructure
- The need for greater co-ordination and support for the economy, skills and employability
- Addressing issues of community relations, social and health inequalities
- Making the most of our physically compact city and enhancing the city's strong links to our surrounding natural environment
- Stronger civic participation and engagement and about finding ways to support greater individual fulfilment and self-empowerment.

3.3 Baseline Information

The collection of baseline information is necessary to meet the requirements of Schedule 2 (2) and (3) of the EAPP (NI) Regulations. The requirements of the SA and SEA are similar. The evidence collection for the SA is wider as it considers not just the environmental information that is required specifically for the SEA but also the social and economic influences that may have potential impacts upon sustainability as a result of the plan adoption and implementation.

The baseline information provides the current state of the social, economic and physical environment and identifies trends to indicate whether the situation is better or worse or how far it is from reaching any established thresholds or targets. It identifies particularly sensitive or important elements of the social, economic and physical environment which are likely to be affected e.g. endangered species, vulnerable groups etc.

The baseline information provides the context for assessing the sustainability of the options set out in the Preferred Options Paper (POP) and it provides the basis for identifying trends, predicting the likely effects and monitoring its outcomes. The requirements of baseline data vary widely, but should cover pertinent issues relating to the social, economic and environmental issues, and should relate to records or data which are sufficient enough to identify trends.

Schedule 2 of the EAPP (NI) Regulations requires data to be gathered on a number of topics including biodiversity, population, human health, flora, fauna, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the inter relationship between the above factors.

As an integrated SA and SEA is being carried out, baseline information relating to the sustainability topics has also been included for example housing, Social Inclusion and Deprivation, Segregation and Human Health under the 'Social topics', and Skills and Employability, Economic Growth, Transport, Waste, Tourism and Minerals. The baseline information is set out in appendix 3.

It should be stressed at this point that the information discussed below reflects data collected in early 2016. The collection of baseline information will go on indefinitely and will be updated on an ongoing basis. The information is organised under the three broad themes, social, economic and environmental baseline. It is noted there has been some limitations in gathering evidence specific to Belfast particularly in light of the recent Review of Public Administration (RPA). Other evidence only provided trends on NI basis. The information gathered was the best available data at the time of collection.

3.4 Key Sustainability Issues

Analysis of the baseline information has enabled several key sustainability issues (including environmental problems) to be identified as a requirement of Schedule 2 (4) of the EAPP NI Regulations. The definition of these key issues provides an opportunity to develop sustainable plan objectives and options. The issues recorded are those acknowledged through the evidence base as the priority for Belfast.

It is also a requirement of the SEA Regulations that consideration is given to the likely evolution of the environment in the plan area if the LDP was not implemented. Annex 1 of the SEA Directive states,

“the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan; and

“any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan.”

If the LDP were not implemented, it does not mean there would be a policy vacuum as the SPPS and the corresponding PPS's would still apply.

Table 4 identifies the set of key Sustainability Issues and describes the likely evolution of each key sustainability issue if the Belfast LDP were not to be adopted.

Table 4: Likely evolution of key sustainability issues in Belfast without implementation of the LDP

Key Sustainability Issues	Implications for the LDP	Likely evolution without the LDP
<p>Population & Human Health Around 45% of Belfast's population live in the most deprived Super Output Areas (SOAs) in NI. This represents 18% of the regional population.</p>	<p>The LDP should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce poverty and social exclusion by encouraging regeneration to deprived areas thus tackling spatially persistent social deprivation and inequalities. • Support urban and rural renaissance. • Connect deprived communities to employment opportunities and services. 	<p>Without a LDP and supporting evidence, it will not be possible for the Council to fully understand its spatial and development needs and to plan positively to address these. The Department of Communities 'Neighbourhood Renewal' scheme targets interventions in the most deprived 10% wards across NI. In the short/medium term this programme will continue to address deprivation and local issues.</p>
<p>Population & Human Health Life expectancy in Belfast is lower than the NI average. People living in deprived areas of Belfast are expected to live up to 4.5 years less than more affluent areas.</p>	<p>The LDP should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve access to community and health facilities to encourage the wellbeing of the population and reduce inequalities in health • safeguarding and facilitating quality open space and access to outdoor recreational and sporting facilities • provide secure age-friendly environments • better integration between land use planning and transport 	<p>Without a LDP, current trends could continue to worsen, however, regional and potentially local programmes are likely to be implemented which seek to address health disparities across the city. As well as this, without a LDP, there could be a lack of connection and integration of sustainable modes of transport within the land use development.</p>
<p>Population & Human Health In Belfast, health inequalities exist between the most and least deprived areas</p>	<p>The LDP should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide adequate access to areas of open space, sport and recreation particularly via walking and cycling; • Provide adequate access to health care facilities • Use development management policies to manage the number and distribution of certain use types (e.g. hot food takeaways, betting shops) which could be contributing to negative health outcomes. 	<p>Without a LDP and supporting evidence, it will not be possible for the Council to fully understand its spatial and development needs and to plan positively to address these. The Open Space Strategy will continue to be developed but may lack spatial planning input and the disparity of open space across the city may not be adequately addressed. The Belfast Agenda identifies health as a priority for Belfast and could potentially coordinate programmes to address these inequalities.</p>

Key Sustainability Issues	Implications for the LDP	Likely evolution without the LDP
<p>Population & Human Health Between 2010-14 Belfast had the highest rate of deaths due to obesity in NI. Childhood obesity in Belfast is 9 percentage points higher in comparison to the NI average. Within Belfast LGD, childhood obesity is 33% high in deprived areas.</p>	<p>The LDP should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support broader government policy aimed at addressing obesity and other health and wellbeing issues. • Influence the environment in a way that builds strong, healthy and vibrant communities 	<p>Without a LDP and supporting evidence, it will not be possible for the Council to fully understand its spatial and development needs and to plan positively to address these. That being said, there are likely to be programmes which seek to address specific health issues e.g. obesity.</p>
<p>Population & Human Health Segregation continues in parts of Belfast with 88⁶ different security barriers and forms of defensible architecture, known as 'Peace walls' are still located within and between communities which could hamper potential development in terms of housing or open space.</p>	<p>The LDP has an important role to play in the delivery of good quality housing and spaces that supports the creation of more balanced communities. The LDP should take account of the Council's good relations policies.</p>	<p>Without the LDP, interventions would continue at NI Executive level and local Council and NIHE level. The NI Executive set ambitious targets to reduce and remove all interface barriers by 2023. Without the LDP, an updated evidence base and supporting policy would be absent to assist the removal of barriers to create shared spaces and maximise the accessibility of all areas within our communities. There would be a potential lack of collaborate approaches to integrated regeneration of the wider neighbourhood environments</p>
<p>Housing A crucial factor in accommodating housing growth in Belfast will be the ability to provide suitable and affordable house types in the right locations to meet the needs of differing household compositions.</p>	<p>The LDP should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support a sustainable level of population growth • Promote sustainable patterns of residential development – adequate and available supply of quality housing to meet the needs of everyone • Prioritise the use of previously developed/ brownfield land • Tackling vacancy and dereliction – re-use of vacant buildings to accommodate housing needs • Affordability of housing 	<p>Without the implementation of the LDP, an up-to-date housing policy would be lacking to accommodate local growth, meet demand for the identified annual housing supply in the area, and satisfy local requirements for housing type including affordable housing. The location of suitable housing lands may not correlate to clear areas of housing stress.</p>

⁶ Information received from BCC Good Relations Unit

Key Sustainability Issues	Implications for the LDP	Likely evolution without the LDP
<p>Housing There is a shortage of programmed social housing schemes to meet social housing need. Welfare reforms are likely to increase the demand for smaller housing units.</p>	<p>The LDP should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate a reasonable mix and balance of housing tenures and types. • Take into consideration the NIHE Housing Needs Assessment in the allocation of land required to facilitate the right mix of housing tenures 	<p>Without the LDP and its associated evidence base in designing appropriate policies that will address the demands of population need including an aging population, could mean people are living in houses that do not address their particular need.</p>
<p>Crime A third of NI's recorded crime offences in 2014 occurred in Belfast. Anti-social behaviour is higher in Belfast than any other Council area.</p>	<p>The LDP should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enhance the quality of life by encouraging safe and accessible environments • provide greater access to employment areas • encourage secure by design standards • improve quality of life by ensuring adequate access to employment opportunities and opportunity for regeneration 	<p>Trends would continue or worsen due to a lack of strategic direction in spatial terms. However, other policies and community safety initiatives from other statutory providers will continue to provide interventions to reduce crime. There is guidance within the SPPS in supporting good design and positive place making- "It can further sustainable development and encourage healthier living; promote accessibility and inclusivity; and contribute to how safe places are and feel".</p>
<p>Open Space There is a disparity in the provision of open space across Belfast. There are low levels of open and green space in the city centre.</p>	<p>The LDP should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect, enhance and make open space accessible for enjoyment of the natural, cultural and industrial environment. • Issues of accessibility of sport, leisure and open space in terms of its social participation, cohesion and inclusivity in Belfast • Identify additional areas of open space and ensure an adequate provision • Encourage developer contributions via Section 76 to offset the impacts caused by developments by contributing to and creating open space as per land use plans. • Create additional and well designed open space particular in areas lacking in provision 	<p>SPPS and PPS 8 would still prevail which provides protection to open spaces. Without the LDP and the SPPS requirements for LDP's to undertake an Open Space Strategy, the uneven distribution of open space may not be adequately addressed and some areas across the city will have under provision of accessible open spaces and the City Centre would continue to have a significant lack of open space</p>

Key Sustainability Issues	Implications for the LDP	Likely evolution without the LDP
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and promote green linkages throughout the city and to the surrounding hills • Encourage more open space provision along the rivers and the waterfront and link to seascape where appropriate 	
<p>Education The 2011 census outlined that 41% of the adult population have no formal qualifications which decreases chances of employability.</p>	<p>The LDP should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure adequate access to schools, colleges and universities in particular the relocation of the University of Ulster to the North end of the City Centre • Ensure community and educational facilities are in the right locations and are accessible and well connected 	<p>Without the LDP there may be insufficient economic and employment land to provide locations for entrepreneurs and attract inward investment which could displace Belfast as the regional economic driver as outlined in the RDS 2035. Other statutory providers will continue to invest in employability and skills of the population through interventions such as the Council's Skills and Employability Framework.</p>
<p>Employment 30⁷% of Belfast's working age population are economically inactive who are not looking for work or not available for work. Notably, half of this cohort is claiming out of work or 'other' benefits.</p>	<p>Promote connectivity to employment lands (esp. in areas of employment deprivation) The LDP should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recognise the need to sustain a more responsive, flexible and accessible system of higher education for the social and economic benefit of Belfast. • Large scale housing development should be planned close to existing education facilities with good infrastructural connectivity. • Review the Employment Lands Assessment in Belfast 	<p>The absence of a LDP to address local needs, could further disadvantage those on lower incomes in terms of access to places of work and local amenities. The LDP could help to better connect communities to places of work, zone land suitable for economic development and regeneration to the needs of the area.</p>

⁷ Labour Force Survey

Key Sustainability Issues	Implications for the LDP	Likely evolution without the LDP
<p>Tourism</p> <p>Whilst Belfast has a growing tourism economy, there are a number of weaknesses that could potentially inhibit growth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hotel bed space is limited • Belfast has lower than average overnight trip length and spend per night which could hamper economic growth in this sector. • There are weaknesses in connectivity between key points of interest in the city. 	<p>The LDP should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt a City Centre Approach to new tourist based accommodation/ development where appropriate • Ensure an adequate supply of land for tourism uses especially in the City Centre • Retain the built and landscape character of Belfast • Ensure an integrated transportation approach to land use in order to improve connectivity and promote more sustainable patterns of transport and travel. 	<p>Without a LDP, the Council would be unable to facilitate sustainable tourism growth to adequately reflect the needs and assets unique to Belfast. For example, the potential to exploit the international trend towards city and business tourism as well as its capacity to become a destination for cultural tourism. The absence of the LDP could inhibit the potential to explore opportunities to expand water based tourism along the Lagan and canals.</p>
<p>Transportation</p> <p>Regionally, there is an overall dependency on travel by private car which has had an adverse impact on environmental quality. There is a need to integrate transportation and land use to maximise development around a quality sustainable transport network in order to reduce the need to travel and car dependency.</p>	<p>The LDP should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make land available to facilitate sustainable patterns of development and travel by more sustainable modes of transport. • Integrate transportation and land use in order to improve connectivity and promote more sustainable patterns of transport and travel. • Support the growth of the economy whilst reducing the environmental impact of transport 	<p>The regional policy, particularly PPS13 may address this issue to some extent, however, the implementation of up-to-date LDP policies specifically relating to public transport in Belfast, would provide more certainty in relation to how public transport issues will be addressed locally. Particularly as the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan (BMTP) is currently being reviewed. Without the LDP it would be harder for transport strategies to be implemented in an integrated way.</p>
<p>Retail</p> <p>There are high levels of vacancy rates in Belfast which reduces the retail offer and economic potential of the city centre.</p>	<p>LDP should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure City Centre first approach • Provide for sustainable mixed development centred around the potential for an anchor store • Robust retail core and frontage • Promote areas of office development • Promote sustainable re-use of vacant lands and 	<p>High levels of vacancy would continue which would be detrimental to the vitality and viability of the city centre. The SPPS and RDS identify the need to enhance the distinctive role of Belfast City Centre as the primary retail location in NI. Regional objectives also set a town centre first approach to new retail. Without the LDP, there could be a reliance of market led development which could take people out of the</p>

Key Sustainability Issues	Implications for the LDP	Likely evolution without the LDP
	buildings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote areas of mixed use and/or retail and opportunity. • Promote compact development with good accessibility to facilities 	town centre. The LDP would provide an integrated framework for the regeneration and development of the city, particularly for supporting investment through the Belfast City Centre Regeneration Investment Strategy.
<p>Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna Belfast has many designated sites protected for their biodiversity and conservation importance. New development, pollution and disturbance could pose a threat to vulnerable biodiversity sites resulting in habitat loss and fragmentation.</p>	<p>The LDP should seek to protect, conserve and enhance the hierarchy of natural heritage sites by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting and maintaining ecological networks, including priority species, biodiversity and habitats. • Protecting and integrating natural heritage features when zoning sites for development through key sites requirements. • Protecting and maintaining our sensitive landscapes from obtrusive development and explore opportunities for their enhancement. • Sensitive management through the promotion of additional green and blue infrastructure will add value to the provision and enhancement of the City as well as its connection to open space and habitats in and around settlements. • Greater emphasis on the protection of trees and woodlands and their positive contribution to the social, cultural and physical environment benefits i.e. habitats, flood protection and amenity value. 	<p>Policies within the SPPS and the suite of PPS's (in particular PPS2 Natural Heritage) provide some protection. BMAP 2015 provides policy for local designations. Therefore, even without the new Local Plan this issue is being addressed to some extent by planning policy. However, given the current pressures for growth and development within the district, an up-to-date Local Plan can help to conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity by directing development away from sensitive locations and managing new development so that its design minimises effects on the natural environment and helps to create and connect habitats. Without the LDP to provide guidance on siting, scale and nature of development, it would destroy sites of nature conservation. The LDP could map and define the sites requiring protection that needs to be protected from obtrusive development. The LBAP is currently being updated by Council and sets Belfast's local priorities for action on habitats and species.</p>
<p>Air Quality The heavy reliance on vehicular travel leads to road traffic congestion which is having an adverse effect on</p>	<p>The LDP should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support development which is suitably located close to services, amenities and established 	<p>Policies and guidance set out in the SPPS (and the associated Planning Policy Statements) provide some protection to air quality particularly through the</p>

Key Sustainability Issues	Implications for the LDP	Likely evolution without the LDP
<p>air quality and CO2 emissions in Belfast.</p>	<p>transport corridors which should reduce reliance on private car journeys.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the use of, development, and improvement of sustainable modes of transport. • Take account of air quality management areas • Continue to protect and increase tree coverage across Belfast. 	<p>Environmental Impact Assessment screening. Existing legislation will seek to continue to manage air quality to acceptable thresholds. However, without action from the Local Plan to direct development to sustainable locations and increase provision of sustainable transport infrastructure, the trend for increasing car ownership and travel is likely to continue with associated emissions of air pollutants likely to increase.</p>
<p>Water The LWWP outlined without major investment in waste water and sewage infrastructure in Greater Belfast, it may not be possible to permit any new connections that will impact significantly on an already stretched infrastructure. This will have an adverse effect on the economic growth strategy for Belfast. All water bodies within the River Lagan, tidal Lagan and inner Belfast Lough are currently failing to meet their WFD objectives, which is being addressed through the LWWP and the North-East River Basin Management Plan (NE RBMP)</p>	<p>The LDP should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the infrastructure requirements for future land supply • Conduct an urban capacity study • Make provision for waste water and sewage infrastructure as required • Consider the spatial implications of other statutory plans • Increase green and blue infrastructure • Promote the use of SuDS • Meet the requirements of the NE RBMP 	<p>Without the development of the plan, the LWWP would still go ahead but there is the potential that development would be ad-hoc and piecemeal as it would be difficult to coordinate development and its supporting infrastructure. Utility providers may find it difficult to plan for growth and expansion in their networks with the absence of the LDP. The knock-on effects of this could result in delays and the inability to adequately address water quality which could contravene the WFD requirements.</p>
<p>Contaminated Soils Belfast has significant areas of previously developed or brownfield land. Many of the existing brownfield sites have remained undeveloped or vacant for extended periods, highlighting concerns over potential viability of the land for housing development which could hinder the delivery of the LDP's growth aspirations.</p>	<p>The LDP should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct an urban capacity study • Identify re-uses of existing brownfield sites which should be prioritised for development • Exercise the precautionary principle to sites which may include priority habitats or are of special biodiversity interest. • Identify previously developed brownfield land 	<p>The Council and NIEA as a statutory consultee to the Planning Service will continue to as much as possible regulate the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 and will continue to assess and manage land contamination through the provisions of CLR11.</p>

Key Sustainability Issues	Implications for the LDP	Likely evolution without the LDP
	in settlements outside the city for potential economic development use.	
<p>Cultural & Built Heritage Belfast has a rich cultural and built heritage which could potentially be under pressure from new development that is not in keeping with the character of the area. Alongside this, Belfast contains one fifth of NI's building and monuments recorded on the Built Heritage Risk Register.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should seek to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance the historic environment that will allow sympathetic development which preserves historic assets and their setting. • Look for opportunities bring derelict buildings back into positive use. • Respond to local needs, demands and development pressures on local heritage assets. • Develop a tall buildings policy to retain the environmental and cultural character of the city setting i.e. retaining views of the escarpment and Belfast Hills • Encourage the sensitive re-use of existing listed buildings • Recognise the character of townscape • Raise awareness for developers of potential areas where archaeological works will be required 	<p>The SPPS provide some protection particularly through PPS 6. Without a plan, sites that have not been formally designated such as those on a local list will have limited protection and could be at risk of inappropriate development. Potential erosion of the historic character and townscape</p> <p>It may also be difficult to offer enhancements to assets on the heritage at risk register without the LDP to coordinate the protection and enhancement of these sites.</p> <p>The number of sites on the Built Heritage at Risk Register is likely to increase.</p> <p>The updated listed buildings register could provide additional protection to key buildings</p>
<p>Landscape The landscape of the area is subject to limited statutory landscape character and countryside designations which are under increasing pressure from development and the intrusion of urbanising elements.</p>	<p>The LDP should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to conserve and enhance the landscape character of Belfast. • Consider the natural and cultural components of the landscape and promote opportunities for the enhancement or restoration of degraded landscapes. • Ensure that landscape characters are protected and development should take cognisance of the landscape character and form. • Promote an urban design 	<p>The SPPS provides some protection, particularly PPS2 and PPS21. The LDP will allow for local landscape types to be taken into account, to ensure the least sensitive landscapes are promoted through the plan. Without a plan, local sites unique to Belfast may have limited protection such as Geodiversity sites</p>

Key Sustainability Issues	Implications for the LDP	Likely evolution without the LDP
	<p>guide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strike a balance between renewable energy (wind development) and the Belfast Hills • Protect the landscape character, setting and local distinctiveness of the city • Identify and protect key views and vistas • Promote tree and woodland planting throughout the city • Promote high standards of design, maintenance and management 	
<p>Waste There are challenges in managing and accounting for all waste streams. It is projected the Council may not achieve regional landfill obligations and there is increasing pressure to deliver the recycling targets set by the NI Executive and Europe.</p>	<p>The Local Development Plan should be prepared having regard to this new Council Waste Management Plan and its spatial implications. It also should facilitate the management of waste facilities as required and promote and support innovative ways to tackle waste</p>	<p>The plan may not have much impact on waste reduction or management as the Council have European and Regional targets set to incrementally reduce waste and encourage recycling in the City. The Council will still explore opportunities for further reducing waste including the feasibility of a circular economy approach to generate more value and jobs for the local economy through innovative waste solutions.</p>
<p>Climate Change Rising greenhouse gas emissions are causing an increase in global temperatures which is giving rise to more intense rainfalls and rising sea levels. Consequently, this will lead to significant threat of flooding.</p>	<p>The LDP could encourage and support measures to address climate change by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • avoiding areas of highest flood risk when allocating sites for development. • Promote natural and man-made flood mitigation schemes which can fulfil flood management functions. • Encouraging sustainable transport • Adapting to climate change through encouraging sustainable building design and construction standards and protecting, enhancing and create new green space. 	<p>The NI Climate Change Adaptation Programme will continue to provide the strategic objectives in relation to adaptation to climate change.</p> <p>The Climate Change Risk Assessment will continue as the statutory requirement of the UK Climate Change Act, published every 5years.</p> <p>The Cross Departmental Working Group on Climate Change will continue to review cross departmental action on climate change on an annual basis. The Group will ensure targets for the reduction of greenhouse gases, set out in</p>

Key Sustainability Issues	Implications for the LDP	Likely evolution without the LDP
		<p>the Programme for Government are met.</p> <p>Flood risk threat would continue under projected climate trends, and the magnitude and extent of the impact from flood risk is likely to increase, which requires positive management.</p> <p>A local response is required to allocate sites for development sequentially avoiding the highest risk areas as a first principle which is not taking a strategic approach.</p>
<p>Renewable Energy Belfast is still reliant on fossil fuels which contribute to greenhouse gases and poor air quality. The lack of renewable energy interventions could pose a risk to energy security in Belfast and make us less competitive in the global market.</p>	<p>The LDP should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the reduction of fossil fuel emissions • Support renewable and low carbon technologies • Implement the green and blue infrastructure to encourage more sustainable modes of transport and increased green infrastructure could absorb and reduce greenhouse gases 	<p>The existing PPS was formulated in 2009 and was a reactive policy. The existing policy requires minor changes to include decentralisation of renewable energy generation and encourage and promote district heating systems. The draft Programme for Government outline targets for renewable energy consumption (40% of energy from renewable source and 10% heat from renewable source) and without the LDP, a strategic framework to deliver these targets may be absent through the planning system.</p>

3.5 SA of Local Development Plan Vision, Aims and Objectives

The vision, aims and objectives of the LDP were agreed by Council in October 2016. The vision, aims and objectives will be subject to consultation as part of the POP process. This section presents the compatibility of the vision, aims and objectives for Belfast's LDP against the Sustainability objectives, see table 2.

3.5.1 SA of Belfast LDP Vision

The vision, aims and objectives have been developed from the consideration of the evidence base included in the Scoping Report and a series of Topic Papers and also with the emerging work in the Community Plan (Belfast Agenda). The overall vision sets a general aspiration for sustainable development to enable Belfast to be a place to live, work, visit and invest. As it is a high level aspiration, the LDP vision is likely to have a positive effect on the SA relating to all the SA objectives as shown in table 6.

The social aspirations set out in the vision include 'thriving well connected neighbourhoods where people want to love to live'; and 'the city will be a gateway for opportunities locally...supporting progressive, healthy, safe and vibrant communities'. Therefore, the vision is likely to have significant effects on objectives 1-7.

The economic aspirations set out in the vision runs strongly in the vision with references to 'globally successful dynamic 21st Century Regional City'; 'vibrant economic heart'; 'attracts investment, talent and visitors' and references to 'strong local economy support...communities'. Therefore, the vision is likely to have significant effects on objectives 7-9.

The environmental aspirations are also set out in the vision includes a City, 'that is environmentally resilient', therefore likely to have positive effects on the SA objectives 11-19.

3.5.2 SA of Belfast LDP Objectives

The section presents the compatibility of the LDP Objectives with the SA Objectives.

Table 5: Compatibility of the LDP Objectives with the SA Objectives

SA Objective	Compatibility to LDP Objectives.
1. Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society	Overall, it was identified the LDP and SA objectives were positively compatible. Significant positive effects were identified in LDP objectives 1 - 4, 6, 8, 9, 11-13 and 16. Minor positive effects were identified in objectives 5, 7, 10, 14 and 17-19.
2. Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	Compatibility was overall, positive. Significant positive effects were identified 1, 2, 4 -6, 8, 9, 11-14, 16, 17 and minor positive effects correlating between 3, 15, 18, 19. Uncertain impacts on the SA objectives on objectives 7 and 10 which relate to the built and historic environment.
3. To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs	Significant positive effects were recorded for LDP objectives 1, 4-9 and 13 with minor positive effects showing for objectives 2, 10 - 12, 14-16 and 19. Uncertain effects were identified with objective 3 which relates to tourism. Mixed effects were identified for objectives 17 and 18 which relates to the natural environment and managing development in sensitive areas. It is thought that whilst additional development could enable the creation of more green spaces and ecological links which would encourage biodiversity and natural heritage, it may put pressure on greenfield sites. Depending on the scale of development, there could be implications for local landscapes and townscapes.

SA Objective	Compatibility to LDP Objectives.
4. Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour	Significant positive effects were identified for LDP objectives 4, 8, 9 and minor positive effects for objectives 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 10, and 11. The options which would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective are LDP objectives 12-19. The relationship with LDP objective 3 (tourism) is uncertain.
5. To improve skills & education of residents by providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities	Significant effects were identified for 12 and 13 with minor positive effects noted for LDP objectives 4,-6, 9, 11, 14-16 and 19. Uncertain effects for objectives 1-3 which relate to employment lands and tourism. No effects were noted for 7, 8, 10, 17 and 18.
6. Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities	Overall, compatibility was positive with significant effects showing for 1-4, 6, 9, 11-13 and 16 and minor positive effects showing for 5, 7, 8, 10 and 19. Objectives 14, 15, 17 and 18 showed no relationship or effects with this SA Objective.
7. To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities	Significant effects were noted for LDP objectives 1, 2 and 12 with minor positive effects identified for objectives 3-6, 8, 9, 11, 13 and 19. The options which would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective are 7, 10 and 14-18.
8. Support economic development of Belfast as a competitive place & contribute to its role as a regional economic driver	Significant effects were identified for LDP objectives 1-5, 9, 11 and 12 with minor positive effects showing for objectives 6, 8, 9 and 19. The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective's were noted in 13-16 and mixed effects were identified in objectives 7, 10, 17 and 18. The construction of new housing and economic development within the City Centre may have a positive impact on the sustainable reuse of existing buildings. The City Centre is currently designated as an 'Area of Archaeological Potential', additional new development may remove previously unrecorded archaeological sites. Depending on the scale of the development, there could be implications on the biodiversity, landscape and indeed townscape of Belfast.
9. Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel	Overall the LDP objective showed positive compatible tendencies including significant effects for objectives 3, 9, 12, 13 and minor positive effects for 1, 2, 4-8, 10, 11, 14 and 16-19. No relationship was identified with objective 15 (waste).
10. Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy	Significant positive effects were noted for LDP objectives 5 and 12 and minor positive compatibility was identified with objectives 1, 2, 4, 11, 13-15 and 17-19. No relationship was noted for objectives 3, 6-10 and 16.
11. Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets, protect habitats and species	Significant positive effects were identified for 11, 13-19 and minor positive effects for objectives 7, 9, 10. No relationship was noted for objectives 2 and 8 and there were uncertainties around 3 and 4. Mixed effects were raised in objectives 1, 5, 6 and 12. Whilst new development could enhance economic activity, it may put pressure on open space and greenfield sites which harbour biodiversity. Depending on the scale of the development, there could be implications on the biodiversity, landscape and indeed townscape of Belfast. However, mitigation measures can be implemented to offset any adverse effects by encouraging the development or enhancement of open and green space which is particularly lacking in the City Centre

SA Objective	Compatibility to LDP Objectives.
12. Protect and enhance soil quality	Significant positive effects were noted for LDP objectives 17 and 18 with minor positive effects showing in objectives 11, 13-16 and 19. No effects were recorded for objectives 4, 6-10 and uncertainties with 3 and 12. Mixed effects were raised in objectives 1, 2, 5. Whilst new physical economic development and housing development could help to remedy soil contamination and bring sites back into use, it may put pressure on developing on Greenfield sites.
13. Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings	Significant positive effects were noted for LDP objectives 7, 10 and minor positive effects for 4, 8, 9, 11-18 with no relationship showing for 19. Uncertainties were noted in objective 1-3 and mixed effects were identified in objectives 5, 6. Whilst new physical development could help to bring historic buildings, buildings of local importance and buildings on the risk register may have a positive impact on the sustainable reuse of existing buildings. The City Centre is currently designated as an 'Area of Archaeological Potential', additional new development may remove previously unrecorded archaeological sites. Depending on the scale of the development, there could be implications on the landscape and indeed townscape of Belfast.
14. Protect, maintain & enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape & geodiversity.	Significant positive effects were identified in LDP objectives 7 and 10 with minor positive effects on objectives 4, 8, 9, 11-18. Uncertainties were raised in objectives 1-3 and mixed effects in objectives 5 and 6. No relationship was identified with objective 19. Depending on the scale of the development, there could be implications on the landscape and indeed townscape of Belfast and may put pressure on existing open space and greenfield sites.
15. Protect and enhance open space and natural greenspace including Belfast's countryside asset	Significant positive effects were recorded for compatibility with objectives 11, 16-18 and minor positive effects for 4, 7, 9, 10, 12-14 and 19. No relationships were identified for 8 and 15 and mixed effects in objectives 1, 2, 5 and 6. Uncertainties were expressed in objective 3. Depending on the scale of the development, there could be implications on the landscape and indeed townscape of Belfast and may put pressure on existing open space and greenfield sites.
16. Promote the sustainable management of waste	Significant positive effects were identified in LDP objective 15 and minor positive effects were showing in objectives 9, 11 and 19. No relationship was identified in objectives 4, 7, 8, 10, 12-14 and 16-18. Mixed effects were present in the compatibility of LDP objectives 1-3 and 5 and 6. Whilst the plan could encourage better design of new development incorporating sustainable waste management, it is inevitable that more waste will be created with additional development. New economic development could bring potentially new innovative ideas to managing waste whilst also providing jobs.
17. Promote the quality and efficient use of water	Significant positive effects were noted in LDP objectives 11 and 13 with minor positive effects noted in 4, 14 and 17-19. No

SA Objective	Compatibility to LDP Objectives.
resources	relationship was identified in objectives 7-10, 12, 15 and 16. Mixed effects were found in objectives 1-3, 5, 6. Whilst the provision of new development could put additional pressure on water sources including water waste treatment works, housing development will be provided on a phased approach. Measures to mitigate water stress could be planned for with the appropriate statutory body.
18. Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality	Significant positive effects were noted for LDP objectives 4, 12-14, 16-19 and minor positive effects recorded for objectives 2, 11 and 15. Uncertainties were raised for objectives 5 and 6 with mixed effects highlighted for objective 1 and 3. No relationship was found for objectives 7-10. The potential for new development could increase air pollution through increased traffic, congestion and fuel emissions but measures to mitigate air pollution could be planned for through efficient designs and increased public transport networks and use of sustainable modes of transport.
19. Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk	Significant positive effects were identified for LDP objectives 11-19 and minor positive effects for 4, 6, 7, 9 and 10. No relationship was identified for objective 8 (crime). There are uncertain negative effects raised for objectives 1-3 and 5. Growing the population and supporting the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and the need to provide additional housing could cause potential tensions with further pressure of flood risk as well as adding to the factors of climate change. Potentially there could be conflict between the demand for development and the need to avoid floodplain development.

Compatibility of the SA Objectives and the LDP Objectives																				
SA OBJECTIVES	V	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1. Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	+	++	++	+	++	++	++	+	0	++	+	+	+
2. Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	++	++	++	+	++	++	++	?	++	++	?	++	++	++	++	+	++	++	+	+
3. To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs	++	++	+	?	+	+	++	++	++	++	+	+	+	++	+	+	+	+/-	+/-	+
4. Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour	++	+	+	?	++	?	+	+	++	++	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5. To improve skills & education of residents by providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities	++	?	?	?	+	+	+	0	0	+	0	+	++	++	+	+	+	0	0	+
6. Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	+	+	++	+	++	++	++	0	0	++	0	0	+
7. To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities	++	++	++	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	+
8. Support economic development of Belfast as a competitive place & contribute to its role as a regional economic driver	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	+/-	+	++	+/-	++	++	0	0	0	0	+/-	+/-	+
9. Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel	++	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	+	+	++	++	+	0	+	+	+	+
10. Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy	++	+	+	0	+	++	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	+	+	+	0	+	+	+
11. Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets, protect habitats and species	+	+/-	0	?	?	+/-	+/-	+	0	+	+	++	+/-	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
12. Protect and enhance soil quality	+	+/-	+/-	?	0	+/-	0	0	0	0	0	+	?	+	+	+	+	++	++	+
13. Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings	++	?	?	?	+	+/-	+/-	++	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0
14. Protect, maintain & enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape & geodiversity.	+	+/-	+/-	?	?	?	+/-	++	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	++	++	++	+
15. Protect and enhance open space and natural greenspace including Belfast's countryside asset	+	+/-	+/-	?	+	+/-	+/-	+	0	+	+	++	+	+	+	0	++	++	++	+
16. Promote the sustainable management of waste	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0
17. Promote the quality and efficient use of water resources	++	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	0	0	0	0	++	0	++	+	0	0	+	+	+
18. Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality	++	+	+	+/-	++	?	?	0	0	0	0	+	++	++	++	+	++	++	++	++
19. Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk	++	-/?	-/?	-/?	+	-/?	+	+	0	+	+	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++

Table 6: Compatibility of the SA Objectives and the LDP Objectives

4. SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OF REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

This section presents the summaries of the likely significant effects (positive and negative) of the Reasonable Alternatives considered to determine the preferred option for the preparation of the Preferred Options Paper (POP). The appraisal of reasonable alternatives against the Sustainability Issues, as set out in table 4 in Chapter 3 of this report, enables the Council to provide a sound evidence base to justify the preferred options enabling a more transparent decision making process. A total of 98 options are presented of which 48 were taken forward as preferred options within the POP and 50 reasonable alternatives were considered and all have been subject to SA.

The reasonable alternatives considered and a summary of the likely effects are summarised below with particular consideration given to the likely significant effects identified (both positive and negative), in line with the requirements of the SEA Regulations. Where relevant, effects are classified as short, medium or long term. Consideration is also given to the mitigation measures that could reduce or offset the negative effects identified, including mitigation that may be provided by policies in the emerging plan. The summary focuses on key messages coming out of the SA and identifies key issues of relevance to the Council's decision making regarding the Preferred Options chosen. The detailed matrices are available in Appendix 4.

4.1 How Will We Grow Belfast?

4.1.1 GR1 – Supporting Economic Growth Aspiration

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

Selecting an appropriate growth scenario is the key decision underpinning many of the policies to be contained within the LDP. Given the importance of this to the LDP, the Council engaged consultants to develop a range of economic forecast scenarios, which included a 'baseline' scenario – an estimation of the most likely economic outcomes for Belfast during the plan period – alongside a more aspirational 'upper' scenario for consideration.

To identify the population growth and required additional housing associated with the various economic growth scenarios, the Council also commissioned a Population and Housing Growth Study. This took the official population projections as a baseline scenario, which represented the closest option to the regional Housing Growth Indicators (HGIs) published by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI). It then also modelled the population and housing growth associated with the baseline and upper employment growth scenarios, resulting in three alternative options to be assessed and appraised.

The three options can be summarised as follows:

- **Option 1 – Baseline Demographic Growth**

This option is best described as maintaining the status quo. It reflects the baseline level of population growth associated with the continuation of existing trends based on NISRA's 2014-based population projections. Under this option, the LDP would seek to provide 17,000 new homes to accommodate 19,000 additional residents to 2035. This is most closely aligned to the published Housing Growth Indicators (HGIs) for Belfast, but would result in limited or no growth in the labour force.

- **Option 2 – Supporting Baseline Employment Growth**

This option takes the most likely economic growth scenario (baseline) during the plan period and models the likely population growth required to support the additional jobs created. It is based on the creation of 46,000 additional jobs, resulting in 66,000 additional residents who required 37,000 additional homes to 2035.

- **Option 3 – Supporting Higher Employment Growth**

This option seeks to model the population and housing growth associated with a higher level of employment growth over the plan period, modelled as a best case economic scenario over the plan period. It would see the creation of 69,000 additional jobs, requiring population growth of 89,000 to be accommodated through the provision of 47,800 additional homes during the plan period.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

There are no significant positive or negative social effects associated with Option 1. Option 2 would deliver a significant positive effect on reducing deprivation due to job creation. Option 3 would deliver a significant positive effect in relation to the supply of good quality homes as a result of the increased range of choice. These positive impacts will increase over time as the supply of good quality housing increases. There are no significant negative social effects in relation to any of the options.

Economic

Option 1, which would only facilitate very limited economic growth would be considered to have significant negative economic effects in relation to ensuring that residents have access to employment opportunities, supporting the development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's role as a regional economic driver. The continuance of the status quo would see unsustainable commuter journeys into and out of the city continue, which would have significant negative effects on the objectives to promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel and support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy. There are no significant positive or negative economic effects associated with Option 2. As a result of the higher level of economic growth, Option 3 would deliver significant positive effects in relation to supporting the economic development of Belfast as the regional economic driver and in relation to access to employment opportunities.

Environmental

Option 1 could have significant minor environmental effects in relation to encouraging sustainable travel and supporting a transition to a low carbon economy. This is because continuing the status quo would continue to rely on the existing unsustainable pattern of mass commuting in and out of Belfast on a daily basis. Option 2 would deliver a significant positive effect in relation to the protection and enhancement of the built environment by bringing disused land and buildings back into use, enhancing streetscapes and revitalising long standing areas of dereliction. There are also minor negative effects likely to occur in relation to the SA objectives on biodiversity and green / open space and countryside. These minor negative effects can be mitigated during the next stages of plan preparation to help alleviate these minor environmental risks. Option 3 could have significant negative effects on open space and natural green space, and on bio-diversity, particularly in regard to Belfast's countryside asset, as a result of increased pressure for land for development. This pressure is likely to increase in the long-term as land becomes scarcer. The requirement to build on more land also leads to a significant negative effect in relation to flood risk, which may also increase with time as the volume of development increases.

Preferred Option and Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Option

Option 2 is considered the preferred option as it represents the minimum level of growth required to support the economic growth aspiration of the city, supporting the creation of new jobs and resulting in a net inflow of migrants to Belfast, delivering a more balanced age profile of the population. Whilst Option 3 may deliver even greater positive effects, particularly in relation to the economy, Option 2 is more realistic in terms of its reflection of recent demographic trends. It will also minimise any potential environmental harm that could arise from a higher level of growth.

Mitigation or Enhancement

There are a number of mitigation or enhancement measures that can be applied when allocating specific sites for new development, prioritising land to reduce travel distances and to minimise impacts on biodiversity, geodiversity and flood risk. It is also essential that provision is made for adequate local services to serve the planned population increases.

4.2 Shaping a Liveable Place

4.2.1 LP1 – Accommodating New Homes

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

The LDP is the main vehicle for managing housing growth to deliver sustainable forms of residential development. This preferred option sets out the general approach to be used when considering where the level of housing proposed under Preferred Option GR1 – Supporting Economic Growth Aspiration should be located. As such it will help to address the regional strategic aspiration contained within the RDS and SPPS to deliver increased housing density without town cramming and the RDS target for 60% of new housing to be delivered on 'brownfield' land. It also addresses the SPPS requirements to set out the overall housing provision required for each settlement, set development limits for all settlements, zone sites for housing and set density levels for housing sites.

The options considered can be summarised as follows:

- **Option 1 – Sequential Approach to Land Allocation**

This option follows the SPPS requirement that housing land is allocated on a sequential basis, whereby previously developed land within the urban footprint is prioritised over extensions to the existing settlement limit of Belfast City. This essentially protects the surrounding countryside from development and reduces the risk of small settlements coalescing into the wider urban area.

- **Option 2 – Sequential Approach with Brownfield Land Target**

As with option 1 above, but with the addition of a specific target for development on 'brownfield' land which maximises the contribution to urban regeneration. The RDS sets a regional target of 60% of all new housing to be located on appropriate 'brownfield' sites. Defining a target for Belfast higher than the RDS recommendation will help reduce pressure on 'greenfield' land and will deliver a more sustainable pattern of development in general. Belfast has historically delivered over 90% of new housing on brownfield land on average over the past decade.

- **Option 3 – Sequential Approach with Increased Densities**

As with option 2 above, but with the addition of increased housing densities in appropriate locations, focussing the highest density of development on the City Centre and other locations that benefit from high accessibility. Sensitively increasing densities in appropriate locations has the net benefit of reducing the requirement for land, as the 37,000 housing units required can be delivered on a smaller land area at a higher density.

- **Option 4 – Sequential Approach, with Brownfield Land Target and Increased Densities**

This option essentially combines Options 1, 2 and 3, with the sequential approach supported locally through increased density of development in appropriate locations and a specific target set for development on 'brownfield' land.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

There are no significant positive or negative social effects associated with Options 1, 2 or 3. Option 4 would deliver a significant positive effect on reducing deprivation and enhancing inclusivity, improving health and wellbeing, providing opportunity for good quality housing that meets people's needs and reducing crime and ASB. These positive impacts will increase over time as the supply of good quality housing increases. There are no significant negative social effects in relation to any of the options.

Economic

There are no significant positive or negative economic effects associated with Options 1, 2 or 3. As a result of the multi-faceted approach to new housing development – sequential approach, higher densities and targeting brownfield land/sites – option 4 would deliver significant positive effects in relation to supporting the economic development of Belfast as the regional economic driver, retaining and enhancing access to local services and facilities and in relation to access to employment opportunities. These significant positive effects would increase over the medium and long term as more new housing schemes are completed and occupied. There are no significant negative economic effects in relation to any of the options.

Environmental

There are no significant positive or negative environmental effects associated with Options 1, 2 or 3. Option 4 would deliver a significant positive effect on promotion of an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel, supporting the transition to a low carbon economy, protection and enhancement of landscape and geo-diversity, the sustainable management of waste, quality efficient use of water resources, improvement in air quality and adaptation to climate change / management of flood risk. These significant positive effects would be likely to occur over the medium to long term and increase over time. There are no significant negative environmental effects in relation to any of the options.

Preferred Option and Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Option

Option 4 is considered the preferred option, bringing the cumulative benefits of the three alternative options. It is in accordance with the SPPS, striking a careful balance between meeting housing needs whilst ensuring well-designed developments appropriate to their locations, and will continue the approach currently set out in PPS12 Housing in Settlements' Planning Control Principle (PCP) 1. This seeks to promote higher densities in town and city centres and in other locations that benefit from high accessibility to public transport facilities, whilst respecting local character, maintaining environmental quality and safeguarding the amenity of existing residents within established residential areas.

Mitigation or Enhancement

There are a number of mitigation or enhancement measures that can be applied when allocating specific sites for new housing development, prioritising land to reduce travel distances and to minimise impacts on biodiversity, geodiversity and flood risk. It is also essential that provision is made for adequate local services to serve the planned population increases.

4.2.2 LP2 - Affordable Housing Requirement

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

The SPPS states that the LDP will be the primary vehicle to facilitate any identified need for social/affordable housing, based on an up to date Housing Needs Assessment (HNA), either by zoning land or by indicating, through key site requirements, where a proportion of a site may be required for social/affordable housing. The options considered can therefore be summarised as follows:

- **Option 1 – Social Housing Zoning**
This option continues the existing policy approach adopted through BMAP whereby land is zoned specifically to accommodate social housing.
- **Option 2 – Affordable Housing Addressed Through Key Site Requirements**
Ensure that the full affordable housing need is met through the identification of specific social housing provision within key site requirements when allocating suitable land for housing.
- **Option 3 – Specific Affordable Housing Target for all Larger Developments**
This option draws together the two approaches above by requiring all housing developments to help meet housing need by making a contribution towards gross affordable housing targets. To help overcome concerns around viability, this would be limited to larger housing and mixed use developments through the use of appropriate thresholds in terms of number of units or size of development site.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

There are no significant negative social effects in relation to Options 1 or 2. Option 3 would deliver a significant positive effect in terms of providing good quality housing and enabling people to meet their housing needs. This effect would increase in the medium term and beyond as new larger residential schemes are delivered across the Plan area.

Economic

None of the options would deliver either significant positive or negative economic effects.

Environmental

None of the options would deliver either significant positive or negative environmental effects.

Preferred Option and Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Option

Option 3 is considered the preferred option, requiring all housing developments to help meet housing need by making a contribution towards gross affordable housing targets. To help overcome concerns around viability, this should be limited to larger housing and mixed use developments through the use of appropriate thresholds in terms of number of units or size of development site. An appropriate percentage will need to be set taking into account the housing need identified through an up to date housing market assessment.

Mitigation or Enhancement

Appropriate mitigation measures should be employed to ensure that new affordable (and social) housing provision is located to provide convenient access to key local services and facilities.

4.2.3 LP3 – Ensuring an Appropriate Mix of Housing

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

The SPPS requires the LDP to deliver balanced communities through the provision of good quality housing offering a variety of house types, sizes and tenures to meet different needs of communities. It states that a HNA will influence how LDPs facilitate a reasonable mix and balance of housing tenures and types. The options considered can be summarised as follows:

- **Option 1 – High Level Targets for Housing Mix**
This option would set specific targets, in terms of the size, type and tenure of units in specific developments to ensure that the right mix is delivered in line with predicted demand, requiring all individual developments to align with identified requirements.

- **Option 2 – No Policy on Housing Mix**

This option would see no specific policy requirements in relation to the mix of housing, instead allowing the market to determine the type of housing to be provided, giving developers more flexibility to deliver housing schemes that they are confident they can sell.

- **Option 3 – Balanced Approach to Housing Mix**

This option would continue the existing regional policy approach set out in PPS12 Policy HS4, with a general requirement for residential developments to deliver an appropriate mix of housing, with the exact mix to be negotiated with developers on a site-by-site basis. This would be supplemented with specific housing mix requirements for key residential zonings.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

None of the options would deliver either significant positive or negative social effects.

Economic

There are no significant positive or negative economic effects associated with Options 1 or 2, although Option 1 would deliver mainly positive economic effects whilst Option 2 would be mainly negative. Option 3 would deliver a significant positive effect in terms of retaining and enhancing access to local services and facilities. This is as a result of enabling people to continue living in established communities, e.g. growing families requiring larger housing, young people moving out of the family home into their own accommodation etc. This would consequently support established local services and continue to provide residents with convenient access to same. Given that the cycles of housing need within family networks can be over many years, it is likely that the full benefits of this positive effect would be realised over the medium to longer term.

Environmental

None of the options would deliver either significant positive or negative environmental effects.

Preferred Option and Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Option

Option 3 is our preferred approach, continuing the existing regional policy approach set out in PPS12 Policy HS4, with a general requirement for residential developments to deliver an appropriate mix of housing in terms of type and size, promoting choice and helping to meet community needs. However, flexibility would also be allowed for the exact mix delivered to be negotiated with developers on a case by case basis, taking account of the latest housing market analysis and specific characteristics of the site and its context.

This would be supplemented with specific housing mix requirements for key residential zonings. This could include a differentiated need to apply to social and affordable housing given that the need is likely to be for smaller one and two bedroom houses in response to proposed welfare reforms. This would help take account of smaller household sizes and will enable down-sizing from existing stock to occur.

Mitigation or Enhancement

Appropriate mitigation measures should be employed to ensure that flood risk is appropriately managed throughout the Plan area and is continually reviewed over the course of the Plan period.

4.2.4 LP4 – Specialist Accommodation for Older People

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

As noted above, the LDP needs to ensure that new development includes the right mix of housing to meet the diverse needs of the population. This includes a number of specialist housing types as well as housing to meet the general needs of the population. The need for specialist housing for older people is expected to be particularly acute in Belfast given an ageing population and

relatively high levels of poor health. A number of Options have therefore been considered to address the specific needs of older people, including:

- **Option 1 – General Policy Support for Specialist Homes for Older People**

This option would seek to meet the needs of older people through general policy support for specialist housing for older people in accordance with identified need, allowing flexibility in terms of the number of specialist developments required over the plan period. It would seek to balance locational requirements, such as access to local shops and services, with the need to protect the established character of existing residential areas.

- **Option 2 – Allocation of Land to Provide Specialist Homes for Older People**

This option would seek to meet the needs of older people by allocating specific sites to provide specialist accommodation for older people, based on an assessment of need identified within an up-to-date HNA.

- **Option 3 – Lifetime Homes Standards**

This option would seek to meet the needs of older people by requiring an appropriate proportion of new homes on strategic sites to meet 'Lifetime Homes' standards, informed by an up-to-date HNA. This would aim to ensure older people can remain in their own homes for longer, reducing the requirement for specialist accommodation for older people.

- **Option 4 – Location Criteria and Lifetime Homes**

This option combines option 1 and option 3, providing general policy support for specialist housing and also requiring Lifetime Home standards in strategic housing developments.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

There are no significant negative social effects in relation to Options 1, 2 or 3. Option 4 would deliver a significant positive effect in terms of reducing deprivation and encouraging an inclusive and equal society and an improved health, wellbeing and quality of life. The reduction of deprivation and increased feelings of inclusivity and wellbeing are factors which are most likely to be realised over the medium to longer term. There are no significant negative social effects in relation to any of the options.

Economic

None of the options would deliver either significant positive or negative economic effects.

Environmental

None of the options would deliver either significant positive or negative environmental effects.

Preferred Option and Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Option

Our preferred option is Option 4, combining the benefits of Options 1 and 3. This seeks to balance the locational requirements, such as access to local shops and services, with the need to protect the established character of existing residential areas. Whilst a requirement for all new housing to meet Lifetime Homes Standards is unlikely to be feasible within the Belfast context, it is proposed that an appropriate proportion, based on the latest evidence of need within the local housing market, will ensure a readily available supply of housing suitable to enable independent living in the older population.

This approach is supported by the evidence contained within the Local Housing Systems Analysis of the Belfast Metropolitan Housing Market Area (NIHE, August 2011), which notes that the continued upward trend in the numbers of older households over the next 15 years and beyond implies that there may be an increased demand for property adaptations or services to allow older homeowners to continue to live independently.

Mitigation or Enhancement

Appropriate mitigation measures should be employed to ensure that all new specialist housing / lifetime homes are provided at strategic sites which assist in delivering an integrated transport system that can meet the needs of the residents who occupy them.

4.2.5 LP5 – Traveller Accommodation

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

The SPPS requires that the LDP addresses the distinctive needs of Travellers through the allocation of suitable sites where a need is identified whilst a development plan is under preparation. Locally there is likely to be a need to protect and enhance Traveller Accommodation within the City, although there is no specific need currently identified. The following options have therefore been considered:

- **Option 1 – No Traveller Accommodation Policy Provision**

At present, there is no specific need for additional Traveller Accommodation to be provided and this option could allow any proposals that are brought forward during the plan period to be assessed in accordance with the policy provisions set out in SPPS. This would continue the approach currently set out in PPS12 Policy HS3 on Traveller Accommodation (as amended).

- **Option 2 – Locally Specific Traveller Accommodation Policies**

This option would provide specific local policies in relation to Traveller Accommodation, including protection for existing Traveller facilities, allocation of specific sites if a need is identified through an up-to-date HNA during the plan's preparation and by providing a criteria-based policy for assessing future proposals for the provision of suitable facilities.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

There are no significant negative social effects in relation to Option 1, although the lack of formal planning for traveller accommodation needs could lead to minor negative effects in relation to reducing deprivation and encouraging an inclusive and equal society, health and wellbeing and community safety. Option 2 would deliver a significant positive effect in terms of providing opportunity for good quality housing and enabling people to meet their housing needs. Subject to need, this effect could be realised quite quickly into the Plan period, i.e. the short to medium term. There are no significant negative social effects in relation to any of the options.

Economic

Neither of the options would deliver either significant positive or negative economic effects.

Environmental

Neither of the options would deliver either significant positive or negative environmental effects.

Preferred Option and Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Option

Option 2 is our Preferred Option given the need to actively plan for local traveller accommodation needs to avoid negative, primarily social, effects. There are several existing traveller sites in Belfast, which should be protected from future development, whilst any need identified through an up to date Housing Market Assessment / Housing Needs Analysis should be accommodated in suitable locations. It should be recognised that there should be a distinction between permanent residential use of caravans by Travellers and transit or temporary uses. In addition to the SPPS policy requirements, future local policy will seek to address a broader range of local issues, including access to key community services and provision of infrastructure and utilities (running water, toilet facilities, waste disposal, etc.).

Mitigation or Enhancement

Appropriate mitigation measures should be employed - subject to demonstrable need, any proposed new traveller accommodation sites identified in the LDP should ensure early and proactive engagement with both traveller representative groups and the local public. Any sites selected for development should take account of their accessibility to employment opportunities and their contribution towards community safety.

4.2.6 LP6 - Shared Housing Provision

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

There is a need to meet the demand for shared housing and Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) are an important component of this housing provision. HMOs, alongside other accommodation options within the private rented sector, play an important role in meeting the housing needs of people who are single, who have temporary employment, students, low income households and, more recently, migrant workers.

Within Belfast, a combination of HMOs and sub-division of larger housing units into flats are prevalent in parts of Belfast and both have a detrimental impact on local communities. To deliver the regional policy aspiration for balanced communities, shared housing provision needs to be well planned and appropriately managed. The options considered in relation to this can be summarised as follows:

- **Option 1 – Continue the Existing HMO Subject Plan Policy Approach**

This option would continue the House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Subject Plan approach of limiting further HMO development in locations with high concentrations (HMO1 and HMO2), promote suitable locations for HMOs (HMO3 and HMO4), prevent further concentrations of HMOs from occurring (HMO5), improve the quality of HMOs (HMO6) and promote Purpose Built Managed Student Accommodation (PBMSA) as an alternative to HMOs (HMO7).

- **Option 2 – Manage Mix of Housing in Specific Areas of the City**

This option would seek to adapt the HMO Subject Plan approach by targeting sub-division of larger units into flats as well as HMOs (collectively referred to as 'intensive forms of housing') to maintain a balance community and by adapting the PBMSA approach to provide a clearer criteria-based policy in line with Supplementary Planning Guidance recently produced by the Council.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

There are no significant positive or negative social effects associated with Option 1. Option 2 would deliver a significant positive social effect in relation to provision of lifelong learning opportunities, as it is best placed to ensure a solution to shared accommodation that benefits both residents and the universities themselves.

Economic

There are no significant positive or negative economic effects in relation to Option 1. Option 2 would deliver significant positive effects in relation to access to employment opportunities and supporting Belfast's role as the regional economic driver, as HMOs, alongside other accommodation options within the private rented sector, play an important role in meeting the housing needs of people who are single, who have temporary employment, students, low income households and, more recently, migrant workers. This will therefore help to support the city's economy helping improve employment opportunities for all.

Environmental

None of the options would deliver either significant positive or negative environmental effects.

Preferred Option and Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Option

Our preferred option is Option 2, achieving the regional policy aims of balanced communities and strengthening community cohesion from the RDS and the key SPPS strategic policies relating to housing in settlements. The SPPS notes the delivery of homes to meet the full range of housing needs and contributing to balanced communities is an essential component improving health and wellbeing and that supporting the creation of well-linked, mixed-tenure neighbourhoods is essential for the creation of shared space and community cohesion.

Whilst the original Development Guidance Note 4 from the 1990s sought to manage the demands of flat conversions within Belfast, the more recent HMO Subject Plan (2008) targets HMOs specifically. In fact, the evidence of a fall in HMO numbers within the existing HMO Policy Areas and a corresponding increase in the number of flats in the same area suggests that both need to be actively managed in order to minimise the loss of larger housing stock and an intensification of residents that the local infrastructure is unable to support.

There are a number of aspects required to ensure the effectiveness of such a policy in the future, including a general need to protect existing residential character in areas where there are currently low numbers of HMOs or houses converted into flats, whilst also limiting further development in areas already with high concentrations. In addition, pro-active policies identifying appropriate locations that are able to accommodate such developments can also help to reduce the pressure in these core areas, recognising that there is a rising demand for shared forms of accommodation within the city.

Mitigation or Enhancement

An important mitigation measure would be to ensure that the sub-division of larger units and their conversion to flats is satisfactorily addressed in the consideration of HMO's across the plan area.

4.2.7 LP7 – Quality Design in Residential Developments

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

The SPPS sets 'supporting good design and positive place making' as one of the five core planning principles and recognises the LDP as the main vehicle for achieving sustainable patterns of residential development. It states that "good design should be the aim of all those involved in housing development" and should be "encouraged everywhere." It requires that "all new housing developments should demonstrate a high quality of design, layout (including road infrastructure considerations) and landscaping." It also notes that good design will contribute to the "creation of places to live that are safe and attractive."

Only one realistic option has therefore been identified whereby the LDP seeks to build on the existing approach to quality residential environments currently set out in PPS7 and associated Addendum on Residential Extensions and Alterations. This will involve an overarching policy approach to good design in residential development, supported by specific policies and guidance tailored to local circumstances. To provide no guidance in relation to design quality in residential development is not considered compatible with regional policy.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

This would not deliver either significant positive or negative environmental effects.

Economic

This would not deliver either significant positive or negative environmental effects.

Environmental

This design approach would be considered to deliver a significant positive effect in terms of enabling more sustainable and smarter development than is better placed to meet the challenges of future climate change. This positive effect would increase and gather momentum over time, and would be assisted by the cumulative effects of continuing high quality, innovative design across the Plan area. There are no significant negative environmental effects in relation to any of the options.

Mitigation or Enhancement

A means of policy enhancement would include a suite of additional specific criteria to supplement a general approach to good design. These criteria would apply to housing development and include for example:

- The requirement for all new developments to provide an assessment of how their design has incorporated Secure by Design Principles and will contribute towards objectives to increase community safety, reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, enhance wellbeing and promote equality
- Promotion of sustainable travel and provision of accessible local neighbourhood facilities
- Detailed requirements relating to dwelling sizes, public and private open space provision
- Maximising opportunities for use of public art, creation of local landmarks and contribution to sense of place
- The provision of legible well connected new developments.

4.2.8 LP8 – Promotion of Health and Wellbeing

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

Improving Health and Wellbeing is one of the five core planning principles of the planning system. The SPPS states that Councils may bring forward local policies that contribute to improving health and wellbeing. Ensuring that 'Everyone in Belfast experiences good health and wellbeing' is also one of the five outcomes of the Belfast Agenda, with emphasis placed on healthy lifestyles, physical and emotional wellbeing, reducing health inequalities and better services for those who suffer poor health. A number of approaches have been considered:

- **Option 1 – No Specific Policy on Health and Wellbeing**
The LDP would include no policy specifically addressing health and wellbeing, but would instead seek to address the key policy areas identified within the SPPS to contribute positively to health and wellbeing within relevant policies. This could include policies relating to open space, sport and outdoor recreation (Option GA1), supporting quality design (Options LP7, LP11) and better integrating land use planning and transport (Options SCR4 and SCR5).
- **Option 2 – Over-arching Policy on Health and Wellbeing**
An overarching health and wellbeing policy to ensure that healthy and active lifestyles are considered and promoted in all new developments. Potential measures could include, for example, the completion of health impact appraisal as part of the design process, ensuring the development of well-connected and walkable environments, improving accessibility to local open space and leisure facilities and improving connectivity to existing walking and cycling routes. This overarching policy could also be supported by wider policy measures as outlined in Option 1.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

Significant negative social effects would be considered likely if Option 1 was selected, particularly with regard to the absence of targeted measures to improve the health and wellbeing of those living within the many areas of deprivation designated in the Plan area. Option 2 would deliver a

significant positive effect in terms of providing improved health and wellbeing and quality of life. These effects would be gradual over time, with increasing or decreasing health and wellbeing (whether option 1 or option 2) increasing over the longer term.

Economic

Neither of the options would deliver either significant positive or negative environmental effects.

Environmental

Neither of the options would deliver either significant positive or negative environmental effects.

Preferred Option and Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Option

The inclusion of a policy to ensure that health and wellbeing are considered and promoted in all new developments, as outlined in Option 2, is our preferred approach as improving health and wellbeing is one of the five core planning principles of the planning system. Belfast has specific local challenges around the health and wellbeing of its residents, evidenced as a persistent element of local inequalities over the last decade. Ensuring that 'Everyone in Belfast experiences good health and wellbeing' is also one of the five outcomes of the Belfast Agenda, with emphasis placed on healthy lifestyles, physical and emotional wellbeing, reducing health inequalities and better services for those who suffer poor health.

Mitigation or Enhancement

The options are considered likely to have effects on a number of SA objectives across the social, economic and environmental themes. An appropriate mitigation measure would be to ensure that all development plan policies take account of the need to encourage a more healthy and active lifestyle and to foster increased health and wellbeing.

4.2.9 LP9 – Community Infrastructure

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

The LDP is the mechanism through which healthy social and physical environments can be encouraged by protecting existing and identifying new sites for the leisure, health and education and social care facilities required to serve cross-boundary populations and support Belfast as a 'Healthy City'. Given the need to plan for a growing population adequate community infrastructure is essential as part of the LDP process. This approach would also ensure that new developments should be required to contribute towards any new community infrastructure requirements arising as a result of development and to ensure good accessibility to existing services and facilities intended to serve future residents. This is the only option considered.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

This would not result in any significant positive or negative social effects.

Economic

This would deliver a significant positive effect in terms of retaining and enhancing access to local services and facilities. In recognising the importance of community infrastructure through inclusion of a specific policy objective in the LDP, the positive effects of this option should begin to be realised quite quickly over the Plan period, particularly where new developments are required to provide additional community infrastructure to serve them. There are no significant negative economic effects in relation to any of the options.

Environmental

This would not deliver either significant positive or negative environmental effects.

Mitigation or Enhancement

None noted.

4.2.10 LP10 – Community Cohesion

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

The RDS sets out clear policy aims and objectives to strengthen community cohesion and support urban renaissance. The SPPS acknowledges that 'Creating and Enhancing Shared Space' is an important principle within the planning system. It also recognises that the planning system has an important role in supporting government in addressing the barriers to the creation and maintenance of shared space.

The SPPS further recognises that the Executive through its 'Together: Building a United Community' TBUC) strategy is committed to addressing all the barriers that prevent or interfere with the creation and maintenance of shared space, and ensuring that all individuals can live, learn, work and play wherever they choose. A key element of the TBUC is the goal for the removal of wall interface barriers by 2023.

The options considered in relation to Community Cohesion can be summarised as follows:

- **Option 1 – Strategic Policy on Community Cohesion**

The LDP would include an over-arching strategic policy to encourage all new development to promote community cohesion and make a positive contribution to community relations.

- **Option 2 – Site Specific Guidance for Key Locations**

Given that the specific issues associated with each interface and/or barrier, are likely to vary from location to location, this option would see the LDP provide site-specific guidance in relation to community cohesion for key locations in close proximity to interfaces and peacewalls.

- **Option 3 – Over-arching Policy with Supplementary Guidance**

This approach would combine Option 1 and Option 2, meaning the LDP would include an over-arching strategic policy to encourage all new development to promote community cohesion, supported by site-specific guidance for key locations. This more specific guidance would be provided through supplementary planning guidance, site specific masterplans or development briefs.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with Options 1 and 2. Option 3 would have a significant positive effect on each of the five SA Objectives attached to the Social Theme. It is envisaged that the consequential benefits of this option, in terms of addressing social exclusion, deprivation and inequality, and in improving health and wellbeing, will be medium to long-term in delivery. In addition, it is considered that the impact of Option 3: on the opportunity for the provision of good quality housing that meets all housing needs; in supporting a reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour; and in contributing to improved educational attainment, will also be medium to long-term in delivery. There are no significant negative social effects in relation to any of the options.

Economic

There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with Options 1 and 2. Option 3 would have a significant positive effect on each of the three SA objectives under the Economic Theme, by contributing towards communal stability and helping to reconnect the City. It is envisaged that the positive impacts of Option 3 would increase over time. In the short term, access to local services and facilities would be improved. Such access would be enhanced in the medium to long-term, and supplemented by economic development and employment opportunities. In interface areas, this would be aided by the removal of peacewalls in the medium to long-term. The

overall long-term effect would be an opening-up and reconnection of the City. There are no significant negative economic effects in relation to any of the options.

Environmental

There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with Options 1 and 2. Option 3 would have a significant positive effect on five SA objectives under the Environmental Theme. It would help to create conditions of communal stability throughout the City and encourage a more connected urban form in a way that promotes sustainable travel patterns and travel choices, which have environmental benefits in terms of reduced emissions of key pollutants. This option would also help to encourage the development and redevelopment of brownfield sites throughout the city and specifically at interface areas, with potential to address peacewalls. It is envisaged that the benefits of Option 3 will be medium to long-term in delivery. There are no significant negative environmental effects in relation to any of the options.

Preferred Option and Summary of Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Option

The appraisal has identified Option 3 as the preferred option. Option 3 offers an approach which has both a city-wide and local geographic focus that is of benefit to the city and its citizens. It will make a positive contribution to community relations throughout the city by addressing issues around community cohesion at a strategic level, but also at a more localised level which has benefit in offering a targeted approach to such matters in areas of the city that experience high levels of division.

Encouraging development that contributes to an enhancement of spatial connectivity and community cohesion is important in reconnecting the city physically and socially. There are a range of measures across a number of LDP policy areas that can contribute to a more coherent urban form and improved community relations. A joined-up approach to these issues, together with early consultation with communities likely to be affected by proposed developments, is also important in this regard. This is of particular importance in relation to the Executive's goal for the removal of all interface barriers by 2023 and the need for the plan to consider the potential for utilisation of all land within the city. The SPPS states that to achieve this target, planning initiatives concerning peace-lines and contested spaces should be considered as part of a more comprehensive regeneration of wider neighbourhood environments. Given that the specific issues associated with each interface and/or barrier are likely to vary from location to location, it is considered appropriate to address such matters through supplementary guidance and site specific masterplans or development briefs to ensure a flexible approach across the city.

Mitigation or Enhancement

None noted. No significant negative effects have been identified for any of the above options.

4.2.11 LP11 – Urban Design

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

The SPPS advises that LDPs should develop robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area. These policies should be based on stated objectives for the future of the area and an understanding and evaluation of its defining characteristics.

The LDP should therefore include broad urban design policy outlining criteria that will be taken into account in assessing any application for new development. We will support the general design criteria by more specific and area focused details in supplementary planning guidance. As design is a critical component of the LDP, the provision of no detailed guidance is not a reasonable alternative.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

The approach would not deliver any significant positive or negative social effects.

Economic

The approach would not deliver any significant positive or negative economic effects.

Environmental

The approach is likely to have a significant positive effect in terms of the built and historic environment and supporting the adaptation to climate change. These positive effects are likely to be over the long term.

Preferred Option and summary of reasons for selecting the preferred option

The preferred option is to include broad urban design criteria that will be taken into account in the assessment of any application for new development. This criteria will require applicants to demonstrate how their design supports and promotes attractive environments and could be supported by a number of supplementary planning documents which provide further advice and guidance.

Mitigation or Enhancement

No significant negative effects are anticipated.

4.2.12 LP12 – Arterial Route / Gateways

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

There is no regional policy requirement for the LDP to include specific guidance in relation to the design quality of arterial routes and gateways. However, gateway corridors into the city centre help to promote a strong city image and an appropriate sense of arrival. The arterial routes that lead to these locations also play an important role for connecting the city centre with its neighbouring areas and the wider region. They therefore have an important role in influencing impressions of the city as people travel to Belfast to work, shop and be entertained.

We have therefore considered the following options:

- **Option 1 – No Specific Design Guidance for Arterial Routes/Gateways**

The LDP could contain no specific guidance in relation to the design quality of arterial routes and gateways.

- **Option 2 – Design Guidance for Arterial Routes/Gateways**

The LDP would identify a hierarchy of arterial routes and key city centre gateways, providing policies to support quality design, vitality and to enhance the function of such areas. This could be supported by Supplementary Planning Guidance to guide locationally-specific guidance as appropriate.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

None of the two options would deliver either significant positive or negative social effects.

Economic

None of the two options would deliver either significant positive or negative economic effects.

Environmental

None of the two options would deliver either significant positive or negative environmental effects.

Preferred Option and summary of reasons for selecting the preferred option

Option 2 is considered the preferred option as it would likely mitigate minor negative effects under all three themes while resulting in minor positive effects. This option seeks to promote key routes with a strong urban image as local centres for living, working, shopping and socialising opportunities. Complementary SPG could also assist in guiding development within areas that have experienced fragmentation of the urban form.

Mitigation or Enhancement

The policy approach could be enhanced through the inclusion of more specific design policies relation to general quality design principles and design in residential development. There is also scope for specific guidance to promote the use of sustainable technologies, innovative construction methods and renewable/energy efficient technologies to better prepare areas for the likely effects of climate change over time.

4.2.13 LP13 – Spatial Connectivity

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

Planning can be an instrument in alleviating some of the factors that have led to physical fragmentation in the city. Defensive architecture has often meant that development has been set back behind walls or other barriers, or has long blank frontages, that are unattractive to pedestrian movement. The issue is particularly pertinent due to the severance of the city centre from the Docks / riverside and surrounding residential areas due to road infrastructure. Peace lines between different communities provide hard edges between particular communities and areas.

We have therefore considered the following options:

- **Option 1 – No Specific Policy on Spatial Connectivity**
The LDP would include no strategic design policies are included within the LDP in relation to spatial connectivity. Instead, individual development proposals could be assessed on their own merits on the basis of Design Statements setting out the rationale and justification for proposed scale, mass and form and how these proposals sit within a possible longer term vision for the area.
- **Option 2 – Strategic Policy on Spatial Connectivity**
The LDP could include an over-arching strategic policy to ensure that all new developments promote greater connectivity between places. This would be supported by SPG in relation to areas identified with poor connections and integration.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

There are no significant positive or negative social effects associated with Option 1, however it would likely have minor negative effects on a number of counts. Option 2 would be likely to have a significant positive social effect in terms of reducing deprivation and encouraging an inclusive and equal society. Improving connectivity will assist in tackling one of the key issues affecting areas of deprivation – access to employment opportunities and to key services and facilities, which would assist in integrating communities that have become isolated. These positive effects are likely to be realised over the long term. There are no significant negative social effects.

Economic

There are no significant positive or negative economic effects associated with Option 1, however it would likely to have minor negative effects on all counts. Option 2 would be likely to have a significant positive economic effect in terms of supporting the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contributing to Belfast's role as a regional economic driver. This approach would assist in supporting business and attracting investment. It would enable better access between people and jobs, access to services and facilities, quicker movement of people and goods within the city, provide better city legibility etc, create more areas of perceived neutral/shared space. These positive effects are likely to be realised over the long term. There are no significant negative economic effects.

Environmental

There are no significant positive environmental effects associated with Option 1, however there is a significant negative environmental effect associated with this option in relation to supporting the transition to a low carbon economy. Option 2 would be likely to have a significant positive environmental effect on promoting an integrated transport system, encouraging sustainable travel and supporting the transition to a Low Carbon Economy. Better connectivity will contribute to the viability of the existing public transport network and the opportunity to enhance it. This would encourage more sustainable travel. New development will also be closer to city centre transport hubs – bus and train stations etc. There are no significant negative environmental effects.

Preferred Option and summary of reasons for selecting the preferred option

Option 2 is considered the preferred option and would mitigate those minor negative effects associated with Option 1. It would also likely have a significant positive social effect in reducing deprivation while encouraging an inclusive and equal society in addition to a significant positive economic effect in relation to supporting the economic development of the city. Option 2 is also likely to have a significant positive environmental effect on two counts; namely in promoting an integrated transport system and the encouragement of sustainable travel as well as supporting the transition to a low carbon economy. Option 2 will also ensure that all new development promotes greater connectivity between places, particularly in those areas that suffer from poor connections.

Mitigation or Enhancement

No mitigation measures or enhancements have been identified.

4.2.14 LP14 – Tall Buildings

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

Whilst performing crucial roles for the operational needs of the city, it is important to consider the visual impact that taller buildings can have on the key historic vistas and skylines. It is important to ensure that they do not have a negative impact on historic and significant environments. We have therefore considered the following options in relation to tall buildings:

- **Option 1 – Continue Maximum/Minimum Height Guidance**

This option continues the existing BMAP approach of providing minimum and maximum height guidelines in relation to character areas and/or as key requirements for individual sites, with limited identification of sites for tall buildings within specific character areas.

- **Option 2 – Specific Tall Buildings Policy**

A criteria based Tall Building Policy could be included within the LDP to identify sites where taller buildings may be acceptable. This would integrate with broader design policy objectives for the creation of a more coherent urban form, contributing to public spaces and appropriate enclosure patterns for key streets, whilst considering potential impact on heritage assets such as listed buildings, conservation areas and key city views, including views into and out of city centre.

- **Option 3 – No policy on Tall Buildings**

The LDP could have no specific policies in relation to tall buildings, allowing the identification of sites for buildings taller than their surroundings and appropriate heights to be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Individual development could be assessed against general design policies on the basis of Design Statements setting out the rationale and justification for proposed scale, mass and form and how these proposals sit within a possible longer term vision for the area.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

None of the three options would deliver either significant positive or negative social effects.

Economic

None of the three options would deliver either significant positive or negative economic effects.

Environmental

Option 2 is likely to have a significant positive effect in terms of the built and historic environment, supporting integrated transport and sustainable travel and supporting a low carbon economy. These positive effects are likely to be over the medium (built environment) to long term (e.g. low carbon economy).

Preferred Option and summary of reasons for selecting the preferred option

Option 2 is our preferred approach which introduces specific tall buildings policy. This option mitigates a number of minor negative effects associated with Options 1 and 3 and would allow sites to be identified where tall buildings may be acceptable, subject to a specified range of criteria and the positive contribution they make to the city.

Mitigation or Enhancement

No mitigation measures or enhancements have been identified.

4.2.15 LP15 – Archaeology and Built Heritage

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

The RDS highlights the need to identify, protect and conserve the built heritage, including archaeological sites and monuments, historic buildings and built heritage assets within cities towns and villages, including our historic townscape, Conservation Areas, key civic and publicly-accessible buildings, as well as everyday dwellings and shops. The aim of the SPPS in relation to Archaeology and Built Heritage is to manage change in positive ways to safeguard that which society regards as significant whilst facilitating development that will contribute to the ongoing preservation, conservation and enhancement of these assets.

We have considered the following options in relation to archaeology and built heritage:

- **Option 1 – No Local Policies on Archaeology and Built Heritage**

The LDP would make no specific local provisions in relation to archaeology and built heritage. Under this option, individual applications impacting on archaeological remains or historic buildings would be considered in accordance with prevailing planning legislation and regional policies, most notably the high-level principles set out in the SPPS.

- **Option 2 – Balanced Approach to Archaeological and Heritage Assets**

The LDP would identify the heritage assets of the city and include general policy criteria to address specific issues and demand pressures affecting such assets. Policies would seek to

be responsive to the specific issues Belfast's heritage assets face may face over the lifetime of the plan. This could be supported by detailed guidance for specific areas in SPG.

- **Option 3 – Detailed Local Policies on Archaeology and Heritage Assets**

The LDP would provide a more detailed, area-specific approach based on a thorough character appraisal of specific areas of the District and site-specific guidance in relation to development impacting on local archaeological or Heritage assets.

Appraisal of the Options

Social None of the three options would deliver either significant positive or negative social effects.

Economic None of the three options would deliver either significant positive or negative economic effects.

Environmental Option 3 is likely to have a significant positive effect in the protection, enhancement and management of the quality of the built and historic environment.

Preferred Option and summary of reasons for selecting the preferred option

Option 3 is our preferred approach which will set out detailed local policies on architectural and heritage assets. It will seek to be responsive to specific issues that Belfast's heritage assets face while adding value for decision makers by creating greater certainty for investors, developers and individual property owners.

Mitigation or Enhancement

No mitigation measures or enhancements have been identified.

4.2.16 LP16 – Local Distinctiveness

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

Local distinctiveness is important in promoting an individual sense of place, local identity and a place set apart from others in terms of character and uniqueness. The SPPS advises that policies should aim to ensure that developments respond to local character and history and confirms that it is legitimate for policies to seek to promote or reinforce local distinctiveness. We have therefore considered the following options in relation to local distinctiveness:

- **Option 1 – No Specific Policies on Local Distinctiveness**

This would continue the current approach of assessing the appropriateness of proposals to their local context on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the detailed considerations set out in SPPS.

- **Option 2 – Specific Policies on Local Distinctiveness**

Introduce a new policy on local distinctiveness through the LDP, setting out the unique and distinctive features of the city and providing guidance for applicants, decision makers and any future neighbourhood plans based on analysis of the heritage evidence base.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

None of the two options would deliver either significant positive or negative social effects.

Economic

None of the two options would deliver either significant positive or negative economic effects.

Environmental

None of the two options would deliver either significant positive or negative environmental effects.

Preferred Option and summary of reasons for selecting the preferred option

Option 2 is our preferred approach as it would mitigate any minor negative effects that are associated with Option 1. Option 2 would also enable policy to be formulated that protects and enhances those attributes that are considered to contribute to the local distinctiveness of the city. It would also provide guidance for decision makers, applicants and future neighbourhood plans.

Mitigation or Enhancement

No mitigation measures or enhancements have been identified.

4.2.17 LP17 – Energy Efficient Design

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

Efficient use of natural resources is a key component of sustainable development and the SPPS emphasises the need to improve energy efficiency in buildings to reduce our carbon footprint. We have therefore considered the following options in relation to energy efficient design:

- **Option 1 – No Policy on Energy Efficient Design**

No policy on energy efficient is included within the LDP. Individual developments therefore meet the statutory minimum in terms of energy efficiency as set out in Building Regulations. Changes to Building Regulations will mean that new homes will have to become more energy efficient anyway.

- **Option 2 – Energy Efficient Design Policy**

LDP policies are included to promote an approach which facilitates high standards of energy efficiency in design requiring a minimum BREEAM rating for non-residential buildings. As with Option 1, changes to Building Regulations will mean that new homes will have to become more energy efficient anyway.

Appraisal of the Options

Social: Option 2 has a significant positive effect because it would help to address fuel poverty whereby energy efficiency measures would help to reduce energy cost. Currently 32% of the population are in fuel poverty due to high cost of heating poorly insulated homes. This would improve the quality of housing and reduce the incident of ill health due to poorly heated homes. Option 2 would also have a significant positive effect because it would help to improve health and wellbeing as fuel poverty is a long-standing health issue that can be linked to cardiovascular and respiratory problems.

Economic: Option 2 has a minor positive effect because it will help to reduce building energy costs. NI is considered to have the highest energy costs due to its dependence on fossil fuels. This option will mitigate the high-energy costs and make the city an attractive place for investment that would promote economic and population growth.

Environmental: Option 2 has a minor positive effect because the adoption of low carbon design and technology to reduce dependency on fossil fuels for space heating will contribute to the reduction of GHG emissions. This will mitigate the effects of climate change that will impact on biodiversity as well as the built and the natural heritage.

Preferred Option and summary of reasons for selecting the preferred option

Option 2 is our preferred approach as it will result in significant positive effects in helping to reduce energy costs while improving health and wellbeing by addressing fuel poverty. Having policies in place will help homeowners implement energy efficiency measures to reduce energy usage while BREEAM ratings would improve efficiencies for non-residential development.

Mitigation or Enhancement

No likely significant effects are envisaged for any of the above options.

4.3 Creating a Vibrant Economy

4.3.1 VE1- Employment Land Supply

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

Selecting an appropriate growth scenario is essential in building a strong, responsive and competitive economy. The Council engaged consultants to develop a range of economic forecast scenarios, which included a 'baseline' scenario – an estimation of the most likely economic outcomes for Belfast during the plan period – alongside a more aspirational 'upper' scenario for consideration. The three options can be summarised as follows:

- **Option 1 – Baseline Demographic Growth**

This option continues with the status quo and follows the baseline scenario. Under this option the LDP Belfast will require a total of 608,000 sq. m of employment space for B Use Classes between 2016-2035.

- **Option 2 – Supporting Baseline Employment Growth**

This option takes the most likely economic growth scenario (baseline) during the plan period and models the likely population growth required to support the additional jobs created. It is based on the creation of 46,000 additional jobs.

- **Option 3 – Supporting Higher Employment Growth**

This option takes the higher employment growth option over the planning period. It would see the creation of 69,000 additional jobs.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with Options 1 and 3. Option 2 would deliver significantly positive effects by encouraging an inclusive society through facilitating economic development in locations accessible to disadvantaged urban areas. It would also support the re-use of previously developed land and could assist with economic regeneration and physical renewal by stimulating enterprise to tackle long-term unemployment. This would ultimately assist in reducing deprivation in the medium to long term. Option 2 proposes additional new jobs and it is expected that this investment will allow for improved employment opportunities which will assist in greater learning opportunities and be the catalyst for people to avail of better housing choices.

Economic

Option 1 is expected to have a minor negative effect as it would not see any significant economic growth and would not ensure local residents have access to future employment opportunities. Options 2 and 3 are expected to have a positive effect in the creation of job opportunities and prosperity for local residents. Option 2 would expect to have significantly positive effect and create a strong job creation, adding a further 46,000 jobs.

Environmental

There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with Option 1. Option 2 is expected to have a significant positive effect as development will be in a more sustainable form as it proposes a lower level of economic development growth and would be more likely to facilitate a well-integrated transport system with residential population living closer to their place of work and to key local services and facilities. Option 2 would also be likely to have significant positive effects in relation to the built and historic environment, through the reuse and sensitive adaptation of existing historic buildings. In relation to option 2, there are minor negative effects likely to occur in

relation to a number of environmental SA objectives - biodiversity, green space, open space and countryside, air quality/pollution and adaptation to climate change / managing flood risk. These minor negative effects can be mitigated during the next stages of plan preparation to help alleviate these minor environmental risks. Option 3 could have significant negative effects, as higher growth and pressure to deliver new sites for employment would likely necessitate bringing forward Greenfield sites outside the development limits putting a greater strain on habitats, countryside assets. It could also have significant negative effects, as higher growth would likely result in increased CO2 emissions and consequential impacts on climate change.

Preferred Option and Summary of Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Option

The appraisal has identified Option 1 as the preferred option. Option 1 when assessed against the matrix scored higher against the social, economic and environmental objectives and is therefore considered the most sustainable option both in the short and long term... This Option will secure an ambitious level of economic growth. This will have a positive effect enabling the City to compete with similar sized cities elsewhere in the UK in terms of attracting investment, creating jobs and driving the Regional economy.

Mitigation or Enhancement

There are a number of mitigation or enhancement measures that can be applied when allocating specific sites for new development, for example prioritising land to reduce travel distances and to minimise impacts on biodiversity, geodiversity and flood risk. Provision should also be made for adequate local services to serve the planned population increases.

4.3.2 VE2- Strategic Employment Locations

Reasons for Alternatives Considered **Reasons for Alternatives Considered**

One of the key objectives of RDS and SPPS is to ensure the Plan will provide an ample supply of suitable land to meet future economic development needs within the plan area. SPPS states that in discharging this function, the local plan should offer a range and choice of sites in terms of size and location to promote flexibility and provide for the varying needs of different types of economic activity. Reviewing Strategic Employment Locations is critical to helping deliver this economic growth. The two options can be summarised as follows:

- **Option 1 – Review strategic employment sites as set out in BMAP and identify new smaller opportunity sites to ensure projected employment needs are accommodated across the plan period.**

This option seeks to ensure an ample supply of suitable land to meet future economic development needs within the plan area.

- **Option 2 – Allocate large sites over 2 ha as providing key development opportunities in the future.**

This option seeks to allocate large employment sites of over 2 hectares whilst allowing for a supply of smaller sites to be identified through monitoring of planning and marketing activities, where these become available.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

Option 1 is expected to have a significant positive effect on reducing deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society. It is in line with the RDS which seeks to facilitate economic development in locations accessible to disadvantaged urban areas and could assist with economic regeneration and physical renewal by stimulating enterprise in disadvantaged areas to tackle long-term unemployment. Option 1 would aim to support increased employment which in turn will help

transform Belfast into a more competitive and successful city that can attract talent and new inward investment with consequential reduction in deprivation in the medium and long term. There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with Option 2.

Economic

Option 1 would deliver significantly positive effects in relation to supporting the economic development of Belfast as the regional economic driver and in relation to access to employment opportunities, supporting the creation of new jobs, attracting investment, creating jobs and driving the Regional Economy. Provision of an ample supply of suitable land to meet the future economic development needs within the plan area in terms of range, choice and flexibility of sites. Option 1 and 2 would be expected to have significantly positive effect in terms of the creation of job opportunities and prosperity to assist in the improved quality of life for all local residents.

Environmental

Both options may, however, result in minor negative effects in the short and medium term on air and water quality through emissions and effluent due the greater volume of development likely to result in increased CO2 emissions and having consequential impacts on climate change.

Preferred Option and Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Option

Option 1 is considered the preferred option. This Option scored higher and resulted in more significantly positive effects especially in regards to the social and economic criteria compared to the other Option. This Option supports the creation of new jobs, attracting investment, creating jobs and driving the Regional Economy. This approach will ensure ample supply of suitable land to meet the future economic development needs within the plan area in terms of range, choice and flexibility of sites.

This Option is in line with the key objective of RDS and SPSS to ensure the Plan will provide an ample supply of suitable land to meet future economic development needs within the plan area. Option 1 offers a range and choice of sites in terms of size and location to promote flexibility and provide for the varying needs of different types of economic activity.

Mitigation or Enhancement

There are a number of mitigation or enhancement measures that can be applied when allocating specific sites through the Strategic Employment Locations review, for example prioritising land to reduce travel distances, the use of SUDS to limit surface water run-off and reduce flood risk.

4.3.3 VE3- Flexible approach to existing employment land

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

Supporting sustainable economic growth is one of the five core planning principles of the SPSS. Land zoned for economic use in the LDP provides a valuable resource for local and external investment thereby contributing to economic growth. Protection of such zonings is required to facilitate future economic growth and help maintain a diverse economy to ensure all sectors of employment are provided for. The two options can be summarised as follows:

- **Option 1 –Protect areas of existing employment against other competing uses to facilitate opportunities for economic regeneration and employment growth**
This option seeks to ensure an ample supply of suitable land to meet future economic development needs within the plan area, with a presumption in favour of retention. However, it also acknowledges the need to adopt a flexible approach to allow for alternative uses on employment land where such sites are not capable of accommodating similar employment uses, to ensure on-going beneficial use of land and to maximise potential.
- **Option 2 –Apply a more rigid approach and retain all employment land**

This option seeks to ensure that all employment land is retained irrespective of need and local context. It sets a clear presumption of retention with no flexibility to alternative uses.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

Option 1 would deliver a significant positive effect. Whilst there is a presumption in favour of retaining employment focus there is scope to accommodate similar employment and compatible uses to drive forward employment and economic growth within areas where there have been closures or a lack of demand. Such a focus will ultimately reduce deprivation levels through better access to employment and creation of job opportunities leading to improved health and wellbeing and an inclusive society in the short to medium term. There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with Option 2.

Economic

By allowing for a degree of flexibility for alternative compatible uses on employment land Option 1 would deliver a significant positive effect by maximising job creation potential and ensuring less vacancy within employment locations. It would also deliver significantly positive effects in relation to supporting the economic growth aspiration of the development of Belfast as the regional economic driver. There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with Option 2.

Environmental

There are no significant positive or negative environmental effects associated with these options.

Preferred Option and Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Option

Option 1 is considered the preferred option. When scored against the sustainability matrix it resulted in more significant positive and minor positive effects. This Option will ensure the protection of existing employment zonings and will ensure that a variety of suitable sites exists across Belfast to facilitate future economic growth and help maintain a diverse economy to ensure all sectors of employment are provided for.

This Option also allows for alternative uses where there is evidence that the site has been marketed for a reasonable period of time and there has been no take-up for employment use or redevelopment, together with evidence of viability. Such a flexible approach is considered to be the more sustainable option in the medium to long term and will endeavour to ensure there isn't an oversupply of employment land.

Mitigation or Enhancement

None noted

4.3.4 VE4 - Supporting Development Needs of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

Education has an important role to play in promoting economic wellbeing, improving social mobility and tackling multiple deprivation. Better education improves access to employment opportunities, the quality of people's lives and leads to broad social benefits to individuals and society. Education raises people's productivity and creativity and promotes entrepreneurship and technological advances. In addition, they play a very crucial role in securing economic and social progress and improving income distribution.

- **Option 1- Provide a policy framework that is generally supportive of a range of development needs associated with HEIs**

This option seeks to maintain the city's reputation as a leader in higher education and research, and support their important role as a key economic driver and anchor institutions.

- **Option 2- No specific policy aimed at supporting HEI growth.**

This Option seeks to allow market forces to dictate the future growth and not to develop a specific policy aimed at supporting HEI Development.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

Option 1 would deliver a significantly positive effect. It is in line with Executives' key priority of improving health and wellbeing and is expected to have a significant positive effect by supporting learning as a positive force to expand and enhance life chances for all citizens of all ages in Belfast. Access to education opportunities would allow people to gain from greater employment opportunities which would lead to greater prosperity and give people a better quality of life. There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with Option 2.

Economic

Option 1 would deliver significantly positive effects in terms of supporting the economic development of Belfast and in relation to access to employment opportunities. The Five Higher Education Institutions are both key employers in the city and support research and development that support the wider economic growth. The Institutions are enterprises in themselves, generating economic activity, creating jobs and output in other industries and contributing to GDP. In recognising the need to provide a flexible approach, the positive effects could be realised in the medium term. There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with Option 2.

Environmental

There are no significant positive or negative environmental effects associated with these options.

Preferred Option and Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Option

Option 1 is considered the preferred option. This Option when assessed against the sustainability matrix scored higher and resulted in more significantly positive and minor positive effects than the alternative. This Option aims to support the City's aspirations of a 'learning city' by creating an environment that allows the City's educational institutions to reach their full potential. It recognises not only the important role these key institutions play in education, delivering the highly skilled workforce necessary to attract foreign direct investment and support the growth of the economy.

Mitigation or Enhancement

None noted.

4.3.5 VE5- Network and Hierarchy of Centres

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

The SPPS sets out clear policy aims to define a hierarchy of centres to ensure a co-ordinated approach to a sustainable network of retail and service provision across the city and to promote the City Centre first. Healthy centres are critical to the success of the LDP. Centres are the heart of their communities and attract a significant number of people for day-to-day activities. The two options can be summarised as follows:

- **Option 1 – Define the network and hierarchy of centres as the best framework for directing future development**
This option follows the aims of the SPPS, but includes commercial nodes on arterial routes and seeks to ensure a City Centre first approach for the location of future retailing and other main Town Centre uses.
- **Option 2 – Rely on SPPS (exclude commercial nodes arterial routes)**

This option similar to above would promote a City Centre first approach for the location of future retail and other main Town Centre uses. However, it would seek to exclude commercial nodes on arterial routes instead allowing the market to determine the location of such uses along these routes.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

Option 1 would deliver a significant positive effect on reducing deprivation and creating a more inclusive society by ensuring residents have easy access the key facilities, local services and local employment opportunities in the medium to long-term. Option 2 effects would deliver mixed effects. Whilst it retains much of the existing network it excludes commercial nodes on arterial routes and this may militate against the regeneration of these areas.

Economic

Option 1 would deliver significantly positive effects in relation to supporting the economic development of Belfast as the regional economic driver and in relation to access to employment opportunities. There are no strongly negative economic in relation to any of the options. However, option 2 has the potential to result in minor negative effects by hindering economic growth at commercial nodes on arterial routes in the medium to long term.

Environmental

Options 1 would deliver a positive effect in relation to the protection and enhance of open space and natural green space by bringing disused land/ brownfield sites and buildings back into use. It would encourage sustainable travel and consequential reductions in carbon footprint as residents have to travel lesser distances to meet their day-to-day needs. There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with Option 2.

Preferred Option and Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Option

Option 1 is considered the preferred option. This Option resulted in more significantly positive and minor positive effects when assessed against the sustainability matrix. In fact, there are no anticipated negative effects with this Option. This Option supports the SPPS requirement to define a hierarchy of centres that would ensure a co-ordinated approach to a sustainable network of retail and service provision across the city to promote the City Centre first, complemented by precautionary approach to out-of-centre commercial developments as set in the RDS. Such an approach will help the strengthen Belfast City Centre as the economic driver for the region. It will promote equity and address social exclusion by ensuring residents have easy access to key facilities, local services and local employment opportunities at a reasonable cost and promote pedestrian accessibility and public transport use reducing the need to travel by car and help to reduce emissions.

Mitigation or Enhancement

None Noted.

4.3.6 VE6- Centre Boundaries

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

The RDS recognises the importance of accessible, vibrant centres which offer local choice for shopping, social activity and recreation. The SPPS states that the LDP should define the spatial extent of centres and retain and consolidate focus for local everyday shopping. The two options can be summarised as follows:

- **Option 1 – Define centre boundaries**

This option seeks to define the spatial extent of centre boundaries for all district, local and commercial nodes on arterial routes. It seeks to retain and consolidate focus for everyday shopping and allows the focus to be on managing the balance of uses.

- **Option 2 –Rely on boundaries defined in BMAP**

This option follows existing boundaries as defined in BMAP 2015.

- **Option 3 –Reply on the SPPS**

This option follows the SPPS requirement to identify a hierarchy of Centres, town, district and local centres but excludes commercial nodes.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

Option 1 would deliver a significantly positive effect on reducing deprivation and creating a more inclusive society by redefining the spatial extent of the boundaries to accommodate economic growth over the plan period and ensuring better access to jobs, services and facilities. Option 2 is expected to deliver a minor negative effect. It lacks flexibility and may not therefore create the economic growth required to reduce deprivation levels in disadvantaged areas. There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with Option 3.

Economic

By adopting a more flexible approach, Option 1 would deliver significantly positive effects in relation to supporting the economic development of Belfast as the regional economic driver and in relation to access to employment opportunities. Option 2 is considered too rigid an approach and could effectively act as a barrier to the full realisation of economic growth within designated centres. There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with Option 3.

Environmental

Options 1 and 2 would deliver a positive effect in relation to the protection and enhance of open space and natural green space by bringing disused land/ Brownfield sites and buildings back into use. These would also encourage more sustainable travel by focusing development in defined centres and commercial nodes on arterial routes with ease of access. There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with Option 3.

Preferred Option and Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Option

Option 1 is considered the preferred option. It scored higher when assessed against the sustainability matrix especially in regard to the social and economic objectives. This Option allows the focus to be on managing the balance of uses within centres in accordance with the SPPS. It provides greater clarity on the type of uses that will be allowed and where, particularly how retail and non-retail, including community facilities make up and contribute to a centre's role and function. Some Centres are underperforming whilst others are overtrading. It is considered that this Option will help strengthen existing centres by redefining the spatial extent to maximise growth.

Mitigation or Enhancement

Centre boundaries should be defined to accommodate planned growth over the plan period.

4.3.7 VE7- Vitality and Viability of Centres

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

The SPPS states that the LDP will provide for a diverse offering and mix of uses, which reflects local circumstances and set out the policies that make it clear which uses, will be permitted in order to support and sustain vibrant centres. The two options can be summarised as follows:

- **Option 1 – Within defined centres a portion of units will be maintained as class A1 shops and change of use to other A class uses and non-retail uses will be managed**
This option seeks support the vitality and viability of centres by providing for flexibility for diversity of use to address vacancy and other issues, including resiliency to competition from other centres.
- **Option 2 – Do not manage the proportions allowed**
This option would see no specific policy requirements, instead allowing market to determine the uses within centres.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

Option 1 would deliver a significant positive effect on reducing deprivation and creating a more inclusive society by allowing for a degree of flexibility for other uses resulting in increased access to service and employment opportunities. Option 2 would deliver minor negative effects with increased vacancy rates or may result in a proliferation of uses that could attract anti-social behaviour in the medium to long term.

Economic

By adopting a more flexible approach, Option 1 would deliver a significant positive effect in relation to supporting the economic development of Belfast as the regional economic driver and in relation to access to employment opportunities. In the medium term, Option 2 has the potential to cause a minor negative effect with increased vacancy rates and fewer resiliencies to completion from other centres.

Environmental

Neither of the options would deliver significant either positive or negative environmental effects.

Preferred Option and Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Option

The appraisal has identified Option 1 as the preferred option. This Option scored higher and resulted in more significant and minor positive affects when assessed against the sustainability objectives. It allows the focus to be on managing the balance of uses within centres in accordance with the SPPS. It provides greater clarity on the type of uses that will be allowed and where, particularly how retail and non-retail, including community facilities make up and contribute to a centre's role and function.

Mitigation or Enhancement

A clear threshold of non-retail uses needs to be specified for particular areas at the Local Plan Policies stage to ensure vibrancy and a strong retail offer. To limit impact from surface water from increased built form and hardstanding, SUDS should be encouraged where possible.

4.3.8 VE8- City Centre Boundary

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

The RDS recognises the City Centre as the key driver of the region's economy. Growing the Economy is one of the pillars of the Belfast Agenda and Supporting Sustainable Economic Growth is one of the 5 core planning principles set out in the SPPS. The SPPS states that the LDP will define the spatial extent of centres including the City Centre. The two options can be summarised as follows:

- **Option 1 – Review and refined City Centre Boundary**

This approach would be to modify the boundary through a process to potentially exclude areas that are already covered by broader land use policies and establish a City Centre that still provides sufficient opportunities and potential to accommodate growth over the plan period.

- **Option 2 – Keep Boundary as current defined**

This option would see the current boundary as defined by BMAP retained.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

Option 1 would deliver a minor positive effect on reducing deprivation and creating a more inclusive society by allowing for a projected growth and greater access to employment in the medium term. It also has the potential to make more effective use of vacant and underused land, fostering a vibrant and integrated City Centre with the promotion of design to reduce crime and fear of crime. Option 2 would deliver a minor negative effect on many of the social sustainability objectives by resulting in a continuation of the status quo.

Economic

Option 1 would deliver a significant positive effect in relation to supporting the economic development of Belfast and in relation to access to employment opportunities by ensuring more effective use of vacant land and the realisation of development in the medium term. Option 2 would deliver a minor negative impact by not allowing for projected development needs, impeding economic growth.

Environmental

In reviewing and defining the City Centre boundary, Option 1 would deliver a significant positive effect by ensuring more consolidated and integrated City Centre through building on recent success, in connecting emerging commercial areas through enhanced connectivity. There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with Option 2.

Preferred Option and Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Option

The appraisal has identified Option 1 as the preferred option. This Option scored significantly higher when assessed against the 19 Sustainability objectives when compare with the alternative. This Option is in line with the RDS. It offers an approach that recognises the City Centre as the economic driver for the region. By consolidating the physical development of the city within a defined area we have the potential to make more effective use of vacant and underused land, regeneration can help drive integration of the existing elements of the city and support the growing economy.

Mitigation or Enhancement

None noted.

4.3.9 VE9- City Centre Primary Retail Area

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

Spatial Planning Guidance (SPG3) as set out in the RDS identifies the need to enhance the distinctive role of Belfast City Centre as the primary retail location in Northern Ireland. The SPSS also advises that it is important that local planning authorities support the role of town centres and contributes to their success by pursuing policies to support their vitality and viability. The two options can be summarised as follows:

- **Option 1 – Review the primary shopping area and the type of uses and define the boundary as necessary to accommodate growth**
This option seeks to define a primary retail core and frontage based on City Centres primary retail offering to accommodate growth over the plan period.
- **Option 2 – Do not manage proportion of non-retail uses allowed**
This approach seeks to put in policy which does not manage the proportions of other uses allowed within the primary shopping area.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

Option 1 would deliver a minor positive effect on reducing deprivation and creating a more inclusive society by allowing for a projected growth and greater access to employment in the medium term. It also has the potential to make more effective use of vacant and underused land, fostering a vibrant primary retail area with the promotion of design to reduce crime and fear of crime. There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with Option 2.

Economic

Option 1 would deliver a significant positive effect in relation to supporting the economic development of Belfast as the regional economic driver. This Option will also create significant positive effect by adapting and managing changing retailing patterns and promote resiliency to market uncertainties especially concerning digital shopping trends for example.

Environmental

None of the options would deliver significant either positive or negative environmental effects.

Preferred Option and Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Option

The appraisal has identified Option 1 as the preferred option. This Option is the most sustainable in the short and long term and consistently scored more positively against the 19 SA objectives. It is in line with the RDS and will support and strengthen the role of the City Centre as the primary retail location in Northern Ireland. A clear area of consolidated retail use based on where there is a high representation of A1 use and comparable shopping, which along with high footfall, would promote a strong and competitive retail core and support a growing economy.

Mitigation or Enhancement

There are a number of mitigation or enhancement measures that can be applied. For example, prioritising land to reduce travel distances, the use of SUDS to limit surface water run-off and reduce flood risk.

4.3.10 VE10 - LEISURE AND TOURISM

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

The RDS recognises Belfast City Centre as the regional focus for cultural amenities and seeks to improve facilities for tourists in support of the Tourist Signature Destinations. A number of proposals have been identified by the BCCRIS 2015 and the LDP offers an opportunity to manage and facilitate delivery of appropriate tourism and leisure related projects in the City Centre.

We have therefore considered the following options:

- **Option 1 - Provide a Policy Framework to Guide Development and Support Opportunities for Tourism Projects and Hotels**

The LDP would provide a policy framework to guide development and support opportunities for tourism projects and hotels in recognition of the role of the City Centre as the regional economic driver. By adopting the City Centre first approach as advocated by the SPPS the plan can reinforce the City Centre as the hub of cultural, entertainment, tourism and leisure facilities. Projects will be considered through criteria within the policy. The plan could set policies to support developments outside the City Centre subject to criteria which supports the sequential approach to decision making and prevent adverse impact on the City Centre.

- **Option 2 - Allocate Specific Sites for Tourism and Leisure Based on Forecasted Need**

The LDP would take a more prescriptive approach and allocate specific sites based on the forecasted need for leisure, cultural facilities and hotel space.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

There are no significantly positive or significantly negative effects associated with either of the options.

Economic

Option 1 would deliver significant positive effects for the economic development of Belfast as the regional economic driver. This effect would increase in the medium to long term as City Centre tourism and hotel developments are delivered. There are no significant positive or negative economic effects in relation to either of the options.

Environmental

There are no significantly positive or significantly negative effects associated with either of the options.

Preferred Option and Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Option

The appraisal has identified Option 1 as the preferred option. This Option scored higher when assessed against the 19 SA objectives, with no significant or minor negative effects noted. It is in line with the RDS which recognises Belfast City Centre as the regional focus of cultural amenities and seeks to improve facilities for tourists in support of the Tourist Signature Destinations. It provides for better certainty for development and investment and can assist in the regeneration of the City Centre.

Mitigation or Enhancement

There are a number of mitigation or enhancement measures that can be applied when allocating specific sites for tourism and leisure projects, particularly when seeking to minimise impacts on biodiversity, geodiversity and flood risk.

4.3.11 VE11 - CITY CENTRE LIVING

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

Belfast currently has a low residential population within the existing City Centre boundary in comparison to cities of a similar size elsewhere in the UK. The LDP will need to consider how to sustainably deliver residential development over the plan period. City Centre residential accommodation will help to address the RDS target for 60% of new housing to be delivered on 'brownfield' land.

We have therefore considered the following options:

- **Option 1 - Accommodate a Significant Proportion of New Residential Development within Belfast City Centre**

The LDP would seek to accommodate a significant proportion of new residential development within the City Centre by increasing but avoiding town cramming. This option would also contribute to wider regeneration of the City Centre as part of mixed use developments. This option would see an appropriate mix of housing units planned for the City Centre in terms of size, type and tenure, to meet the needs of the projected population.

- **Option 2 - Rely on SPPS**

This option would follow the SPPS sequential process for allocating housing land, which does not necessarily target the City Centre. This approach would see previously developed land within the urban footprint prioritised over extensions to the existing settlement limit.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

Option 1 would deliver significant positive effects by providing quality housing opportunities. This effect would increase in the medium to long term as City Centre residential developments are delivered. There are no significant negative social effects in relation to any of the options. There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with Option 2.

Economic

Option 1 would deliver significant positive effects for local residents accessing employment opportunities and for the economic development of Belfast as the regional economic driver. These significant positive effects would increase in the medium to long term as City Centre residential developments are delivered. There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with Option 2.

Environmental

Option 1 would deliver significant positive effects in terms of promoting an integrated transport system, encouraging sustainable travel, supporting the transition to a Low Carbon Economy and adapting to Climate Change. Option 1 would also provide significant positive effects by reducing air pollution and improving air quality. These significant positive effects would increase in the medium to long term as City Centre residential developments are delivered. There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with Option 2.

Preferred Option and Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Option

The appraisal has identified Option 1 as the preferred option. This Option scored higher when assessed against the 19 SA objectives. Encouraging an increase in residential uses will help re-invigorate and regenerate the City Centre. Through residential development and regeneration there are opportunities to improve accessibility to employment, services and connectivity to open space across the city

Mitigation or Enhancement

There are a number of mitigation or enhancement measures that can be applied when allocating specific sites for tourism and leisure projects, particularly when seeking to minimise impacts on biodiversity, geodiversity and flood risk. It is also essential that provision is made for an adequate mix and type of accommodation and that residential uses are not located in close proximity to non-compatible uses.

4.3.12 VE12 - SHARED SPACE IN THE CITY CENTRE

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

Spatial planning has the potential to shape places that are welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive. As Belfast becomes home to an increasingly diverse and broadening society the City needs to ensure it is welcoming, safe and inclusive to accommodate all ages and celebrate our cultural diversity. An environment promoting good relations improves the quality of life for everyone and to support this, the entire City should continue to function as a shared and accessible place. The RDS promotes development which improves the health and wellbeing of communities and the SPSS further outlines principles of creating and enhancing shared space and supporting good design and positive place-making. This is emphasised within 'Living Places: An Urban Stewardship and Design Guide for NI' and Executive policy 'Together: Building United Communities'. There are clear opportunities to address social needs which are fundamental to the future success and growth of the City as a whole and therefore the preferred option is the only option.

- **Option 1 - Guidance and a Spatial Approach to Promote the Principles of a Shared Society**

The LDP will promote the principles of a shared society through guidance and a spatial approach that is built on improving connectivity, delivering balanced development and supporting regeneration.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

This would deliver significant positive effects in terms of reducing deprivation and encouraging an inclusive and equal society, and improving health and wellbeing. Option 1 would also deliver significant positive effects in terms of increasing community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour. This effect would increase in the medium to long term. There are no significant negative social effects.

Economic

This would deliver significant positive effects for local residents accessing employment opportunities by ensuring enhanced connectivity to employment locations. Option 1 would also deliver significant positive effects for the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and ensuring Belfast's role as a regional economic driver. This effect would increase in the medium term. There are no significant negative social effects.

Environmental

There are no significant negative environmental effects.

Preferred Option and Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Option

There are no reasonable alternatives. The approach proposed will help to deliver a city that is welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive to accommodate all ages from the elderly to the very young and celebrate our cultural diversity. It can help ensure the delivery of shared facilities such as leisure centres, libraries and shopping centres within the City Centre that are accessible and well linked to the wider neighbourhoods can support a shared environment.

Mitigation or Enhancement

None noted. No significant negative effects have been identified.

4.3.13 VE13 - CITY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

The LDP will support and strengthen the role of the City Centre as the regional economic driver and identify key opportunity locations. City Centre development opportunities can improve connections, increase integration, and provide for the predicted accommodation required over the plan period.

We have therefore considered the following options:

- **Option 1 - Policy Framework to Guide Development and Regeneration of Opportunity Sites**

The LDP would provide detailed development briefs and master planning to ensure future development can be properly integrated with the rest of the City Centre. There would be strong policies in relation to regeneration to provide certainty, maintain competitiveness and attract investment.

- **Option 2 - No Specific Development Briefs or Master Planning for Opportunity Sites**

The LDP would provide no specific development briefs or master planning for city centre opportunity sites, instead allowing the market to determine the mix of uses, density, etc. Development proposals on opportunity sites would be assessed on their own merits.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

Option 1 would deliver significant positive effects in terms of reducing deprivation, improving health and wellbeing, and providing quality housing opportunities. This effect would increase in the medium to long term as City Centre opportunity sites are delivered. There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with Option 2.

Economic

Option 1 would deliver significant positive effects for local residents accessing employment opportunities. This effect would increase in the medium to long term as City Centre opportunity sites are delivered. There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with Option 2.

Environmental

Option 1 would deliver significant positive effects in terms of protecting, enhancing and managing the quality of the built environment by ensuring that buildings that contribute to Belfast's built heritage are restored and re-used. This effect would increase in the medium to long term as City Centre opportunity sites are delivered. There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with Option 2.

Preferred Option and Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Option

The appraisal has identified Option 1 as the preferred option. This option scored significantly more positive against the SA objectives when compared to the alternative. It will make a positive contribution to economic development by providing better certainty around development proposals and investment. It will also offer a more targeted approach to sites / areas of the City Centre which has historically suffered from dereliction and encourage the re-use of the historic built environment.

This Option is in line with the RDS which recognises Belfast City Centre as the regional focus of cultural amenities and seeks to improve facilities for tourists in support of the Tourist Signature Destinations

Mitigation or Enhancement

There are a number of mitigation or enhancement measures that can be applied when allocating specific sites for tourism and leisure projects, particularly when seeking to minimise impacts on biodiversity, geodiversity and flood risk

4.4 A Smart Connected Resilient Place

4.4.1 SCR1 – Telecommunication Infrastructure

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

The aim of the SPPS in relation to telecommunications is to facilitate the development of such infrastructure in an efficient and effective manner whilst keeping the environmental impact to a minimum. The LDP should bring forward policies and proposals to set detailed criteria for consideration of new telecommunications development which should address important planning considerations such as the siting, design and impact upon visual amenity.

A high-quality telecommunications infrastructure is essential for sustainable economic growth of Belfast. The options considered in relation to Telecommunications Infrastructure can be summarised as follows:

- **Option 1 – Rely on the SPPS**

This option would support the development of new infrastructure and promote an upgrade of existing networks, with consideration given to the criteria for the siting, design and impact upon visual amenity of new telecommunications infrastructure.

- **Option 2 – Tailor the policy approach of the SPPS by including areas of constraint**

This option would support the development of new infrastructure and promote an upgrade of existing networks, with consideration given to the criteria for the siting, design and impact upon visual amenity of new telecommunications infrastructure and areas of constraint.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

There are no significant positive or negative social effects in relation to the options.

Economic

Options 1 and 2 would have a significant positive effect in encouraging employment opportunities and economic development throughout the City by contributing to Belfast as an attractive investment location. There are no significant negative effects in relation to the options and it is envisaged that that the positive impacts will increase over time as new infrastructure and services are provided.

Environmental

There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with Option 1. In introducing areas of constraint, Option 2 would have a significant positive effect by affording greater protection to important habitats and species, together with Belfast's distinctive built and natural landscapes. There are no significant negative effects in relation to the options and it is envisaged that that the positive impacts will increase over time as new infrastructure and services are provided.

Preferred Option and Summary of Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Option

The appraisal has identified Option 2 as the preferred option. It provides a balanced approach to the development of new telecommunications infrastructure, and offers greater environmental protection than Option 1 by including areas of constraint.

The development and enhancement of the telecommunications infrastructure in a way that makes use of existing assets, is incorporated in the design of other forms of development and which respects visual amenity and environmental sensitivity are key elements of regional guidance and policy. The delivery of a high-quality telecommunications infrastructure in appropriate locations is essential to support the development of residential areas and to encourage economic growth. It

provides benefits to households and consumers, strengthens business and makes the region attractive for inward investment.

Mitigation or Enhancement

Although there are no envisaged negative effects for either option, suitable mitigation measures should be employed to ensure that telecommunications infrastructure development is appropriately managed throughout the Plan area, given that all new proposals for such development would vary depending on location.

4.4.2 SCR2 – Water and Sewerage Infrastructure

Appraisal of the Options

The aim of the SPPS in relation to utilities is to facilitate the development of such infrastructure in an efficient and effective manner whilst keeping the environmental impact to a minimum. It seeks to ensure the planning system contributes to a reduction in energy and water usage, helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by continuing to support growth in renewable energy resources. In relation to utilities, the LDP should allocate sufficient land to meet the anticipated needs of the community in terms public services.

The development and enhancement of the water and sewerage infrastructure is essential for accommodating growth. The options in relation to Water and Sewerage Infrastructure can be summarised as follows:

- **Option 1 – Rely on the SPPS**
This option would facilitate the development of water and sewerage infrastructure in an efficient and effective manner whilst keeping the visual and environmental impact to a minimum.
- **Option 2 – Tailor the policy approach of the SPPS by incorporating supplementary approaches**
This option would facilitate the development of water and sewerage infrastructure in an efficient and effective manner whilst keeping the visual and environmental impact to a minimum. Under this option, the LDP could incorporate supplementary approaches to encourage the use of sustainable initiatives and technologies, together with the alternative management and maintenance of existing water and sewerage assets, and the promotion of design and layout measures that contribute to a reduction in water consumption, energy use and CO2 emissions.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

Options 1 and 2 would have a significant positive effect in providing opportunity for good quality housing and for people to meet their housing needs, by supporting and facilitating new residential development. There are no significant negative effects in relation to the options and it is envisaged that that the positive impact will increase overtime as new infrastructure is provided.

Economic

Options 1 and 2 would have a significant positive effect in ensuring local residents have access to employment opportunities, and in supporting economic development and contributing to Belfast's role as the regional economic driver, by facilitating new business development throughout the City. There are no significant negative effects in relation to the options and it is envisaged that the positive impacts will increase over time as new infrastructure is provided.

Environmental

There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with Option 1. In including supplementary approaches, Option 2 would have a significant positive effect on seven of the SA objectives under the Environmental Theme. Encouraging the use of sustainable initiatives and technologies, alongside the appropriate management and maintenance of existing assets could

support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy. Alongside the promotion of design and layout measures, these could contribute to a reduction in energy use and a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Appropriate design and layout measures could also contribute to a reduction in water consumption and the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) could help protect areas and effectively manage flood risk. There are no significant negative effects in relation to the options and it is envisaged that the positive impacts on important habitats and species and on Belfast's distinctive built and natural landscapes, will increase over time as new infrastructure is provided.

Preferred Option and Summary of Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Option

The appraisal has identified Option 2 as the preferred option, as it would have a greater positive effect on the SA objectives under the Environmental Theme. The potential to incorporate supplementary approaches to tailor the policy approach of the SPPS would be of benefit in helping to protect the city's distinctive landscapes whilst contributing towards the development and enhancement of the water and sewerage infrastructure.

Such infrastructure is essential for accommodating growth and adequate investment in water, sewage and drainage, and long-term investment plans to encourage the delivery of sustainable initiatives are key factors in facilitating new industrial and residential development, promoting tourism and attracting inward investment to the region. The promotion of new technologies and incorporation of waste reduction measures in the design of future development are important factors in contributing towards a decrease in water consumption and carry additional environmental benefits in lessening energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

Mitigation or Enhancement

Although there are no envisaged negative effects for either option, suitable mitigation measures should be employed to ensure that water and sewerage infrastructure development is appropriately managed throughout the Plan area, given that all new proposals for such development would vary depending on location.

4.4.3 SCR3 – Electricity and Gas Infrastructure

Appraisal of the Options

The aim of the SPPS in relation to utilities is to facilitate the development of such infrastructure in an efficient and effective manner whilst keeping the environmental impact to a minimum. The development and enhancement of the electricity and gas infrastructure in a way that makes best use of existing assets, incorporates renewable and low or zero carbon energy sources and which respects visual amenity and environmental sensitivity are key elements of regional guidance and policy. In relation to utilities, the LDP should allocate sufficient land to meet the anticipated needs of the community in terms of public services.

A robust energy infrastructure, including health electricity and gas networks, is essential for economic growth and in furthering sustainable development. The options in relation to Electricity and Gas Infrastructure can be summarised as follows:

- **Option 1 – Rely on the SPPS**

This option would seek to facilitate the development of electricity and gas infrastructure in an efficient and effective manner whilst keeping the visual and environmental impact to a minimum.

- **Option 2 – Tailor the policy approach of the SPPS by including known or envisaged infrastructure proposals**

This option would seek to facilitate the development of electricity and gas infrastructure in an efficient and effective manner whilst keeping the visual and environmental impact to a minimum. Under this option, the LDP will reflect the known or envisaged proposals of utility providers for the replacement/upgrading of existing infrastructure or grids.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with Option 1. By including known or envisaged infrastructure proposals, Option 2 would have a significant positive effect on three of the SA Objectives under the Social Theme. It would help to promote regeneration in areas of need and contribute to the opportunity for good quality housing and for people to meet their housing needs, by supporting and facilitating new residential development. It would also help to improve skills and education of residents by facilitating investment in key community services and education facilities. There are no significant negative effects in relation to the options and it is envisaged that the positive impacts will increase over time as new infrastructure is provided.

Economic

There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with Option 1. Option 2 would have a significant positive effect in ensuring local residents have access to services and facilities, as well as to employment opportunities. It would also support economic development and contributing to Belfast's role as the regional economic driver, by facilitating new business development throughout the City. There are no significant negative effects in relation to the options and it is envisaged that the positive impacts will increase over time as new infrastructure is provided.

Environmental

There are no significant positive or negative environmental effects in relation to the options.

Preferred Option and Summary of Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Option

The appraisal has identified Option 2 as the preferred option. Similar to Option 1, it would seek to facilitate the development of electricity and gas infrastructure in an efficient and effective manner whilst keeping the visual and environmental impact to a minimum. However, by including known or envisaged infrastructure proposals, Option 2 would also introduce a greater level of certainty regarding the location of proposed infrastructure development. This would have added benefit in encouraging and facilitating investment and growth.

The development and enhancement of the electricity and gas infrastructure in a way that makes best use of existing assets, incorporates renewable and low or zero carbon energy sources and which respects visual amenity and environmental sensitivity are key elements of regional guidance and policy. Significant investment in terms of upgrading the electricity infrastructure, developing the natural gas network and exploring the potential to develop a renewable heat generation and distribution network are essential for a secure and robust infrastructure that is capable of accommodating growth. Moreover, the promotion of renewable energy generating facilities at appropriate locations and encouragement towards the use of micro-generation and other technology are important factors in contributing towards a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants.

Mitigation or Enhancement

Although there are no envisaged negative effects for either option, suitable mitigation measures should be employed to ensure that water and sewerage infrastructure development is appropriately managed throughout the Plan area, given that all new proposals for such development would vary depending on location.

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

The SPPS highlights the need for sustainable patterns of development with design that will encourage walking, cycling and public transport use to access local amenities and reduce the need for private vehicle use. It states that LDPs should identify active travel networks and provide a range of infrastructure improvements to increase use of more sustainable modes. Walking and cycling are viable modes of transport in particular for short journeys or as part of a longer public transport journey. The promotion of walking and cycling could also fulfil the RDS aims: 'to promote development which improves the health and wellbeing of communities' and 'take actions to reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate adaption to climate change'.

It is considered that there is no alternative option to encouraging travel by walking and cycling, however there is an enhanced policy option including design guidance which should be taken into account when developing schemes. Creating safe and attractive pedestrian environments should be an essential element of any city. Travelling by bicycle can be a viable, affordable and attractive mode for Belfast due to the flat topography, low car ownership and the compact nature of the city. This will be part of a balanced approach of promoting public transport and facilitating access for an appropriate level of travel by car, in particular for access for people with restricted mobility. The options considered in relation to walking and cycling can be summarised as follows:

- **Option1 - Support Walking & Cycling including design guidance**
This Option is in line with the objectives of the SPPS to identify active travel networks and provide a range of infrastructure improvements to increase the use of more sustainable modes. In particular, within urban areas, providing enhanced priority to pedestrians, cyclists and public transport to assist in reducing the number of cars in our urban areas. This option includes additional design guidance to encourage high quality, safe and attractive pedestrian and cycle routes.
- **Option 2 – Rely on the SPPS**
This Option is in line with the objectives of the SPPS to identify active travel networks and provide a range of infrastructure improvements to increase the use of more sustainable modes.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

Option 1 would have a significant positive effect on four of the SA Objectives under the Social Theme. It is considered that it will promote accessibility to services and facilities by improving travel choice and reducing the need to travel by car. It will also promote health and wellbeing and contribute to good quality housing by providing good access to pedestrian and cycling networks. The design guidance will encourage pedestrian and cyclist movement and establishment of safe and attractive routes as part of the built environment. There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with Option 2.

Economic

Options 1 and 2 would have a minor positive effect in ensuring local residents have access to employment opportunities, and in supporting economic development and contributing to Belfast's role as the regional economic driver

Environmental

Option 1 would have a significant positive effect on five of the SA objectives under the Environmental Theme. Walking and cycling are essential parts of an integrated transport system and will likely contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from transport and improve air quality by reducing the need to use the car. There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with Option 2.

Preferred Option and Summary of Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Option

The appraisal has identified Option 1 as the preferred option. It is envisaged that design guidance will contribute to safe, attractive, and integrated active travel networks in the built environment that will encourage pedestrian and cycle movement, and which will be of environmental benefit.

The option is in line with the objective of the SPPS to identify active travel networks and provide a range of infrastructure improvements to increase the use of more sustainable modes. It is also in line with other RDS policy objectives to improve air quality and improve health and wellbeing. Creating safe and attractive pedestrian environments should be an essential element of any city. Travelling by bike can be a viable and attractive mode for Belfast due to its compact form and flat topography. There are a growing number of cycle routes across the city and an increasing number of people choosing this mode of travel. This could not only provide a low-cost solution for commuters, contribute to relieving congestion in the city but also have leisure and health benefits.

Mitigation or Enhancement

Although there are no envisaged negative effects for either option, suitable mitigation measures should be employed to ensure that design guidance is provided to create safe and attractive routes as part of the built and natural environment and to ensure provision of an integrated active travel network.

4.4.5 SCR5 – Public Transport Network

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

The RDS under RG2 states that we should ‘deliver a balanced approach to transport infrastructure’ and outlines the need to ‘Improve social inclusion’ through seeking innovative public transport services. With 37% of households in Belfast not having access to a private vehicle, there is a need to increase travel choice and promote accessibility for all to jobs and services. There is a limited capacity in the city network therefore the promotion of public transport accompanied by an appropriate level of movement of private vehicles as part of a balanced approach is the only option.

There is also a requirement to meet the objective of the SPPS to integrate transportation and land use to maximise development around sustainable travel networks.

The approach considered seeks to support public transport as part of a balanced approach. It will promote public transport provision and transit orientated development as part of a balance approach to the transportation network, allowing access for an appropriate level of private vehicles.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

Option 1 would have a significant positive effect on four of the SA Objectives under the Social Theme. It is considered that it will promote accessibility to services and facilities by improving travel choice and reducing the need to travel by car. It should have a positive effect on the health and wellbeing by improving air quality and reducing community severance.

Economic

Option 1 would have a significant positive effect on one of the SA Objectives under the Economic Theme. A good public transportation service is essential as it provides increased mobility, reduces congestion, can generate jobs and enable economic growth.

Environmental

Option 1 would have a significant positive effect on one of the SA Objectives under the Environmental Theme. It will promote an integrated transport system and encourage a modal shift to sustainable travel.

Mitigation or Enhancement

The promotion of public transport must be supported by mitigation measures to manage demand and encourage use of sustainable modes. Public transport services must be part of an integrated transport network and offer high quality, affordable services to ensure an alternative and viable travel choice.

4.4.6 SCR6 – Road Network

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

The RDS regional guidance outlines the need to deliver a balanced approach to transport infrastructure, support the growth of the economy, enhance quality of life for all and reduce the environmental impact of motorised transport. A number of improvements to the highway network are viewed as essential to remove bottlenecks from the strategic road network and improve traffic management within the city. The highway network caters for buses, taxis, cyclists as well as cars and goods vehicles and road improvements can have benefits for bus movements, cyclists and pedestrians. Increasing road capacity could facilitate the increase of private vehicle use and have adverse impacts on the surrounding areas. Therefore, design guidance is needed to ensure benefits to the wider community in terms of improved connectivity and reduced severance in conjunction with improvements for bus movements, cyclists and pedestrians, particularly in local road schemes.

- **Option 1 - Support new road and road network improvements with design guidance**
This will protect land required for new road or road improvement schemes and ensure a more efficient use of road space with consideration given to improved community infrastructure and sustainable transport benefits
- **Option 2 – Rely on the SPPS**
This will identify and protect sites and routes which could be critical in developing infrastructure to widen transport choice.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

Option 1 would have a significant positive effect on one of the SA Objectives under the Social Theme. It is considered that it will promote accessibility to education services. There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with Option 2.

Economic

Option 1 would have a significant positive effect on all three of the SA Objectives under the Economic Theme. It is considered that the essential improvements could improve accessibility and promote economic growth. There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with Option 2.

Environmental

Option 1 would have a significant positive effect on one of the SA objectives under the Environmental Theme. Option 1 could contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from transport by removing bottlenecks and facilitating more efficient use of the road transport network. There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with Option 2.

Preferred Option and Summary of Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Option

The appraisal has identified Option 1 as the preferred option. The incorporation of specific design guidance under this option has potential to increase accessibility to key land uses throughout the city and encourage a balanced approach to traffic management to facilitate access and movement by the private car, but also for public transport, cyclists and pedestrians.

Indeed, the RDS regional guidance outlines the need to deliver a balanced approach to transport infrastructure, support the growth of the economy, enhance quality of life for all and reduce the environmental impact of transport. A number of improvements to the highway network are viewed as essential to remove bottlenecks from the strategic road network and improve traffic management within the city. The York Street Interchange has progressed through the option appraisal stage and public inquiry process and its implementation is now dependent on funding. It is viewed as essential to improve access to Belfast and the harbour area. The non-strategic road improvement proposals can be reviewed as part of the new Belfast Transport Plan and included in the local policies plan if considered essential for local access in the city and to improve traffic management.

Mitigation or Enhancement

The support for new road or road improvement schemes must be supported by mitigation measures outlined in design guidance. Increasing road capacity without mitigation measures could facilitate the increase of private vehicles use and have adverse impacts on the surrounding areas. Design guidance should ensure benefits to the wider community in terms of improved connectivity and reduced severance along with improvements for bus movements, cyclists and pedestrians, particularly in local road schemes.

4.4.7 SCR7 – Parking Demand Management

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

Demand management measures can influence choice of travel mode through initiatives such as parking supply and pricing policies. There is a need to actively manage travel demand and modal choices to and within the city centre by planning, design and operation. Car parking in suitable amounts and locations is vital for the city centre to function properly. A balance is necessary between car parking and other transport modes and between the needs of short-stay and long-stay parking users.

- **Option 1 – Rely on the SPPS**

This will provide a flexible approach to revise local parking standards and areas of parking restraint. The option could promote parking polices that will assist in reducing reliance on the private car and help tackle congestion as outlined in SPPS.

- **Option 2 – Retail existing parking standards and areas of parking restraint**

This option will retain the current approach.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

The Option does not have any significant positive or negative effects.

Economic

The Option does not have any significant positive or negative effects.

Environmental

Option 1 would have a significant positive effect on one of the SA objectives under the Environmental Theme. This option could influence choice of travel mode and encourage sustainable travel.

Preferred Option and Summary of Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Option

The appraisal has identified Option 1 as the preferred option. It is envisaged that revised parking polices could manage demand by the private motor vehicle and promote sustainable travel. This option is in line with the SPPS objective to promote polices that will assist in reducing reliance on

the private car and help tackle growing congestion. The SPPS states that LDP's should provide an appropriate level of parking provision which is properly managed to assist in reducing the number of car in particular within urban areas.

Mitigation or Enhancement

The option seeks to influence the choice of travel mode through initiatives such as parking supply and pricing policies. This may increase the parking tariff levels and make it less affordable. Therefore the promotion of enhanced public transport services which are convenient and affordable is essential to provide an alternative travel choice. The retention of blue badge parking for the disabled should remain or be enhanced to ensure accessibility for all.

4.4.8 SCR8 – Environmental Quality

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

Belfast is a compact urban area which has developed over time and land uses continue to change. This can result in land uses in proximity to each other which may impact on their environmental quality. The acceptability of adverse effects due to air, noise, and light pollution will depend on the location and type of development, with the most sensitive sites, such as housing areas, being more vulnerable to potential changes in adjacent land uses that could affect the quality of the residential environment. In some circumstances, adverse effects can be mitigated to make the development acceptable.

Belfast due to its industrial past potentially has a number of contaminated brownfield sites within the city, and future growth depends on the re-use of brownfield lands, as required by the RDS. Brownfield contamination is an issue which must be addressed to enable the appropriate development to be delivered to meet the aims and objectives of the LDP.

The two options can be summarised as followed:

- **Option 1 – To enhance Environmental Quality where possible to protect communities from materially harmful development.**

The LDP will consider the issues of environmental quality related to ground contamination, air, noise, and light pollution to ensure the amenity for the end users is protected. Also, to provide supplementary guidance for developers, outlining the information required as part of their development proposal for remediating contaminated sites, to encourage the reuse of brownfield sites to secure economic growth within the plan period.

- **Option 2 – To respond to the pressure for development to facilitate economic growth regardless of adjacent land use zonings or the appropriateness of reusing brownfield sites.**

The LDP will place priority on encouraging all types of development to secure new housing and economic growth without considering the compatibility of neighbouring land uses or impact of potential nuisance or pollution. Also, this option would not consider providing supplementary guidance to Developers outlining the information required for a planning application.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

Option 1 would deliver a significant positive impact on reducing environmental and health inequalities associated with air, noise and light pollution. Option 1 is expected to have a significant positive effect to ensure that suitable brownfield sites can be identified and appropriately remediated for Housing, and to minimise the environmental constraints and issues for future development. Option 2 would deliver a minor negative impact because responding to development pressure to promote the growth of the city may cause incompatible land use zonings and create an unacceptable environmental amenity that potentially could be harmful to residents and businesses.

Economic

There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with Options 1 and 2. Option 1 would deliver a minor positive impact to ensure that brownfield sites are appropriately remediated to minimise the environmental constraints for development and facilitate economic growth. Option 2 would have a minor negative impact because the city has a legacy of contaminated sites that require remediation prior to development. This option would not consider providing supplementary guidance to Developers outlining the information required for their planning application. This potentially would cause protracted delays when assessing the planning application and constrain economic growth.

Environmental

There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with Options 1 and 2. Option 1 would deliver a minor positive impact because it will seek to encourage improvement in environmental quality as a result of new development. It should help to reduce air noise and light pollution. It should help contribute to the Air Quality Management Area action plan and to help in the long term to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which are causing the acidification of soils, damage to the building fabric. Option 2 has a minor negative impact because it would have an adverse impact on environmental quality that would cause potential harm to biodiversity, habitats, natural heritage, and green spaces. Improving air quality is a pressing issue and the RDS and the SPPS guidance is clear that planning should support improving air quality in the city.

Mitigation or Enhancement

No likely significant negative effects are envisaged for any of the above options.

Preferred Option and Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Option

The Appraisal identified Option 1 as the preferred option. This option will seek to encourage improvement in environmental quality as a result of new development.

The LDP will seek to encourage improvement in environmental quality as a result of new development. This should include the remediation of contaminated land as part of redevelopment; and replacing existing obtrusive lighting with a low-level scheme. The LDP will promote the growth of the city where people will live and work; with an enhanced green infrastructure to improve environmental quality and connectivity for sustainable transport that will reduce the number of car journeys in the urban area. This option will also consider the compatibility of neighbouring land uses to ensure no significant impact on local environmental quality.

Good air quality is essential for our health, quality of life and the environment. Air becomes polluted when it contains substances which can have a harmful effect on the health of people, animals and vegetation. Belfast has four AQMAs where further deterioration in air quality would be of significant concern. The main causes of air pollution include transport, domestic heating systems and industrial processes, which release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. The overwhelming body of evidence shows that the level of these gases in the atmosphere is increasing which is causing environmental change. Air quality is a pressing issue and the RDS and the SPPS guidance is clear that planning should support improving air quality in the city. There are contaminated brownfield sites within the city and future growth depends on the re-use of these lands, as required by the RDS. The proposed approach makes clear that contamination is an issue which must be addressed to enable the appropriate development to be delivered to meet the aims and objectives of the LDP.

4.4.9 SCR9 – Mitigating Environmental Change

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

The LDP should address greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate environmental change and to build resilient communities. The city will have to tackle greenhouse gas emissions to contribute towards the UK Climate Change Act Targets to reduce carbon emissions.

The city will have to tackle greenhouse gas emissions to contribute towards the UK Climate Change Act Targets to reduce carbon emissions by 80% by 2050. The LDP should address greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate environmental change and to build resilient communities. As this is a multi-faceted topic, the best way to tackle it is to ensure it is covered within the plan. No alternative Option was considered because there is a legislative requirement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contribute towards the Climate Change Act target of 80% reduction in greenhouse gas by 2050.

Appraisal of the Option

Social

There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with this Option. This has a minor positive effect because it should help to reduce health inequality due to poor air quality caused by greenhouse gas emissions. This would also help to minimise households living in fuel poverty, which can impact on health and wellbeing.

Economic

There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with this Option. This has a minor positive effect because it promotes sustainable development and transportation which will help to reduce GHG emissions. This would help to build the City's resilience to make it attractive to investors that will secure economic and population growth

Environmental

There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with this Option. This has a minor positive effect because in promoting sustainable development that that would reduce GHG emissions to mitigate environmental change, this will benefit biodiversity and the natural heritage.

Mitigation or Enhancement

No likely significant effects are envisaged for the above option.

4.4.10 SCR10 – Renewable Energy

Reasons for Alternatives Considered

Energy security is a major issue, as the City is heavily dependent on imported fossil fuels for its primary energy needs. High electricity cost impacts on local business and household fuel poverty in Belfast. The decarbonisation of the power sector is the key to achieving renewable energy and emissions reduction targets. The NI Executive's Strategic Energy Framework has a target of 40% electricity consumption from renewable sources and a 10% renewable heat target by 2020.

A robust and sustainable renewable energy infrastructure is required to maintain the City's global economic competitiveness and community resilience. This needs to deliver reliable and secure sources of renewable energy to communities and businesses across Belfast. This is likely to mean an increase in the number of wind farms, solar PV, tidal stream and bio-energy sources, energy storage and the grid infrastructure to support them. A renewable heat network is likely to require new infrastructure to support it.

The two options can be summarised as followed:

- **Option 1 – To support the delivery of a planned and integrated Renewable Energy supply network appropriate to the urban area.**

This Option is focussed on providing a positive basis for assessing the delivery of renewable energy technology where appropriate. This would provide certainty for investment decisions. It would provide for the planning of new development to make use of opportunities for decentralised and local renewable sources of heat and power.

- **Option 2 – To maintain existing planning policies for renewable energy**

This option is maintaining the existing renewable energy planning policy which is concerned with the management of larger scale renewable schemes which have limited scope in the urban environment.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

Option 1 would deliver a significant positive effect because fuel poverty is an issue in disadvantaged communities which has an effect on health and wellbeing. Local communities developing their own renewable energy schemes can take ownership of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and saving money whilst enjoying the benefits locally. Putting communities in control of the renewable energy they generate and use can have wider benefits, such as building stronger communities, fostering ownership and empowering communities to be involved in securing the financial benefits; learning new skills, gaining experience and creating local jobs; and supporting local economic growth. Option 2 would deliver a minor positive effect, although there would potentially be a lack of a planned and integrated network appropriate for the urban area. In addition, there is no encouragement for community renewable energy schemes. Therefore, any positive effect is likely to be minimal.

Economic

Option 1 would deliver a significant positive effect because it would help to promote the development of decentralised renewable energy generation and district heating schemes will build a resilient city economy, offer energy security and provide a competitive advantage for businesses requiring renewable energy power source. It would provide the City with a competitive economic advantage in helping to market Belfast as an attractive location for inward investment, businesses and residents who are committed to sourcing their energy supply from renewable sources. Option 2 would have a minor positive effect in delivering renewable energy schemes, though more effort is required for a planned and integrated renewable energy and district heating network within the city.

Environmental

Option 1 would deliver a significant positive effect because it is focussed on developing a planned and integrated renewable energy supply appropriate for the urban environment, which in the long term will help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to contribute towards the targets in the Climate Change Act and the draft PfG. It will help to improve air quality that will benefit biodiversity, habitats, soils, and natural heritage. Option 2 would have a minor negative effect because it would not facilitate the delivery of a planned and integrated renewable energy and district heating network within the city and more effort is required in this area to be able to deliver the environmental benefits.

Mitigation or Enhancement

Whilst no significant negative effects are envisaged for either option there is scope to ensure that the minor negative effects are properly mitigated against through an appropriate criteria based policy.

Preferred Option and Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Option

The Council is keen to promote and embrace renewable energy technology to provide the City with a competitive economic advantage in helping to market Belfast as an attractive location for inward investment, businesses and residents who are committed to sourcing their energy supply from renewable sources. The Appraisal identified Option 1 as the Preferred Option. This provides a positive basis for assessing the delivery of renewable energy technology where possible. This would provide certainty for investment decisions. It would provide for the planning of new development to make use of opportunities for decentralised and local renewable sources of heat and power. It would provide a secure energy supply that would help to improve air quality in Belfast. It would contribute to the delivery of the renewable energy targets, and the reduction of greenhouse gasses as set out in the Climate Change Act and the draft PfG. It is important that we create opportunities through the planning system for decentralised energy and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels. It would also help to deliver an increase in decentralised local power generation capacity required to power electric vehicles and heating buildings. This policy therefore aims to encourage new renewable energy schemes whilst setting out safeguards to ensure they have no or minimal impact on quality of life in the city.

Fuel poverty is an issue in disadvantaged communities which have an effect on health and wellbeing. Local communities developing their own renewable energy schemes can take ownership of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and saving money whilst enjoying the benefits locally. Putting communities in control of the energy they generate and use can have wider benefits such as building stronger communities, fostering ownership, and empowering communities to be involved in securing the financial benefits; learning new skills, gaining experience and creating local jobs; and supporting local economic growth.

4.4.11 SCR11 – Adapting to Environmental Change

Justification for the Preferred Option

The city is already experiencing extreme weather events, which has had an impact on the communities in Belfast. To leave the city vulnerable without adapting to the future changes will be a high-risk strategy, and financially very expensive in the long term. The LDP should address adaptation to environmental change to fulfil sustainability commitments, and to build a resilient city. This can be addressed in a number of ways, including through the provision, management and improvement of green and blue infrastructure (network of open spaces and water features) and sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDs). As this is a multi-faceted topic, the best way to tackle adaptation to environmental change is to ensure it is covered thoroughly throughout the plan.

There is no alternative option as it is a policy requirement that the Plan addresses environmental change adaptation. The city is already experiencing extreme weather events, which has had an impact on the communities, and to do nothing will prove to be high risk and financially very expensive in the long term. However, planning for a green and blue infrastructure network to incorporate vegetation and sustainable urban drainage systems can assist in adapting to environmental change

Appraisal of the Option

Social

There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with this Option. This has a minor positive effect because adapting to environmental change would build community cohesion and resilience through the delivery of a green and blue infrastructure network of open spaces and water features. This should help minimise the impact of high temperature on the health of young and older people. Also, there should be a reduction in ill health due to a decrease in fuel poverty with improved energy efficiency measures.

Economic

There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with this Option. This has a minor positive effect because adapting to environmental change would facilitate the delivery of the green

and blue infrastructure to minimise the impact of higher temperature and intense rainfall. It should also help to build the City's economic resilience making it attractive for investment.

Environmental

This has a significant positive effect because adapting to environmental change to develop an integrated green and blue infrastructure within the urban environment to provide a multi-functional network of accessible open spaces for wildlife and recreation. The incorporation of SUD's into the blue and green infrastructure would help to mitigate flood risk. It would also incorporate linear routes to create wildlife corridors as well as for walking and cycling between the city centre and the countryside.

Mitigation or Enhancement

No likely significant negative effects are envisaged for the above option.

4.4.12 SCR12 – Flood Risk

Reasons for alternative considered

There have been an increasing number of flood events in Belfast in recent years and these have demonstrated the potential for widespread impact on communities and our vulnerability to this risk. The effects of flooding on human activity are wide ranging, with the potential to cause displacement of people, pollution and health risk, damage to buildings, adverse environmental impacts and to severely compromise economic and social activities. Extreme weather resulting in flooding of properties and infrastructure is expected to be a significant long term risk associated with environmental change with predictions for more intense rainfall and stormier weather in summer months, wetter winters and rising sea levels.

Flooding is a natural process that cannot be entirely prevented. Some areas across the city are already susceptible to intermittent flooding from various sources, principally from:

- Rivers / watercourses, (fluvial)
- Coastal
- Surface water runoff. (pluvial / ponding)

With regard to flood risk and addressing all phases of flood risk management cycle, there are three main areas to focus upon:

- **Prevention** of damage caused by floods by avoiding construction of houses and industries in present and future flood-prone areas or by adapting future developments to the risk of flooding;
- **Protection** by taking measures to reduce the likelihood of floods and/or the impact of floods in a specific location such as restoring flood plains, wetlands, and gullies, and;
- **Preparedness** such as providing instructions to the public on what to do in the event of flooding. (flood warnings /community flood action plans, flood evacuation protocols)

The traditional approach to flood risk management has been based on flood defence and flood warning. However, there is a need to manage and mitigate the increasing probability of flooding.

The two options can be summarised as followed:

- **Option 1 - To review the scope of existing policy to focus on the management and mitigation of potential flood risk in the urban area.**

This Option is focussed on providing a positive basis for managing potential flood risk in the urban area. This will consider the potential for supplementary guidance on how to incorporate flood mitigation measures such as sustainable drainage systems that helps to mimic the

natural water cycle, to promote the development of a green and blue infrastructure network appropriate to the urban environment.

- **Option 2 - To adopt a sequential approach for zoning land use to minimise flood risk.**

This Option proposes that all sites must be zoned using a sequential approach, which seeks to direct the land uses of highest vulnerability to the areas of lowest flood risk within the urban area, which would be based on identifying a classification for flood zones of high, medium, low and no hazard within the Urban Area.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with Options 1 and 2. Option 1 has a minor positive effect because Belfast is vulnerable to the potential flood risk from coastal, rivers combined sewers, and surface runoff. Added protection to manage flood risk is important to existing communities and infrastructure to build community resilience and cohesion.

Option 2 would have a minor positive because sequential land use zoning based on flood probability, would be beneficial in mitigating the flood risk for vulnerable uses; however, this would have a potential impact in restricting population and economic growth.

Economic

There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with Options 1 and 2. Option 1 would have a minor positive effect because in managing flood risk through the incorporation sustainable urban drainage solutions and green and blue infrastructure network could help to minimise potential damage from flooding. It would help to build the City's resilience to ensure that it is attractive for investment. Option 2 would have a mixed effect because sequential land use zoning based on flood probability would be beneficial in mitigating the flood risk for vulnerable uses; however, this would have a potential impact in restricting population and economic growth.

Environmental

There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with Options 1 and 2. Option 1 would have a minor positive effect because in managing flood risk through the incorporation of sustainable urban drainage solutions and green and blue infrastructure network could help to provide an ecological corridor for wildlife and help to protect and create habitats. Option 2 has a minor negative effect because it is focussed on sequential land use zoning, which potentially may affect habitats.

Mitigation or Enhancement

Whilst no significant effects are envisaged for either option there is scope to ensure that the minor negative effects are properly mitigated against through an appropriate criteria based policy.

Preferred Option and Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Option

The LDP should address flood risk when allocating land for housing and economic development. A strategic approach to flood risk is to be adopted by considering the River Lagan catchment area as a whole, ensuring that new development is not exposed unnecessarily to flooding, whilst having regard to the cumulative effects of existing development within the city boundary. It will provide a framework to ensure that flood risk to people and property is not increased as a result of new development.

The Appraisal identified Option1 as the preferred option. It will be important to ensure that new developments do not increase flood risk within vulnerable flood risk areas. The impact of properties being flooded can cause socio-economic disruption and damage. Developers will be required to assess the flood risk for residential developments and to propose mitigation measures. This will ensure the safety and wellbeing of people. A new approach is required to slow down the speed of surface storm water to avoid flash floods. SUDs provide an alternative approach. Rather than seeing water in the built environment as a threat, there is an opportunity to develop a green

and blue infrastructure network in the city, integrating SUDs that will deliver effective drainage while at the same time avoiding increased flood risk. It will manage rainfall run off to mimic natural drainage and minimise adverse impacts on water quality. SUDs can contribute to the amenity and aesthetic value of the development, as well as enhancing biodiversity. Permeable paving within developments can also help to filter water through the paved structure rather than running off it. The LDP would promote SUDs within all elements of design to ensure a proactive approach towards flood risk and help alleviate risks and concerns. Lands which are prone to flooding should be developed in such ways that are able to act as a flood relief pondage areas, this will help minimise flood risk potentials to lands zoned for residential and industrial purposes.

4.4.13 SCR13 – Waste Infrastructure

Appraisal of the Options

Moving towards more sustainable waste management is a key government objective for the future. The emphasis on waste management in Northern Ireland (NI) is changing from the need to divert waste away from landfill in favour of delivering resource management and adopting more sustainable approaches as increasingly captured in the circular economy in which waste is recognised as a resource. This is acknowledged by the SPPS which aims to support wider government policy focused on the sustainable management of waste. The SPPS directs that the LDP should support this aim and policy objectives, tailored to the local circumstances of the plan area.

The only option available in relation to this issue is to facilitate the development of new infrastructure in appropriate locations or upgrade existing facilities to increase resource efficiency and enable a shift towards a circular economy as well as have regard to the proximity principle. This would also ensure that appropriate provision is made for the storage of waste recycling containers in all new development schemes to maintain a high-quality environment.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

The Option would have a significant positive effect on improving health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life, by contributing towards a reduction in the adverse effects of waste. There are no significant negative effects in relation to this option and it is envisaged that the positive impacts will increase overtime as new infrastructure is provided, and existing facilities upgraded.

Economic

The Option would have a significant positive effect on the SA Objectives under the Economic Theme. It would facilitate development associated with the waste management industry, support inward investment and the potential for employment opportunities, accessible to local residents. The Option, in having regard to the proximity principle, would also help to retain and enhance access to local services and facilities. There are no significant negative effects in relation to this option and it is envisaged that the positive impacts will increase overtime as new infrastructure is provided, and existing facilities upgraded.

Environmental

The Option would have a significant positive effect on the two of the SA Objectives under the Environmental Theme. In enabling a shift towards a circular economy, the Option would support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy and promote the sustainable management of waste. There are no significant negative effects in relation to this option and it is envisaged that the positive impacts will increase overtime as new infrastructure is provided, and existing facilities upgraded.

Mitigation or Enhancement

Although there are no envisaged negative effects for this option, suitable mitigation measures should be employed in the form of a precautionary approach and the use of locational criteria which could help to direct new waste facilities and infrastructure in appropriate locations.

4.5 Green and Active Place

4.5.1 GA1 – Open Space, Sport, and Outdoor Recreation

Reasons for alternative considered

Open space is essential in any society for both amenity and recreation purposes. It makes a valuable contribution in enhancing the character, attractiveness, economic competitiveness, and vitality of our City. It provides areas for child play, sports pitches, passive recreation, spaces for community events and enhances the quality of the built environment. Open spaces and green networks are valuable areas for nature and biodiversity, promotes safe accessible pedestrian linkages, can act as a buffer between conflicting land uses, helps to reduce flood risk, and crucially provide 'green lungs' that can help to improve air quality.

The City has a variety of parks, sports pitches, children's playgrounds, allotments, golf courses, community gardens, and community greenways. The adopted Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015 protected existing open spaces as well as proposing community greenways and green wedges. There is the opportunity to retain the community greenways and green wedges to form the basis of an integrated blue and green infrastructure network. Belfast's preferred option is to promote population growth, and it will be necessary to ensure that there is adequate access to open spaces and enhance the potential multi functionality of spaces. This would provide benefits for recreation and sports, tourism, visual amenity, biodiversity, active transport network, flood prevention, health and wellbeing. It would build sustainable and resilient communities; in mitigating the impacts of climate change, promoting the healthy living agenda and safeguarding biodiversity.

The two options can be summarised as followed:

- **Option 1 – To retain the existing policy concerning the provision and protection of open spaces, to support the integrated development of a green and blue infrastructure network.**

This Option is focussed on providing a positive basis for the retention and enhancement of parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands, allotments, community gardens, landscape features and amenity areas that would constitute the city's green and blue infrastructure. The provision of additional open space and green corridors will be required as part of new developments to deliver the integrated and connected green and blue infrastructure network provision. This option aims to ensure that green spaces around new development are treated as integral to a planning and design process which is conscious of the proposed green and blue infrastructure network master plan.

- **Option 2 – To retain existing public and private open spaces within the plan area.**

This Option is focussed on protecting all existing open spaces in public and private ownership. The predicted growth of the City requires land for additional housing and this option would assist in directing new development to brownfield sites, although it would not necessarily deliver new and improved open space.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

Option 1 has a significant positive effect because an integrated and connected network would provide safe access to open spaces that could help to reduce inequality and build community cohesion. A multi-functional green network could encourage safe walking and cycling that would encourage activity and exercise to improve health outcomes. Option 2 has a minor negative effect as it would not provide the opportunity to encourage the connections between open spaces or the opportunity to deliver an integrated green and blue infrastructure network to support a growing city.

Economic

Option 1 has a significant positive effect because it recognises that there is a unique relationship between a vibrant city and its green spaces that helps to make the city an attractive place to live, work and visit. The city's green and blue infrastructure could create a positive visual impression that could have a beneficial impact on the local economy through increased tourism, enhanced appeal for inward investment, and direct job creation and employment. Option 2 has a minor negative impact because, whilst it could help deliver more brownfield sites for development, with the predicted growth of the city there is a need to provide additional open space which will add to the attractiveness of the city and provide recreational areas for residents and visitors. Option 2 merely safeguards existing open space.

Environmental

Option 1 has a significant positive effect because an integrated and connected green and blue infrastructure would have the potential to provide ecological corridors between the city centre and the countryside for wildlife and green spaces for wildlife habitats. Option 2 would have a minor negative impact because of the lack of potential interconnectivity of green open spaces to create potential ecological corridors within a growing city.

Mitigation or Enhancement

Whilst no significant negative effects are envisaged for either option there is scope to ensure that the minor negative effects are properly mitigated against through an appropriate criteria based policy.

Preferred Option and Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Option

Open spaces, and green areas make a huge contribution to the quality of life and the environment in the city. The Appraisal identified Option 1 as the preferred option. This supports the retention and enhancement of policies to protect, provide and improve important parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands, allotments, community gardens, landscape features and amenity areas that would constitute the city's green and blue infrastructure. The provision of additional open space and green corridors will be required as part of new developments to deliver the integrated and connected green and blue infrastructure network provision.

The preferred option aims to ensure that green spaces around new development are treated as integral to a planning and design process which is conscious of the proposed green and blue infrastructure network master plan. Limited releases of open space for development will only be considered in exceptional circumstances where the loss would not result in detriment to the overall green infrastructure provision and there is scope for improving the quality of provision elsewhere. The preferred option recognises that there is a unique relationship between a vibrant city and its green spaces that helps to make the city an attractive place to live, work and visit. The city's green and blue infrastructure will create a positive visual impression that will have a beneficial impact on the local economy through increased tourism, enhanced appeal for inward investment, and direct job creation and employment.

4.5.2 GA 2 Provision of New Open Space and Green Corridors

Reasons for alternative considered

The Council is intending to adopt Section 76 Agreements to secure Developer Contributions through a charging schedule and use the proceeds for the development of the Green and Blue Infrastructure network across the city. A Green and Blue Infrastructure Network master plan is to be prepared to provide an integrated plan that can be used for decision making purposes for development management as well as for investment decisions. This is a multi-functional space that will have a coherent sustainable urban drainage network, and will involve a number of partners to deliver the green and blue infrastructure network. It will provide a transparent plan that can be used to secure funding from a variety of sources which may include Section 76 financial contributions from Developers.

The two options can be summarised as followed:

- **Option1 Integrated Plan for the provision of new open space, the provision of a green and blue infrastructure**

This Option is focussed on providing guidance to secure section 76 developer contributions to support the development of the green and blue infrastructure. An overall integrated plan would provide guidance for transparent decision making for investment to deliver a multi-functional space that will have a coherent sustainable urban drainage network,

- **Option 2 Provision of new open space and green corridors**

This option assumes that Section 76 would be applied on a case by case basis to allocate funding for open space as and when planning applications were submitted. There would be no overall master plan or guidance to deliver new open space provision that would be part of a green and blue infrastructure network.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

Option 1 has a significant positive effect because the potential to seek section 76 Developer contributions would help to create an accessible integrated network of open spaces in the City. This would help to build cohesive communities and would encourage more activity to improve health outcomes and promote an active lifestyle. The provision of new quality open spaces in residential areas and linkages between open spaces that are accessible and attractive to the community would deter crime and anti-social behaviour. Option 2 has a minor positive effect because whilst it may deliver open space it would be piecemeal and fragmented due to a lack of a coherence master plan to guide investment decisions.

Economic

Option 1 has a significant positive effect because the potential to seek section 76 Developer contributions would help to create a planned accessible integrated network of open spaces in the City that would encourage connected walking and cycling routes between residential areas and employment areas. It would also enhance the quality of the City's image and make it attractive for potential investors and growing the population. Option 2 has a minor negative effect because there would be no overall plan and guidance to determine which components of the network should be funded. This option would be a piecemeal approach that lacks an overall coherent plan to deliver a green and blue infrastructure network in the City.

Environmental

Option 1 has a significant positive effect because the potential to seek section 76 Developer contributions to create an integrated green and blue infrastructure network of ecological corridors between the city centre and the countryside, that protects soils, improves water and air quality, and provide habitats. Option 2 has a minor negative effect because there would be no overall plan to determine which components of the network should be funded. This option would encourage a piecemeal approach that lacks an overall coherent plan to deliver a connected open space network in the City. It would not facilitate a coherent infrastructure to tackle the risk of storm water flooding.

Mitigation or Enhancement

Whilst no significant negative effects are envisaged for either option there is scope to ensure that the minor negative effects are properly mitigated against through an appropriate criteria based policy.

Preferred Option and Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Option

The Appraisal identified Option 1 as the preferred option. It is recognised that there is an opportunity for an integrated green and blue infrastructure network to be provided through

connecting existing green spaces to create new interconnecting areas of multifunctional green spaces and corridors as part of new developments. The preparation of a green and blue infrastructure master plan will provide an integrated plan that can be used for decision making purposes for development management as well as for investment decisions. This is important as this is a multi-functional space that will have a coherent sustainable urban drainage network, and will involve a number of partners to deliver the green and blue infrastructure network. It will provide a transparent plan that can be used to secure funding from a variety of sources which may include Section 76 financial contributions from Developers. This would be considered where residential developments require access to the green and blue infrastructure network nearby. Improving access to green and blue infrastructure network will be pursued where this does not create unacceptable conflict in areas of high biodiversity value.

4.5.3 GA3– Natural Heritage

Reasons for alternative considered

The City's natural heritage is of outstanding quality and beauty. The diversity of landscapes, habitats, species and geology, and their relationship with the urban area, contribute enormously to the City's distinctive and attractive character. The surrounding hills, Belfast Lough and the Lagan Valley Regional Park have outstanding visual amenity value, and provide a unique and iconic setting for Belfast.

All reasonable steps should be taken to ensure that development conserves and enhances the quality of natural heritage, which must be balanced against the need to facilitate sustainable economic growth. In this context 'conserve and enhance' will allow for appropriate development in line with the principles of sustainability, which are to balance environmental, economic and social needs. Appropriate development will need to minimise impacts, conserve and enhance valued landscapes, and significant biodiversity sites. To mitigate the potential impact of new developments there should be a requirement to provide where possible net gains in biodiversity whilst protecting or enhancing green infrastructure provision in recognition of its wide-ranging benefits.

There is no alternative option as it is a policy requirement that the Plan is compliant with existing legislation, SPPS and the PPS 2 Natural Heritage. Also, the Council would not fulfil its statutory duty to further the conservation of biodiversity, as required under the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Northern Ireland) Act 2011.

This Option is focussed on providing a strategic approach in reviewing existing policies to consider the potential for further management plans and local design guides for designated areas such as AONB and Special Countryside areas. The LDP will adopt a strategic approach to opportunities for green and blue infrastructure networks to help support biodiversity. It will establish policies to recognise the value of community greenways, natural heritage areas, open spaces, green wedges, and linear, green open spaces, as part of integrated green and blue infrastructure networks.

Appraisal of the Option

Social

There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with this option. This has a minor positive effect because it would protect the natural heritage and ensure that there is appropriate access through a connected green and blue infrastructure network, to reduce inequality and build community cohesion. It recognises that the protection of the heritage and community access would improve health and wellbeing.

Economic

There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with this option. This has a minor positive effect because it would protect the natural heritage that would enhance the environmental

quality of the City's image and make it attractive for potential investors and growing the population. The potential green and blue infrastructure may help to provide benefits to encourage sustainable forms of transport through walking and cycling.

Environmental

There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with this option. This has a minor positive impact because it would protect and enhance the natural heritage through the provision of an integrated green and blue infrastructure network that connects open and green spaces between the city and countryside which could provide habitats and an ecological corridor for wildlife. The incorporation of SUD's would help to minimise the risk of flooding that could damage the natural heritage, though it could also provide habitats for flora and fauna.

Mitigation or Enhancement

No likely significant effects are envisaged for any of the above options.

4.5.4 GA4 - Trees

Reasons for alternative considered

Trees make an important contribution to the environment, creating a varied, interesting and attractive landscape. They help define the character of an area and create a sense of place. It is proposed that population and economic growth is a plan priority, which will require additional sites to be zoned for housing and economic development. Currently trees can be protected through Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) under the Planning (Trees) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 and the Planning (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 2003. A TPO provides protection for trees considered to be of special value in terms of amenity, history or rarity.

The two options can be summarised as followed:

- **Option 1 - to protect existing trees and encourage further provision to offset unavoidable carbon emissions, reduce air pollution, provide shade and mitigate flood risks.**

This Option is focussed on protecting existing trees with TPO's considered to be of special value in terms of amenity, history or rarity. It also requires more trees to be provided as part of the Development to help the City to mitigate and adapt to environmental change.

- **Option 2 – to protect existing trees considered to be of special value in terms of amenity, history or rarity.**

This Option is focussed on protecting existing trees with TPO's considered to be of special value in terms of amenity, history or rarity, because they help to enhance the sense of place or have a distinctive heritage value.

Appraisal of the Options

Social

There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with options 1 and 2. Option 1 has a minor positive effect because more trees would be encouraged that would help improve the quality of the environmental amenity, improve air quality, and reduce the community's vulnerability to environmental change and build their resilience. It provides opportunities for community woodlands and growing biocrops. Trees make places more attractive; people want to live in leafy suburbs not concrete jungles. Option 2 has a minor negative effect because, whilst it would protect existing trees that contribute to the environmental amenity and would help to offset effects of environmental change, it would not encourage more trees to be planted in areas that have few trees, creating vulnerabilities that would not build community cohesion or contribute to improving health and wellbeing.

Economic

There are no significant positive or negative effects associated with options 1 and 2. Option 1 has a minor positive effect because this would enhance the environmental quality of the City's image, build the City's resilience to environmental change to mitigate flood risk and provide cooling. This would help to make the City attractive to potential investors and growing the population. Option 2 has a minor positive effect because protecting trees help to enhance the environment, although it is not as strong as option 1 in helping to build city resilience.

Environmental

Option 1 has a significant positive effect as additional trees incorporated into an integrated green and blue infrastructure network that connects open and green spaces between the city and countryside would provide habitats and an ecological corridor for wildlife. One of the practical ways to combat environmental change is to lock up or sequester more carbon from the atmosphere through planting more trees. Option 2 has a minor positive effect as trees provide habitats; however, it may not facilitate additional trees that cover help to provide improved canopy cover. In addition, whilst existing protected trees will continue to assist in improving environmental resilience, the opportunity to further enhance this through additional planting is not taken and more needs to be done in this regard to take account of the growing city.

Mitigation or Enhancement

Whilst no significant negative effects are envisaged for either option there is scope to ensure that the minor negative effects are properly mitigated against through an appropriate criteria based policy.

Preferred Option and Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Option

Trees make an important contribution to the environment, creating a varied, interesting and attractive landscape. The Appraisal has identified Option 1 as the preferred option. Option 1 seeks to protect existing trees and to encourage more trees to be planted in the plan area. It is recognised that trees can enhance the visual environment, but they also have an important role to help mitigate and adapt to environmental change. Trees can help to reduce air pollution, provide shade to reduce temperatures, and mitigate the risk of flash flood risk.

Trees improve the visual amenity of new developments, and help to provide habitats for wildlife in the urban area. Trees can help to create the green ecological linkages throughout the city and form a valuable element of the green and blue infrastructure network which would build the city's resilience. This option represents a proactive approach in protecting important trees and securing additional tree planting, including replacement for trees lost during development. This will maximise the benefits to the growing city, including in terms of visual amenity, biodiversity & wildlife and environmental resilience.

5.0 SA FINDINGS FOR THE PREFERRED OPTIONS

This section presents the SA findings for the Preferred Options that were considered by Belfast City Council.

A total of 48 Preferred Options are presented in the Preferred Options Paper for public consultation in 2017. The likely effects of the Preferred Options on the SA Objectives are summarised below in table 6 with particular consideration given to the likely significant effects identified (both positive and negative), in line with the requirements of the SEA Regulations. Where relevant, effects are classified as short, medium or long term. Consideration is also given to the mitigation measures that could reduce or offset the negative effects identified, including mitigation that may be provided by policies in the emerging plan. The summary focuses on key messages coming out of the SA and identifies key issues of relevance to the Council's decision making regarding the Preferred Options chosen.

The SA scores for the Preferred Options are presented in table 7, and the detailed matrices are available in Appendix 2.

5.1 Analysis Overview

The section presents the likely effects of the Preferred Options on the SA Objectives. Particular consideration is given of the likely positive and negative effects. The detailed matrices are available in Appendix 2.

An assessment of the cumulative effects is required by SEA Regulations and consideration to ways in which the effects of the preferred options may be mitigated. Table 7 presents the matrix of the SA scores of the Preferred Options included within the Preferred Options Paper (POP) and the key issues arising from the matrix are summarised table 6. This provides a basis to review the preferred options in its entirety to enable an assessment of the likely significant effects as a whole against each of the SA objectives. In summary table 7 shows:

- Overall, the preferred options would have a generally positive effect on the SA objectives.
- Significant percentage of neutral effects in relation to the 'Liveable Place' theme preferred options against the SA objectives.
- Notable positive scoring of the preferred options for 'community cohesion' and 'new homes' options against the SA objectives which ties in with the high level aims of the RDS 2035.
- The mixed minor positive and negative effects identified for 'Supporting Economic Growth' and the 'Creating a Vibrant Economy' themes reinforces the need to ensure an appropriate balance between economic growth and safeguarding the environment as advocated in the SPPS.
- A number of mixed minor positive and negative effects identified for SA17 (Quality & efficient use of water resources) outlines the need to carefully manage water resources in bringing forward housing and economic growth over the Plan period.

5.2 Cumulative Effects and Mitigation

Table 7 presents the SA findings of the Preferred Options and a summary of the likely significant effects including cumulative effects, and how negative effects can be reduced, or avoided.

Table 7: Summary of Likely Effects of the Preferred Options on the SA Objectives

SA Objective	Summary of Likely Effects.
<p>1. Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our preferred option for growth targets brownfield lands and higher densities in central areas and seeks to support greater access to jobs and wealth opportunities which can act as a catalyst in regenerating deprived communities. • Whilst the preferred option proposes an ambitious level of growth, the LDP can ensure that infrastructure is in place to facilitate population growth, balanced with the need to retain and protect environmental assets. • The preferred options also encourage greater connectivity to green, open space and physical access by better transport links. • Specifically, the preferred option positively supports community cohesion which encompasses the ethos inclusive and equal society. • Improving wealth and economic opportunities provides, creates job creation. • Overall, the preferred option is therefore considered to have a cumulative positive effect on reducing deprivation and encouraging an inclusive and equal society.
<p>2. Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The projected population growth could increase pressure on existing healthcare facilities. The POP proposes to ensure there is adequate access to serve the population. • The POP encourages a modal shift towards sustainable transport and movement through increased walking and cycling. • The use of sustainable transport should reduce congestion and has the potential to improve air quality. • The safeguarding and enhancement of existing green spaces can help soften and provide refuge from the city's built form thus increasing mental and physical wellbeing. • Overall, the preferred option is therefore considered to have a cumulative positive effect on health and wellbeing.
<p>3. To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The POP plans to deliver 37,000 new homes to support the population increase required to facilitate economic growth. • The POP suggests better design for new homes which will ensure houses are built to good quality and meet the housing needs of the population. • The POP plans to ensure there are adequate infrastructure to facilitate the plan level of good quality housing. • Whilst the plan could encourage better design of new development incorporating sustainable waste management, it is inevitable that more waste will be created with additional development. New economic development could bring potentially new innovative ideas to managing waste whilst also providing jobs. • The development of housing could potentially result in the

SA Objective	Summary of Likely Effects.
	<p>redevelopment of brownfield land. Whilst the redevelopment of brownfield land could have a positive effect on soils by reducing contamination, some brownfield sites that have remained vacant for a long period of time may have elements of sites of Open Mosaic Habitats in Previously Development Land (note, not all brownfield sites support Open Mosaic Habitats).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased level of growth will place pressure on land resources and could result in environmental impacts on landscape, biodiversity and cultural heritage. However, the preferred option seeks to target brownfield land/sites, increase densities to mitigate these impacts. There is scope to positively reuse existing buildings including those of heritage value and those on the heritage risk register, into functional buildings. Also, mitigation through environmental policies in the draft plan could help to mitigate the effects of development. • Due to the strategic nature of this stage of the LDP process, no sites have been allocated for housing, thus the uncertainty regarding compatibility with the proposed Tall Building option. • Overall, the preferred option is therefore considered to have a cumulative positive effect on housing.
<p>4. Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The POP will indirectly affect crime and community safety through encouragement of better design and incorporating secure by design ethos into policy. • Due to the strategic nature of the POP, there are uncertainties are due to the lack of detail on the site locations particularly for Travellers Accommodation and Housing Mix. • Overall, the preferred option is therefore considered to have a cumulative positive effect with uncertainties on crime and community safety
<p>5. To improve skills & education of residents by providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The projected population growth will increase the need for education facilities including schools. The POP seeks to encourage the protection of existing infrastructure and proposes that essential infrastructure is in place ahead of future development. • Each preferred option has been assessed in relation to education and lifelong learning and have found that sustainable use of transport has had a significant positive effect. • There are a number of neutral effects or no relationship has been identified. • Overall, the preferred option is therefore considered to have a cumulative neutral effect on access to education and lifelong learning opportunities
<p>6. Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population growth could put pressure on existing local services and facilities. The POP seeks to ensure their protection and enhancement to address demand. Alongside this, encouraging appropriate improvement in infrastructure as well as sustainable transportation will provide improved access to services • The SPPS seeks to use a sequential approach by directing

SA Objective	Summary of Likely Effects.
	<p>development to maximise existing infrastructure, services and facilities within the urban footprint. This should help strengthen existing neighbourhood centres and arterial routes with local services adding to local viability and viability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the strategic nature of the POP, there are uncertainties due to the lack of detail on the site locations particular with regards to affordable housing. • Overall, the preferred option is therefore considered to have a cumulative positive effect on access to local services and facilities
<p>7. To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The preferred option helps to ensure projected population growth enables employment growth, therefore increasing access to employment opportunities. • The POP also seeks to reduce the need to travel with having the resident population closer to places of work and seeks to support the improvement of sustainable modes of transport which will ensure people (including those without a car) are able to access employment opportunities. • The development of housing could potentially result in the redevelopment of brownfield land. Whilst the redevelopment of brownfield land could have a positive effect on soils by reducing contamination, some brownfield sites that have remained vacant for a long period of time may have elements of sites of Open Mosaic Habitats in Previously Development Land (note, not all brownfield sites support Open Mosaic Habitats). • Increased level of growth will place pressure on land resources and could result in environmental impacts on landscape, biodiversity and cultural heritage. However, the preferred option seeks to target brownfield land/sites, increase densities to mitigate these impacts. There is scope to positively reuse existing buildings including those of heritage value and those on the heritage risk register, into functional buildings. Also, mitigation through environmental policies in the draft plan could help to mitigate the effects of development. • Due to the strategic nature of the POP, there are uncertainties and mixed effects due to the lack of detail on the site locations for example on employment locations and housing. • Overall, the preferred option is therefore considered to have a cumulative positive effect on access to employment opportunities
<p>8. Support economic development of Belfast as a competitive place & contribute to its role as a regional economic driver</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The likely cumulative effects of the preferred options are similar to those described above in relation to employment, particularly due to the correlation between both, employment development will make a significant contribution towards achieving economic growth in Belfast making it an attractive place work and live. Equally this could increase the demand for housing growth too. • The preferred option also seeks to safeguard existing employment sites as well as ensuring access to educational opportunities.

SA Objective	Summary of Likely Effects.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting, enhancing and managing the built and historic environment could indirectly support economic growth making Belfast a more attractive place to invest in, to work in and to visit. As expected the vibrant economy approaches within the POP identify a significant positive cumulative effect on this SA objective. Overall, the preferred option is therefore considered to have a cumulative positive effect on the economic development of Belfast and its role as the regional economic driver
<p>9. Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The POP seeks to facilitate sustainable transport use rather than accommodate private car use including promoting walking and cycling and better use of the public transport network as well as managing the road network and parking management within the city. Public transport and transit orientated development as part of a balanced approach is important in many ways as it provides increased mobility, reducing congestion, can generate jobs, enabling economic growth The RDS recognises the need to improve facilities for walking and cycling which will assist in making streets safer and more user friendly and will promote active travel networks which could have a significant positive effect by promoting health and well-being. It is recognised that increased physical activity can improve physical and mental health. This could also contribute towards minimising vehicle emissions. Overall, the preferred option is therefore considered to have a cumulative positive effect on sustainable transport and sustainable travel.
<p>10. Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The model for growth concentrates on the existing urban area and encourages people to live closer to jobs. The POP seeks to reduce the need to travel and support the use of sustainable modes of transport including promoting walking and cycling and better use of the public transport network The POP provides support and encourages the use of appropriate renewable energy development which could encourage actions to mitigate climate change. The POP encourages the creation of opportunities for decentralising energy and reducing reliance on fossil fuels. It encourages renewable energy schemes whilst setting out safeguards to ensure they have no or minimal impact on quality of life. The POP encourages a circular economy approach and the benefits associated with innovative ways in reducing, reusing and recycling waste, the economic benefits and job opportunities arising of the approach as well as the environmental benefits from reducing the need to landfill and in climate emissions associated with raw materials. Overall, the preferred option is therefore considered to have a cumulative positive effect on low carbon economy
<p>11. Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The preferred options have been assessed for their likely effects on biodiversity. While a number of options have been

SA Objective	Summary of Likely Effects.
protect habitats and species	<p>identified as having potential negative effects, it is difficult to assess at this strategic level. It may be possible to implement mitigation measures at site allocation stage so to reduce or avoid these effects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Habitats Regulation Assessment, which is being undertaken separately through SES, will also help inform mitigation measures. • All potential negative effects are uncertain at this strategic level of assessment as they will depend largely on the integration of green and blue infrastructure and the direction of the mitigation measures of the draft Plan Strategy and the Local Policies Plan. • The preferred options seek to retain areas of open space which will help to provide habitats and retain ecological networks. • Whilst new development could enhance economic activity, it may put pressure on open space and greenfield sites which harbour biodiversity. However, mitigation measures can be implemented to offset any adverse effects by encouraging the development or enhancement of open and green space which is particularly lacking in the City Centre. • It is therefore considered to have a cumulative mixed minor positive and minor negative effect on biodiversity although this is currently uncertain until detailed policy and site proposals are known.
12. Protect and enhance soil quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of housing could potentially result in the redevelopment of brownfield land. The redevelopment of brownfield land could have a positive effect on soils by reducing contamination. • Mixed effects have been identified in employment locations due to potential by-products and pollution from new industry. • Uncertain effects have been identified for improvements to the road network due to uncertainties of location. • It is considered to have a cumulative mixed minor positive and minor negative effect on soil quality.
13. Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All potential negatives are uncertain at this stage due to the strategic level of the POP. The LDP aims to achieve good quality design and be sympathetic to the built and historic environment promoting sustainable reuse to foster local distinctiveness. However, new high quality development in keeping with the landscape and townscape can have positive effects on heritage assets improving their surroundings and appearance. • The LDP's proposed growth scenario may adversely impact on the historic environment and it is less easy to retrofit these buildings to meet high standards on energy efficiency. • It is therefore considered to have a cumulative mixed minor positive and minor negative effect on the built and historic environment.
14. Protect, maintain & enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the proposed population projections and the encouragement of further development on sites for employment, economic development and housing, greenfield

SA Objective	Summary of Likely Effects.
landscape & geodiversity.	<p>sites and sites close to sensitive areas could potentially be impacted. In the next stage of the LDP, draft Plan Strategy, sites will be prioritised for allocation following an assessment of likely effects on landscape and geodiversity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All potential negative effects at this strategic stage are uncertain as they will depend on the proposed development. Incorporating environmental screening will be imperative for mitigation. • Uncertain effects have been identified for improvements to the road network due to uncertainties of location • Overall, the preferred option is therefore considered to have a cumulative minor positive or neutral effect on landscape and geodiversity but this is uncertain until detailed policies and sites are allocated in the Draft Plan Strategy. There could be potential to include appropriate design measures into policy at this stage.
15. Protect and enhance open space and natural greenspace including Belfast's countryside asset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The POP makes significant reference for the safeguarding and enhancement of open space and places of outdoor recreation and sport in taking forward policy. • The preferred options can have benefits in terms of recreation, access to community greenways, walking and cycling networks including the expanding Belfast Bikes network in the city centre. • Minor negative effects have been identified for economic growth and employment land supply. With the proposed population projections and the encouragement of further development on sites for employment, economic development and housing, greenfield sites and sites close to sensitive areas could potentially be impacted. In the next stage of the LDP, draft Plan Strategy; sites will be prioritised for allocation following an assessment of likely effects on natural greenspace including Belfast's countryside asset. • Mixed effects have been identified as it recognises that the City Centres boundary requires defining to reflect projected development which necessitates reviewing open space requirements for example to reflect increases in residential populations. • Uncertain effect has been identified for improvements to the road network due to uncertainties of location. • Overall, the preferred option is therefore considered to have a cumulative positive effect on open space and Belfast's countryside asset.
16. Promote the sustainable management of waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst the plan could encourage better design of new development incorporating sustainable waste management, it is inevitable that more waste will be created with additional development. New economic development could bring potentially new innovative ideas to managing waste whilst also providing jobs. • It is considered to have neutral effects on waste overall.
17. Promote the quality and efficient use of water resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The POP seeks to ensure the necessary infrastructure is in place to support new development. The Strategic Drainage Infrastructure Plan through the Living with Water Programme

SA Objective	Summary of Likely Effects.
	<p>will seek to support economic growth, protect the environment and address flood risk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst the provision of new development could put additional pressure on water sources including water waste treatment works, housing development will be provided on a phased approach. Measures to mitigate water stress could be planned for with the appropriate statutory body. • It is considered to have cumulative mixed (minor positive and minor negative) effects on water.
<p>18. Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposals for population, economic and housing growth could result in increased air pollution from increased vehicular traffic, emissions associated from economic growth. The preferred options also include various options and measures seeking to reduce private car use and provide improved access and opportunities for walking, cycling and sustainable modes of transport. • New economic development could bring potentially new innovative ideas to managing air pollution whilst also providing jobs such as new Cleantech Technologies and the circular economy • It is considered to have cumulative minor positive effects on air quality.
<p>19. Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is potential of an overall increase in greenhouse gas emissions from vehicular traffic, commercial activity and housing. The inclusion of sustainable modes of transport, energy efficient design, clean technology and proposals of increased opportunities to walking and cycling are expected to minimise emissions. • The POP provides support for appropriate renewable energy development which could encourage actions to mitigate climate change. • Minor negatives have been identified for employment land supply and locations given that existing locations are located within flood risk areas. • It is considered to have a cumulative mixed (minor positive and minor negative) effect on climate change.

Table 8.1: SA Compatibility Matrix of the Growth and Shaping a Liveable Place Preferred Options

Strategic Aim	Table 8.1 SUMMARY MATRIX		SOCIAL					ECONOMIC			ENVIRONMENTAL												
	Ref	Topic	Preferred Option No.	SA1 (Deprivation / Inclusivity)	SA2 (Health & Wellbeing)	SA3 (Quality Housing)	SA4 (Community safety, crime, ASB)	SA5 (Improve skills & education through lifelong learning)	SA6 (Access to local services & facilities)	SA7 (Access to employment)	SA8 (Regional economic driver / competitive place)	SA9 (Integrated transport & sustainable travel)	SA10 (Low carbon economy)	SA11 (Biodiversity assets / habitats & species)	SA12 (Protect & enhance soil quality)	SA13 (Built & historic environment)	SA14 (Protect, maintain & enhance landscape & geodiversity)	SA15 (Protect & enhance open space, green space & countryside)	SA16 (Sustainable management of waste)	SA17 (Quality & efficient use of water resources)	SA18 (Reduce air pollution / improve air quality)	SA19 (Adaptation to climate change and managing flood risk)	
GROWTH	GR1	Supporting Economic Growth	2	++	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	++	+	-	+	+/-	+	+	
SHAPING A LIVEABLE PLACE	LP1	New Homes	4	++	++	++	++	0	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	+/-	++	+	++	+/-	++	++	
	LP2	Affordable Housing	3	+	+	++	+	?	?	?	+	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	LP3	Housing Mix	3	+	+	+	?	0	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+
	LP4	Accomm. For older people	4	++	++	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	LP5	Traveller Accomm.	2	+	+	++	?	0	+	?	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+
	LP6	Shared Housing	2	+	+	+	+	++	+	++	++	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	LP7	Quality Design in Res. Dev's	N/A	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	0	+	++	
	LP8	Health & well-being	2	+	++	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	
	LP9	Community Infrastructure	N/A	+	+	+	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	
	LP10	Community Cohesion	3	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	0	0	+	0	++	0	0	++	++
	LP11	Urban Design	N/A	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	++	+	+	+	0	+	++	
	LP12	Arterial Route / Gateways Design	2	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	+	+	
	LP13	Promoting Greater Connectivity	2	++	+	0	+	+	+	+	++	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+
	LP14	Tall Buildings	2	+	0	?	0	0	+	+	+	++	++	0	0	++	+	+	0	0	+	+	
	LP15	Archaeology & Built Heritage	3	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
	LP16	Local Distinctiveness	2	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	LP17	Energy Efficient Design	2	++	++	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	++	+	+	+/-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

Table 8.2: SA Compatibility Matrix of Creating a Vibrant Economy Preferred Options

Strategic Aim	Table 8.2 SUMMARY MATRIX		SOCIAL					ECONOMIC			ENVIRONMENTAL											
	Ref	Topic	Preferred Option No.	SA1 (Deprivation / Inclusivity)	SA2 (Health & Wellbeing)	SA3 (Quality Housing)	SA4 (Community safety, crime, ASB)	SA5 (Improve skills & education through lifelong learning)	SA6 (Access to local services & facilities)	SA7 (Access to employment)	SA8 (Regional economic driver / competitive place)	SA9 (Integrated transport & sustainable travel)	SA10 (Low carbon economy)	SA11 (Biodiversity assets / habitats & species)	SA12 (Protect & enhance soil quality)	SA13 (Built & historic environment)	SA14 (Protect, maintain & enhance landscape & geodiversity)	SA15 (Protect & enhance open space, green space & countryside)	SA16 (Sustainable management of waste)	SA17 (Quality & efficient use of water resources)	SA18 (Reduce air pollution / improve air quality)	SA19 (Adaptation to climate change and managing flood risk)
CREATING A VIBRANT ECONOMY	VE1	Employment land Supply	2	++	+	++	0	++	++	++	++	+	-	+	++	+	-	+	+/-	-	-	
	VE2	Strategic Employment Locations	1	++	++	+	+	++	++	++	++	+	+	0	+/-	+	+	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	-
	VE3	Flexible approach to Existing Employment Locations	1	++	++	+	+	+	+	+/-	++	+	+	0	+/-	+	+	+	+/-	+/-	+	+
	VE4	Supporting Development Needs of Higher Educational Institutions	1	+	++	++	+	+	+	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+/-	+	+
	VE5	Network and Hierarchy of Centres	1	++	++	0	+	0	++	+	++	+	+	0	0	+	0	+	0	+/-	+	+/-
	VE6	Centre Boundaries	1	+	+	0	+	0	+	+	++	+	+	0	0	+	0	+	0	+/-	+	+
	VE7	Vitality & Viability of Centres	1	+	+	0	+	0	++	+	++	+	+	0	0	+	0	+	+	+/-	+	+
	VE8	City Centre Boundary	1	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	++	++	+	?	+	+/-	0	+/-	0	+/-	++	+
	VE9	City Centre Primary Retail Area	1	+	+	0	+	0	+	++	++	+	+	0	+	+/-	0	0	0	+/-	+	+/-
	VE10	Leisure & Tourism in the City Centre	1	+	+	0	+	0	+	+	++	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	+/-	+	+
	VE11	City Centre Living	1	+	+	++	+	0	+	++	++	++	++	+/-	+	+	+	+	+	+/-	++	+
	VE12	Shared Space in the City Centre	N/A	++	++	+	++	0	+	++	++	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	0	+/-	+	+
	VE13	City Centre Development Opportunities	1	++	++	++	+	0	+	++	+	+	+	0	+	++	0	+	+	+/-	+	+

Table 8.3: SA Compatibility Matrix of Smart Connected Resilient Place Preferred Options

Table 8.3		SUMMARY MATRIX		SOCIAL					ECONOMIC			ENVIRONMENTAL											
Strategic Aim	Ref	Topic	Preferred Option No.	SA1 (Deprivation / Inclusivity)	SA2 (Health & Wellbeing)	SA3 (Quality Housing)	SA4 (Community safety, crime, ASB)	SA5 (Improve skills & education through lifelong learning)	SA6 (Access to local services & facilities)	SA7 (Access to employment)	SA8 (Regional economic driver / competitive place)	SA9 (Integrated transport & sustainable travel)	SA10 (Low carbon economy)	SA11 (Biodiversity assets / habitats & species)	SA12 (Protect & enhance soil quality)	SA13 (Built & historic environment)	SA14 (Protect, maintain & enhance landscape & geodiversity)	SA15 (Protect & enhance open space, green space & countryside)	SA16 (Sustainable management of waste)	SA17 (Quality & efficient use of water resources)	SA18 (Reduce air pollution / improve air quality)	SA19 (Adaptation to climate change and managing flood risk)	
SMART CONNECTED RESILIENT PLACE	SCR1	Telecommunications	2	+	+	0	0	+	+	++	++	0	+	++	++	++	++	++	0	0	+	+	
	SCR2	Water & Sewerage	2	+	+	++	0	+	+	++	++	0	++	+	+	++	+	++	++	++	++	++	
	SCR3	Electricity & Gas	2	++	+	++	+	++	++	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	
	SCR4	Walking, Cycling & Sustainable Modes of Transport	1	++	++	++	++	+	+	+	+	++	++	+	+	++	0	0	0	+	++	++	
	SCR5	Public Transport Network	N/A	++	++	++	+	+	+	+	++	++	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	++	++	
	SCR6	Road Network	1	+	+	+	+	++	++	++	++	++	+	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	+	+	
	SCR7	Parking Demand Management	N/A	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	++	++	
	SCR8	Environmental Quality	1	++	++	++	++	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	
	SCR9	Mitigating Environmental Change	N/A	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	SCR10	Renewable Energy	1	++	++	++	0	0	0	0	++	0	++	+	+	+/-	+	+	++	0	+	+	
	SCR11	Adapting to Environmental Change	N/A	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	0	+	0	+	
	SCR12	Flood Risk	1	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	+
	SCR13	Waste Infrastructure	N/A	0	++	+/-	0	0	++	++	++	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	++	+	+	+	++

Table 8.4: SA Compatibility Matrix of Green and Active Preferred Options

Table 8.4		SUMMARY MATRIX		SOCIAL					ECONOMIC			ENVIRONMENTAL										
Strategic Aim	Ref	Topic	Preferred Option No.	SA1 (Deprivation / Inclusivity)	SA2 (Health & Wellbeing)	SA3 (Quality Housing)	SA4 (Community safety, crime, ASB)	SA5 (Improve skills & education through lifelong learning)	SA6 (Access to local services & facilities)	SA7 (Access to employment)	SA8 (Regional economic driver / competitive place)	SA9 (Integrated transport & sustainable travel)	SA10 (Low carbon economy)	SA11 (Biodiversity assets / habitats & species)	SA12 (Protect & enhance soil quality)	SA13 (Built & historic environment)	SA14 (Protect, maintain & enhance landscape & geodiversity)	SA15 (Protect & enhance open space, green space & countryside)	SA16 (Sustainable management of waste)	SA17 (Quality & efficient use of water resources)	SA18 (Reduce air pollution / improve air quality)	SA19 (Adaptation to climate change and managing flood risk)
GREEN & ACTIVE PLACE	GA1	Open Space, Sport & Outdoor Recreation	1	++	++	++	++	0	+	+	++	++	++	+	+	++	+	+	0	+	+	++
	GA2	New Open Space & Green Corridors	1	++	++	++	++	0	+	+	++	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	++
	GA3	Natural Heritage	1	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+
	GA4	Trees	1	+	++	++	0	0	0	0	++	0	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	0	0	++

6.0 MONITORING

Regulation 17 of EAPP (NI) Regulations sets out the requirements for monitoring the implementation of the plan. It states,

“The responsible authority shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of each plan or programme with the purpose of identifying unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and being able to undertake appropriate remedial action”⁸.

Therefore, monitoring should help identify any unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and implement the necessary remedial action. Monitoring should focus upon the likely significant effects identified by the SA and the mitigation measures proposed to offset or reduce significant adverse effects.

Monitoring measures should be clearly linked to the SA process, with particular reference to the sustainability objectives and issues identified during the preparation of the SA Report. Monitoring allows the actual significant effects of the implementing the plan to be tested against those predicted in the SA.

Because of the early stages of the Belfast LDP, and the uncertainty attached to many of the potential effects identified, monitoring measures have been proposed in Table 7 in relation to all the SA objectives in the SA Framework. As the LDP progresses and the likely significant effects are identified with more certainty, it may be appropriate to narrow down the monitoring framework to focus on a smaller number of SA objectives relevant to Belfast’s LDP. It is important to note that the ‘Potential Indicators’ outlined in the SA Framework in Table 7 are likely to change during the course of the LDP process.

The ‘Potential Indicators’ in the SA Framework include a potential source of data to be used for monitoring, most of which will be provided by external bodies. During the course of the LDP process, the Council will continue to work with statutory bodies to finalise and agree the relevant sustainability effects to be monitored.

As the council will be required to prepare an Annual Monitoring Report, this may also include the findings of monitoring any likely significant effects as a result of implementing the plan.

⁸ http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2004/1633/pdfs/ukxi_20041633_en.pdf

Table 9: Proposed Monitoring Framework for Belfast Local Development Plan

SEA Objectives	Decision Making Criteria	Potential Indicator
1. Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce deprivation and social exclusion, in particular in those areas most affected • To encourage an inclusive and equal society • To promote regeneration, reducing disparity with surrounding areas • To increase the ability of people to influence decisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple Deprivation Measure (NISRA) • Proportion of people who live in wards that rank within the most deprived 10% and 25% in Belfast/NI (NISRA) • Fuel poverty (NISRA) • Number of hate motivated crimes (NISRA) • Number of interfaces in Belfast (BCC Good Relations Unit/NIHE) • Respect Index (NISRA)
2. Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage healthy lifestyles and provide opportunities for sport and recreation • To support the reduction of health inequalities • To improve physical and mental health • To reduce noise levels and concerns • To contribute to improving air quality • To contribute to improving water quality • To encourage access to ecological networks by encouraging green infrastructure, providing walking and cycle routes to heritage and other recreational places of interest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life expectancy (NISRA), gap in health life expectancy between the lowest and highest deprivation quintile • Death rates from cancer, circulatory disease, respiratory illnesses, accidents and suicides • Infant mortality • Access to a GP or primary care professional • Proportion of journeys on foot or by cycle (NI Travel Survey) • Access to the countryside • Multiple Deprivation Measure • Proportion of the population of adults and/or children who are obese • Proportion of people who rank themselves as having high levels of wellbeing • Proportion of adults participating in moderate exercise at least three days per week • Number of households in housing stress • Number of GP surgeries, health facilities • Noise pollution/nuisance (BCC Environmental Health Data)
3. To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase access to affordable housing • To encourage a range of dwelling type, size and tenure • To reduce homelessness • To improve housing quality • To ensure the housing needs of an ageing population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness (NIHE? (TBC)) • Temporary accommodation/rough sleepers • Affordable housing (house price/earnings affordability ratio) • Housing completion figures

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> are met To reduce the number of vacant properties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homes improved for energy efficiency and affordable warmth Housing growth indicators (DfI?) Annual Housing Need Assessment (NIHE) Waiting lists and allocations (NIHE? TBC)
4. Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support a reduction in the actual levels of crime To reduce the fear of crime To promote design out crime principles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of victims of any crime (NISRA) Number of hate-motivated crimes (NISRA) Proportion of people who feel safe in Belfast (NISRA) Number of antisocial behaviour incidents (NISRA) Number of interfaces in Belfast (NISRA) Respect Index (NISRA)
5. To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve access to high quality educational facilities To improve the level of investment in key community services To make access easier for those without access to a car To improve access to work experience, apprenticeships and training, especially young people To encourage affordable access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of population who have attained Level 2 or above (NISRA) Gap between percentage of school leavers and percentage of Free School Meals school achieving at Level 2 or above including English and Maths (NISRA) Proportion of children who have reached attainment at Key Stage 2 (up to 11 years) (NISRA) Percentage of working age population (16 to 64) with qualifications to either NVQ Level 3 or 4 or a trade apprenticeship or with no formal qualifications (NISRA)
6. Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage the level of investment in key community services To improve accessibility to key local services (schools, GP surgeries, hospitals, town, district and local centres) and employment opportunities To encourage affordable access To make access easier for those without access to a car To protect the shopping and community services function of local service centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple Deprivation Measure (NISRA) Access to a GP or primary care professional and other primary care facilities Access to a primary school The provision of public transport routes (Translink/DfI)
7. To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To help to reduce short and long-term local unemployment To encourage job opportunities for those most in need of employment particularly those in areas of high unemployment deprivation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Claimant count (NISRA) Proportion of people of working age who are in work (NISRA) Proportion of people of working age who are economically inactive (NISRA)
8. Support the economic development of Belfast as a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage new business start-ups and opportunities for local people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage change in the total number of VAT registered businesses including start up's (NISRA)

<p>competitive place and contribute to Belfast's roles as a regional economic driver</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage business development and enhance productivity • To encourage the resilience of business and the local economy • To promote growth in key sectors • To promote growth in key clusters • To enhance the image of the area as a business location • To encourage indigenous business • To encourage inward investment • To make land and property available for business development • To encourage tourism investment • To maintain and enhance the vitality and viability of the City Centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacancy rates (Springboard) • Investment into Belfast by externally owned businesses (Invest NI) • Performance of the Belfast Urban Area economy (Centre for Cities Metrics) • Number of business by broad industry group (Invest NI Belfast Regional Briefing) • Uptake of zoned land (BCC) • VAT registrations in rural areas • Number of planning consents for business premises in rural areas (BCC) • Comparative industrial and office rental costs (Centre for Cities) • Proposed development of key economic sites • Employment land availability • Number of business applications granted planning consent
<p>9. Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support the reduction of traffic volumes and congestion • To encourage the proportion of journeys using modes other than the car • To encourage walking and cycling • To support the reduction of commuting • To improve accessibility to work by public transport; walking and cycling • To improve access between key employment areas and key transport interchanges • To encourage rail and water based freight movement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average distance travelled to work or school • Location of jobs in proximity to residents • Proposed development/improvements of key infrastructure/services • Travel to work by sustainable modes of transport • Traffic congestion • Heavy goods vehicle mileage intensity
<p>10. Support the transition to a low carbon economy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage renewable energy production • To support the development of a Circular Economy • To support the digital economy • To help to reduce our energy consumption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Consumption (NISRA) • Energy Consumption and Renewable Generation Statistics (DfE) • Energy in Northern Ireland Report (DfE)
<p>11. Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To conserve and enhance habitats of international, regional and/or local importance and create habitats in areas of deficiency • To conserve and enhance species diversity; and in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of international, regional and local sites of natural importance (NIEA/SES) • Achievement of Biodiversity Action Plan Targets (BCC) • Native species at risk especially protected species

	<p>particular avoid harm to protected species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To conserve and enhance sites designated for their nature conservation interest at the regional or national level • To protect and enhance woodland cover and trees and promote their management • To improve access to and promote the educational value of sites of biodiversity value • To protect and enhance geodiversity • To enhance the wider ecological network and seek to minimise the fragmentation of nature corridors and networks 	<p>(NIEA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Tree Preservation Orders (BCC) • Programme for Government indicator on Biodiversity (Measurement annex in development NISRA)
12. Protect and enhance soil quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To minimise development on Greenfield sites • To ensure that, where possible, new development occurs on derelict; vacant and underused previously developed land and buildings • To ensure contaminated land is remediated as appropriate • To minimise the loss of soils to development and maintain and enhance soil quality • To reduce the risk of subsidence • To increase the amount of development on previously developed land • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of development within the Urban Footprint (BCC) • Proportion of development on brownfield sites (BCC) • DAERA classifications of land quality via Agricultural Land Classifications NI • DAERA data on Areas of Natural Constraint
13. Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To protect and enhance Conservation Areas and other sites, features and areas of historical and cultural value • To protect listed buildings and their settings • To help preserve, enhance and record archaeological features and their settings • To help to protect and enhance historic buildings through sensitive adaptation and reuse • To enhance the quality of priority areas for townscape and public realm enhancements • To protect and enhance local distinctiveness and sense of place • To encourage and support the articulation of statutory requirements in relation to Scheduled Historic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Conservation Areas, Areas of Townscape Character. Listed buildings, archaeological sites (BCC/DAERA/DfC) • Number of Buildings at Risk on BHARNI (BHARNI) • Loss or damage of listed buildings/monuments/historic landscapes and their settings (HED/ NIEA) • Number of ASAls, AAP, and Historic Parks and Gardens (HED) • Number of scheduled monuments in poor condition or at high risk (HED)

	<p>Monuments (i.e. requirement for consent)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To recognise and work to preserve and enhance the historic townscape • To foster Heritage Led Regeneration • To promote heritage based, sustainable tourism 	
14. Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve the landscape character and visual amenity of open spaces • To protect and enhance sensitive landscapes • To minimise visual intrusion and protect views 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New homes built on previously developed land (BCC) • Vacant land, properties and derelict land (BCC) • Areas of landscape quality • Number of Townscape Character Areas/Areas of Village Character • Local Landscape Policy Areas
15. Protect and enhance open space and natural greenspace including Belfast's countryside asset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure adequate access to public open space within a reasonable walking distance from people's homes • To promote access to green infrastructure and ecological networks • To create new areas of open space and natural greenspace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living Environment Deprivation – Outdoor Physical Environment (NISRA) • Number of Council areas of open space, sport and recreation (OSS BCC) • Number of greenways (OSS BCC)
16. Promote the sustainable management of waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To lead to reduced consumption of materials and resources • To encourage the reduction of household waste • To support the increase waste recovery and recycling and improve facilities • To support the reduction hazardous waste • To support the reduction of waste in the construction industry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste arising and management • Household waste arising • Recycling rate of household waste • % Materials recycled • Percentage of the tonnage of household waste arising which have been (a) recycled (b) composted (c) used to recover heat, power and other sources of energy (d) land filled • Construction and demolition waste rate
17. Promote the quality and efficient use of water resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support the improvement of the quality of surface and ground water • To encourage the reduction of water consumption and improve water efficiency • To encourage the efficient use and management of water • To incorporate sustainable urban drainage systems as part of the design where appropriate • To incorporate new green space and habitat creation helping to mitigate flood risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequency of flood events • Development in the flood plain • Development in areas at risk of flooding • Numbers of people and properties affected by flood events • Numbers of flood management systems including SuDs • National water quality figures (NIEA) • NI Water quality data • Water consumption data (NI Water)

<p>18. Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support the improvement of air quality • To help achieve the objectives of the Air Quality Management Plan • To reduce emissions of key pollutants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population living in Air Quality Management Areas (BCC) • Air Quality data (BCC)
<p>19. Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To help reduce the impact of increased urban temperatures on people and property • To promote sustainable design and construction measures • To support development located outside areas of high flood risk • To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by reducing energy consumption and the need to travel • To support an increased proportion of energy needs being met from renewable sources • To reduce emissions of ozone depleting substances • To minimise the risk of flooding from rivers and watercourses to people and property • To reduce the risk of damage to property from storm events • To support building designs and a green infrastructure that is adapted to climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of energy supplied from renewable sources • Energy use by type (gas, oil and electricity) DfE • Percentage of land at 'significant flood risk' • Frequency of flood events • Numbers of people and properties affected by flood events • Carbon Dioxide Emissions per capita

7.0 NEXT STEPS

The Reasonable Alternatives and the Preferred Options have been appraised by the SA objectives (Table 2). The Interim Report will be published for consultation alongside the Preferred Options Paper (POP).

It is intended that the POP and the Interim Report will provide the basis for consulting with the public and stakeholders on a series of options for dealing with key issues in the plan area. It aims to stimulate public comment and help interested parties to become involved in a more meaningful way at this earliest stage of plan preparation⁹.

The Interim Report and the POP will be available for Public Consultation early in 2017 for a period of 12 weeks, as set out in the Statement of Community Involvement.

Following this consultation, the responses will be reviewed and addressed as appropriate and will be taken into account by Belfast City Council as it prepares the Plan Strategy. Any representations made regarding site specific issues will be held over and considered as part of the Local Plan Policies. The SA will then be updated to reflect any changes and further consideration will be given to potential mitigation measures as well as finalising the approach to the monitoring framework.

As part of the process, a Public Consultation Report will be published following the consultation period.

⁹ http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/advice/practice-notes/dp_practice_note_5_pop.pdf
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8.0 LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Scoping report Consultation Responses

Appendix 2: Plan, Policies and Programme Review

Appendix 3: Baseline information for Belfast

Appendix 4: Assessment of Options: Compatibility Matrices

APPENDIX 1: SCOPING REPORT CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Consultee Comment	Response/comment and how it was addressed in the final SA Scoping Report (January 2017)
Northern Ireland Environment Agency	
<p>A1: Identifying Other Plans, Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives</p> <p>The following strategies and policies should be included (page 7):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Agenda for Sustainable Development <p>Under International and European Plans (page 19), Policies and Directives, please add:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Agenda for Sustainable Development <p>Under National Plans, Policies and Directives (page 19), please add:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross Departmental Working Group on Climate Change (CDWGCC) Annual Report (2016) and Greenhouse Gas Action Plan 2015/16. • UK Climate Change Projections (UKCP09). • Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (2014). • UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 Evidence Report-Summary for Northern Ireland. <p>Page 63, please refer to:</p> <p>242047 UK Climate Change Projections (UKCP09)</p>	<p>Noted. The UN Agenda for Sustainable Development has not been added to page 7. The list on page 7 refers only to NI Executive and Council strategies. The Agenda has been added to the list of International and European Directives on (page 19) and included in Appendix 1.</p> <p>Noted. The requested Plans Policies and Directives have been added to the national list on page 19.</p> <p>Noted. The UK Climate Change Projections have now been referred to in the Water infrastructure section to reflect the impact future climate change may have on the drainage system within the plan area.</p>

<p>Page 83- Climate Change Risk Assessment, please refer to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 Evidence Report- Summary for Northern Ireland. • UK Climate Change Projections (UKCP09) <p>Page 94- Climate Change, please refer to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (2014). • UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 Evidence Report- Summary for Northern Ireland. • Cross Departmental Working Group on Climate Change (CDWGCC) Annual Report (2016) and Mitigation Action Plan (or 'Greenhouse Gas Action Plan 2015/16') 	<p>Noted. The Climate Change section now reflects findings from the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 Evidence Report- Summary for Northern Ireland as well as the UK Climate Change Projections.</p> <p>Noted. The requested documents have been referred to under the climate change section within the likely evolution of key sustainability issues in Belfast without implementation of the LDP.</p>
<p>A2: Collecting Baseline Information</p> <p>Water Quality</p> <p>Page 60 states there is no local data available in relation to the performance of Waste Water Treatment Work's in the Belfast area. There is detailed information on the compliance history of all WWTW's in the Belfast area, and as Belfast is served by a comparatively smaller number of WWTWs than other areas this information can be easily obtained and referenced. The attainment of this information is vital as sewerage infrastructure will act as a significant constraint to further development, as acknowledged on page 62. NIEA are currently highlighting concerns regarding further connections to Belfast WWTW, in our planning responses. This information should be available from NI Water.</p> <p>Tree Protection Orders</p> <p>TPOs already within the council area should be indicated within the baseline, especially as these may be used for monitoring of the plan.</p>	<p>A2: Collecting Baseline Information</p> <p>Water Quality</p> <p>Noted. Information has been added to the 'Water Infrastructure' section of the Scoping Report</p> <p>Tree Preservation Orders</p> <p>Noted. TPO's was included in the environmental baseline in Chapter 4 and a corresponding map in Appendix 8 showing their locations.</p>

<p>Landscape</p> <p>Paragraph 4.3.12 page 74. NIEA suggest that reference is also made to Areas of High Scenic Value (AofHSV), Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs) and Landscape Wedges.</p> <p>Seascape</p> <p>NIEA would suggest that consideration should be given including some text around 'seascape'.</p> <p>A3: Identifying Sustainability Issues and Problems</p> <p>Open Space</p> <p>NIEA suggests the following is included in table 18:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under open space page 88- 'Identify and promote green linkages throughout the City and to the surrounding hills' and 'Encourage more open space provision along rivers and the waterfront and link to seascape where appropriate'. <p>Air Quality</p> <p>On pages 91-92 NIEA suggest that the LDP should take account of 'air quality management area'</p> <p>In relation to identifying sustainability issues, increasing tree cover should be considered under air quality, page 91 and Green Infrastructure, especially SuDS under water, page 92.</p>	<p>Landscape</p> <p>Noted. AofHSV, LLPA's and Landscape Wedges have been added to the 'Landscape section' of the environmental baseline.</p> <p>Seascape</p> <p>Noted. Belfast Harbour Seascape Character Area has been added to the environmental baseline.</p> <p>A3: Identifying Sustainability Issues and Problems</p> <p>Open Space</p> <p>Noted. Table 18 has been updated to include both comments.</p> <p>Air Quality</p> <p>Noted. Table 18 has been updated to reflecting the suggestion.</p> <p>Noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment on 'increasing tree cover should be considered under air quality', has been added to the column 'Implications for the LDP under Air Quality; and • Comment on 'Green Infrastructure, especially SuDS under water' has been added the the column 'Implications for the LDP under Water
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Water

Page 92 under 'water', there is a piece of the Dfl Living with Water Programme, which is good to see. However, more needs to be added here. All water bodies within the River Lagan, tidal Lagan and inner Belfast Lough are currently failing to meet their WFD objectives. This is being addressed through LWWP and the North-East River Basin Management Plan. There is a need to be explicit about the extent of failure within Belfast.

The LDP must specifically include the need to meet the requirements of the North-Eastern River Management Plan (NE RBMP)

On page 95, only water quantity issues are highlighted. Water quality issues must be included, and the need to meet the water quality requirements under the NE RBMP must be explicitly mentioned here.

Landscape

On page 93, add the following;

- 'Protect the landscape character, setting and local distinctiveness of the City'
- 'Identify and protect key views and vistas'
- Promote tree and woodland planting throughout the City'
- 'Promote high standards of design, maintenance and management'.

Water

Noted. The following text was added to Table 18: All water bodies within the River Lagan, tidal Lagan and inner Belfast Lough are currently failing to meet their WFD objectives, which is being addressed through the LWWP and the North East River Basin Management Plan (NE RBMP)

Noted and included in the 'Water' section and added under 'Implications for the LDP'.

Noted. Page 95 refers to the SA Framework and SA objective 17 states, 'Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources and effective management against flood risk'. The error in the text relating to this objective 'and effective management against flood risk' has been removed to read "Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources'. The correct revision of SA objective 17 had been used in the subsequent chapters of the Scoping Report. This SA objective references water quality. However, it is noted that this comment may possibly refer to the 'Water' section in the identification of sustainability issues and problems outlined in Table 18. The comment is noted to include text around water quality issues, and the NE RBMP is noted as a consideration for the LDP.

Landscape

Everything noted and added to Implications for the LDP in the Landscape section of table 18.

<p>Under table 20, SA/SEA Framework for Belfast City Council's LDP, there should be a link on 'Health and Wellbeing' to the biodiversity indicators, water indicators and potentially many more of the environmental protection indicators, like air quality etc.</p>	<p>Noted. The following pro posed 'Sub-Objectives' were added to SA Objective 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it encourage access to ecological networks by encouraging green infrastructure, providing walking and cycle routes to heritage and other recreational places of interest? • Will it contribute to improving air quality? • Will it contribute to improving water quality?
<p>A4 Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal Framework</p> <p>SEA objective 17, page 94, should be split into two objectives. There should be one to address the protection of water quality and efficient use of water resources, and a second one to address flooding.</p> <p>The two issues are separate and combining them is inappropriate as they are significant.</p> <p>Page 105, Consultation Question 8: please refer to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in the: UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</p>	<p>Noted. This was an error in Table 19 and the correct revision of SA Objective 17 had been used in the subsequent chapter.</p> <p>As above.</p> <p>Noted. Text added in to the beginning of Chapter 6 outlining the links between SA Objectives and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Reference to the 2030Agenda has been added in which cites the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Appendix 1 'Plans, Policies and Programme Review'.</p>
<p>Appendix 1 Plans, Policies and Project Reviews</p> <p>NIEA would expect reference to the Aichi targets within the international plans, policies and programme review section.</p> <p>Regarding legislation on pp110-111, alongside Directive 2008/50/ec, Directive 2004/107/ec also needs cited here.</p> <p>Under 'other international' (page 112), please add: UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</p>	<p>Noted. Aichi targets have been referred to and added into Appendix 1 Plans, Policies and Programme Review.</p> <p>Noted. Directive 2004/107/EC is cited below Directive 2008/50/EC.</p> <p>Noted. The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been added as well as the 17 goals of sustainable development.</p>

<p>On page 117, please remove the sentence below that is highlighted in red:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UK Climate Change Act 2008, “Established a framework to develop an economically credible emissions reduction path. Provided for the introduction of carbon budgets and the 2050 target of reducing UK emissions by at least 80% in 2050 from 1990. Northern Ireland’s Environment Minister is developing plans for a Northern Ireland Climate Change Act. <p>On page 124, Climate Change Risk Assessment for Northern Ireland 2012- Please add the most recent documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 Evidence Report- Summary for Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaption Programme CCRA (2014) 	<p>Noted. The sentence highlighted in red has been removed.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Climate Change Risk Assessment for Northern Ireland 2012 has been removed and has been replaced with the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 Evidence Report- Summary for Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaption Programme CCRA (2014) has been added.
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Appendix 1: Additional Suggested insertions and amendments regarding the marine environment.

The following are additional suggested insertions and amendments to appendix 1: Plans, Policies and Programme Review.

Section	Plan/Policy/ Strategy etc	Objective/Requirement	Implications	Type of Change
International: European	Maritime Spatial Planning Directive	Sets down a common approach to the planning of maritime areas for EU countries, by introducing a common timeframe and minimum common requirements	The Local Plan must adhere to the articles set out	New
Regional	UK Marine Policy Statement	Sets out the framework for preparing Marine Plans and taking decisions affecting the marine environment	The Local Plan must take into account the considerations set out due to the potential impacts on the marine area.	New
	Draft Marine Plan for Northern Ireland (2017)	Sets out the framework for the management of the Northern Ireland marine area.	The Local Plan must take into account the policies set out due to the potential impacts on the marine area.	Amendment to text

	Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009	The Act provides a management system for the marine area, including marine planning system; changes to marine licensing and marine fisheries. It also provides the designation of conservation zones.	The Local Plan must adhere to the regulations set out.	Amendment to text.
	The Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013	The Act provides the framework for Northern Ireland seas based on the system of marine planning that will balance conservation, energy and resources needs; improved management for marine nature conservation; and the streamlining of marine licensing for some electricity projects.	The Local Plan must adhere to the regulations set out.	Amendment to text.

Response/ Comment and how it was addressed in the final SA Scoping Report (January 2016)

Noted. Additional suggested insertions and amendments regarding the marine environment have been added.

Appendix 4: Belfast Priority Species List 2015

The species list for Belfast includes species that are no longer present in Belfast or NI e.g. Corncrake and Small Blue Butterfly. It would be preferable to highlight which species have been lost or indicate the list includes all species ever recorded in the area to avoid confusion.

Noted. The following text has been added to Appendix 4: Belfast Priority Species List 2015:
'Please note, the following list includes all species ever recorded in Belfast and may not accurately reflect the current situation'.

A2: Collecting Baseline Information

Baseline Data

HED would advise that other baseline evidence in relation to Cultural and Built Heritage which needs to be considered for your plan includes:

- Battlesites and Defence Heritage- these GIS datasets are available for download.
- Shipwrecks- these are available as spatial data on request.
- The zip file attached via email with this response provides indicative GIS data on the positions of Belfast's Historic Town defences, some of which survive as archaeological remains and defined by streetscapes today.

Undesignated Heritage Assets- i.e. Local Listings

Gaps

- There are many other sites of heritage interest which are not yet listed in our records. These include historic boundaries such as townland boundaries, surviving air raid shelters and some historic cemeteries.

A2: Collecting Baseline Information

Baseline Data

Noted:

- Battlesites and Defence Heritage datasets have been added to the Cultural and Built Heritage Section of the environmental baseline.
- Information on Shipwrecks has been included into 'Cultural and Built Heritage' section of the Scoping Report and a database has been added to Appendix 21.
- Noted.

Undesignated Heritage Assets including Local Listings

Noted. The following paragraph has been added to the 'Cultural and Built Heritage' section of the Scoping Report. 'There are many sites of heritage interest which are not or have not yet been listed in HED's records. According to HED these include historic boundaries such as townland boundaries, surviving air raid shelters and some historic cemeteries. The SA will update these records as we progress and the Council will consider where appropriate, undesignated heritage assets including local listings as they may become available through the update of HED's datasets'.

Gaps

- Noted. The following text has been added to the end of the 'Cultural and Built Heritage' section of the Scoping Report, 'The Council will continue to update the Scoping Report and appropriate documents with any new datasets updated throughout the development of the plan to reflect any changes, the update of new assets/records or statutory designations.'

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A large amount of excavation undertaken in Belfast in the past 17 years has highlighted the extent and survival of archaeological remains relating to the city’s evolution. Information on excavations which have happened in Belfast are available through visiting the Monuments and Building Record at Klondyke Building in Belfast. • Sections on the economic baseline 4.2.9, page 36 in relation to Belfast Harbour and Belfast City Centre. HED believe that the importance of heritage assets and the contribution these make to the economy and particularly tourism should be further articulated e.g. Titanic Belfast, City Hall etc. • We also believe that the key role Belfast’s Maritime and Industrial Heritage have in the tourism sector needs to be articulated in the Tourism section, 4.3.10, page 38. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted. The following text has been added into the sub section relating to Areas of Significant Arachaeological Interest under the Cultural and Built Heritage section, ‘A large amount of excavation undertaken in Belfast in the past 17 years has highlighted the extent and survival of archaeological remains relating to the city’s evolution. All information recorded during an archaeological excavation or survey has been documented in the Sites and Monuments record which can be viewed in appendix 13.’ • Noted. Text has been updated in the ‘Tourism’ section of the Scoping Report baseline. • Noted. Text has been updated in the ‘Tourism’ section of the Scoping Report baseline.
<p>A3: Identifying Sustainability Issues and Problems</p> <p>Sustainability Issues Cultural and Built Heritage</p> <p>Additional Implications to those articulated in your document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LDP should recognise historic character of townscape • LDP should raise awareness for developers of potential areas where archaeological works will be required. <p>Additional points re likely evolution without LDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of sites on the Built Heritage at Risk Register is likely to increase • Erosion of historic character and townscape 	<p>A3: Identifying Sustainability Issues and Problems</p> <p>Sustainability Issues Cultural and Built Heritage</p> <p>Noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Included in Cultural and Built Heritage section in table 18 in Chapter 5: Identifying Sustainability Issues and problems • As above <p>Noted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Included in Cultural and Built Heritage section in table 18 in Chapter 5: Identifying Sustainability Issues and problems • As above

<p>A4 Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal Framework</p> <p>Sustainability Objectives and Indicators</p> <p>HED recommend that objective 13 should be reworded to: ‘Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings’.</p> <p>Decision Making Criteria- further criteria should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it articulate statutory requirements in relation to Scheduled Historic Monuments (i.e. requirement for consent) • Will it recognise and work to preserve and enhance the historic townscape? • Will it foster Heritage Led Regeneration? • Will it promote heritage based, sustainable tourism? <p>Indicators- further indicators could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of scheduled monuments in poor condition or at high risk (scoring on scheduled monuments can be made available on request from HED) 	<p>A4 Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal Framework</p> <p>Sustainability Objectives and Indicators</p> <p>Noted. Objective 13 has been reworded to reflect HED’s suggestion.</p> <p>Noted. The suggested decision making criteria has been included in Table 20 SA/SEA Framework for Belfast’s LDP of Chapter 6 of the Scoping Report.</p> <p>Noted. The suggested decision making criteria has been included in Table 20 SA/SEA Framework for Belfast’s LDP of Chapter 6 of the Scoping Report.</p>
<p>Appendix 1: Plans, Policies and Project Reviews</p> <p>Policies, Plans and Programmes</p> <p>HED suggest the following should be included:</p> <p>International and European</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta 1992) • Convention for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe (Granada 1985) • Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005) 	<p>Appendix 1: Plans, Policies and Project Reviews</p> <p>Policies, Plans and Programmes</p> <p>International and European</p> <p>Noted. The suggested documents in International and European have been added to the updated review of Policies, Plans and Programmes which can be found in Appendix 1 of this report.</p>

<p>Regional</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995 (and supplementary Class Consents Order 2001). It is important that the LDP is cognisant to this legislation in designating potential areas for development. • HED recommend cognisance of explanatory text in PPS 6 in relation to background to policies on Archaeology and the Built Heritage. <p>Local</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Management Plans for heritage assets such as HMS Caroline and Alexandra Dock and the TQ area. 	<p>Regional</p> <p>Noted. The suggested documents in Internation and European have been added to the updated review of Policies, Plans and Programmes which can be found in Appendix 1 of this report.</p> <p>Local</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Management Plans have been added to the updated review of Policies, Plans and Programmes which can be found in Appendix 1 of this report. • Conservation Management Plan for TQ has not been included yet. HED are coordinating the source of this plan.
<p>Further Comments</p> <p>HED would suggest that Objective 10, page 8 could be slightly reworded to the lines of 'To protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, historic assets and their settings, through effective management of proposed development and ensuring high quality design'.</p> <p>Please ensure to check our digital downloads regularly, as these datasets are subject to changes as new assets are discovered and added to the record or receive statutory designation. It will be important that you continue to use up to date information from these going forward.</p>	<p>Further Comments</p> <p>Noted. Response sent back to HED stating "The draft LDP Vision, Aims and Objectives were approved at Council in October 2016. Whilst the Scoping Report does not specifically consult on the Vision, Aims and Objectives, there is however opportunity to put forward comments on these during the Preferred Options Paper (POP) consultation process in the New Year. In the meantime, we have held your suggestions for consideration as part of the POP consultation".</p> <p>Noted.</p>

APPENDIX 2: PLANS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMME REVIEW

Policy/ Plan/ Programme/ Strategy/ Initiative	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA of Belfast Local Plan
INTERNATIONAL		
European		
<p>SEA Directive 2001</p> <p>Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.</p>	<p>Provide for a high level of protection of the environment and contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view of promoting sustainable development.</p> <p>The Directive must be applied to plans or programmes whose formal preparation begins after 21 July 2004 and to those already in preparation by that date.</p>	<p>Requirements of the Directive must be met in Sustainability Appraisals.</p>
<p>The Industrial Emissions Directive 2010</p> <p>Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control</p>	<p>This Directive lays down rules on integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from industrial activities. It also lays down rules designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole.</p> <p>The Directive sets emission limit values for substances that are harmful to air or water.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the SPPS.</p> <p>Include SA objective for reducing pollution.</p>
<p>Energy Performance of Buildings Directive 2010</p> <p>The energy performance of buildings 2010/31/EU</p>	<p>The Directive aims to promote the energy performance of buildings and building units.</p> <p>It requests that member states adopt either national or regional methodology for calculating energy performance and minimum requirements for energy performance.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the SPPS.</p> <p>Include SA objective relating to the energy performance/efficiency of existing and proposed buildings.</p>
<p>Energy Efficiency Directive 2012</p> <p>Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency</p>	<p>The 2012 Energy Efficiency Directive establishes a set of binding measures to help the EU reach its 20% energy efficiency target by 2020. Under the Directive, all EU countries are required to use energy more efficiently at all stages of the energy chain from its production to its final consumption.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the SPPS.</p> <p>Include SA objective relating to the energy performance/efficiency.</p>

Policy/ Plan/ Programme/ Strategy/ Initiative	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA of Belfast Local Plan
<p>The Birds Directive 2009</p> <p>Directive 2009/147/EC is a codified version of directive 79/409/EEC as amended.</p>	<p>The preservation, maintenance, and re-establishment of biotopes and habitats shall include the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of protected areas. • Upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones. • Re-establishment of destroyed biotopes. 	<p>The Local Plan should make sure that the up keep of recognised habitats is maintained and not damaged from development.</p> <p>Avoid pollution of deterioration of habitats or any other disturbances effecting birds.</p> <p>Include SA objectives for the protection of wildlife and habitats.</p>
<p>The Habitats Directive 1992</p> <p>Directive 92/43/EEC. Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.</p>	<p>Promote the maintenance of biodiversity taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements. Conservation of natural habitats and maintain landscape features of importance of wildlife and fauna.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive in the SPSS.</p> <p>Include SA objectives to protect and maintain the natural environment and important habitats.</p>
<p>Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008</p> <p>Directive 2008/56/EC. Framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy.</p>	<p>The Marine Directive aims to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) of the EU's marine waters by 2020 and to protect the resource base upon which marine-related economic and social activities depend.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should take account of the Directive and its role in improving the quality of the marine environments within the Plan Area.</p>
<p>The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance 1971 (Ramsar Convention).</p>	<p>Intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should take account of the Convention and sites recognised within the Plan Area that are designated.</p>
<p>Water Framework Directive 2000</p> <p>Directive 2000/60/EC. Framework for community action in the field of water policy.</p>	<p>Protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive in the SPSS.</p> <p>Include SA objectives to protect and minimise the impact on water quality.</p>

Policy/ Plan/ Programme/ Strategy/ Initiative	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA of Belfast Local Plan
<p>OSPAR Marine Protection Area</p> <p>Established network of marine protected areas.</p>	<p>The OSPAR MPAs aim: To protect, conserve and restore species, habitats and ecological processes which have been adversely affected by human activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To prevent the degradation of, and damage to, species, habitats and ecological processes, following the precautionary principle. • To protect and conserve areas that best represents the range of species, habitats and ecological processes in the maritime area. 	<p>The Local Plan should take account of the MPAs.</p> <p>Include SA objectives to conserve MPAs.</p>
<p>Maritime Spatial Planning Directive</p> <p>Directive 2014/89/EU</p>	<p>Sets down a common approach to the planning of maritime areas for EU countries, by introducing a common timeframe and minimum common requirements.</p>	<p>The local plan must adhere to the articles set out.</p>
<p>The Waste Framework Directive 2008</p> <p>Directive 2008/98/EC.</p>	<p>Prevention or reduction of waste production and its harmfulness. The recovery of waste by means of recycling, re-use or reclamation. Recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without using processes that could harm the environment.</p> <p>Development of clean technology to process waste and promote recycling.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should take account of the directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the SPSS.</p> <p>Include SA objectives that minimise waste production as well as promote recycling.</p>
<p>The Environmental Noise Directive 2002</p> <p>Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise.</p>	<p>Defines a common approach to avoid, prevent and reduce the adverse effects due to the exposure to environmental noise.</p> <p>It also provides a basis for developing European wide measures to deal with noise emitted by road and rail vehicles, infrastructure, aircraft and outdoor, industrial and mobile machinery.</p> <p>Principles of the directive include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring the environmental problems. • Informing and consulting the public. • Addressing local noise issues. • Developing a long –term EU strategy. 	<p>The Local Plan should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the SPSS.</p>
<p>The Landfill Directive 1999</p> <p>Directive 99/3/EC on landfill of waste.</p>	<p>Prevent or reduce negative effects on the environment from the land filling of waste by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills.</p> <p>Reduce the amount of biodegradable waste sent to landfill to 75% of the 1995 level by 2010. Reduce this to 50% in 2013 and 35% by 2020.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the SPSS.</p>

Policy/ Plan/ Programme/ Strategy/ Initiative	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA of Belfast Local Plan
<p>The Drinking Water Directive 1998</p> <p>Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption.</p>	<p>Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is welcome and clean. Member states must set values for water intended for human consumption.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the SPSS.</p>
<p>The Air Quality Framework Directive 1996</p> <p>Directive 96/62EC on ambient air quality assessment and management.</p>	<p>Avoid, prevent and reduce harmful effects of ambient air pollution on human health and the environment.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the SPSS.</p> <p>Include SA objectives to protect and enhance air quality.</p>
<p>Air Quality Directive 2008</p> <p>Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe.</p>	<p>This Directive sets legally binding limits for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead • Nitrogen Dioxide • Sulphur Dioxide • Benzene • Carbon Monoxide • Arsenic • Cadmium • Nickel • Benzo(a)pyrene • Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons • Ozone • Particulate Matter 	<p>The Local Plan should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the SPSS.</p> <p>Include SA objectives to protect and enhance air quality.</p>
<p>Directive 2004/107/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 December 2004 relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air</p>	<p>With the aim of minimising harmful effects on human health, paying particular attention to sensitive populations, and the environment as a whole, of airborne arsenic, cadmium and nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, target values should be set, to be attained as far as possible. Benzo(a)pyrene should be used as a marker for the carcinogenic risk of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the SPSS.</p> <p>Include SA objectives to protect and enhance air quality.</p>
<p>The Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive 1994</p> <p>Directive 91/27/EEC</p>	<p>Harmonise the packaging waste system of Member States. Reduce the environmental impact of packaging waste.</p> <p>By June 2001 at least 50% by weight of packaging</p>	<p>The Local Plan should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive</p>

Policy/ Plan/ Programme/ Strategy/ Initiative	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA of Belfast Local Plan
concerning urban waste water treatment.	waste should have been recovered, at least 25% by weight of the totality of packaging materials contained in packaging waste to be recycled with a minimum of 15% by weight for each packaging material.	contained in the SPSS. Include SA objectives to minimise the environmental impact of waste and promote recycling.
European Spatial Development Perspective (1999)	Economic and social cohesion across the community. Conservation of natural resources and cultural heritage. Balanced competitiveness between different tiers of government.	The local plan should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the SPSS. Includes SA objectives to protect and enhance the natural environment and promote energy efficiency.
European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2002)	The convention promotes landscape protection, management and planning.	The Local Plan should take account of the convention. Include SA objectives to protect the urban and rural landscape and identify opportunities for enhancement.
EU Seventh Environmental Action Plan (2002-2012)	The EU's objectives in implementing the programme are: a) To protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital; b) To turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green and competitive low-carbon economy; c) To safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing; d) To maximise the benefits of the Union's environment legislation; e) To improve the evidence base for environment policy; f) To secure investment for environment and climate policy and get the prices right. g) To improve environmental integration and policy coherence; h) To enhance the sustainability of the Union's cities; i) To increase the Union's effectiveness in confronting regional and global environmental challenges.	Include sustainability objectives to protect and enhance the natural environment and promote energy efficiency.

Policy/ Plan/ Programme/ Strategy/ Initiative	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA of Belfast Local Plan
Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets	The Strategic Plan is comprised of a shared vision, a mission, strategic goals and 20 ambitious yet achievable targets, collectively known as the Aichi Targets. The Strategic Plan serves as a flexible framework for the establishment of national and regional targets and it promotes the coherent and effective implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.	The Local Plan must take into account the 20 Aichi targets to protect biodiversity.
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta, 1992) Division of 1985 Granada Convention.	Protection of the archaeological heritage, including any physical evidence of the human past that can be investigated archaeologically both on land and underwater. Creation of archaeological reserves and conservation of excavated sites.	The local plan should take account of the Convention. Include SA objectives to enhance the natural environment, promote renewable energy and energy efficiency and sustainable use of natural resources.
Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada, 1985)	The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented.	The local plan should take account of the Convention. Include SA objectives to enhance the natural environment, promote renewable energy and energy efficiency and sustainable use of natural resources.
Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro, 2005)	This Convention is based on the idea that knowledge and use of heritage form part of the citizen's right to participate in cultural life as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The text presents heritage both as a resource for human development, the enhancement of cultural diversity and the promotion of intercultural dialogue, and as part of an economic development model based on the principles of sustainable resource use.	The local plan should take account of the Convention. Include SA objectives to enhance the natural environment, promote renewable energy and energy efficiency and sustainable use of natural resources.
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta, 1992) Division of 1985 Granada Convention.	Protection of the archaeological heritage, including any physical evidence of the human past that can be investigated archaeologically both on land and underwater. Creation of archaeological reserves and conservation of excavated sites.	The local plan should take account of the Convention. Include SA objectives to enhance the natural environment, promote renewable energy and energy efficiency and sustainable use of natural resources.

Policy/ Plan/ Programme/ Strategy/ Initiative	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA of Belfast Local Plan
Renewable Energy Directive Directive 2009/28/EC establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU.	Sets out rules for the EU to achieve its 20% renewable target by 2020.	The Local Plan should take account of the convention. Include SA objectives to promote use of renewable energies.
The EU Floods Directive 2007 Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks.	Requires member states to assess if all water courses and coast lines are at risk from flooding, to map the flood extent and assets and humans at risk in these areas and to take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce this flood risk.	The Local Plan should take account of the flood maps produced as a result of the directive.
Europe 2020 Strategy	Europe 2020 is the European Union's ten year jobs and growth strategy. It was launched in 2010 to create the conditions for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Five headline targets have been agreed for the EU to achieve by the end of 2020. These cover employment; research and development; climate/energy; education; social inclusion and poverty reduction.	The Local Plan should take account of the five headline targets of the Europe 2020 Strategy.
Other International		
Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (2002)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to building a humane, equitable and caring global society aware of the need for human dignity for all. • Renewable Energy and energy efficiency. • Accelerate shift towards sustainable consumption and production. • Greater resource efficiency • New technology for renewable energy. • Increase energy efficiency. 	The local plan should take account of the declaration. Include SA objectives to enhance the natural environment, promote renewable energy and energy efficiency and sustainable use of natural resources.
Aarhus Convention (1998)	Established a number of rights of the public with regard to the environment. Local authorities should provide for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The right of everyone to receive environmental information. • The right to participate from an early stage in environmental decision making. • The right to challenge in a court of law public decisions that have been made without respecting the two rights above or environmental law in general. 	The local plan should take account of the convention. Ensure that public are involved and consulted at all relevant stages of SA production.

Policy/ Plan/ Programme/ Strategy/ Initiative	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA of Belfast Local Plan
<p>United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child</p> <p>Our Children and Young People- Our pledge</p>	<p>Sets out the civil, political, economic, social, health and cultural rights of children.</p>	<p>The local plan should take account of the convention.</p>
<p>World Health Organisation Guidelines for Community Noise</p>	<p>Guidelines for community noise based on the consolidation of actual scientific knowledge on the health impacts of community noise and to provide guidance to environmental health authorities and professionals trying to protect people from the harmful effects of noise in non-industrial environments.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should take account of the guidelines.</p>
<p>UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</p>	<p>The Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. We recognize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. Contains 17 sustainable development goals which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End poverty in all its forms everywhere • End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture • Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages • Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all • Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls • Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all • Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all • Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all • Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation • Reduce inequality within and among countries • Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable • Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns • Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts • Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable 	<p>The local plan should take account of the agenda.</p>

Policy/ Plan/ Programme/ Strategy/ Initiative	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA of Belfast Local Plan
	<p>development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss • Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels • Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development 	
REGIONAL		
Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2035	The strategy aims to take account of the economic ambitions and needs of the region, and put in place spatial planning, transport and housing priorities that will support and enable the aspirations of the region to be met.	The Local Plan should take into consideration the policies contained within the RDS.
Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPSS)	This publication sets out the Department's regional planning policies for securing the orderly and consistent development of land in Northern Ireland under the reformed two-tier planning system. The provisions of the SPSS must be taken into account in the preparation of Local Development Plans. The core principles are below:	The provisions of the SPSS must be taken into account in the preparation of the Belfast Local Plan
	Improving Health and Wellbeing	<p>The Local Plan will implement policies to improve health and wellbeing within the plan area.</p> <p>Include SA objectives to improve health and wellbeing of the population.</p>
	Creating and Enhancing Shared Space	<p>The Local Plan recognises the need to ensure that individuals can live, learn, work and play wherever they choose.</p> <p>Include SA objectives to encourage the creation of an environment that is accessible to all and enhances opportunities within shared communities.</p>

Policy/ Plan/ Programme/ Strategy/ Initiative	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA of Belfast Local Plan
	Supporting Sustainable Economic Growth	<p>The Local Plan recognises the need to create jobs and promote prosperity.</p> <p>Include SA objectives to support sustainable economic growth.</p>
	Supporting Good Design and Positive Place Making	<p>The Local Plan recognises the need for good design to provide better communities and neighbourhoods.</p> <p>Include SA objectives in achieving good design principles.</p>
	Preserving and Improving the Built and Natural Environment	<p>The Local Plan recognises the importance of preserving and improving the built and natural environment.</p> <p>Include SA objectives to preserve and improve the built and natural environment.</p>
UK Climate Change Act 2008	Established a framework to develop an economically credible emissions reduction path. Provided for the introduction of carbon budgets and the 2050 target of reducing UK emissions by at least 80% in 2050 from 1990 levels.	The Local Plan will take into account the target set to assist in achieving it.
Cross Departmental Working Group on Climate Change: annual report 2016	This is the fifth, and final, annual progress report to be submitted by the Cross Departmental Working Group on Climate Change (CDWGCC) to the Executive during the current Assembly mandate. The report looks back on what has been achieved for both climate change mitigation and adaptation during this Assembly period as well as detailing progress made towards the Programme for Government (PfG) target of continuing to work towards a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction of at least 35% by 2025 based on 1990 levels.	The Local Plan will take into account the progress made on targets.
UK Climate Change Projections	<p>The UK Climate Change Projections provide three types of climate information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observed Climate Data • Climate Change Projections • Marine and Coastal Projections 	The Local Plan will take into account current climate change projections for the duration of the plan.

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UK Marine Policy Statement	Sets out the framework for preparing Marine Plans and taking decisions affecting the marine environment.	The local plan must take into account the considerations set out due to the potential impacts on the marine area.
Marine Plan for Northern Ireland (2017)	Sets out the framework for the management of the Northern Ireland marine area.	The local plan must take into account the policies set out due to the potential impacts on the marine area.
Marine Plan for Northern Ireland (Draft 2016)	Ensure future development of Northern Ireland Seas follows the environmentally sensitive ecosystem based approach and promotes a stable, sustainable and biologically diverse future for our local seas.	The Local Plan should take into consideration the Marine Plan in the promotion and protection of local seas.
The Wildlife and Natural Environment (NI) Act 2011	To make provision about biodiversity. Abolished game licenses and game dealers' licenses; to prohibit hare coursing events. Amend Wildlife (NI) Order 1985. Amend Game Preservation Act (Northern Ireland) 1928.	The Local Plan should take into consideration The Wildlife and Natural Environment Act 2011 in the protection of biodiversity.
Northern Ireland Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)	The Northern Ireland Biodiversity Group has prepared BAPs for 37 habitats in the province out of the total list of 65 UK BAP habitats.	The Local Plan should take into consideration the conservation of biodiversity when implementing statutory duties.
Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020.	Sets out the strategy for Northern Ireland to meet its international obligations and local targets to protect biodiversity and ensure that the environment can continue to support people and the economy.	The Local Plan must take into account the international obligations and targets to protect biodiversity.
UK National Ecosystem Assessment Northern Ireland 2011	This report is the first independent assessment of the services provided by Northern Ireland's environment. Part of the UK National Ecosystem Assessment, it has been prepared by over 70 scientists. It provides an analysis of the current state of our ecosystems, looks at changes over time, examines the factors driving current changes and provides recommendations on how Northern Ireland's land and sea can be managed to ensure delivery of a wide range of benefits to enhance wellbeing.	The Local Plan should take into account the key recommendations made within the report.

Policy/ Plan/ Programme/ Strategy/ Initiative	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA of Belfast Local Plan
The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011	Formulation and co-ordination of policy securing the orderly and consistent development of land and the planning of the development.	The Local Plan must be in adherence with the legislation set out by the Planning Act.
Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (NI) 2012	The regulations apply the EIA Directive (Directive 85/337/EEC) to the planning process in Northern Ireland. EIA Directive requires an assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment before development consent is granted.	The Local Plan must adhere to the regulations set out.
Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (NI) Order 1985	The principle nature conservation legislation in Northern Ireland relating to nature reserves, Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs), wildlife protection and the implementation of the Habitats Directive.	The Local Plan must adhere to the regulations set out.
Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009)	The act provides a management system for the marine area, including marine planning system; changes to marine licensing and marine fisheries. It also provides the designation of conservation zones.	The Local Plan must adhere to the regulations set out.
The Planning (Control of advertisements) Regulation (NI) 2015	Provision to restrict or regulate the display of advertisements.	The Local Plan must adhere to the regulations set out.
Road Traffic Regulations (NI) Order 1997	TransportNI policy and procedures guide outlining the order particularly in relation to the provision of on-street and off-street parking places, the removal and disposal of vehicles from roads and the misuse of disabled person's badges.	The Local Plan should take the Road Traffic Regulations Order into consideration when assessing roads and transport.
Northern Ireland's Road Safety Strategy to 2020	Strategy detailing intentions to further improve road safety in Northern Ireland.	The Local Plan should take the strategy into consideration when assessing roads and transport.
Northern Ireland Sustainable Development Strategy	Framework to move forward in response to major threats such as climate change and energy price instability in a way which will encourage integrated action to tackle problems and take advantage of the opportunities they provide.	The Local Plan should take the Sustainable Development Strategy into consideration, ensuring sustainable development is promoted.

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Creating Places: Achieving quality in residential developments 2000	Guide is intended for use in all the design of all proposals for residential development throughout Northern Ireland. Guide will be used as basis for assessing any proposal.	The Local Plan should take the Creating Places guide into consideration; ensuring good design principles are implemented.
Living Places: An Urban Stewardship and Design Guide for Northern Ireland 2014	Aims to establish the key principles behind good place making. It seeks to inform and inspire all those involved in the process of managing (stewardship) and making (design) urban places, with a view to raising standards across Northern Ireland.	The Local Plan should take the Living Places Guide into consideration; ensuring good design principles are implemented.
Belfast Houses in Multiple Occupation Subject Plan for the Belfast City Council Area 2015	The purpose of the Subject Plan is to inform the general public, statutory, authorities, developers, and other interested bodies of the policy framework that will be used to guide planning decisions in relation to HMOs within Belfast City Council Area over the Plan period.	The Local Plan will ensure the HMO Subject Plan Strategy is taken into consideration.
Purpose Built Managed Student Accommodation in Belfast. Planning and Place Best Practice Guide	This guide articulates the view of Belfast City Council on this type of development in the city. This will ensure the supply of student accommodation needed whilst delivering regeneration benefits and avoiding negative impacts on adjacent land uses and established residential communities.	The Local Plan will ensure best practice guidance is adhered to in relation to student housing.
Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013	The Act provides the framework for Northern Ireland seas based on a system of marine planning that will balance conservation, energy and resources needs; improved management for marine nature conservation; and the streamlining of marine licensing for some electricity projects.	The Local Plan should adhere to regulations set out in relation to marine plans.
Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland (2013) (PSRNI)	The strategy establishes the objectives and the policies for land use and development appropriate to the particular circumstances of Northern Ireland and which need to be considered on a scale wider than the Individual District Council Area.	The Local Plan should take into account the strategy for rural areas within the designated Belfast Area.
Rural White Paper Action Plan	Strategy sets out the vision for rural areas and the actions which Departments will take in support of achieving that vision and to help ensure the future sustainability of rural areas.	The Local Plan should adhere to regulations set out for rural areas within the designated Belfast Area.
Rural Needs Bill	A Bill to impose a duty on public authorities to consider rural needs; and for connected purposes.	The Local Plan should take into account the strategy for rural areas within the designated Belfast Area.

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Thinking Rural: The essential guide to Rural Proofing	All government departments have been required to rural proof since 2002. At that time guidance was produced and a training programme was delivered to NICS policy makers. Rural proofing forms part of the suite of impact assessments detailed in the OFMDFM policy makers' toolkit.	The Local Plan should take the Rural Proofing Guidance set out into consideration, ensuring fair and equitable treatment of rural communities and that policy does not indirectly have a detrimental impact on rural dwellers and rural communities.
Rural Homes and People Policy	Aims to address rural issues in the immediate future with policy actions under five headings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabling New Homes • Improving Existing Properties • Building and Serving Communities • Supporting independent Living • Contributing to Rural Development and Regeneration 	The Local Plan will adhere to policy laid out within rural areas.
Sustainable Rural Communities: A Review of the Housing Executive's Rural Housing Policy	The review sets out proposals for a revised rural housing policy these are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To plan and enable the provision of affordable homes which meet rural housing needs; • To improve the condition of rural housing stock and reduce fuel poverty; • To provide housing support to vulnerable people in rural areas; • To contribute to the development of safe, cohesive and engaged rural neighbourhoods; • To work in partnership with others to assist in rural development. 	The Local Plan should take into consideration the review of policy to ensure future objectives are adhered to.
Bicycle Strategy Northern Ireland 2015	Strategy sets out over a 25 year horizon; plan to make Northern Ireland a cycling community.	The Local Plan should take into consideration the Bicycle Strategy in relation to transport.
Water and Sewerage Sustainable Water: A long term water strategy for Northern Ireland (2015-2040)	The Strategy presents a clear framework for action which will facilitate implementation of a range of initiatives aimed at delivering the long-term vision to have a sustainable water sector in Northern Ireland.	The Local Plan should take into consideration the Water Strategy in relation to the water sector.

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The Water and Sewerage Services Act (Northern Ireland) 2016	The Water and Sewerage Services Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 amends the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006. The Department of Environment (DOE) enforces private and public water supply quality legislation in place of the Department for Regional Development. The DOE may update public and private water supply standards. The DOE will carry out inspections of supplies and may take enforcement action to ensure minimum standards are met.	The Local Plan should take into consideration amendments made to the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006.
Anti-Poverty Strategy 2006	Strategy to tackle poverty and social exclusion in Northern Ireland.	The Local Plan should take into consideration the Anti-Poverty Strategy in relation to decreasing poverty.
Northern Ireland Economic Strategy	The Economic Strategy sets out how to grow a prosperous local economy over the short, medium and longer term to 2030.	The Local Plan should take into consideration the Economic Strategy and implement its own strategies to ensure economic growth.
DETI Innovation Strategy for Northern Ireland (2014-2025)	Strategy for innovation sets out long term actions necessary to make transformation for innovation to play its part in the economic strategy.	The Local Plan should take into consideration the Innovation Strategy and ensure methods to increase innovation are supported.
Continuing to Connect- Telecoms 2015 to 2017	The strategy document presents how telecommunications can be further advanced in Northern Ireland by Government.	The Local Plan should take into account the strategy document with the understanding that telecommunications in the UK is fully privatised, independently regulated and a reserved matter with responsibility primarily resting at Westminster.
The Play and Leisure Implementation Plan 2006-2016	The plan aims to see a high value placed on play and improved play and leisure facilities for all children and young people in order to support their development, enjoyment and growth,	The Local Plan should take into consideration the Play and Leisure Plan in relation to ensuring adequate play and leisure facilities for children.

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Education Reform (NI) Order 1989	Bill to provide for the establishment and functions of the Education and Skills Authority; to make further provisions of education, education services and youth services; and for connected purposes.	The Local Plan should adhere to regulations set out in the Education Reform Order.
Sports Facility Strategy Northern Ireland	Currently being developed to identify sport facility needs across Northern Ireland and more specifically within the Council areas.	The Local Plan will take the Sports Facility Strategy into account when published.
Sport Matters- The Northern Ireland strategy for sport and physical recreation 2009-2019	Strategy to achieve a vision that is a culture of lifelong enjoyment and success in sport.	The Local Plan should take into consideration the strategy reflecting the aims and targets set out.
Mountain Bike Strategy for NI 2014-2024	The Mountain Bike Strategy 2014 -2024 sets out the framework for the development, management and marketing of mountain bike trails in Northern Ireland.	The Local Plan should take into consideration the Mountain Bike Strategy to develop and protect mountain bike trails.
Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland: Making Northern Ireland's Outdoors Great: A Strategic Plan for Outdoor Recreation in Northern Ireland 2015-2020	This strategic document sets out the overarching framework for the activities of ORNI for the period 2015 - 2020. It provides focus, setting out the strategic priorities to which ORNI will direct its effort and resources in order to achieve its vision and mission.	The Local Plan should take into consideration the ORNI's vision and mission set out in the strategy.
Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan 2015	Plan consists of proposals for the maintenance, management and development of this transport network up to the end of 2015.	The Local Plan should take into consideration the RSTN TP in relation to transport proposals.
Regional Transportation Strategy 2002-2012	Strategy identifies strategic transportation investment priorities and considers potential funding sources and affordability of planned initiatives over the next 10 years.	The Local Plan should take into consideration the RTS in relation to transport proposals
Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy	Strategy sets out the policy framework for the management of waste in Northern Ireland, and contains actions and targets to meet EU Directive requirements and the Department's Programme for Government commitments.	The Local Plan should take into consideration the Waste Management Strategy ensuring targets are met.

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Noise Policy Statement for Northern Ireland 2014	<p>In line with the Department of the Environment's vision three aims have been produced, these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life; • Mitigate and minimise adverse impacts on health and quality of life; and • Where possible, contribute to the improvement of health and quality of life. 	The Local Plan should take into consideration the aims of the Noise Policy Statement.
Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future: A New Approach to Regional Transportation.	Sets out the transportation vision "to have a modern, sustainable, safe transportation system which benefits society, the economy and the environment and which actively contributes to social inclusion and everyone's quality of life.	The Local Plan should take into consideration the aims of the Sustainable Transport Future document.
Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007	The regulations are primarily concerned with the quality of water supplied in Northern Ireland for drinking, washing cooking and food preparation, and with arrangements for the publication of information about water quality.	The Local Plan should take into consideration the water quality within the area.
Drinking Water Quality Annual Report 2015	Annual review on the quality of drinking water in Northern Ireland	The Local Plan should take into consideration the quality of drinking water within Belfast.
The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a statutory framework to enable transposition of the requirements of EC Directives 96/61 on Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (the IPPC Directive) and 96/62 on Ambient Air Quality Assessment and Management; • Makes additional provision for the prevention and control of environmental pollution; and • Introduces measures to allow for the better protection and management of Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) 	The Local Plan will adhere to regulations set out in the order.
The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland: Volume 1	The air quality strategy sets out air quality objectives and policy options to further improve air quality in the UK.	The Local Plan should take into consideration the strategy to further improve air quality in Belfast.
The Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006	The Department of the Environment in a Department designated for the purposes of section 2 of the European Communities Act 1972 in relation to measures relating to the assessment, management and control of environmental noise. The Department makes these Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by that section.	The Local Plan should adhere to the regulations set out.

Policy/ Plan/ Programme/ Strategy/ Initiative	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA of Belfast Local Plan
Noise Complaint Statistics for Northern Ireland 2013-2014	The number of noise complaints received each year by district councils across Northern Ireland.	The Local Plan will make use of the statistics to be informed of the extent of noise pollution within Belfast.
Noise Action Plans	Under the European Directive for Assessment and management of Environmental Noise 2002/40/EC the Minister for the Environment adopted the Noise Action Plans for roads and railways.	The Local Plan will take into account Candidate Noise Management Areas proposed by subsequent Noise Action Plans.
Roads Noise Action Plan 2013-2018	Deals with noise from both major roads across Northern Ireland and all roads within agglomerations of greater than 100,000 inhabitants.	The Local Plan will take into account Candidate Noise Management Areas proposed by the Noise Action Plan.
The Railways Noise Action Plan 2013-2018	Actions to be taken to reduce noise originating from railways within Northern Ireland by Translink.	The Local Plan will take into account Candidate Noise Management Areas proposed by the Noise Action Plan.
Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (Northern Ireland) 2011	Delivers the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) for Northern Ireland as required by Article 4 of the EU Floods Directive (2007/60EC). Assesses the potential adverse consequences of future floods on human health, economic activity, cultural heritage and the environment taking into account long term developments such as climate change.	The Local Plan will take into account the potential impacts of future flooding in Belfast.
Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2014 statistical bulletin.	Contains data detailing greenhouse gas emissions in Northern Ireland from 1990 to the latest reporting year.	The Local Plan will take into account levels of greenhouse gases within Northern Ireland.
Radon in Northern Ireland: Indicative Atlas (2015)	A joint mapping method based on the results of radon measurements and geological information was used to estimate radon 'Affected Area' potential in Northern Ireland. The method allows variation of radon potential both between and within geological units and is based on measurements of radon in more than 23,000 homes.	The Local Plan will take into account any affected areas within the Belfast City Council Area.

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Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) for Northern Ireland 2017.	The CCRA is required under section 56 of the Climate Change Act 2008 and presents a national assessment for the potential risks (and opportunities) from climate change facing Northern Ireland for the period to 2100.	The Local Plan will take into account the potential future climate change risks in Belfast.
Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaption Programme (CCRA 2014)	The Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaption Programme is required by section 60 of the UK Climate Change Act 2008. The Adaptation Programme contains the Government's response to the risks and opportunities identified in the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) for Northern Ireland, which was produced in January 2012, as part of the overall UK CCRA.	The local plan will take into account the strategic objectives in relation to climate change.
The Agricultural Census in Northern Ireland. Results for 2015	Detailed analyses of the results of the Northern Ireland Agricultural Census for June 2015 as well as time series data from 2001-2015.	The Local Plan will take into account the amount and purpose of agricultural land within Belfast.
Model Procedures for the Management of Land Contamination (2004)	Technical framework for applying a risk management process when dealing with land affected by contamination.	The Local Plan will consider the framework for dealing with contaminated land.
Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (Northern Ireland) Order 1995	The order provides for the protection of scheduled historic monuments by the introduction of scheduled monument consent procedures, obliging persons to seek the consent of the Department of the Environment for any works which might affect a scheduled monument.	The Local Plan will be cognisant of the legislation in designating potential areas for development.
Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (Northern Ireland) Order 1995	Provides the statutory remit for NIEA to acquire historic monuments to secure their protection and manage them for the benefit of present and future generations, by providing public access.	The Local Plan will take into account designated historic monuments.
NIEA Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG): Wind Energy Development in Northern Irelands Landscapes (2010)	In conjunction with PPS18: Renewable Energy, the SPG provides guidance on the visual and landscape impact of wind energy development. This guidance is based on an assessment of the overall sensitivity of wind energy development in each of the 130 LCAs.	The Local Plan will take into account the sensitivity assessment of the LCAs within the Plan Area.
Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010	This report contains the results of research carried out by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) to identify small area concentrations of multiple deprivation in Northern Ireland.	The Local Plan will take into account the identified areas of multiple deprivation within the Plan Area.

Policy/ Plan/ Programme/ Strategy/ Initiative	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA of Belfast Local Plan
Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation- A New Framework	The Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation (TRPSI) Framework is a rural initiative led by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) which aims to tackle poverty and social isolation in rural areas through organisations working in partnership to design and implement measures which target the needs of vulnerable people.	The Local Plan should take into account the measures that apply to rural areas within the council area.
Energy: A Strategic Framework for Northern Ireland 2010	The Energy Framework flags the direction for Northern Ireland energy policy over the next ten years, concentrates on the key areas of electricity, natural gas, and renewable energy sources.	The Local Plan should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the SPPS. Include SA objective relating to the energy performance/efficiency
Sustainable Energy Action Plan 2012-2015	The Action Plan outlines the various initiatives being undertaken by the Northern Ireland Executive and includes a statement of leadership from the Executive, demonstrating a united and long-lasting commitment to sustainable energy.	The Local Plan should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the SPPS. Include SA objective relating to the energy performance/efficiency

Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA of the Belfast Local Plan
Local		
Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015	Development Plan prepared under the provisions of Part 3 of the Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 by the Department of the Environment (DOE).	The Belfast Metropolitan Plan is a key consideration in the development of a Local Plan.
Belfast City Council Social Clause Framework	The framework aims to utilise social clauses to increase the economic social, and environmental benefit of its procurement spend.	The Local Plan should take into consideration the use of social clauses.
Belfast Integrated Economic Strategy 2015-2020	The strategy sets out the key strategic aspirations and priorities for Belfast City Council, Invest NI and its partners in respect of the economic growth and prosperity of the city council area.	The Local Plan should take into consideration the Economic Strategy.
Belfast Agenda	The community plan for Belfast. Joint vision for Belfast 2035, created in partnership with key city partners, residents and community organisations. The plan will set out medium and long term goals for social, economic and environmental improvements for Belfast over the next 15 years.	The Local Plan should take into consideration the Community Plan set out by the Belfast Agenda.
Belfast: Integrated Tourism Strategy 2015-2020	Aim of the strategy is to achieve the ambition and aspiration to make Belfast a world class, must visit, city destination.	The Local Plan should take in to consideration the tourism strategy ensuring the promotion of Belfast as a tourist destination.
Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy	Strategy to ensure maximum economic and social impact by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the employment population; • Increasing the residential population; • Managing the retail offer; • Maximising the tourism opportunity; • Creating a regional learning and innovation centre; • Creating a green, walkable, cyclable centre; • Connect to the city around, and; • Shared space and social impact. 	The Local Plan should take into consideration the Regeneration and Investment Strategy by promoting the underlying principles.
Belfast City Council Corporate Plan 2016-2017: Driving Growth, Improving Lives.	Sets out the council's commitment to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve and represent citizens and communities and to ensure the provision of the best possible, value for money services for local people, communities and businesses; • Provide and grow strong, fair and trusted leadership for the city to drive growth and provide opportunities for all citizens and; • Work with those who want to improve the competitiveness of the city and to improve life for people and communities. 	The Local Plan should take into consideration the Corporate Plan to develop Belfast's potential.

<p>The Draft Cultural Framework for Belfast Action Plan (2016-2020)</p>	<p>Vision for 2020 that “everyone in Belfast experiences and is inspired by our city’s diverse and distinctive culture and arts. Arts and heritage are valued for enriching quality of life and creating wealth, and the city’s culture and creativity is renowned throughout the world.”</p>	<p>The Local Plan should take into consideration the Cultural Framework ensuring culture is maintained and enhanced.</p>
<p>Linen Quarter Masterplan</p>	<p>The plan expands on the Belfast City Centre Regeneration Investment Strategy, providing detailed analysis of the Linen Quarter, establishing its qualities and character and setting out a framework for how the streets, spaces and buildings could be re-imagined, and combined to enhance the wider city centre and Belfast as a whole.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should take into consideration the Linen Quarter Masterplan, to influence investment in new business.</p>
<p>Belfast City Corporation- High Buildings Policy 1968</p>	<p>The document outlined a concern at that time, expressed within the document, that high buildings would destroy the character of areas, streets and spaces, or would block historic views. It stated that high buildings should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - not mar views of hills / views into city (from Lough, motorway, to Cathedral from Shankill), views from the city (city centre streets), views within the city (between Cathedral and Shankill / Castle Place to Quay); - not dominate public open space; - relate to other high buildings (Harbour, City Centre, University) / buildings of historic safeguard amenities (daylight, sunlight) of adjoining sites; and - relate to transportation system. 	<p>The local plan will take the policy into consideration and update accordingly.</p>
<p>Belfast City Centre- Urban Design and Development Strategy (LDR International-1993)</p>	<p>Urban Design report highlighted a number of problems and contained a framework for Environmental improvements/ hierarchy of streetscapes, open spaces and gateways.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should take into consideration the Urban Design and Development Strategy ensuring future urban design is sustainable and of high quality.</p>
<p>Belfast City Council Local Biodiversity Action Plan</p>	<p>Plan to encourage relevant partners to work together and deliver a programme of continuing action for biodiversity at a local level.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should take into consideration the Biodiversity Plan to ensure action for biodiversity continues.</p>
<p>Belfast City Council’s Your City, Your Space Strategy 2005-2020</p>	<p>Sets out the vision of how Belfast’s open spaces will develop between 2005 and 2020.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should take into consideration open space and parks to continue to promote investment.</p>

Leisure Transformation Programme 2012-2022	Programme sets out a £105 million investment in Belfast's leisure provision highlighting priority sites for redevelopment.	The Local Plan should take into consideration the Leisure Transformation Programme and Belfast's Leisure provision.
Belfast City Council Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy	The strategy builds on contributions made within Sport Belfast but also to find new and innovative ways to ensure a more systematic and comprehensive approach to the development of opportunities for sport and physical activity.	The Local Plan should take into account the Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy in the development of leisure facilities.
Belfast City Council Growing Communities Strategy 2012-2022	The strategy aims to ensure that all parts of the community of Belfast have the opportunity to participate in, and experience the benefits of urban cultivation.	The Local Plan should take into consideration the strategy in urban cultivation and community growing.
Belfast City Council Renewing the Routes Programme	Since 2004 Belfast City Council have invested £7,510,000 in approximately 21 miles of the city-making improvements to shopping areas and green spaces, developing gateways, introducing public art and celebrating diverse heritage.	The Local Plan should be aware of future projects of the programme.
Managing Storm water- a strategy for promoting the use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) within Northern Ireland	Comprises a strategy for promoting the use of SuDS as the preferred approach for managing the storm water discharges which arise from the development of land.	The Local Plan should take into consideration the Storm water Strategy by the promotion of SuDS.
Arc 21- Waste Management Plan	Plan provides a framework for waste management provision and a regional network of facilities for all controlled wastes within the arc21 region.	The Local Plan should take into consideration the Waste Management Plan ensuring proposed arrangements are met and a waste is dealt with in a sustainable manner.
Towards Zero Waste Action Plan 2012-2015	Plan established a series of tasks aimed at improving Belfast's recycling rate.	The Local Plan should take into consideration the TZWAP and ensure long term recycling targets are met.
Draft Programme for Government 2016-2021	Contains 14 strategic outcomes which, taken together, set a clear direction of travel and enable continuous improvement on the essential components of social wellbeing.	The Local Plan will take into account the Executive's target of reducing greenhouse gases by at least 35% on 1990 levels by 2025.

The George Best Belfast City Airport (GBBCA) Noise Action Plan 2013-2018	Summary of aircraft noise in the Belfast Agglomeration, measures already in place at GBBCA to prevent and reduce aircraft noise and actions proposed over the next five years to continue to do so.	The Local Plan will take into account the proposed Candidate Noise Management Areas.
2014 Air Quality Progress Report for Belfast City Council	Review of air quality monitoring data across the city in order to identify locations where new or existing exceedences of Air Quality Strategy objectives and European Commission limit values are occurring,	The Local Plan will take into account the data presented in the report.
Belfast City Council Air Quality Action Plan 2015-2020	Aim is to confirm measures that will be implemented throughout the city to improve air quality for the citizens of Belfast.	The Local Plan will take into account the measures proposed to improve air quality in Belfast.
Air Quality and Land Use Planning- A Belfast Specific Guidance Note for Planners and Air Quality Consultants 2009	Guidance supports developers and consultants involved in developments in Belfast, to give due consideration to air quality measures and to submit appropriate supporting information with their planning applications.	The Local Plan will take the guidance into account with proposed developments and air quality measures.
Detailed Assessment for Belfast City Council 2010	Report presented within compliance of the Environment Order (NI) 2002 which places responsibility on councils to periodically review and assess air quality within their boundaries.	The Local Plan will take subsequent reviews on air quality into account.
North Eastern River Basin Management Plan 2009 and 2015	Identifies where the water environment is in a good or excellent condition and sets out objectives for the improvement or the prevention of the deterioration of individual river, lake, marine and groundwater for the next three river basin cycles to 2015, 2021 and 2027.	The Local Plan will take into account the condition of water bodies within its area.
North Eastern Flood Risk Management Plan	Requirement of the Floods Directive (2007/60/EC) aimed at reducing the potential adverse consequences of significant floods on human health, economic activity, cultural heritage and the environment.	The Local Plan will take into account areas susceptible to flooding and measures to prevent this.
Lagan Valley Regional Park Strategy 2013	Framework of the work for the next 10 years.	The Local Plan will take into account the aims and vision of the Strategy.
Conservation Management Plan for HMS Caroline	Sets out the heritage value of significance and identifies policies to be applied to protect the asset.	The LDP will take into account the contents of the plan.
Conservation Management Plan for Alexandra Dock	Sets out the heritage value of significance and identifies policies to be applied to protect the asset.	The LDP will take into account the contents of the plan.

Planning Policy Statements	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA of the Belfast Local Plan
PPS 2- Natural Heritage (DOE, July 2013)	PPS 2 sets out the Department's planning policies for the conservation, protection and enhancement of our natural heritage.	The Local Plan will take into consideration the policy provisions of those documents retained under the transitional arrangements. PPS policies that have not been consolidated into the SPPS will cease to be a material consideration in assessing planning applications in the Belfast District once the Council adopts the new LDP Plan Strategy. It is therefore necessary that any existing PPS policies the Council wish to continue to apply once the Plan Strategy is in place will need to be replaced through the inclusion of relevant, locally tailored policies within the new Plan Strategy.
PPS 3 – Access, Movement and Parking (DOE, February 2005) and PPS 3 (Clarification): Access, Movement and Parking (DOE, 2006)	PPS 3 sets out the Department's planning policies for vehicular and pedestrian access, transport assessment, the protection of transport routes and parking.	
PPS 4 – Planning and Economic Development (DOE 2010)	PPS 4 sets out the Department's planning policies for economic development uses and indicates how growth associated with such uses can be accommodated and promoted in development plans. It seeks to facilitate and accommodate economic growth in ways compatible with social and environmental objectives and sustainable development.	
PPS 6 - Planning, Archaeology and Built Heritage (DOE, March 1999) and PPS 6(Addendum): Areas of Townscape Character (DOE, 2005).	PPS 6 sets out the Department's planning policies for the protection and conservation of archaeological remains and features of the built heritage. It embodies the Government's commitment to sustainable development and environmental stewardship.	
PPS 6 (Addendum) Areas of Townscape Character	This document is an addendum to PPS 6 'Planning, Archaeology and the Built Heritage' and must be read in conjunction with the policies contained within this PPS. The Addendum provides additional planning policies relating specifically to Areas of Townscape Character, for demolition of buildings, new development and the control of advertisements. It embodies the Government's commitment to sustainable development and environmental stewardship.	
PPS 7 Quality Residential	This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for achieving quality in new residential development and advises on the treatment of this issue in development plans. It embodies the Government's commitment to sustainable development and the Quality Initiative.	

Planning Policy Statements	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA of the Belfast Local Plan
PPS 7 (Addendum) Residential Extensions	This Addendum to PPS 7 sets out the Department's planning policy for achieving quality in relation to proposals for residential extensions and alterations. It also provides guidance which is intended to provide advice to homeowners and to assist the Department in the determination of proposals. The Addendum embodies the Government's commitment to sustainable development and the Quality Initiative.	
PPS 7 (Addendum) Safeguarding the Character of Established Residential Areas	This second addendum to PPS 7 'Quality Residential Environments' provides additional planning policy provisions on the protection of local character, environmental quality and residential amenity within established residential areas, villages, and smaller settlements.	
PPS 8 -Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation (DOE, 2004)	This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for the protection of open space, in association with residential development and the use of land for sport and outdoor recreation, and advises on the treatment of these issues in development plans.	
PPS 10 Telecommunications	This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for telecommunications development.	
PPS 11- Planning and Waste Management (DOE, 2002)	This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for the development of waste management facilities.	
PPS 12 Housing in Settlements	Planning Policy Statement 12 'Housing in Settlements' has been prepared to assist in the implementation of the Regional Development Strategy to guide the future pattern on housing by managing future housing growth and distribution, support urban renaissance and achieve balanced communities.	
PPS 12 Policy HS 3 (amended) 'Travellers accommodation'	This amendment provides policy for serviced sites for travellers outside settlements.	
PPS 13 – Transportation and Land Use (DRD, February 2005);	PPS 13 'Transportation and Land Use' has been prepared to assist in the implementation of the Regional Development Strategy to guide the integration of transportation and land use.	

Planning Policy Statements	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA of the Belfast Local Plan
PPS 15- Planning Policy and Flood Risk (DOE, June 2006)	PPS 15 sets out the Department's planning policies to minimise and manage flood risk to people, property and the environment.	
PPS 16 Tourism	PPS 16 sets out the Department's planning policies for tourism development and also for the safeguarding of tourism assets. It seeks to manage the provision of sustainable and high quality tourism developments in appropriate locations within the built and natural environment. It embodies the Government's commitment to sustainable development and to the conservation of biodiversity.	
PPS 17 Control of Outdoor Advertisements	This Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 17 'Control of Outdoor Advertisements' sets out the Department's planning policy and guidance for the display of outdoor advertisements.	
PPS 18– Renewable Energy (August ,2009);	Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 18 sets out the planning policy for development that generates energy from renewable resources.	
PPS 21- Sustainable Development in the Countryside (DOE, 2010); (Relevant Provisions)	PPS 21 sets out planning policies for development in the countryside.	
PPS 23 Enabling Development for the Conservation of Significant Places	Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 23 'Enabling Development for the Conservation of Significant Places' puts in place policy for assessing proposals for enabling development.	

Current Plan Areas	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA of the Belfast Local Plan
Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015	Policy provision for Belfast, Carrickfergus, Newtownabbey, Lisburn, Castlereagh and North Down District Council Areas.	The Local Plan will consider existing planning designations and policy contained within the current development plan that applies to Belfast as well as the current development plans of neighbouring districts.
Antrim Area Plan	Policy provision for Antrim District Council.	
Armagh Area Plan 2004	Policy provision for Armagh District Council.	
Ballymena Area Plan 1986-2001	Policy provision for Ballymena Borough Council.	
Ballymoney Town Centre Local Plan 1991-2002	Policy Provision for Ballymoney Town Centre.	
Craigavon Area Plan 2010	Policy provision for Craigavon District Council.	
Craigavon Town Centres and Retail Designation Plan 2010	Additional to the Craigavon Area Plan 2010, contains policy provision for the 3 town centres of Portadown, Craigavon and Lurgan.	
Lisburn Area Plan 2001	Policy provision for Lisburn City Council.	
Banbridge, Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015	Policy provisions for Banbridge and Newry and Mourne District Councils.	
Northern Area Plan 2016	Policy provision for the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.	
Derry Area Plan 2011	Policy provision for Derry City Council.	
Strabane Area Plan 1986-2001	Policy provisions for Strabane District Council.	
Ards and Down Area Plan 2015	Policy provision for Ards Borough and Down District Council Areas.	
Fermanagh Area Plan 2007	Policy provision for Fermanagh District Council Area.	

Current Plan Areas	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the SA of the Belfast Local Plan
Larne Area Plan 2010	Policy provision for Larne Borough Council.	
Cookstown Area Plan 2010	Policy provision for Cookstown District Council.	
Dungannon and South Tyrone Area Plan 2010	Policy provision for Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council.	
Magherafelt Area Plan 2015	Policy provision for Magherafelt District Council.	
North Down and Ards LDP	Under the Planning Act 2011 each of the 11 councils has been given the powers to set local planning policy through the preparation of LDPS. These will replace the current adopted development plans. This allows each council to set its own direction of land use and development policies.	Belfast City Council neighbours 3 other councils. The Belfast City Council LDP will take account of the policies and designations contained within these LDPS
Lisburn and Castlereagh LDP		
Antrim and Newtownabbey LDP		

APPENDIX 3: BASELINE INFORMATION FOR BELFAST

BASELINE INFORMATION

The collection of baseline information is necessary to meet the requirements of Schedule 2 (2) and (3) of the EAPP (NI) Regulations. The requirements of the SA and SEA are similar. The evidence collection for the SA is wider as it considers not just the environmental information that is required specifically for the SEA but also the social and economic influences that may have potential impacts upon sustainability as a result of the plan adoption and implementation.

The baseline information should enable a council to;

- determine the current state of the social, economic and physical environment;
- identify trends to indicate whether the situation is better or worse or how far it is from reaching any established thresholds or targets;
- identify particularly sensitive or important elements of the social, economic and physical environment which are likely to be affected e.g. endangered species, vulnerable groups;
- identify any problems and/or issues and whether these are likely to be reversible, irreversible, temporary or permanent;
- determine how difficult it would be to offset or remedy any damage;
- determine if there have been significant cumulative or synergistic effects over time or if any such effects would be expected in the future.

It should be stressed at this point that the information discussed below reflects data collected in early 2016. The collection of baseline information will go on indefinitely and will be updated on an ongoing basis. The information is organised under the three broad themes, social, economic and environmental baseline. It is noted there has been some limitations in gathering evidence specific to Belfast particularly in light of the recent Review of Public Administration (RPA). Other evidence only provided trends on NI basis. The information gathered was the best available data at the time of collection.

SOCIAL BASELINE - Population and Human Health

In April 2015, the Belfast City Council Area boundary expanded to incorporate areas that were formally parts of Lisburn City Council, Castlereagh Borough Council and North Down Borough Council (see below figure 1). The new areas include the localities of Gilnahirk, Tullycarnet, Braniel, Castlereagh, Merok, Cregagh, Wynchurch, Glencregagh (formerly in Castlereagh Borough Council), Belvoir, Collin Glen, Poleglass, Lagmore, Twinbrook, Kilwee and Dunmurry, (formerly in Lisburn Council Area) and a small section from North Down Council.

In 2014, the new Belfast City Council Area had a total population of 336,830. By 2015, the population is estimated to have risen to 338,907, which is 18.3% of the Northern Ireland Population¹⁰. This population increased as the city boundary expanded to take in around 53,000 additional residents from areas that were formally parts of neighbouring Councils. Belfast City Council Area is the largest of the 11 new Local Government Districts and has over 130,000 inhabitants more than the next largest new council area, Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon.



Fig 1: Belfast District

¹⁰ NISRA: 2015 - <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/population/dataviz/finalN.html>

Age Structure

On Census day 2011, the median age of those living in Belfast in 2011 was 35 years, which is lower than the Northern Ireland average (37 years) (BCC City Profile 2015). NISRA estimate that in 2014, 19.7% of the Belfast population were children aged 0-15 years, lower than the Northern Ireland average of 20.9%. Older persons (i.e. 65 years and over) made up 14.6% of the Belfast population, again lower than the Northern Ireland average of 15.5%.

Table 1: Age Structure of Population 2014

District	All Persons	Persons: 0-15 years	Persons: 16-39 years	Persons: 40-64 years	Persons: 65+ years
Northern Ireland	1,840,498	383,783 (20.85%)	582,615 (31.66%)	588,184 (31.96%)	285,916 (15.53%)
Belfast LGD 2014	336,830	66,184 (19.65%)	121,994 (36.22%)	99,488 (29.53%)	49,164 (14.60%)

Source: NISRA Population Estimates Broad Age Bands 2014 (Administrative Geographies) -

<http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/PivotGrid.aspx?ds=6375&lh=73&yn=1991-2014&sk=74&sn=Population&yearfilter>

Over the decade 2012-2022, the population of Northern Ireland is projected to increase by 5.2 per cent (i.e. 94,900 people), reaching 1,918,500 people in 2022. Based on these projections, Belfast's projected growth of 3.23% is the fifth highest out of the 11 Local Government Districts.

A Local Development Plan has a role in providing development land to meet these indicators and facilitate housing units to meet the needs of the elderly, particularly nursing homes, sheltered accommodation and smaller sized units. It also has a role in ensuring such units are accessible. The Development Plan housing zonings need to ensure that all housing, including for the elderly, is sited where it is accessible to local services and transportation. These services include health and other community facilities together with recreation and shops. A rising elderly population will also increase demand for health and community services, the development of which will also need to be accommodated.

In the Belfast City Council Area, there are 31,431 (22.2%) one person (under 65) households and 16,946 (11.97%) one person (over 65) households which equate to over one third of the new council's areas households. This figure is higher than the NI average for single person households of 27.93% where Belfast has the highest proportion of single person households of the 11 Local Government Districts. The number of one person (under 65) households is considerably higher than the NI average (22.2% compared with 16.82%)

The Local Development Plan has a role in providing a range of houses types to meet the needs of different household sizes and to provide policy to facilitate those wishing to expand their houses to meet changing needs, providing it does not harm other interests of acknowledged importance.

Life Expectancy

According to NINIS, the average life expectancy in Belfast for a male is 75 years and 80 years for a female which is lower than the Northern Ireland average of 78 years and 82 years respectively.

In terms of the new 11 Local Government Districts, life expectancy was lower in Belfast for both males and females¹¹.

According to the Sub-regional NI Health and Social Care Inequalities Monitoring System 2014:

- Males in the 20% most deprived LGD areas could expect to live 70.8 years, 4.5 years fewer than in Belfast LGD over all (75.4 years)

¹¹ <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp130.htm>

- Female life expectancy in the most deprived areas was 77.3 years, 3.4 years less than the LGD average (80.7 years)

Population Projections

In October 2015, NISRA published the key findings from the 2014 based national population projections. The population of Northern Ireland is projected to reach 1.9 million people in 2020, with the 2 million milestone being reached by mid-2034. By mid-2038, annual population growth is projected to fall below 0.2 per cent for the first time since mid-1999, due to a falling number of births and rising deaths as a result of an ageing population. Figure 2 and 3 illustrates this below:

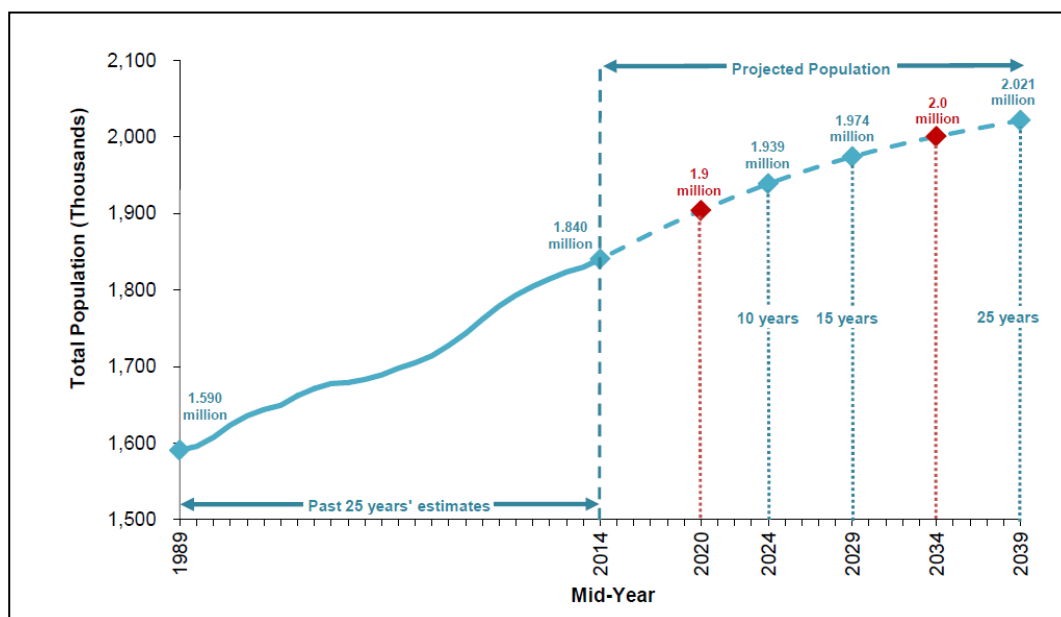


Figure 2: Northern Ireland Population Projections, NISRA 2015

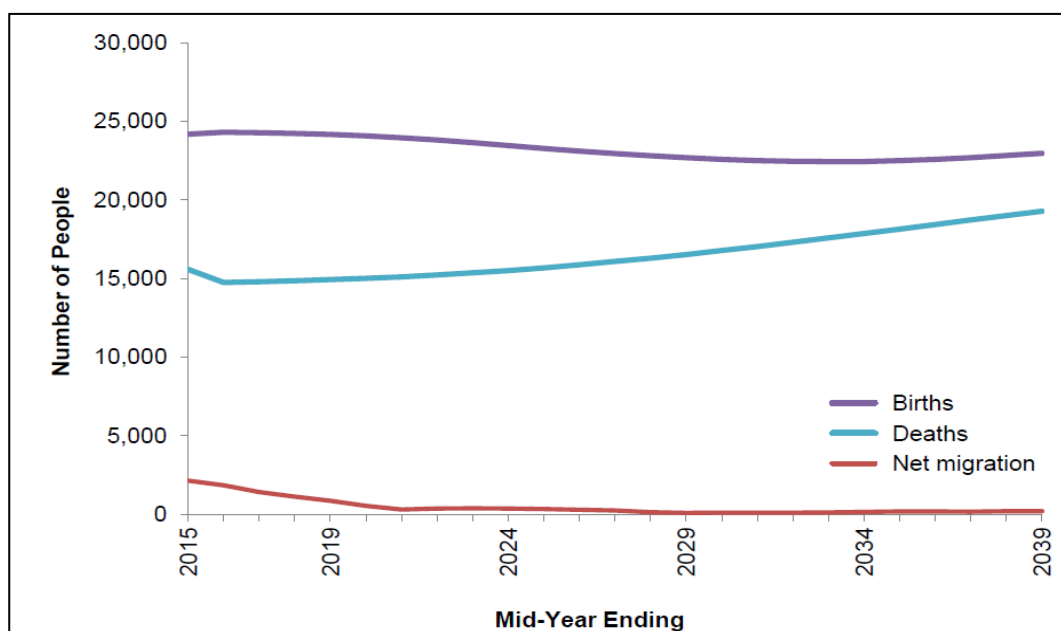


Figure 3: Factors in Population Change NISRA 2015

While the number of people aged 16 to 64 are both projected to decrease over the next 25 years, the number of people aged 65 and over are projected to increase. Figure 4 shows that by mid-2028, there are projected to be more people aged 65 and over than children, with the gap projected to widen.

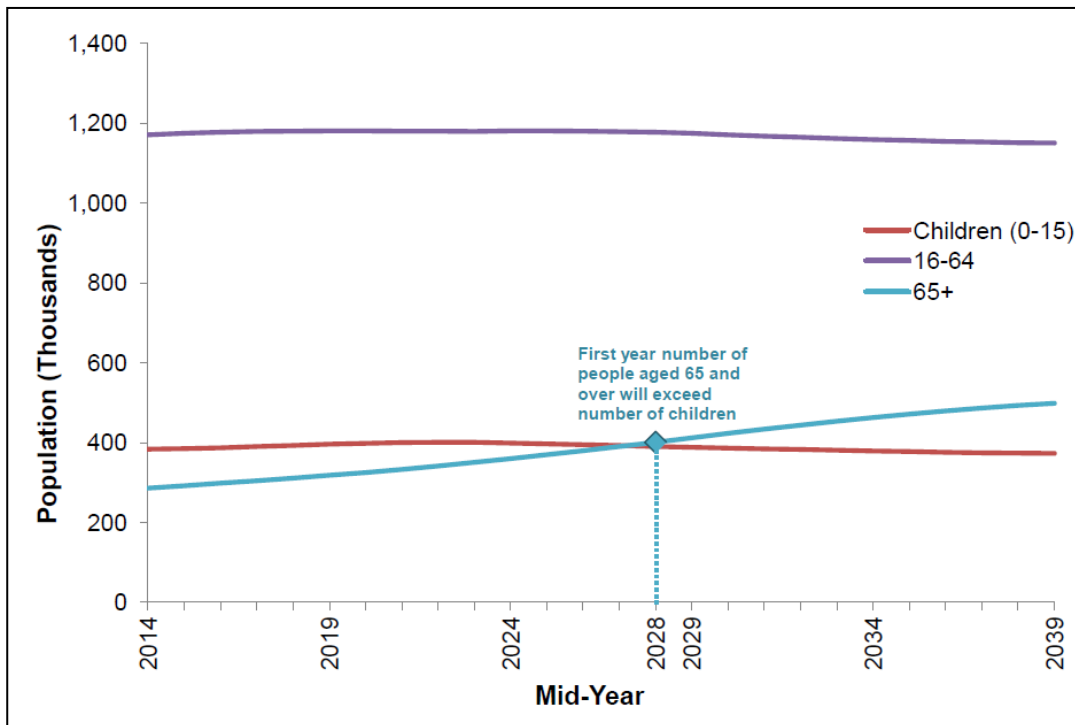


Figure 4: Population Projections by Age Group, NISRA 2015

Housing

The new Belfast City Council Area had a total population of 336,830, living in 141,567 households (2014):

- On Census day in 2011 52.23% of households were owner occupied and 45.10% were rented.
- A smaller proportion of Belfast's housing stock is made up of detached houses compared to the rest of Northern Ireland. Proportions of terraced dwellings and apartments are comparatively higher.

Future population is projected to grow by 3.3% by mid 2024. Average household size is expected to fall marginally from 2.54 in 2012 to 2.52 in 2022. The average household size has steadily declined in Belfast (2.32); driven by a higher proportion of single people (45.32%) than the NI average, a lower married proportion and a marginally higher proportion are divorcees (6.17%).

It is forecasted between 2012 and 2022; household compositions will be small made up of:

- One adult or two adults without children are the fastest growing household types. By 2037 these are projected to represent 60% of all households.
- By 2037, people aged 65 and over are projected to represent half (49%) of all those living in one adult households without children.

The average house price in Northern Ireland is £146,472¹². According to the University of Ulster Quarterly House Price Index for Quarter One in 2016, average price in Belfast was £161,526 up by 8.7% from 2015, a picture which is reflected across all the property types with semi-detached houses (£169,611), detached bungalows (£222,283), apartments (£131,828) and detached houses (£308,559). South Belfast is the highest priced sub-market in the city with average house price at £205,440. Across the other segments of the city, the average house price in North Belfast is £111,523, East Belfast £172,704 and West Belfast £116,254.

¹² University of Ulster Quarterly House Price Index for Quarter One in 2016 (<http://www.rpp.ulster.ac.uk/housing-index.php>)

Belfast has a lower level of owner occupied dwellings and a higher proportion of social housing than the rest of NI. Projected new social housing need for Belfast is 5,664 units over the five year period 2014-19 (1,130 per annum), but only 542 completed across Belfast in 14/15. There were 542 social housing units completed across Belfast in 2014/2015 and at March 2015, 433 new social homes started. There is a shortage of programmed schemes to meet the projected social housing need. Welfare reforms are likely to increase the demand for smaller social housing units.

For Belfast, the projected new dwelling requirement is 13,700 units (2012-2025) or just over 1,000 units per year. There is the potential to develop 19,131 dwelling units on 321.4 hectares of land within the Belfast urban footprint.

In 2009 there were an estimated 12,817 vacant properties in Belfast, 4.8 percent of the stock. This compares to a figure of 40,300 (5.7%) in 2006 and 32,000 (4.9%) in 2001. A high vacancy rate is particularly evident in the private rented sector, where 17,500 properties (12%) are vacant.

Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) / Housing Market Analysis (HMA)

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) through their Housing Investment Plan 2015-2019 have indicated that the population is projected to increase and older people will represent a higher proportion of the population. Household formation is currently lower than previously projected. The rate of new house building is lower than the annual requirement as set out in the RDS 2035.

Census 2011 demonstrates the continued desire of residents to own their own home. It also highlights the significance of the private rented sector which increased from 8% in 2001 to 20% in 2011 across Belfast. Private sector sales have also increased despite tighter mortgage lending conditions and negative equity. There are 4,108 registered HMOs within Belfast.

Social Inclusion and Deprivation

Spatial deprivation studies have been undertaken in Belfast for almost four decades and all have shown certain places immersed in permanent deprivation (QUB Forthcoming). Indeed, in all regional deprivation research between 1994 and 2010 (1994, 2001, 2005 & 2010), around 40% of Belfast's wards (about 40% of its population) have been consistently in Northern Ireland's most deprived decile, even though the city contains only 18% of the regional population. Moreover, the 2015 expansion of the Belfast Council Area has increased the proportion of spatial deprivation as the new boundary now encompass some of the region's most deprived Super Output Areas that were previously in Lisburn Borough Council (*Op Cit*).

Within the context of the rankings for the 11 new LGDs in Northern Ireland, Belfast is the worst performer as it contains areas with the highest concentrations of multiple deprivation.

Local Government District	Multiple Deprivation Ranking
Belfast	1
Derry and Strabane	2
Newry, Mourne and Down	3
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	4
Causeway Coast and Glens	5
Mid and East Antrim	6
Antrim and Newtownabbey	7
Mid Ulster	8
Fermanagh and Omagh	9
North Down and Ards	10
Lisburn and Castlereagh	11

Table 2: Multiple Deprivation Ranking BY NISRA

At Super Output Area level, the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2010 illustrates the disparities within the Belfast Council Area. Belfast contains the nine most deprived of the 890 SOAs in Northern Ireland with significant areas of multiple deprivation, particularly in West, North and inner Belfast, it also contains some of the least deprived SOAs, which are located in the South and East of the city. Whiterock (2) is the most deprived SOA in Northern Ireland. Belfast contains 20 out of the top 25 most deprived SOA in Northern Ireland.

The complex methodology used to determine overall multiple deprivation scores means that whilst the areas shown above as the most deprived by this multiple measure are also the worst effected by income, employment, health and disability, education, skills and training, living environment, crime and disorder, income deprivation facing children and income deprivation facing the elderly, these areas, given their city location, are the least deprived in terms of proximity to services.

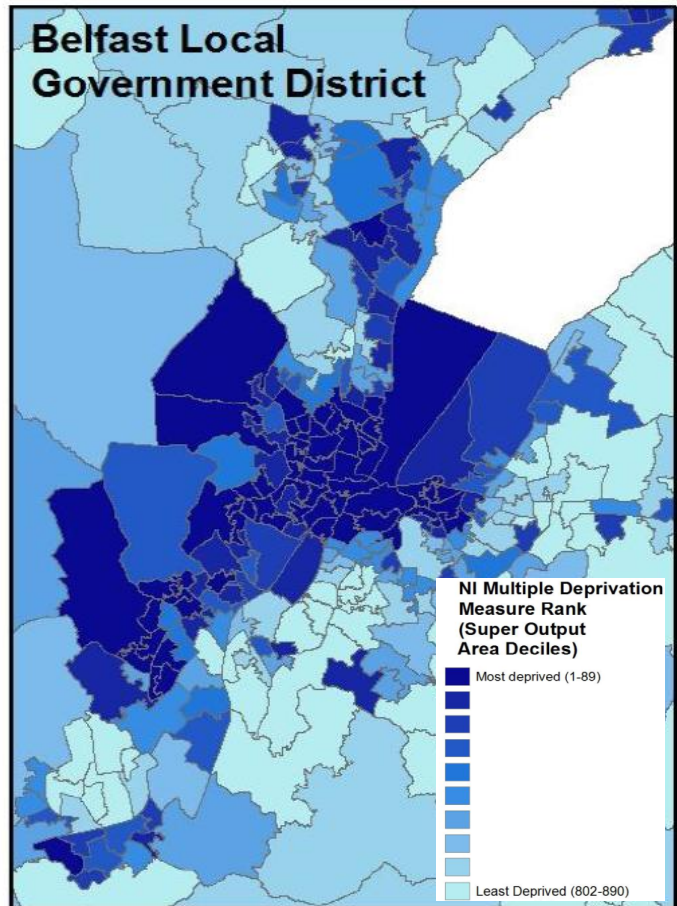


Figure 5: Belfast Super Output Areas Multiple Deprivation Measure Rank (http://www.nisra.gov.uk/deprivation/archive/Updateof2005Measures/NIMDM_2010_Maps.pdf)

The areas of South & East Belfast that are amongst the least deprived by the multiple measure but are considerably more deprived according to the Living Environment Deprivation measure. This measure aims to identify small areas experiencing deprivation in terms of the quality of housing, access to suitable housing, and the outdoor physical environment. The quality of housing measure is based upon the Decent Homes Standard which considers state of repair, thermal comfort and how modern the facilities are. This measure may, in part, explain why areas of older housing, which are less modern and energy efficient appear to be more deprived against this measure than the other variables.

Disability and Health

As of April 2014, 113,960 people in Belfast claimed at least one of the main benefits. This is equal to 42.3% of the all residents aged 16 years and over. A higher proportion of people aged 16 years and over living in Belfast claimed at least one benefit when compared to the Northern Ireland average of 39.3%. Belfast was the Local Government District with the second highest proportion of people aged 16 years and over claiming at least one benefit. The highest proportions of benefits claimants are located in wards in North, West and Inner East Belfast. This is to be contrasted with low levels of claimants in more suburban areas in the South and East of the city.

In February 2014, there were 55,480 people, or 16.6% of all residents, in receipt of at least one disability-related benefit in Belfast. Belfast had the 2nd highest proportion of disability-related benefit recipients (Belfast Profile 2015). Belfast's disability-related benefit claimant level is above the Northern Ireland average of 13.9%. The highest concentrations of disability related benefits claimants are located in areas of North and West Belfast. This is to be contrasted with some areas

in the South and East, which have some of the lowest levels of disability related benefits in Northern Ireland (see figure 6).

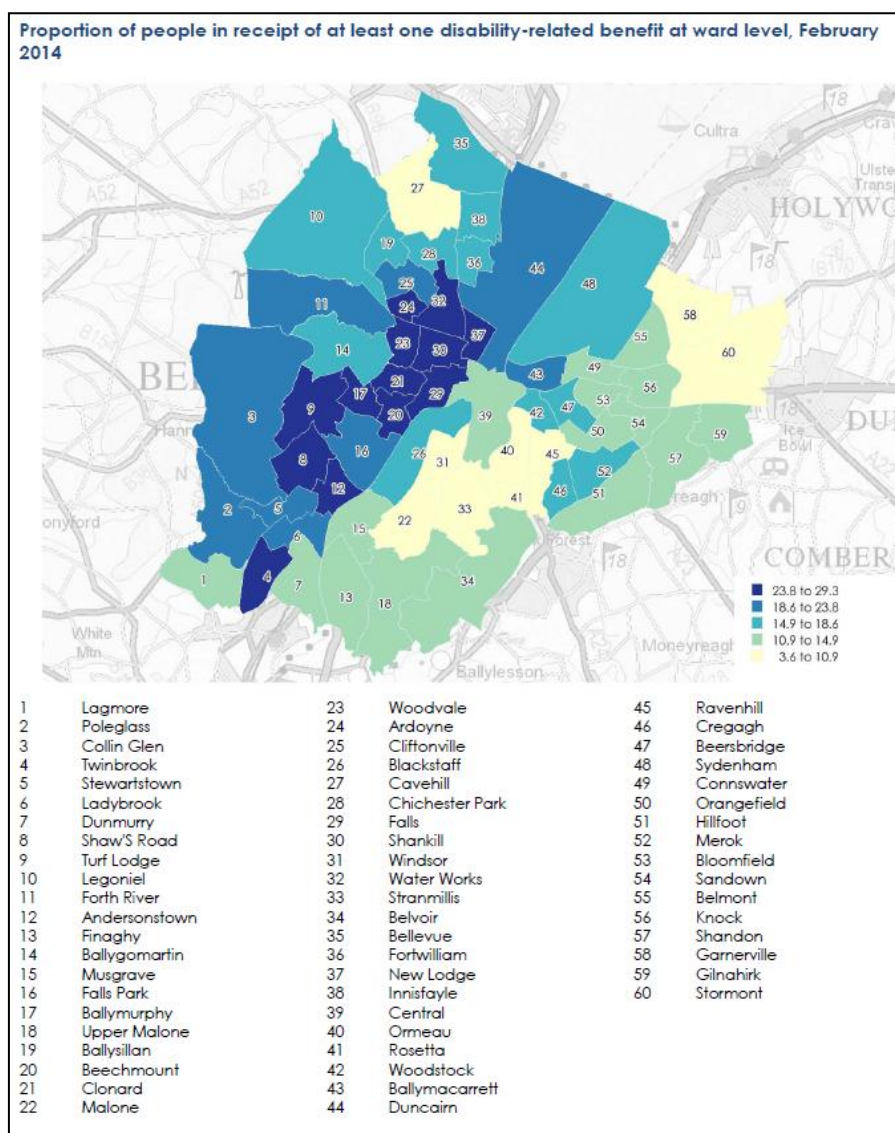


Figure 6: Proportion of People in Receipt of One Disability Related Benefit at Ward level
Source: NISRA

Human health

Overall, the health of the area is improving. However, there are inequalities in health across Belfast with long term disability and prevalence of long term conditions particularly pronounced problems in areas most affected by multiple deprivation. The key statistics from NISRA 2015 reveal:

- 14% of residents in Belfast are in receipt of at least one disability-related benefit. The highest concentrations of disability related benefits claimants are located in areas of North and West Belfast.
- A gap in Belfast exists between deprived areas and others especially in respiratory mortality, self-harm admissions and alcohol related admissions
- Cancer death rates in the most deprived areas are 27% higher than in the overall Belfast Trust and 18% higher compared to Northern Ireland average.
- The death rate from circulatory disease in Belfast is 5% higher than the rest of NI.
- In some deprived wards breast-feeding rates after leaving hospital are as low as 51% in comparison to the average figures for Belfast.
- In 2014, Belfast had highest alcohol related death rate in Northern Ireland.

- Between 2010-2014, Belfast had highest rate of deaths due to obesity in Northern Ireland. Childhood obesity in Belfast is 9% higher in comparison to the Northern Ireland average. Within the Belfast LGD, childhood obesity is 33% higher in deprived areas¹³.
- Belfast has the highest teenage birth rate of all the LGD's in Northern Ireland of 3.87 per 1000 females under 17 years.
- Belfast also has the greatest number of self-harm admissions to hospital within the region.
- Belfast has the greatest number of deaths per 100,000 of the population from suicides.
- Belfast has the highest drug related admissions to hospital.

Education, skills and training

Education also has an important role to play in promoting economic wellbeing, improving social mobility and tackling multiple deprivation. Better education improves access to employment opportunities. It improves the quality of people's lives and leads to broad social benefits to individuals and society. Education raises people's productivity and creativity and promotes entrepreneurship and technological advances. In addition, it plays a very crucial role in securing economic and social progress and improving income distribution.

Table 3: Qualifications of school leavers by 2014 district council of pupil residence⁽³⁾ 2014/2015⁽¹⁾

District Council	2+ A-levels A*-E ⁽²⁾		5+ GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾		5+ GCSEs A*-C ⁽²⁾ Inc. GCSE English and maths		Total Leavers
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
BELFAST	2105	59.7	2792	79.2	2121	60.2	3526
Northern Ireland	12905	57.7	18133	81.1	14753	66.0	22361

Source; NISRA 2015

Notes

1. Excludes special and independent schools
2. Includes equivalent qualifications

The table 3 shows the following key education attainment statistics for Belfast:

- 59.7% of pupils in Belfast received 2 or more A-Levels at grades A* to E which is 2% higher than the NI average of 57.7%. Within this, the proportion of school leavers achieving three or more A-levels A* - C or equivalent was 38.2%.
- The proportion of pupils receiving more than 5 GCSE's at grades A* to C in Belfast is 79.2% which is slightly below the NI average of 81.1%. Pupils in Belfast (and NI respectively) outperform their UK counterparts which averages at 64.9% of pupils receiving grades A* to C. The situation is reversed when considering the average number of pupils receiving GCSE A* to C grades in English and Maths in Belfast is 60.2% which is almost 6% below the NI average and is 25 percentage points lower than the UK average of (85.7%).
- The proportion of free school meal entitled school leavers achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths increased by 6.4 percentage points from 34.9% in 2013/14 to 41.3% in 2014/15.
- 18% of people of working age still have no formal level of education. This is twice that of the UK average and the highest of all UK regions.
- The proportion of school leavers continuing to Institutions of Higher Education has remained stable (42.3% in 2014/15). Overall, 95.5% of school leavers were recorded by their school as entering Education, Employment or Training.
- 30% of the work age population have no or low qualifications.

¹³ Sub-regional HSCIMS 2015 (Belfast LGD)

Crime

According to NINIS in 2014, there were:

- 35,455 incidences of recorded crime offences in 2014 which is one third (105,072) of recorded crime offences in Northern Ireland for the same period. Crime offences recorded range from violence with injury (including homicide), burglary to public order offences.
- 18,267 anti-social behaviour incidents were recorded in Belfast, 30% of the Northern Ireland total (60,982) and more than three times higher than Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon who recorded the second highest incidents in Northern Ireland.
- Across Northern Ireland, there were 3207 incidences of recorded hate crime (homophobic, racist, and/or sectarian). 46% (1494) occurred in Belfast.
- There is a low-level effect (65.55%) of the fear of crime on quality of life which is slightly lower than the Northern Ireland average of 69.55%.

The LDP should enhance the quality of life by encouraging safe and accessible environments.

Levels of Segregation

The legacy of Belfast's troubled past is still felt today and has had major impacts on the physicality of the City from its spatial layout to the design of its buildings as well as its fragmented and duplicated service provision across the city. Almost 20 years after the implementation of 'The Good Friday Agreement', Belfast has seen significant redevelopment, investment and regeneration in the City. However, segregation continues in parts of the city in 2016 with 88 different security barriers and forms of defensive architecture, known as 'Peace Walls', are still located within and between communities.

Research by Queen's University Belfast on changing levels of segregation as indicated by 2011 census states the following; *"Northern Ireland, as a whole, has experienced a fall in residential segregation between 2001 and 2011. It is likely that Belfast has shared in this trend with the rest of Northern Ireland. However, it is likely that the decrease between 2001 and 2011 is a result of the demographic balance of some areas being changed by immigration, by changes in the way in which people describe their religion in the Census, to local differences in births and deaths between Catholics and Protestants, and to genuine mixing in some areas."*

'Making Space for Each Other: Civic Place-making in a Divided Society' (2016) produced by the Planning for Spatial Reconciliation Research Group at Queen's University, Belfast aimed to identify how regeneration and reconciliation can be harnessed by the new approaches to planning under Council's to promote good relations. It states, 'long-standing precepts of good planning and design can play a significant role in embedding reconciliation in the development process. A necessary, though insufficient, approach to redressing the divisions in a deeply contested society lies in the basic principles of good planning: intentional connectivity, search for synergies, coherent design, public access, balanced development that minimised duplication; and avoidance of physical infrastructure that can dissect a city more markedly than 'peace walls'. (pp.14).

The Strategic Planning Policy Statement recognises that the planning process has an important role to play in the delivery of good quality housing that supports the creation of more balanced communities. Balanced communities can contribute positively to the creation and enhancement of shared spaces and vice-versa.

Culture, leisure and recreation

Good quality open space makes our city an attractive and healthier place to live. Open space can perform a multitude of functions, for example well-appointed open spaces can attract investment in cities which have balanced urban development with green infrastructure. The variety in the urban scene can have positive impacts on the landscape as well as providing good places to work, live and visit. These high urban quality spaces can support regeneration, improve quality of life for communities as well as promote health and wellbeing. Open space has a strategic function by

helping to define an area, create a sense of place as well as create linkages between Cities and its rural hinterlands.

The typology of open space ranges from parks and gardens to outdoor sports facilities, play parks, greenways, urban green spaces, community gardens and cemeteries. The value and function of open space is essential for a viable, healthy, greener and liveable city.

Belfast's open space ranges from country parks to woodlands and playing fields to playgrounds, the value and function of open space in Belfast is essential for a viable, healthy, greener and liveable city.

There is a lack of open space in the city centre and indeed its surrounding communities. Open space becomes more available as you move from the city centre. Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy was launched in 2015 and sets out the context for developing the City Centre and the aspirations for regeneration and growth of the city core and its surrounding areas. The Strategy recognises the lack of green open space in the city centre and provides potential solutions to soften the harsh concrete and tarmac appearance of the city centre. It states, "the centre is lacking in green space, in tree-lined streets, in the softness that can provide relief in the most densely developed part of a great city".

Through the Belfast City Council £150million Investment Programme and ongoing £105million Leisure Transformation Programme, Belfast City Council have invested substantially in outdoor and indoor recreation in the city. There are 15 Leisure Centres in Belfast and through the commitment of the ambitious Leisure Transformation Programme, the upgrade of leisure provision across key sites in the city aims to improve health outcomes and reduce health inequalities in state of the art and safe facility. Due to the fragmented make up of Belfast, there is duplication of such services which serve our divided communities.

Following a pitch inventory by the Council in 2013 found are 216 grass pitches and 51 artificial pitches in Belfast. These figures include club, university, schools. Community and Council owned pitched. In terms of Children's Play Space Provision, Council manage 105 playgrounds across the city. 2 of these playgrounds are located in 'rural' Belfast.

Belfast operates 42 Parks of which 15 have been awarded Green flag status. Of the 42 parks, 19 are registered of Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes of Special Historic Interest has been established to identify sites within Northern Ireland, which can be considered of exceptional importance. The identification of sites is based upon a clear set of criteria and on an appreciation of the character of Ulster's gardens and designed landscapes with a further 4 supplementary sites. Orienteering is available at all Council parks and Eco trails and outdoor gyms can be found are various sites.

There are 11 designated community greenways in the Belfast Metropolitan Area:

1. BT 147/01 Carr's Glen/Waterworks
2. BT 147/02 Forth River/Glencairn/Ligoniel Route
3. BT 147/03 Shore Road/Belfast Hills
4. BT 147/04 Lagan Valley Regional Park/Bog Meadow/Whiterock Route
5. BT 147/05 Ballymurphy Route
6. BT 147/06 Comber Greenway (Belfast)
7. BT 147/07 Odyssey/Tullycarnet Park/Ormeau Park
8. BT 147/08 Odyssey/Stormont
9. BT 147/09 North Belfast/South Belfast/Lagan Valley Regional Park
10. MCH 41/01 Annadale/Lagan Valley Regional Park
11. ML 23/01 Lady Dixon/Belfast Hills

Following Local Government Review, parts of the following 6 designated community greenways also falls within the Belfast City Council area:

- HD18 Holywood
- MCH 41/02 Annadale/Castlereagh Escarpment
- MCH 41/03 Castlereagh Escarpment/ Lagan Valley Regional Park
- MCH 41/04 Castlereagh Escarpment/ Lagan Valley Regional Park at Belvoir
- MCH 41/06 Comber Greenway (Castlereagh)
- ML 23/02 Lagan Valley Regional Park to Colin Valley Golf Course

The Department of Infrastructure (DfI) are drawing up a strategic plan for Greenways with the aim of developing an integrated system of greenways for the benefit for future generations. A strategic approach to an integrated system links in to the Council's Corporate Plan, Belfast Agenda and indeed the LDP. Community Greenways may also act as a cycle network, allowing cyclists to have a safe journey with less noise and air pollution. Whilst river corridors and disused railway lines can also provide a haven for wildlife, Community Greenways may also act as corridors linking areas of open space in urban areas to the countryside.

Alongside the recreational value of greenways, a green and blue infrastructure network can build resilience and mitigate flood risk to establish a natural water cycle. This is achieved by combining water management and protecting the ecological values of the urban landscape, while providing adaptive measures to deal with flood events. This approach to water and green space management, integrates urban drainage into a coherent green and blue connected network. The Connswater Greenway is an example of a blue and green infrastructure scheme that incorporated flood alleviation measures with outdoor recreational space. The LDP facilitated by an open space strategy can seek ways to develop a more integrated corridor and innovative uses of greenways within the Belfast area.

Belfast has many community gardens, where local residents can grow vegetables, fruit, and flowers, meet their neighbours and learn about the environment. Such spaces can offer an environmental haven in an urban area, shared spaces as well as support the Council social agendas of health and wellbeing and creating shared and greener spaces. There are around 20 formal community gardens in Belfast and 12 allotment locations.

The Belfast Hills provides an array of outdoor recreational facilities alongside Colin Glen Forest Park and Cavehill Country Park. Other types of countryside recreation include Belvoir Forest Park, Community Woodlands at Knockmount Gardens, Ligoniel Wood, Old Throne Wood and Mill Dam Wood.

Lagan Valley Regional Park covers 2116ha and stretches along the Lagan from Belfast to Lisburn. As an AONB, its characteristic features include riverbank scenery, meadows and woodland and is also rich in biodiversity.

There are 18 libraries in Belfast, 12 of which are located within catchment areas of substantial levels of social deprivation. Belfast Central library has potential to become a world class modern regional library and has a role to play in the economic, cultural, social and educational development of the Inner North Quarter of the City Centre.

ECONOMIC BASELINE

Employment

Belfast accounts for 18% of the total Northern Ireland population. The 2014 Labour Force Survey profiled the labour market structure for Belfast:

Table 4: Labour Market Structure (16-64 Population)

(%)	Economically Inactive (%)		Economically Active (%)		Employment (%)	
Belfast	70,000	(31%)	156,000	(69%)	145,000	(64%)
NI	320,000	(28%)	844,000	(72%)	789,000	(68%)

Source: Belfast Regional Briefing (2016) Invest Northern Ireland

The table 4 above shows 31% of Belfast's working age population are economically inactive who are not looking for work or not available for work. Notably over half of this cohort is claiming out of work or 'other' benefits. 146,000 people are in paid employment of which 75% are engaged in full time work. 14,000 (9%) of the working age population are self-employed. This is significantly lower than the 14.7% figure for Northern Ireland.

According to NISRA in 2014, 13,866 people claimed unemployment-related benefits (Job Seekers Allowance), which accounts for 25% of all claimants in Northern Ireland (54,101). These figures are broken down by age band in table 5 below:

Table 5: Claimant Count by Age Band and Duration (16-64 Population)

	Number		Annual Change	18-24		25-49		50+		Over 6 months		Over Year	
Belfast	13,866	6%	-12%	3,385	25%	7,750	57%	2,465	18%	7,805	57%	5,050	37%
NI	54,101	5%	-14%	13,270	25%	29,345	55%	10,425	20%	29,385	55%	18,135	34%

Source: Belfast Regional Briefing (2016) Invest Northern Ireland

The age bracket 25-49 years occupies 57% of all claimants which is slightly higher than the NI average. Youth unemployment accounts for 25% of all claimants, similar to the NI figures. 37% of the total claimants can be described as long term unemployed which is 3% higher than the NI average of 34%.

4.2.2 Skills and employability issues:

According Centre for Local Economic Strategies 'Employability and Skills Framework for Belfast', skills and employability issues are a continuing concern for Belfast employers. In 2013, a third of employers had difficulty recruiting, half of those due to lack of skills. Skills shortages are more acute in certain sectors and roles, notably skilled trades and also in professional, associate professional, caring and leisure, and elementary roles¹⁴.

4.2.3 Qualifications of the resident population

Table 6 shows just over a third of working age people in Belfast has above NVQ Level 4 qualification which is 4 percentage points higher than the regional average of 30%. Table 6 is derived from from the Labour Force Survey measures qualifications ranging from none to NVQ L4 (degree level and above) in the working age population 16-64 years.

¹⁴ Centre for Local Economic Strategies 'Employability and Skills Framework for Belfast' May 2015

Table 6: Qualification Levels (16-64 Population) 2014

	No Qualifications		Below NVQ L4		Above NVQ L4		All
Belfast	43,000	(19%)	103,000	(46%)	76,000	(34%)	222,000
NI	199,000	(17%)	606,000	(53%)	339,000	(30%)	1,144,000

Source: Belfast Regional Briefing (2016) Invest Northern Ireland

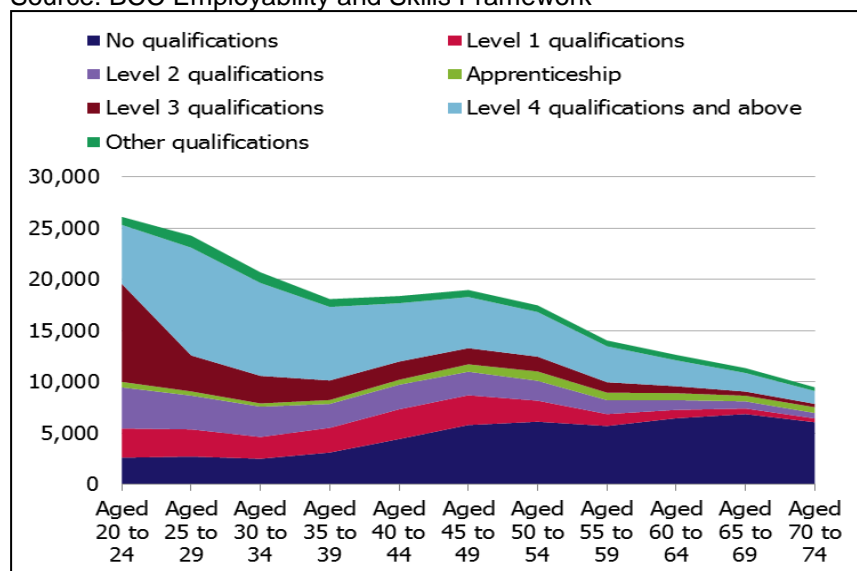
Based on the new boundaries post LGR, the 2011 Census illustrated that almost a third of the adult population had no qualifications (30.4% compared to 23.2% in the UK). Of this group with no qualifications, 36% of those aged 16-44 are in employment.

However it is also important to consider that post LGR, there will be an increased challenge for Belfast with more residents who have either no skills, or are low skilled.

The higher qualification level relates strongly to people's age. Figure 7 shows the population of Belfast by age and qualification. It highlights that the proportion of people with qualifications in the younger age groups are considerably larger than in older age groups, with the pattern of qualifications changing significantly. The proportion of residents without qualifications was 64% for those aged 70-74 and 51% for those aged 60-64. This is just 10% for those aged 20-24. Just 20% of the 60-64 cohort hold Level 4 or above qualifications compared with higher proportions for other age groups – as high as 44% for those aged 30-34. Thus, the trend in future is likely to be a more skilled resident population, as a less skilled older workforce is gradually replaced by younger people possessing more, and higher level qualifications.

Figure 7: Highest qualification held by age group, Census 2011¹⁵

Source: BCC Employability and Skills Framework



Business Sectors in Belfast

According to Invest NI's Belfast Regional Briefing in January 2016, there were 9,005¹⁶ VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses operating in Belfast which accounts for 13% of all Northern Ireland businesses.

¹⁵ Employability and Skills Framework for Belfast: Final Strategy and Action Plan 2015 Belfast City Council

¹⁶ Statistics taken from NISRA (2014) VAT and/or PAYE Registered Businesses Operating in NI

Table 7: Business Sectors in Belfast

	Agriculture		Production including Manufacturing		Construction		Distribution Services †		Other Services ‡		All	Per Head
Belfast*	40	0.4%	425	5%	840	9%	1,850	21%	5,855	65%	9,005	0.027
NI	16,955	25%	4,310	6%	9,170	14%	14,045	21%	23,220	34%	67,710	0.037

*Sector sub-totals may not sum to totals due to rounding.

†Distribution Services includes Motor Trades, Wholesale, Retail, Transport & Storage.

‡Other Services includes Health, Education, Entertainment, Tourism & Finance

Source: Belfast Regional Briefing (2016) Invest Northern Ireland/NISRA 2014

Agriculture represents 0.4% of businesses in Belfast, 24.6% lower than the Northern Ireland average. Rural areas i.e. land outside the settlement limits account for 30% of Belfast's land. The make-up of the land includes the Belfast Hills and a small number of farm holdings. The NISRA 2015 Farm Census figures estimate there are 28 farms in Belfast, 21 of which can be described as 'very small', 3 small farms and 4 medium to large farms. Agriculture in Belfast employs 126 people either on a full and/or part time basis. Within this figure there are 23 full time farmers employing 66 full time workers.

'Other' services account for the largest employment sector in Belfast which is 14% higher than the NI average of 62%. Other services include most public services such as healthcare, education, entertainment as well as tourism and finance. The table below shows a comparison between private and public sector employment:

Table 8: Public/Private Sector Employment

	Private		Public		All
Belfast	138,265	(66%)	72,159	(34%)	210,424
NI	478,536	(69%)	212,965	(31%)	691,501

Source: Belfast Regional Briefing (2016) Invest Northern Ireland

Table 8 shows over a third of the working age population work in Belfast is employed in the public sector which comparatively is higher (3%) than the NI average.

Self-employment

Belfast's performance in this area lags the Northern Ireland average. According to the 2011 Census there were over 13,000 self-employed people in Belfast, a total of 9.3% of the working age population. But this is significantly lower than the 14.7% figure for Northern Ireland.

Earnings

The Department of Economy in November 2015 published its latest Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)¹⁷. The key points from ASHE 2015 show that:

- In April 2015, the median gross weekly earnings for full-time employees were £485, up 5.4% from £460 in 2014. This represents the largest annual percentage increase in earnings since 2004 and the first increase in inflation adjusted earnings since 2009.
- In the UK, median gross weekly earnings for full-time employees were £528, an increase of 1.8% since 2014 (£518). At 92%, the ratio of NI/UK full-time weekly earnings is the highest since the ASHE time series began in 1997.

¹⁷ <https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/articles/annual-survey-hours-and-earnings>

- The increase in median gross weekly earnings was more marked in the private than in the public sector. The full-time median gross weekly earnings in the private sector increased by 6.7% to £429, compared to a 1.6% increase in the public sector, to £577. This is the largest annual increase in private sector earnings since 2006. However, NI private sector full-time weekly earnings were 86% of those in the UK.
- Those in the lowest 25% of the full-time weekly earnings distribution experienced a larger increase (6.4%) than those in the highest 25% (2.2%).

Employment outlook

The change in employment between 2009 and 2013 was small at 1.2%, although this still compares favourably with the fall in Northern Ireland of -0.7%, illustrating resilience within the Belfast economy¹⁸. Nearly a third of jobs (29%) in Northern Ireland are located in Belfast. The city, like many other former industrialised regions, has undergone economic restructuring, with a shift from manufacturing employment towards services and public sector employment. However, the reliance upon the public sector is high in Belfast, as it represents 34% of total jobs.

Reliance on skilled commuters

Because the increase in supply of higher skilled residents will not match demand, this will inevitably lead to an increase in net commuters with level 4 qualifications or above over the forecast period. Belfast is not producing enough of its own graduates with required skills sets to reduce commuting, and without action, it is difficult to perceive this trend changing in either the medium or long term. Belfast travel to work area covers 2690sqm comprising 81,094 commuters representing 58% workplace population compared to Northern Ireland average of 44%. It is forecasted commuting for those who possess level 3 and 4 qualifications will increase by 38% and 43% respectively by 2025.

Foreign Direct Investment

Belfast has become the second most attractive city in the UK outside London for foreign direct investment and has been named as one of the top 10 small and mid-sized cities in the world and the top small business friendly city in Europe 2016 for the second year. 60% of all FDI to NI is in Belfast. (DETI Analytical Services Unit Research Agenda 2015/16). Total inward investment from 2010-2011 to 2014-2015 totalled £981.79m within Belfast the majority originating from Great Britain and the United States.

Invest NI advise that almost 60% of enquires for office space were from FDI businesses. The Harbour Commission have completed construction of Grade A office accommodation at City Quays occupied by a global law firm and has further planning permission for a second Grade A office block adjacent to be completed mid 2016 to be occupied by an American technology company and also seek to develop commercial space at the Titanic Quarter and Sydenham Business Park. Grade A office accommodation was also completed at Weavers Court, Linfield Road and Forthriver Industrial Estate but there is still not choice of Grade A office accommodation comparable to the UK.

The devolution of Corporation Tax enabling Northern Ireland to set its own rates will encourage domestic business to invest and increase foreign direct investment by reducing the rate to 12.5% from 21% in line with the ROI rate and the Act which was given Assent in March 2015 and the power handed to the Executive in April 2018. Whilst it is estimated that the tax changes could create 2000 jobs in the local area, a sustained drive on skills levels would be required to ensure that Belfast has the appropriate skill sets in place to match the demand for jobs that a reduction in Corporation Tax would bring.

¹⁸ Census of Employment 2013

Key employment areas

Whilst the evidence is applicable throughout the whole area the key areas for employment use are Belfast City Centre; Harbour and Giant's Park.

Belfast Harbour

Belfast Harbour is Northern Ireland's principal maritime gateway and logistics hub, serving the Northern Ireland economy and increasingly that of the Republic of Ireland. Around 70% of Northern Ireland's and 20% of the entire island's seaborne trade is handled at the Harbour each year¹⁹.

Major regeneration projects for the Belfast Harbour Estate include City Quays, Titanic Quarter, Clarendon and Sydenham Business Park. The Belfast Harbour Estate is a key employment area for Belfast with over 23,000 people employed across a range of business sectors from shipping and logistics to creative industries. The Belfast's Harbour turnover grew in 2015 by 3.4% to £54.3m.

The Harbour is a major economic enabler supporting 31% of NI's GDP and 27% of its employment within 700 companies and trade is expected to grow by 68% by 2030 and commissioner's plans indicate requirement for 82 additional acres. Offices, a hotel and multi-storey car parking has been recently constructed on Harbour lands, the NI Science Park is expanding and the film industry is utilising buildings within harbour lands. The harbour lands are key locations handling liquid bulk products, dry bulk sector commodities, aggregates of coal and scrap, break bulk products and supporting exports of feedstuffs such as milk powder and beef and poultry products supporting the agricultural sectors. The Port comprises logistics warehousing and container terminals with primary routes to Antwerp and Rotterdam. The Port is freight and passenger route to Liverpool, Loch Ryan and Heysham accommodating 357,000 freight vehicles, 272,000 cars and 1.24 million passengers in 2011 and a Marina that has welcomed the Tall Ships.

Belfast City Centre

The City Centre includes some of the city's most prominent civic and historic buildings, primary pedestrian routes, gateways and accessibility nodes, orbital boulevard, River Lagan and waterfront, former industrial and port lands, areas of cultural and heritage, entertainment areas, areas of housing. The city centre is bound by the inner ring road, orbital boulevard and the east bank of the River Lagan between the Albert and Queen Elizabeth II Bridges.

Belfast City Centre is the primary office location in NI and the first choice for major office developments. A significant residential population is highly important for the successful functioning of the City Centre in relation to complementary services such as retailing, supply chains, leisure, employment, and growing the evening economy and the relocation of the University of Ulster campus will act as a catalyst for development in the northern area of the city. It is estimated that 15,000 students will be attracted to the new campus with an estimated expenditure of £94 million p.a.

Almost 200,000 employee jobs in Belfast comprise 29% of the total jobs across Northern Ireland, a figure which highlights the economic importance of the city centre to the wider region. Typically for a regional capital, there is a significant association with public administration. Other notable sectors which are concentrated in Belfast City Centre include: administrative and support services; education, financial and insurance activities; health, information and communication; and professional, scientific and technical activities. The creative industries are one of Belfast's fastest growing sectors with over 1,000 creative businesses based in the city, employing over 17,000 people. When considering the combined productivity across these sectors, it is apparent Belfast has experienced growth in Gross Value Added (GVA) per head in the last decade.

¹⁹ <https://www.belfast-harbour.co.uk/port>

In terms of sector specific GVA growth, Belfast has been most pronounced in financial and insurance services and information and communications, both of which have seen GVA growth of over 100% since 2000. Part of the growth in these sectors is linked to Belfast's success in attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Belfast sits 4th out of 28 UK cities based on number of projects and 3rd out of 28 based on number of jobs created between 2009 and 2011.

There is significant interest in planning applications and policy relating to student accommodation given the relocation of Ulster University into the Centre from its present Jordanstown Campus which will increase the residential student population living within the North of the City Centre.

Belfast has a catchment area of 602,000 people which places Belfast 13th out of 22 major cities with a comparable catchment to Nottingham and Edinburgh. The challenge remains in ensuring this catchment population chooses Belfast as its retail destination.

Belfast ranks as the UK's 16th city centre retail venue based on Venuescore, a proprietary ranking system for the UK shopping venues based on the scale and profile of multiple retailers trading there²⁰.

During the first half of the 2000's, retailer sales productivity performance in Belfast was consistently above the average for Major City locations. With the opening of Victoria Square, Belfast's status in the UK retail hierarchy peaked at 14.

As of September 2015, there were 4,508 properties rated as shops in Belfast LGD based on the LGD 2014 wards²¹. Vacancy rates in Belfast City Centre exceed the UK averages. Belfast City Council conducted a Vacancy Report in 2016 which recorded a vacancy rate of 18% which is almost 3 times higher than the vacancy rate in Bristol (6.8%) and double that of Glasgow (9.9%). Reasons that have been cited for this include retailers falling into administration and retailers being more selective and requiring less space. Business rates in prime locations can also be a concern to existing occupiers, a situation which will only serve to further increase vacancy rates in the future. Vacancy is however concentrated, rather than dispersed and could potentially be tackled on a coordinated basis.

City Centre living in Belfast has not reached comparable levels with other UK cities 9,458 persons are estimated to live in the City Centre²². According to LPS pointer, there are 5678 domestic properties within the city centre.

Giant's Park

At 340 acres, the North Foreshore of Belfast Lough is the largest development site in the city. Known as Giant's Park, this area offers huge potential to deliver physical, economic and social benefits for citizens as part of the Council's City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy.

This former landfill facility, owned by Belfast City Council, is a sustainable asset which has the potential to attract investors and create jobs and other opportunities for the city.

Construction is underway to create Northern Ireland's first Cleantech Hub on 30 acres of Giant's Park. This £9.5 million development will create an innovative business cluster at the southern portion of the site, creating up to 400 jobs and bringing in £105 million of investment for the city.

The hub is aimed at companies working in renewable energy, solar power, recycling and other environmental technologies, who are keen to invest in Belfast and take advantage of our strong skills base, accessible location and growing clean-tech sector.

²⁰ Compiled by Javelin Group

²¹ LPS Rating information 30th September 2015

²² NISRA's Census Small Areas – Population Totals (2001-2014)

Key infrastructural work has been completed including the creation of 1,734 metres of roads needed to improve access and set up key services at the hub.

In February 2016, Belfast City Council's planning committee approved a £14m film studio complex in Giant's Park.

Tourism

Belfast is an important European city. In the 17th century Belfast grew rapidly and successfully as a port. It continued to grow in size and status throughout the 18th century based upon trade, the development of sea-routes and the 'facilitation' of industry. Belfast took raw materials from elsewhere and converted them into products creating high added value.

The 19th century witnessed the development of its linen industry, earning Belfast the reputation of being 'Linenopolis'. This success was based upon innovation and invention in financial models and exchange of ideas as much as it was about the invention of production techniques.

It was soon to become a manufacturing powerhouse; a centre of global significance in linen, shipbuilding and rope making. Harland and Wolff Shipyard soon becomes one of the biggest ship builders in the world constructing over 70 ships including the Titanic. The shipyards cranes, known locally as Samson and Goliath, are of Krupp Ardelet design, have become synonymous to Belfast's story.

A city whose prosperity, pride and international status were reflected in its great architectural statements such as City Hall and Queen's University, as well as its financial, philanthropic, cultural and social institutions. At the turn of the twentieth century Belfast was a small town but had the physical and psychological characteristics of an ambitious, confident, much larger maritime city. This is a characteristic that prevails today and needs to be further nurtured.

Belfast's heritage and maritime assets has become an important tourism asset making a viable contribution to the economy locally and indeed to Northern Ireland. Key assets such as Lagan Valley Regional Park, City Hall, Crumlin Road Gaol and the Ulster Museum (to name just a few) are examples of Belfast's diverse heritage. Belfast is unquestionably a maritime city with recent attractions such as Titanic Belfast fast becoming a 'must see' attraction. Notably, Titanic Belfast was awarded the 'World's Leading Tourism Attraction'²³, in 2016. 2017 will see the opening of a new attraction, HMS Caroline which is undergoing extensive restoration and will add to the visitor experience in Belfast's Titanic Quarter. It will provide tourists with state of the art special effects interactive exhibits to investigate the events leading up to the Battle of Jutland.

The Council's Belfast Integrated Tourism Strategy 2015-20 identifies Culture and Heritage, amongst others, as one of the strengths of tourism in Belfast and suggests opportunities to further explore and expand the offer and delve further on maritime heritage.

According to NISRA, Lagan Valley Regional Park was the top tourist attraction in both Belfast and Northern Ireland attracting 1.285m visitors. Titanic Belfast is Belfast's second most popular attraction (5th in Northern Ireland) drawing in over 600,000 visitors and the Ulster Museum 464,000 visitors (7th in Northern Ireland.)²⁴

Belfast tourism has displayed impressive growth, quadrupling visitor trips and tourism spend between 2000-2013 to become a significant destination generating 43,000 jobs contributing to

²³ <http://titanicbelfast.com/Blog/December-2016/Titanic-Belfast-named-King-of-the-World/>

²⁴ <https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/publications/local-government-district-tourism-statistics-publications>

5.2% of the economy in 2013. Belfast LGD attracts the largest number of overnight trips and the highest proportion of overnight business trips of all the LGDs in Northern Ireland.

Whilst there have been a number of recent hotel developments around St Anne's Square and the Cathedral Quarter, demand for accommodation remains high as the international profile of the City continues to rise. Belfast is estimated to be in need of 1000 hotel rooms between 2015 – 2020. Recent figures show that nine hotel transactions in 2015 have totalled almost £70 million, and there are plans to add around 1,200 new bedrooms to Belfast's hotel portfolio.²⁵

Belfast has become a significant tourist destination attracting 9.5 million visitors and contributing £430 million to the economy in 2013 and supporting 17,319 tourism jobs across the Council area. The unique natural heritage of the Lough, Lagan Valley Regional Park and Belfast Hills are significant environmental assets and its cultural, industrial and maritime resources give it enormous potential to drive the tourism economy and provide employment.

The City is a major gateway through the sea, the airports, road and rail network to the wider region and UK facilitating visitors and tourists.

Major growth markets include business trips furthered by new conference facilities, short break leisure and cruise tourism. Belfast Tourism Strategy aims to strengthen the hospitality and service sectors and develop new tourism attractions to ensure the City has the capacity to compete and highlights the importance of marketing and reputation.

In 2014, 63 cruise ships with 115,650 persons docked in Belfast. Two new air carriers have been introduced this year with connections to Poland and Brussels. The draft Tourism Strategy and Action Plan outlined a target to support 10,000 extra jobs by 2020 and there is an aim to double revenue to £870 million by 2020²⁶

In 2014 the average length of stay was 3 nights and average spend per trip was £212. The greatest majority of visitors were from Great Britain (40%), 30% of Northern Ireland, 11% from Republic of Ireland, 10% of mainland Europe and 9% from Northern America. The main reason for visiting Belfast was for holiday and visiting friends and relatives followed by business trips. Belfast LGD has the highest proportion of overnight business trips, overnight trips and highest proportion of European overnight trips of all the LGD's. In 2014 there were 1,166,224 overnight trips, an increase of 4% from previous year (excluding daytrips) – see figures 8 and 9.

²⁵ NI Update 2015 - Rejuvenating Belfast 4th Quarter 2015 www.lisney.com

²⁶ Belfast Integrated Tourism Strategy 2015 – 2020, Belfast City Council

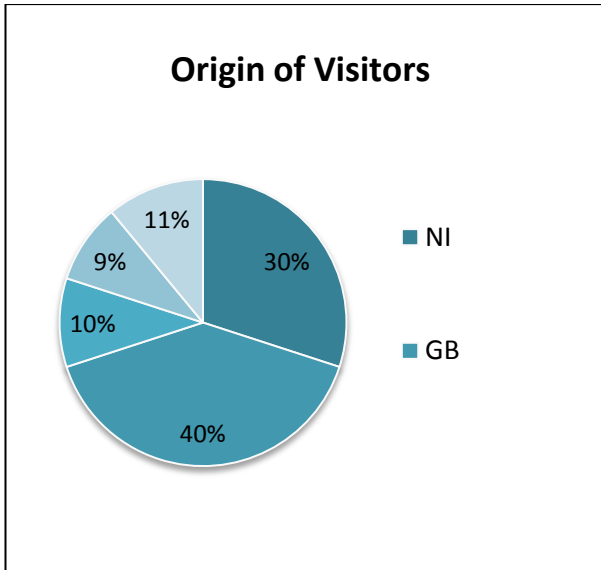
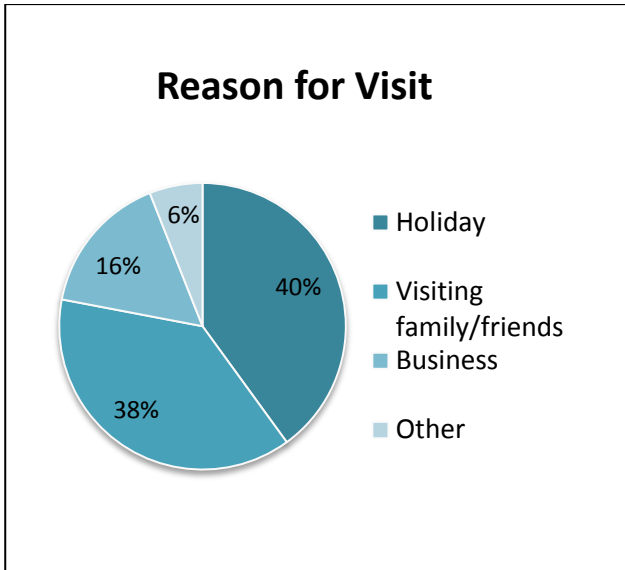


Figure 8: Reason for Visit to Belfast

Figure 9: Origin of Visitors to Belfast

Belfast has 29 hotels with 3,182 rooms available as of July 2015 which represents 41% of total rooms within Northern Ireland in comparison with Causeway Coast and Glens the second highest with 20 hotels within 723 rooms representing 9% of the total within Northern Ireland. Belfast also had 260 rooms within guesthouses/guest accommodation/bed and breakfast representing 9% of the total within NI as of July 2015, and in comparison, to the North East which has 883 rooms or 30% of total rooms. General trends are that stock of these tourist facilities are decreasing. There are also eight hostels within Belfast LGD to include the International Youth Hostel on Donegal Road in the City core and four campuses which also offer tourist accommodation (RHM Commercial/ASM). Belfast LGD recorded the highest hotel room (79%) and bed space (61%) occupancy rates (NISRA Jan-July 2015). Hotels within the £60+ price category enjoyed the greatest increase in bed-space occupancy between January to July 2015. The average room rate was £73.27 in Belfast compared to £99.99 in Edinburgh.

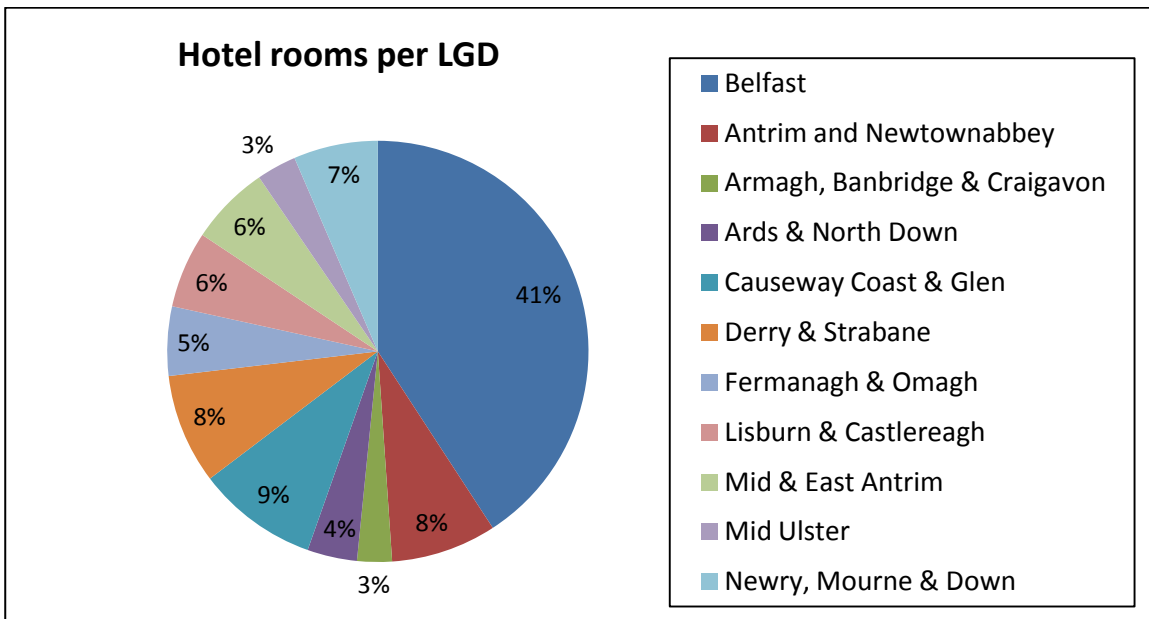


Figure 10: Hotel Rooms per LGD

There has been an influx of hotel developments since BMAP for example around St Anne's Square and the Cathedral Quarter and pending planning applications to the south centre. In Belfast LGD there is one 5* hotel 'The Merchant' and eleven 4 star hotels (Visit Belfast) and a projected need of 1000 – 1500 more hotel rooms between 2015 – 2020 graded as 4 or 5-star quality (Belfast Regeneration and Investment Strategy). Belfast Windsor House, the former Harland and Wolf Headquarters Building and Drawing Offices on Queens Road and a site on Donegal Road have all recently been granted planning permission for hotels and there are pending applications within Linenhall Street, Victoria Street, Franklin Street and Corporation Street. Whilst it is estimated that there are 1,184 rooms in future supply these recent approvals are all indigenous brands unlikely to develop again in foreseeable future and there is call for further international brands (ASM Chartered Accountants Hotel Sector Market Analysis). Higher classified establishments achieve the highest levels of business.

The plan will need to consider how to promote accessibility whilst protecting the City's cultural, man-made and natural assets.

Transport

Transportation systems in Belfast include a comprehensive road network that is served by Northern Ireland's three motorways, M1, M2 (fed by M22) and M3 which run south, north and east of the city respectively. The George Best City Airport is also located within Belfast's boundary along with rail and bus networks. The Port of Belfast is the busiest ferry port on the island of Ireland²⁷. The Westlink, a dual carriageway through pass skirting the western edge of the city connects all three motorways.

The Westlink, M2 and M3 motorways, which are key sections of the Strategic Road Network, are presently connected through a complex arrangement of traffic signals at York Street. This bottleneck presently causes significant congestion and delays for traffic travelling between Westlink and the M2 and M3 motorways at peak times. The junction will come under increased pressure to deal with traffic in the future. In preparation for this, Transport NI has developed proposals to provide a grade-separated junction at York Street that would provide direct links between Westlink and the M2 and M3 motorways and greatly improve access between these roads. The York Street Interchange Public Enquiry took place in November 2015 with the Commissioner publishing the findings in Spring 2016. However, there is a need for careful design to reduce the visual impact of the interchange and enhance connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists. Investment is needed in the design of the interchange proposal with the aim of improving development and regeneration potential and non- motorised movement could have significant future benefits.

There will be five surplus land parcels resulting from the proposed scheme post construction which can be used for development. The regeneration and development potential of these sites should be addressed through the LDP process. The project is dependent on funding and has been subject to competing infrastructural demands in the region.

Belfast is a city that has historically been dependent on the private car and the streetscape has evolved to cater to these demands, resulting in road infrastructure that is over sized, over complicated and a barrier to non-motorised accessibility. However, in the recent regional and local policy and initiatives there has been a move towards a more balanced approach to pedestrians, public transport and the private car. The recent 'Belfast On the Move' initiative sought to reorganise traffic management within Belfast City Centre to facilitate the reduction in general traffic levels and encourage walking, cycling and public transport.

²⁷ Port of Belfast

According to a DRD/NISRA (now DfI) Travel Survey for Northern Ireland (TSNI) carried out in NI between 2012-2014, car travel made up just over four fifths (82%) of the total distance travelled, public transport (Ulsterbus, Metro, Other Bus, Northern Ireland Railways and Black Taxi) accounted for 9% of total distance travelled, walking 3% and only 1% of journeys per adult per year were by bicycle. In this period, 60% of households in Belfast had access to at least 1 car, with 20% having access to 2 or more cars.

In response to the Regional Transport Strategy 2012, the public transport network was transformed into Belfast Metro which operates 12 quality bus corridors and a number of additional routes. It also operates 5 bus stations, all situated in Belfast. On some routes the buses extend beyond Belfast into neighbouring towns, notably Newtownabbey and Dundonald as well as outlying areas such as Poleglass, Twinbrook and Lagmore.

There are 4 railway stations located in Belfast City Centre, Central Station, Great Victoria Street, City Hospital and Botanic. Central Station is the main terminus of the cross-border Enterprise service to Dublin's Connolly Station which runs every two hours. Central Station also operates with other routes in Northern Ireland including Derry, Bangor, Portadown and Larne.

DRD (now DfI) were also previously responsible for 367 public car parks, however off street parking, has from the 1st April 2015, become a Local Government responsibility. It is important to acknowledge that while Belfast City Council is now responsible for off street parking it has no authority over the road network within the Council area. The new Local Development Plan may indicate a desire to see improvements to the existing transport network within Belfast but the Council will be limited in what it can achieve as it is DfI who have the authority and control the mechanisms for implementing such changes.

As Belfast continues to grow and modernise, continued developments and major enhancements to our transport infrastructure are still required. The need to integrate transportation and land use to maximise development around quality sustainable transport networks is an essential element of the local development plan.

The responsibility for transport policies and initiatives lies with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) and during the plan process the Council will be required to work closely with the DfI to incorporate transport policy and initiatives into the plan. The LDP will need to be consistent with the objectives of the Regional Development Strategy and relevant Transport Plans²⁸. Regional guidance outlines the need to deliver a balanced approach to transport infrastructure, support the growth of the economy, enhance quality of life for all, and reduce the environmental impact of transport.

Key headline findings from the Travel Survey for Northern Ireland are as follows:

- 30% of the total employment in Northern Ireland is based in Belfast and it is the main destination for commuters.
- Car travel made up over four fifths (82%) of the total distance travelled²⁹.
- Public transport (Ulsterbus, Metro, Other Bus, Northern Ireland Railways and Black Taxi) accounted for 9% of total distance travelled¹⁰.
- Walking accounted for 3% and bicycle journeys 1% of total distance travelled¹⁰.
- 40% of households in Belfast do not have access to a private vehicle.
- There are four Air Quality Management Areas in Belfast, in places where the air has been affected by pollution, principally nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) from road transport.

²⁸ Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan, Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan 2015, Regional Transportation Strategy

²⁹ DRD/NISRA Travel Survey for Northern Ireland (TSNI) 2012-2014

Digital Infrastructure

Northern Ireland's communications infrastructure is renowned as state-of-the-art. It enjoys international connectivity at a very competitive cost. The region also has a strong record of staying at the forefront of communications technology. It became the first region in Europe to achieve 100 per cent broadband coverage and one of the first to operate and experience high speed, next generation services with a new 40-gigabyte per second transatlantic and terrestrial telecommunications link between Northern Ireland, North America and Europe. This is providing secure, reliable service and delivering prices up to 20 per cent below market rates in London, Dublin, Manchester and Glasgow³⁰.

The region provides a fully digital, fully fibre optic communications network. Northern Ireland benefits from its own Internet backbone exchange, and telecoms costs are among the lowest in Europe. Investors have access to a truly leading-edge telecoms infrastructure and a burgeoning telecoms sector. The region's compact size also makes it an ideal test-bed for new communications technology¹³

Northern Ireland's telecoms industry is a highly deregulated and competitive market with over 70 operators. Deregulation means better service and lower costs¹³. It is widely accepted that access to high quality digital communications and technology platforms can significantly enhance economies, encourage investment, develop services and improve overall quality of life for people in the coming years.

Direct fibre connectivity

Direct fibre connectivity in Belfast can be provided by six primary fixed infrastructure providers as show in table 9. An introduction to each of these providers is presented below

Provider	Description
BT	UK's fixed incumbent operator with extensive network throughout NI and submarine connectivity to England and diverse connectivity to Scotland. Serves both residential and non-residential customers.
eir Business NI	The incumbent operator in the Republic of Ireland with limited network in Northern Ireland. Serves only non-residential customers.
Hibernia	Directly connects Northern Ireland and the island of Ireland to North America and Europe with low latency connectivity on this traditionally congested route. Serves both only non-residential customers.
Tibus	A local operator based in Belfast with limited fibre network of its own. Serves only non-residential customers.
Virgin Media	Virgin is the UK's main cable operator, which through a succession of mergers and acquisitions has gained 99.6% of the UK cable sector at 3Q 2013. In February 2013, it was acquired by the pan-European cable operator Liberty Global. As well as a 20% market share of fixed broadband, Virgin has a substantial pay-TV business (with 3.75 million customers as of 3Q 2013) and is the UK's largest MVNO, with 3.03 million subscribers (3Q 2013), using EE's network infrastructure. Serves both residential and non-residential customers.
Vodafone	It has a very limited fixed-line business, but in 2009 launched Vodafone One Net – a converged fixed-mobile service targeted towards small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Serves both residential and non-residential customers.

Table 9: Fixed service providers in Belfast [Source: Analysis Mason, 2014]

³⁰ <http://www.investni.com/invest-in-northern-ireland/why-northern-ireland/advanced-infrastructure.html>

Currently there are 8 Ethernet nodes in Belfast that means there is nowhere in Belfast that cannot connect with a dedicated Ethernet service up to speeds of 10Gbps.

The Digital Agenda for Europe (DAE) aims to help Europe's citizens and businesses to get the most out of digital technologies. The DAE targets broadband speeds of 30Mbps or above (aka Superfast or Next Generation Access) for all European Union citizens, with half of households subscribing to connections of 100Mbps or higher (Ultrafast) by 2020.

The UK Government has stated its commitment "to continue to invest in broadband that will result in extending superfast broadband to 95% of premises by 2017 and to explore with the industry how to expand coverage further using more innovative fixed, wireless and mobile broadband solutions to reach at least 99% of premises across the UK by 2018".

It also recognises the need to plan ahead to make sure that our digital communications infrastructure meets the needs of users in the UK and maintains a competitive edge to retain and attract business.

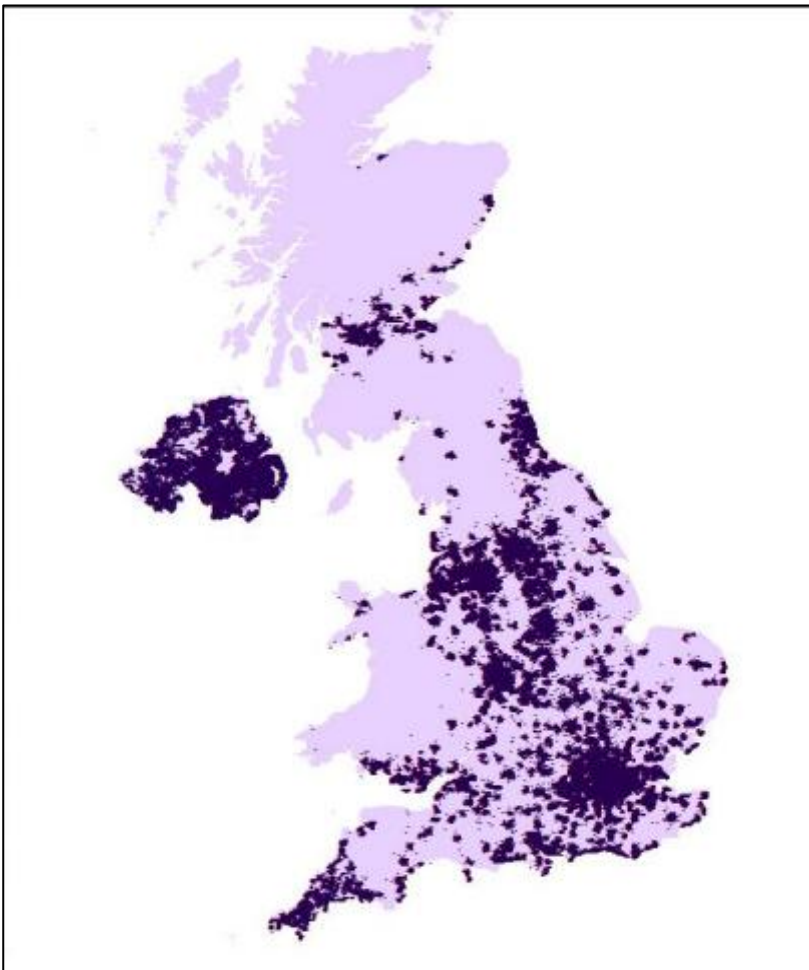


Figure 11: Postcodes where Next Generation Access Networks are Available
NGA Availability [Source: Ofcom]

Figure 11 shows the postcodes where Next Generation Access (30Mbps) networks are available. Throughout most of the UK, superfast broadband roll out is largely concentrated in urban areas, where it is cheaper to deploy new infrastructure because of population density, the impact of public sector interventions to extend NGA availability in Northern Ireland is clearly visible.

The UK Government is making further funding available to extend superfast broadband across the UK. Under the Superfast Rollout programme, Northern Ireland has an indicative allocation of £7.24m and DETI is seeking to match this amount resulting in a potential total of £14.48m. This may be further supplemented with a supplier contribution. If a further intervention presents value for money, this will provide further or improved broadband coverage across Northern Ireland.

The Northern Ireland Executive's Economic Strategy recognises that, to underpin economic growth, Northern Ireland needs a modern and sustainable economic infrastructure. It also recognises the need to build on NI's existing strengths, including our status as one of the first UK regions to deliver extensive next generation broadband services.

A key aim of the Executive's Regional Development Strategy is to implement a balanced approach to telecommunications infrastructure that will provide a competitive advantage.

The continued development of Northern Ireland's telecoms infrastructure is also relevant to other Programme for Government targets which aim to improve the quality and cost effectiveness of public services in terms of access and the range of contact channels available, including better quality and consistent online services. The Economic Pact between the Northern Ireland Executive and the UK Government acknowledges the need to build on Northern Ireland's strong communications infrastructure in boosting the Northern Ireland economy.

DETI has developed and delivered a number of important infrastructure projects, drawing on funding from the EU, UK Government and Northern Ireland Executive sources. Projects include, Project Kelvin³¹, £52m fibre roll out (business access of up to 40 megabits per second, £19.3m NI Broadband Improvement Project and £14.48m Superfast Rollout Programme. By the end of 2015, some £64m of public investment will have been made in broadband.

Broadband

The telecommunication industry is continuing to spend in Northern Ireland but, given the economics of network deployment, private sector led investment generally tends to be focused in lower cost urban and suburban areas. This means the extent of the services available, and the number of service providers offering these services, tends to be greatest in areas of higher population density.

There is some limited private sector led investment outside these areas, particularly by service providers using fixed wireless technology. However, in light of the critical role that broadband deployment and adoption can serve in the process of enabling economic growth across the region, DETI has intervened to balance private sector investment trends with the Next Generation Broadband Project and the more recent Northern Ireland Broadband Improvement Project, which have both served to provide improved broadband technologies and infrastructure into more rural areas. Eight in ten households in Northern Ireland (80%) have taken up an internet connection in the first quarter of 2014, coming close to the UK average of 82%. In terms of the take-up of superfast broadband services (defined by Ofcom as 30Mbps+), Northern Ireland exceeds the UK average, with penetration of 22% of premises.

Mobile

Significant investment by mobile phone companies is delivering better 3G coverage for consumers in Northern Ireland. EE and Three have improved their shared network, which has seen 3G population coverage reach 95%. O2 and Vodafone are committed to making improvements to their

³¹ Project Kelvin which connects Northern Ireland to North America, Great Britain and mainland Europe via submarine cable. Co-financed under the EU INTERREG IVA Programme for Ireland, Northern Ireland and Western Scotland 2007-2013, and in partnership with the Department of Communication, Energy and Natural Resources in the Republic of Ireland, and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI)

shared network to deliver similar levels of coverage. As part of the 4G spectrum auction in early 2013, O2 Telefonica is obliged to provide indoor mobile broadband reception to at least 98% of the UK population by end 2017. O2 has committed to achieving this in Northern Ireland by 2015. A 4G network which meets this requirement is likely to cover more than 99% of the UK population when outdoors. In addition to the UK-wide coverage obligation, the Regulator requires the same operator to provide indoor service to at least 95% of the population of each of the UK nations. Outdoor coverage for the network meeting this obligation is likely to be around 97% of the population of each nation, and Northern Ireland will have similar levels of other parts of the UK.

Super-connected Belfast Programme

In May of 2013 Belfast was named one of the 10 cities included in the Department of Culture, Media and Sport's Super-Connected Cities Programme. This was designed to allow the nominated cities to further develop their digital infrastructure to support the creation of highly developed leading edge centres. Through this scheme, Belfast City Council has issued connection vouchers to 1323 organisations across the city, providing them with super-fast access. The Council has also provided a complimentary economic development programme assisting recipients to maximise the return from their enhanced connectivity.

A second strand of the programme has provided free to the public access to Wi-Fi in 107 public buildings across the city. The aim is to enliven these spaces, to support a connected community and to build upon digital access to both commerce and government. A further stage of this strand is currently under way to extend this free Wi-Fi out into the city centre streets.

ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

Landscape is everywhere and all landscapes matter to someone. Landscape will continue to evolve. Whilst change is constant, the management of changes is essential to achieving sustainable place making, which will be the key role of the Local Development Plan (LDP).

Many areas in Belfast are important for their natural heritage interest. Several of these areas merit statutory designation and are protected under international (including European), national or local legislation and convention. In developing policy to protect our habitats and wildlife, it is a requirement that our statutory obligations are met. Certain species and habitats also benefit from legal protection. Whilst this evidence is applicable throughout the plan area, the key areas are:

International

Natura 2000 includes sites of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Ramsar Sites. These sites can be influenced by implementation of land use zonings and policy. Each identified site is managed through a set of conservation objectives which should be taken into account when developing the LDP.

Special Protection Areas

SPAs are sites established under the European Commission Directive of Wild Birds (2009/147/EC), commonly known as the 'Birds Directive'. SPAs are important areas for breeding, over-wintering and migrating birds. Currently Belfast has 2 SPA's, Belfast Lough SPA and Belfast Lough Open Water SPA.

Belfast Lough is a large intertidal sea Lough situated at the mouth of the River Lagan. The inner part of the Lough comprises a series of mudflats and lagoons; the outer Lough is restricted to mainly rocky shores and small sandy bays on the southern shore with more extensive mixed sediment intertidal areas on the northern side.

Belfast Lough SPA is 428.64 ha in area and qualifies under Article 4.1 of the 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds Directive by supporting Bar-tailed Godwit and migratory species of Redshank and Turnstone over winter. The area also qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl. Over winter, the area regularly supports individual waterfowl including Goldeneye, Redshank, Turnstone, Great Crested Grebe, Cormorant, Shelduck, Mallard, Bar-tailed Godwit, Black-tailed Godwit, Eider, Curlew, Red-breasted Merganser, Oystercatcher, Ringed Plover, Lapwing, Knot, Dunlin, Black-tailed Godwit, Scaup.

The Special Protection Area boundary is entirely coincident with that of the Belfast Lough Ramsar Site.

Belfast Lough SPA also qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) by regularly supporting internationally important populations of Redshank and Black-tailed Godwit. Additionally, the site qualifies under the Birds Directive 2009/147/EC under Article 4.1 by supporting Common Tern, Arctic Tern and Bar-Tailed Godwit.

Numbers of wintering Redshank have been declining since the SPA designation. This is concurrent with UK and indeed International trends. As a result, the status of Belfast Lough is considered 'unfavourable'.

The **Belfast Lough Open Water SPA** covers 5,591.73 ha in area and comprises of the marine area below the mean low water mark. Seawards it extends to a notional boundary between the eastern limits on the north and south shores of the Outer Belfast Lough Area of Special Scientific

Interest (ASSI) at Kilroot and Horse Rock respectively.³² The boundary towards the head of the Lough is a notional line between Greencastle on northern shore and Holywood Bank on the southern shore. The site qualifies under Article 4.2 of the 79/409/EEC Directive by supporting Great Crested Grebe, an internationally important species.

The current status of the SPA features of the Belfast Lough Open Water is of 'favourable' status. However, the population of Great Crested Grebe is being closely monitored following a recorded decline in 2010/11 which was potentially due to weather conditions. Although populations have been steadily recovering, the feature is being closely monitored.

In January 2016, NIEA proposed an agglomeration of a number of existing designated sites into one SPA - the East Coast (Northern Ireland) Marine SPA. The proposed SPA includes coastal and near shore waters from Ringford near Carnlough in the north, the marine area of Larne Lough, the marine area of Belfast Lough, waters around the Copeland Islands and off shore of the Ards Peninsula to Cloghan Head, near Ardglass in the south. The site would also subsume the existing Belfast Lough SPA and Belfast Lough Open Water SPA. The site covers a diverse range of seabed habitats, from extensive coastal fringing reefs of various lithologies to the fine silt of inner Belfast Lough. The purpose of adjoining the above SPA's is to support internationally important populations of Great Crested Grebe, Red-throated Diver, Sandwich Tern, Common Tern, Artic Tern, Manx Shearwater, and Eider Duck.

Special Areas of Conservation

SACs are sites that have been given protection under the European Legislation of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). The designated sites are for other species other than birds such as special habitats, species, grasslands and wetlands of biodiversity importance on an international scale.

There are no SACs located directly within Belfast. There is one proposed SAC for Harbour Porpoise where the boundary runs across Belfast Lough and therefore not in the plan area.

Ramsar Sites

Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention 1971. Wetlands are productive ecosystems and provide us with fresh water but have been subject to human interventions and converted to other uses. The convention includes "all lakes and rivers, underground aquifers, swamps and marshes, wet grasslands, peatlands, oases, estuaries, deltas and tidal flats, mangroves and other coastal areas, coral reefs, and all human-made sites such as fish ponds, rice paddies, reservoirs and salt pans."³³ Wetlands as ecosystems are extremely important for biodiversity conservation which is recognised for the wellbeing of society. The management of our wetlands is important and are sensitive to trans-boundary water and air pollutants.

UK Government applies the procedures for Ramsar sites under the Habitats Regulations. There are 21 Ramsar sites designated in Northern Ireland of which 1 site is located in Belfast, Belfast Lough. The Ramsar site at Belfast Lough covers 433ha and qualifies under Criterion 3 of the Ramsar Convention which supports populations of Common Redshank in Winter. The site also supports nationally important species such as Shelduck, and Oystercatcher.

The DAERA through NIEA is responsible for implementing and complying with the requirements of the Habitats Directive through the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended) which transposes the Habitats Directive³⁴.

³² <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/special-protection-area-belfast-lough-open-water>

³³ <http://www.ramsar.org/about/the-ramsar-convention-and-its-mission>

³⁴ The Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations (NI) 1995 can be viewed here: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/1995/380/made>

Under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) and the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 (as amended) carry special conservation measures for many priority species. Alongside this, some priority species are also protected under the Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended) and the Wildlife Order 1985 (as amended). The Habitats Directive also required continuous monitoring of the population of certain species with the aim of achieving Favourable Conservation Status (FCS).

The LDP will have regard to the regulations and the conservation objectives governing these sites to ensure no direct or indirect adverse impacts will be caused as a result of planned development. Development proposals will be subject to a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) Screening Report to ensure due consideration is given to the aforementioned sites. If the report highlights the potential for significant effects cannot be avoided at an early stage, an Appropriate Assessment will be undertaken to consider the potential impact on the structure and function as well as the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 sites. An assessment of potential mitigation measures will be presented to reduce potential adverse impacts alongside an additional assessment of Alternative Solutions will be undertaken.

The Shared Environmental Services (SES) team that has been set up in Mid and East Antrim Council provides support to Council on a range of specialist functions including the HRA on planning applications and during the preparation of the LDP to assess and advise on the impacts of European Sites. This function will support the Council to ensure the legal requirements of these habitats/sites are fully met in accordance to the Habitats Directive and other Environmental Legislation and to reduce the risk of challenge to planning decisions, development plans and policies. SES has provided a long list of sites that are within or adjacent to Belfast and those which have a connection ecologically, or are within a scope of 15km – see table 10.

European Site Name	Connection with plan area				Key Issues
	Within or Adjacent	Ecological	Within 15km	By Infra-structure	
Belfast Lough SPA	•	•	•	•	Activities during construction or use of development causing disturbance to birds. Impacts causing a significant deterioration of water quality.
Belfast Lough Ramsar	•	•	•	•	Activities during construction or use of development causing disturbance to birds. Impacts causing a significant deterioration of water quality.
Belfast Lough Open Water SPA	•	•	•	•	Activities during construction or use of development causing disturbance to birds. Impacts causing a significant deterioration of water quality.

European Site Name	Connection with plan area				Key Issues
	Within or Adjacent	Ecological	Within 15km	By Infra-structure	
East Coast (Northern Ireland) Marine pSPA	•	•	•	•	Activities during construction or use of development causing disturbance to birds. Impacts causing a significant deterioration of water quality.
North Channel pSAC	•	•	•	•	Activities during construction causing disturbance to harbour porpoise. Impacts causing a significant deterioration of water quality.
Outer Ards SPA		•	•	•	Activities during construction or use of development causing disturbance to birds. Impacts causing a significant deterioration of water quality.
Outer Ards Ramsar		•	•	•	Activities during construction or use of development causing disturbance to birds. Impacts causing a significant deterioration of water quality.
Lough Neagh and Lough Beg SPA		•	•	•	Any major development in small part of plan area that drains to Lough Neagh. Major increase in demand for water.
Lough Neagh and Lough Beg Ramsar		•	•	•	Any major development in small part of plan area that drains to Lough Neagh. Major increase in demand for water.
Strangford Lough SPA		•	•		Activities during construction or use of development causing disturbance to birds. Impacts causing a significant deterioration of water quality. Any major development in small part of plan area that drains to Strangford Lough.
Strangford Lough SAC		•	•		Any major development in small part of plan area that drains to Strangford Lough.

European Site Name	Connection with plan area			Key Issues	
	Within or Adjacent	Ecological	Within 15km		By Infra-structure
Strangford Lough Ramsar		•	•		Activities during construction or use of development causing disturbance to birds. Impacts causing a significant deterioration of water quality. Any major development in small part of plan area that drains to Strangford Lough.
Larne Lough SPA		•	•	•	Activities during construction or use of development causing disturbance to birds. Impacts causing a significant deterioration of water quality.
Copeland Islands SPA		•	•	•	Activities during construction or use of development causing disturbance to birds. Impacts causing a significant deterioration of water quality.
The Maidens SCI (SAC)		•	•		Activities during construction or use of development causing disturbance to seals.
Murlough SAC		•	•		Activities during construction or use of development causing disturbance to seals.
Skerries and Causeway SCI (SAC)		•	•		Activities during construction or use of development causing disturbance to harbour porpoise.
Aughnadarragh Lough SAC			•		Major increases in aerial emissions of pollutants.
Eastern Mourne SAC				•	Major increase in demand for water.
Antrim Hills SPA				•	Major increase in demand for water.
Rea's Wood and Farr's Bay SAC				•	Major increase in demand for water.

Table 10: European Sites for Consideration in Habitats Regulation Assessment for Belfast LDP

Source: SES Belfast Baseline HRA.

National

Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) are protected sites which are of special interest by reason of their flora, fauna, geological and/or physiological features designated under the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 (as amended). Sites are protected to conserve biodiversity and geodiversity. There are four ASSI's in Belfast:

- **Inner Belfast Lough** also contains a number of Earth Science Conservation Review (ESCR) sites exhibiting a range of Ordovician, Carboniferous and Permian features of national geological interest.
- **Craigantlet Woods** represents a large block of semi-natural woodland. Due to the inaccessibility of the woods, it has been relatively undisturbed maintaining a high degree of naturalness. The site was recorded as having 'unfavourable' status in 2009 due to the spread of non-native invasive species, principally Sycamore.
- **Belvoir** ASSI within the former Belvoir Estate with the exception of Moreland's Meadow. It is designated for its parkland and wood pasture habitat and associated species³⁵.
- **Bellevue**³⁶ is important because of its geology. It is one of a series of sites that describes the Clay-with-Flints (CwF), a unique deposit whose exposure is mostly confined to the Antrim Plateau.

Areas of Scientific Interest (ASI) were declared under the Amenity and Lands Act (Northern Ireland) 1985 where consideration must be given to maintaining the feature of scientific interest but development may proceed subject to appropriate restrictions. ASI's in many respects are treated similarly to ASSIs but there is less control over land use. Many ASIs have been pre-designated to ASSI, SPA or SAC to preserve the feature of scientific interest.

At present, Hazelwood ASI is the only such designation with the administrative boundary of Belfast which contains a diverse ground flora carpet of woodland herbs and provides a suitable home to multi stemmed hazel.

Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ)

A Marine Protected Area (MPA) is defined as 'any area of intertidal or subtidal terrain, together with its overlying water and associated flora, fauna, historical and cultural features which has been reserved by law or other effective means to protect part or all of the enclosed environment.'³⁷ In Northern Ireland there are five types of MPA's designations, SAC, SPA, ASSI, Ramsar Sites, Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ) and OSPAR MPAs.

The Marine (Northern Ireland) Act 2013 allows for the creation of MCZ's to protect and conserve important species of marine wildlife, habitats, geology and geomorphology. Currently DAERA is consulting on proposals for MCZ's in the Northern Ireland inshore region (out to 12 nautical miles) which includes a proposal for a MCZ at Outer Belfast Lough.

According to the OSPAR³⁸ Commission, OSPAR Marine Protection Areas are "areas for which protective, conservation, restorative or precautionary measures have been instituted for the purpose of protecting and conserving species, habitats, ecosystems or ecological processes of the marine environment". The intention of OSPAR is to address the pollution affecting the North East Atlantic area. A key part of the OSPAR biodiversity strategy is the develop a network of MPA's to ensure the biodiversity, environmental and ecological quality of the maritime ecosystems are

³⁵ Belvoir has been recently declared and assessments are being reviewed. Refer to <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/belvoir-assi> for more detail

³⁶ Bellevue has been recently declared an assessments are being reviewed. Refer <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/bellevue-assi> for more detail

³⁷ <https://www.doeni.gov.uk/articles/marine-protected-areas>

³⁸ The OSPAR convention was agreed in Paris and came into effect in 1998. The OSPAR convention replaced both the Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft (the Oslo Convention) (adopted in 1972) and the Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land-Based Sources (the Paris Convention) (adopted in 1974)

conserved, protected and managed sustainably. OSPAR is guided by the ecosystems approach which is an interaction of the impacts of human activity and the physical environment of plants, animals and microbes. In Belfast two areas have been identified in the OSPAR biodiversity strategy; Belfast Lough Open Water SPA and Belfast Lough SPA.

National Nature Reserves (NNR) protects some of the most important habitats, species and geology and their designation is recognition by Government of their importance. There are no Nature Reserves or National Nature Reserves in Belfast City Council area.

Earth Science Interests and Assets include geology and geomorphology and are defined by the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan as *“the rocks and landforms of Northern Ireland from the surface on which life has developed, they have a major influence in determining the biodiversity of regions and, more directly, the physical character of the landscape”*⁸⁹.

BMAP identify the following areas which are of Earth Science Interest and assets: Bellevue; Carr’s Glen; Crow Glen; Ballygomartin Sill; Collin Glen; and, Ballymiscaw.

LOCAL

Northern Ireland Priority Species (NIPS)

The Wildlife and Natural Environment (NI) Act 2011 also known as the WANE Act introduced a duty on public authorities to exercise its functions to conserve biodiversity. The DAERA maintain a list of priority species which require conservation action. Northern Ireland priority species are those which require conservation management and require conservation action due to their decline, rarity and/or importance to the environment. In 2015, NIEA have reviewed the priority species list which currently stands at 481 species, an increase of 271 from the previous count in 2002 which contributed to the then, NI Biodiversity Strategy. Out of the 481 NIPS, 93 are considered as ‘marine’. These include species of algae, bees, beetles, birds, fish, butterflies, fungi and mammals. In the Belfast City Council area, there are 197 recorded NIPS, of which 8 are considered marine.

Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP)

The Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP) outlined a number of local designations which play an important part to the contribution of local wildlife. Whilst these sites may not hold the same statutory protection as the international or national sites, they hold weight in the planning process as sites of importance that require due consideration. These sites are listed in the table 11 below.

Type of local site of importance	Location
Areas of High Scenic Value (AoHSV) are designated to protect the setting of the Metropolitan Urban Area and other areas of particular landscape merit.	There are portions of three AoHSV in Belfast: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast Basalt Escarpment (191.73 of 3012.79ha [6%]); • Castlereagh Slopes (2.48 of 1257.64ha [0.2%]); and, • Castlereagh Escarpment (275.30 of 904.73ha [30.4%]).
Local Nature Reserves and Wildlife Refuges.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballyaghagan comprises of species rich hay meadows and an area of upland blanket bog. Some of the fields have rock outcrops with local calcareous species present, acid flushes and more neutral taller grassland

³⁹ Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP) 2015 Countryside Assessment Vol 1

Type of local site of importance	Location
	<p>swards. Plants found within the acid areas include Common Butterwort and Bogbean.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hazelwood - Hazel woodland and scrub with good examples of multi stemmed hazel. The woodland contains a diverse ground flora carpet of woodland herbs. • Bog Meadows. The 19 ha (47 acre) Bog Meadows Nature Reserve, managed by the Ulster Wildlife Trust and Friends of Bog Meadows, consists of a variety of habitats including areas of open water, swamp, marshland and wet grassland. • Lagan Meadows is 49 hectares in size and historically was the source of Belfast's first piped water supply over 200 years ago, the spring at Lester's Dam, which provided the water, still runs and gives rise to the wetlands and marsh for which Lagan Meadows is best known. But this attractive 49-hectare site also contains grazed pasture, meadow and woodland. Separated from the main park by the former Lagan canal is Moreland's Meadow, where mature veteran oaks and cedars dominate the grazed pasture. The following species can be located: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetland birds, including snipe, woodcock, grasshopper warbler, sedge warbler and reed bunting. • Woodland birds, including song thrush, dunnock, wren and treecreeper. • Amphibians, frogs spawning in early spring. Insects including banded demoiselle, blue-tailed and azure damselfly, orange-tip, ringlet and cryptic wood white butterfly. • Trees including oak, ash, willow, alder and hawthorn. • Wildflowers, including common spotted orchid, lady's smock, yellow flag, ragged robin and devil's bit scabious.
<p>Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCI's) are identified by their local nature importance on the basis of their flora, fauna or scientific interest.</p>	<p>There are 60 SLNCIs, 7 of which are identified as being of geodiversity importance.</p>
<p>Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs) are designated to help protect those areas within and/or adjoining settlements which are</p>	<p>There are 86 LLPAs designated in the Belfast Council area.</p>

Type of local site of importance	Location
considered to be of greatest amenity value, landscape quality or local significance and are therefore worthy of protection from undesirable or damaging development.	
Belfast Hills Access Points.	There are 16 access points to the Belfast Hills.
Belfast Metropolitan Area Coastal Area.	Contains many environmentally sensitive areas, and also listed buildings and scheduled monuments with industrial heritage value.
Rural / Urban Landscape Wedges.	<p>There are four 'Rural Landscape Wedges' within the Belfast City Council area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hannahstown; • Glencregagh, Castlereagh Countryside (43.88 of 62.80ha [69.9%]) • Mosside (rural), Lisburn Countryside (15.57 of 162.54ha [9.6%]); and, • Holywood, North Down Countryside (9.98 of 82.61ha [12.1%]). <p>There are five designated Urban Landscape Wedges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bellevue/Fortwilliam - between North Belfast and the Glengormley area in Newtownabbey; • Milltown - between Whiterock, St. James area and Lower Andersonstown, West Belfast; • Colin Glen - between Suffolk, West Belfast and Dunmurry/Colin area, Lisburn; • Lagmore Glen - between Belfast and Metropolitan Lisburn; and, • Dundonald (Castlereagh) between Dundonald and the boundary of Knock, East Belfast. A portion of this Urban Landscape Wedge at Knock Golf Course and Dundonald Cemetery lies within Belfast City Council area (0.61 of 28.85ha [2.1%]).

Table 11: Natural Heritage Designations

Trees and Woodland

Urban trees are an essential multifaceted resource, providing a vast array of benefits for people, local communities and the cityscape. Trees have a high amenity value and make a positive contribution to the social, cultural and physical environment. Trees can help to define an area and create a sense of place such as Cyprus Avenue and contribute to the 15 conservation areas in Belfast. Trees harbour wildlife habitats and contribute to the health and wellbeing of people.

Trees absorb gases associated with air pollution such as carbon dioxide (CO₂) and sulphur dioxide (SO₂) which is known to cause respiratory problems. Trees also provide a natural flood defence, can help to conserve ground water and create a noise buffer.

Accepting the maxim, that green leafy surroundings encourages wellbeing, there is a growing evidence to show that people find well-appointed green environments more relaxing thus reducing stress levels, improving mental wellbeing and contributing to a better quality of life. The Department of Social Development (now Department of Communities) over recent years have carried out a tree planting scheme across several of the more deprived arterial routes in the city including Falls Road, Springfield Road and Crumlin Road.

There are three ways in which the Planning system can safeguard the conservation of trees:

1. Tree Preservation Orders: The Council has a duty to protect trees under Section 122 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) are designated to trees (either singularly or in a group) which are of high amenity or historic value or, for its rarity. There are over 160 TPOs in Belfast.
2. Trees in Conservation Areas: Trees make an important contribution to the appearance and character of a conservation area. Trees situated in conservation areas are treated with the same status of singular trees subject to a TPO.
3. Trees protected by a retention condition are a stipulation applied to planning permission. The purpose of a retention condition for trees is to ensure trees are protected and not damaged during construction; and/or trees that offer a high amenity impact are retained to embed the new construction into the natural environment

Air Quality

The Regional Development Strategy 2035 (RDS) recognises the dangers from air particulate pollution stating that it is estimated that it reduces life expectancy in the UK by 7-8 months. There is a need to reduce air pollution from transport by the use of more energy efficient transport as well as the need to continue to protect Air Quality Management Areas.

The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) details that the Local Development Plan (LDP) must consider the location of development which may give rise to air pollution. The LDP must also, ensure that other developments are, as far as practicable, not adversely affected by major existing or potential future sources of air pollution.

At a local level, Belfast City Council has an obligation to regularly review, assess and report on air quality under the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) regime. In Northern Ireland, this is established via Part III of the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 and the relevant Policy and Technical Guidance documents (LAQM.PGNI(09)). Under the LAQM process, where a local authority determines that exceedance of an air quality objective is likely, they must declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and prepare an Air Quality Action Plan with measures to pursue the relevant objective. At a national level, the UK Government is required to achieve European Union (EU) air quality limit values in accordance with the schedules prescribed in the Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) and daughter directive.

The initial air quality assessment was carried out and completed by Belfast City Council in 2003. The assessment concluded that measures would be required in four specific areas of the city in order to mitigate the effects of NO₂ (nitrogen dioxide) and PM₁₀ (particulate matter) pollution.

In August 2004, the council identified and declared four Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) within Belfast where the health based air quality objectives are being exceeded. They are as follows:

1. The M1/ Westlink corridor from the Belfast City boundary at Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park to the end of the Westlink at the junction with Great Georges Street and York Street including Stockmans Lane and Kennedy Way. This area was declared for predicted exceedances of both the nitrogen dioxide and particulate material annual mean air quality

strategy objectives, as well as exceedances of the particulate matter 24-hour mean objective and the nitrogen dioxide 1- hour mean objective.

2. Cromac Street to the junction with East Bridge Street and then from East Bridge Street to the junction of Ravenhill and Albertbridge Roads and Short Strand. This area was declared for predicted exceedances of the nitrogen dioxide annual mean air quality strategy objective.
3. The Upper Newtownards Road from the North Road junction to the Belfast City boundary at the Ulster Hospital incorporating the Knock Road to the City boundary at Laburnum Playing Fields and Hawthornden Way. This area was declared for predicted exceedances of the nitrogen dioxide annual mean air quality strategy objective.
4. The Ormeau Road from the junction with Donegall Pass to the Belfast City boundary at Galwally. This area was declared for predicted exceedances of the nitrogen dioxide annual mean air quality strategy objective.

The four areas are shown in figures 12-15 below which shows the AQMA within the blue line.

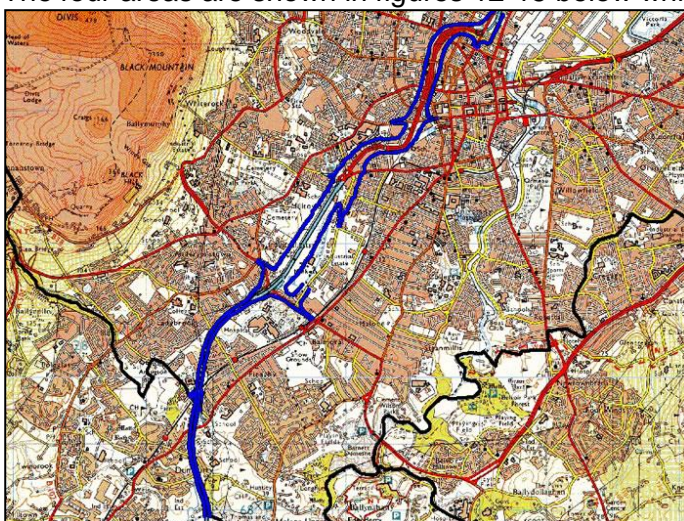


Figure 12: M1- Westlink AQMA³⁰



Figure 13: Cromac St and Albertbridge St AQMA³⁰

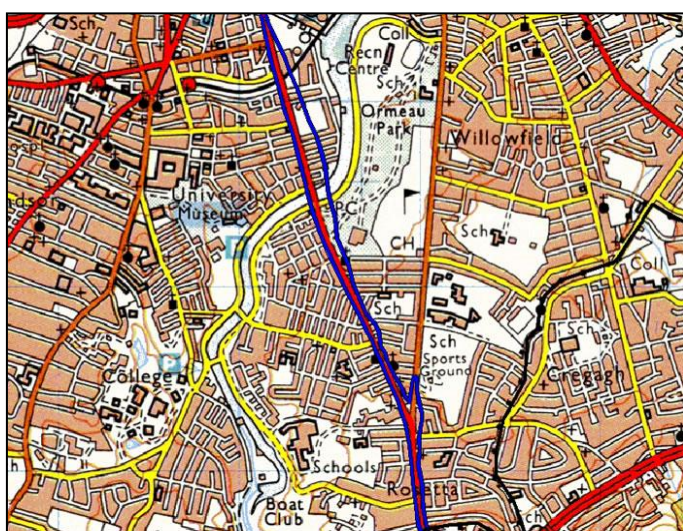


Figure 14: Upper Newtownards Road AQMA³⁰

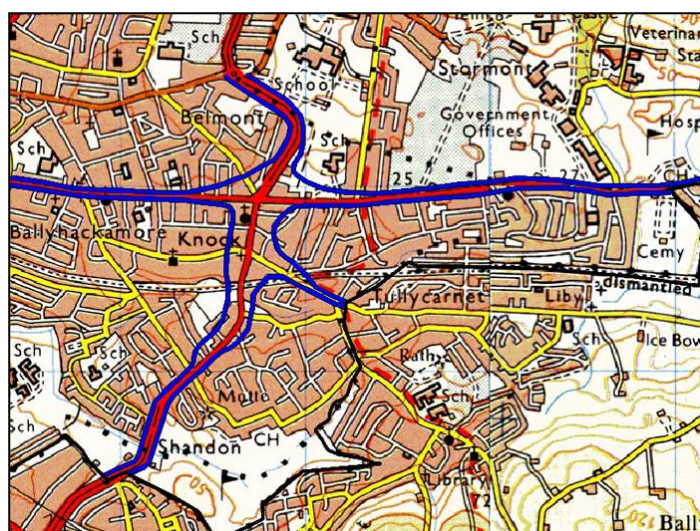


Figure 15: Ormeau Road AQM Four³⁰

The 2010 detailed assessment considered the potential for exceedances of the nitrogen dioxide objectives at a number of further locations across the city, these were:

- Junction of the Sydenham Bypass with the Lower Newtownards Road;
- Shaftesbury Square;

- Donegall Road;
- Albertbridge Road; and,
- Locations throughout city centre.

Some of the above locations have suggested exceedances of the nitrogen dioxide annual mean objective through atmospheric dispersion models, the review and assessment identified there was not relevant public exposure at these locations and therefore there was no need to declare further AQMAs.

Four automatic monitoring stations monitor air quality across Belfast (see above). One additional monitoring station is located within each of the four area quality management areas as well as one located in the City Centre on Lombard Street halfway between Winecellar Entry and High Street. They provide real time information to the public in relation to air pollution levels within the AQMAs.

The monitoring data indicates that air quality in Belfast has generally improved. The Upper Newtownards Road AQMA has shown reductions to the point that the area is now in compliance with the air quality objectives. Using the DEFRA year adjustment calculator tool, it is predicted that Belfast will be in compliance with the EU limit values by 2020. This is shown on figure 16.

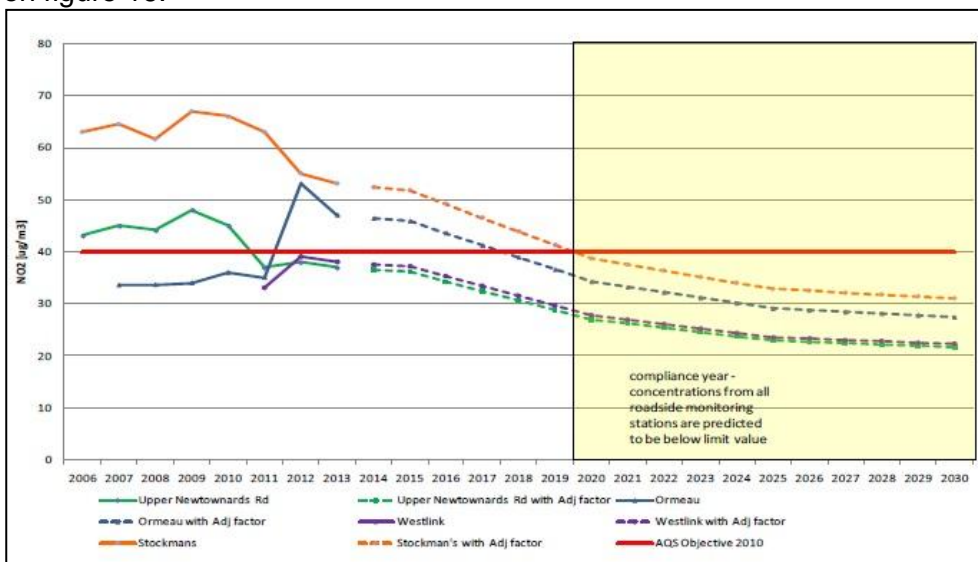


Figure 16: Monitored and projected annual mean NO₂ concentrations at Belfast roadside air quality monitoring stations. Source: Belfast City Council Air Quality Action Plan 2015-2020

Information within this section has been reviewed by Belfast City Council Environmental Health Unit.

Water

DAERA are the statutory agency responsible for the protection of rivers and coastal areas in Northern Ireland. The WFD is transposed into law through the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (Statutory Rule 2003 No. 544). WFD aims to achieve 'Good Ecological Status' or better, for the quality of all water bodies. This means ensuring healthy aquatic ecosystems whilst balancing water/nature protection and the sustainable use of natural resources. In assessing water quality, the ecological and chemical quality is considered as well as the pressures that affect them.

A key feature of the WFD is the development of River Basin Management Plans which takes an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of water environment. Belfast falls within the North-Eastern River Basin District where the Lagan is one of the principal

river systems in NI. The first North Eastern River Basin Management Plan was published in 2009, detailing where the water environment needs to be protected or improved, the timeframe to make these improvements and how that can be achieved. An update to the plan was published in 2015.

NIEA have formed an NI Water Management Unit River Basin District Group to deliver a series of catchment projects in partnership with government agencies and stakeholders. An example of these catchment programmes includes, the 'Living with Water Programme' (LWWP) which is a strategic drainage infrastructure programme that aims to improve water quality within the Belfast Lough Catchment. This programme will seek to protect against flood risk by determining the level and types of capital infrastructural investment that is necessary to alleviate the problem which will in turn have a multiplier effect for economic and environmental benefit.

The ecological and chemical classification results for surface waters are combined to give an overall status in one of five classes: high; good; moderate; poor and bad. In classifying water bodies, it gives a deeper understanding in what measures might be required for improvements.

NIEA has responsibility to report on the state of the water environment under the WFD. The most recent statistics published in February 2015⁴⁰ uses available data to the end of 2014. The Water Framework Directive requires NIEA to protect the status of water bodies from deterioration and, where necessary and practicable, to restore water bodies to good status. The river water body classification has been produced using the results from the Water Framework Directive quality elements. Overall classification uses a combination of biological, chemical and hydromorphological quality elements including macroinvertebrates, pH (measure of acidity or alkalinity of a solution) and ammonia to assign status of river quality in one of five classes from 'high' through to 'bad'.

According to the Northern Ireland Environmental Statistical Report 2016, the overall classification for the WFD (% River Water Bodies 2015) indicated an improvement in river water body status. The North-Eastern River Basin district showed no river water bodies with 'high' status. Most river water bodies (61.8%) are rated 'moderate' status which is 7 percentage points higher than the NI average. 15.7% of river bodies are of poor status and 2.2% are of 'bad' status which is higher than the NI average of 10.0% and 1.8% respectively.

The Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD) (91/271/EEC) is designed to reduce the pollution of freshwater, estuarine and coastal waters by domestic sewage and industrial wastewater collectively known as urban waste water. The Directive sets minimum standards for the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water. The minimum standards for the provision of sewerage systems and treatment of sewage are set by the Directive according to the population served by sewage treatment works, and the sensitivity of receiving waters. Inner Belfast Lough and the Tidal Lagan and their catchment areas have been identified as UWWTD Sensitive Areas.

Table 12 shows the baseline data for water quality within the Belfast area. There were some limitations in gathering specific evidence for Belfast but the best available data is tabulated below.

⁴⁰ Water Report NI WFD Statistics October 2015

Table 12: Baseline data for Water Quality

Indicator		Local Data	Regional Data	Target	Trends	Data Source
Protected Areas	Drinking Water Protected Areas		There are 16 Drinking Water Protected Areas in the North-Eastern Basin; 6 in surface waters to serve the following WTW's- Altnahinch, Dungonnell, Fofanny, Dorisland, Drumaroad, Rathlin; and 10 for groundwaters.	To protect and improve the status of drinking water and restore waters to good status		NIEA North Eastern Basin Management Plan 2015-2021
	Freshwater Fish and Shellfish Waters	There are seven Shellfish Waters within the North-Eastern District and one Shellfish Water designated within the Belfast City Council Area: Belfast Lough.	There are 662km of rivers, 5.5km ² of canals and 2km ² of lakes designated for fish within the North-Eastern District. There is a total of 10 Shellfish Waters in Northern Ireland.	Ensure no deterioration and steady progress towards compliance with the guideline standards.	Gradually improving, A total of six out of nine designated shellfish waters complied with the guideline standard for coliform standards in 2012	
	Bathing Water	0 in Belfast City Council Area	There are 17 identified bathing waters in the North-Eastern District. 23 overall in Northern Ireland	Continue to maintain and improve where possible	All 23 beaches have met the stricter EU standards for bathing water quality	
	Nutrient Sensitive Areas	4 in Belfast City Council Area- Inner Belfast Lough; Inner Belfast Lough Catchment; River Lagan Catchment; and Tidal Lagan	There are 16 Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive Sensitive areas within the North-Eastern River Basin			
	Water Dependent Natura 2000	1 in total in Belfast City Council Area: Belfast Lough SPA	27 in total in the North-Eastern Basin, 16 SACs and 11 SPAs	Establish & maintain water and environmental conditions to		

					achieve favourable conservation status of all water dependent features																																																																						
Lake Water Framework Directive Status	<p>Lake Water Framework Directive status, 2009-2013 (first cycle water body set and environmental standards)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="5">North Eastern</th> </tr> <tr> <th>2009</th> <th>2010</th> <th>2011</th> <th>2012</th> <th>2013</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>0</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	North Eastern					2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	2	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	<p>Lake Water Framework Directive status, 2009-2013 (first cycle water body set and environmental standards)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="5">Northern Ireland</th> </tr> <tr> <th>2009</th> <th>2010</th> <th>2011</th> <th>2012</th> <th>2013</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> <td>3</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>6</td> <td>6</td> <td>9</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>7</td> <td>7</td> <td>6</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Northern Ireland					2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	5	3	5	7	6	6	9	7	3	7	7	6	5	6	3	3	3	4	The main aim of the WFD is to raise the quality of all water bodies to 'Good Ecological Status' or better'	No apparent regional trend. Locally a slight trend of increasingly better quality with only one lake designated poor in the North-Eastern Region in 2013	DOE Environmental Statistical Report 2015
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Percentage of compliance in drinking water standards set in NI Water Regulations 2011-2013	<p>Belfast City Council</p> <p>2013 99.8%</p> <p>2014 99.8%</p> <p>2015 99.8%</p>	<p>Northern Ireland</p> <p>2013 99.7%</p> <p>2014 99.8%</p> <p>2015 99.7%</p>	99.7% compliance	Target met and exceeded, above Northern Ireland % compliance	NI Water																																																																						

Overall classification of surface water bodies measured against good ecological status/potential	All but one of the Surface Water Bodies within the Belfast Area has a status of moderate. Connswater River has a status of poor		River s	Lak es	Trans itional	Coas tal	Total no. of water bodie s	% of water bodie s	Good status in 52% of surface water bodies by 2021	Behind target, aim by 2015 was to achieve good status or above in 49% of surface water bodies, currently 24% are at good status and above	NIEA North Eastern Basin Management Plan 2015-2021
		High	0	0	0	1	1	1			
		Good	18	0	0	6	24	28			
		Moderate	44	1	0	6	51	58			
		Poor	11	0	0	0	11	13			
		Total	73	1	0	13	87	100			
Ground Water Bodies	Two groundwater bodies are within the Belfast area; these are Belfast Hills and Belfast. Belfast Hills have a status of good while Belfast has a status of poor	The North-Eastern River Basin contains 14 groundwater bodies (superficial and bedrock) In 2015 8 were designated as poor while 6 were designated as good.						All 14 groundwater bodies designated as good by 2027	Behind target, aim by 2015 for 88% of groundwater bodies to be of good status, currently 43% at good status.	NIEA North Eastern Basin Management Plan 2015-2021	
Area of Flood Risk within the plan area.	Belfast is named as a Significant Flood Risk Area. Belfast is the greatest at risk	There are 20 Significant Flood Risk Areas within Northern Ireland						Continue to manage flooding as well as adopt precautionary approach to development that aim to prevent future development that may be at risk of flooding or that may increase the risk of flooding elsewhere.	Mitigation measures to prevent flooding continue to be implemented such as the Belfast Sewers Project LWWT	NIEA North Eastern Flood Risk Management Plan	

Water infrastructure

Water Supply

The Belfast City Council area receives treated water from four Water Treatment Works, which are listed in the table below, together with the respective impounding reservoirs / loughs serving each works.

Impounding Reservoirs/Loughs	Water Treatment Works
Silent Valley	Drumaroad WTW (located in Newry Mourne & Down District Council Area)
Lough Neagh	Dunore Point WTW (located in Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council Area)
	Castor Bay WTW (located in Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council Area)
Copeland (Carrickfergus)	Dorisland WTW (located in Mid & East Antrim Borough Council Area)
Dorisland (Carrickfergus)	
Loughmourne (Carrickfergus)	
North Woodburn (Carrickfergus)	
South Woodburn Lower (Carrickfergus)	
South Woodburn Middle (Carrickfergus)	
South Woodburn Upper (Carrickfergus)	

Table 12: Water Treatment Works serving Belfast City Council

Source: NI Water

Each of these water treatment works supplies the existing water distribution networks within the Belfast City Council area including 15 service reservoirs (located within or just outside Belfast City Council boundary) that provide the necessary storage. NI Water is satisfied with the sufficiency of the water supply to Belfast City Council area over the timeframe of the new Plan.

Wastewater

The NI Executive accepts that Northern Ireland's drainage infrastructure is insufficient to meet the future requirements expected of it – to the extent that it is actively stunting economic development – particularly in the greater Belfast area⁴¹.

The capacity of wastewater treatment facilities and sewerage systems is an increasingly important factor to be considered for future development. For example, without major investment in wastewater and sewerage infrastructure in Greater Belfast in the near future, it may not be possible to permit any new connections that will impact significantly on an already stretched infrastructure. Planning for the provision of water and sewerage infrastructure and treatment facilities is both a practical and environmental necessity for regional development⁴².

The majority of rainwater that falls on hard surfaces such as roofs, footpaths and roads in towns and cities is drained by our public drainage systems. Many sewers were constructed in Victorian times to take wastewater and sewage to the nearest river, as the focus then was on reducing disease and illness caused by poor sanitation. However, discharging wastewater which contains raw sewage directly into rivers can cause pollution. EU environmental standards now require wastewater to undergo appropriate treatment before being returned to the environment.

⁴¹ <http://www.assemblyresearchmatters.org/2016/09/09/managing-flood-risk-in-northern-ireland-are-we-prepared/>

⁴² Sustainable Water- A Long Term Strategy for NI 2015-2040 (2016) DRDNI

Many of our urban drainage systems are combined, carrying both stormwater and sewage in one pipe. This means that rainwater is often pumped and treated like sewage unnecessarily. Excessive rainfall can overload sewerage systems by exceeding the economic design capacity of combined sewers. This can result in out of sewer flooding and pollution. Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) are a necessary part of the system to reduce the risk of overloading of sewers. However, these overflows should only operate during heavy rainfall. Where CSOs spill too frequently and cause pollution these are categorised as Unsatisfactory Intermittent Discharges (UIDs) which must be rectified.

Climate Change will have implications on our drainage systems. The UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) provides information on future changes to our climate up to the end of this century under differing emission scenarios. The projections anticipate changes to climate variables such as precipitation, temperature, wind speed and sea level rise. The projections indicate that Northern Ireland is likely to have increased frequency of extreme weather events such as heavy rain and flooding which could cause stress on Belfast's water infrastructure.

The £160 million Belfast Sewers Project was constructed to reduce pollution of the River Lagan, reduce flooding and facilitate future development. The project involved the upgrade of over 500 sewers and the construction of over 9.5 km of storm tunnels up to 4 metres in diameter. However, large sewer tunnels cannot be used to deal with all our future drainage needs. For future sustainability there is a need to reduce the amount of rainwater entering into combined sewerage systems from road and land drainage, and instead manage surface water in a different way.

Belfast City Council Area is served by six Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW) and two small septic tank works at Upper Malone Road and 190–196 Old Holywood Road. The septic tank at Old Holywood Road only serves four properties and the one at Upper Malone Road serves a small number of very large detached private residences to the north of Malone Golf Club. It has been assumed that both of these small works will not be subject to growth.

Information relating to the six WWTWs has been provided by NI Water. The six WWTWs are as follows:

- Belfast WWTW (Duncrue Street)
- Edenderry Village WWTW
- Newtownbreda WWTW
- Whitehouse WWTW (in Antrim & Newtownabbey area)
- Dunmurry WWTW
- Kinnegar, Holywood (in Ards & North Down area)

NI Water has advised that the planning status of all of the above WWTWs is such that capacity is currently available and new connections are permitted. However, the significant future growth of the Plan area will require careful consideration and assessment to address potential capacity issues.

Approximately 71% of Belfast City Council area is served by the Belfast WWTW. Given the strategic importance of this WWTW, NI Water is currently assessing the capacity of the works to accommodate the projected growth of the Plan area.

In their response to the draft Scoping Report, NIEA has indicated that insufficient capacity in sewage treatment infrastructure can be a potential limiting factor on growth aspirations. During our previous discussions with NI Water, the council has explored the issue of capacity in relation to the potential growth scenarios developed by the Consultants appointed to review the Belfast housing growth indicators. The preferred option, as set out in the paper, has taken account of these discussions and the existing allocations within BMAP and other approvals within the system. It is recognised investment/ alternative methods of treatment will be required during the plan period to support that level of growth projected. The ongoing engagement will ensure that the plan development is informed by the most up to date information as it becomes available and if appropriate, addressed through plan review and phasing.

The Edenderry WWTW is small and serves Edenderry village only. Whilst there is no upgrade planned for in the near future, it is unlikely that there will be significant growth within the existing village settlement. The Newtownbreda WWTW has sufficient capacity to accommodate moderate growth, although there are likley

to be capacity issues at higher levels of growth. NI Water is currently considering a number of options for this works that may accommodate additional growth. The Whitehouse and Dunmurry WWTWs both have available capacity to accommodate significant growth. As regards Kinnegar, NI Water has indicated that it expects that the planned growth will be able to be accommodated (capacity confirmation awaited from PFI operator).

Northern Ireland Executive has approved the development of a Strategic Drainage Infrastructure Plan to support economic growth, protect the environment and address flood risk. This plan is required as the drainage infrastructure in many areas throughout Northern Ireland is currently inadequate to meet the requirements expected of it and the scale of the environmental and flooding problems in Belfast requires a holistic and integrated approach to future drainage provision. To deliver this, an Interdepartmental Programme called Living with Water (LWWP) has been established. The LWWP identified the following key risks for Belfast:

- Flooding is occurring with increased frequency
- Compliance with Environmental Legislation – ‘NI’ is at risk of EU Infraction⁴³
- Capacity – many components of the drainage network do not have adequate capacity to enable new connections which could impede economic growth
- Maintenance – many components of the drainage network now require maintenance/replacement to maintain serviceability
- Amenity potential has been lost
- Climate Change – more intense storms predicted
- Drainage operational costs are a burden
- Capital investment is constrained

According to an overview LWWP Strategic Drainage Infrastructure Plan⁴⁴, the drainage infrastructure is inadequate in many towns and cities across N Ireland, with the problems being most acute in Belfast. This has resulted in:

- Instances of serious flooding across Northern Ireland occurring with increased frequency;
- Belfast Harbour area falling from moderate to bad within the WFD classification; and,
- The main WWTW (Waste Water treatment works) serving Belfast is above its theoretical design capacity.

Soil

Soil is a non-renewable resource that performs many functions essential for human life, the environment and its ecosystems. These functions include; storing, filtering and transforming nutrients and water, biomass production, hosting the biodiversity pool, providing raw materials and acting as a carbon sink. Knowledge of soil types and properties can underpin management practices to develop sustainable agricultural production while maintaining the UK’s carbon balance and a wide range of other services such as flood prevention, a major issue in Belfast.

The Regional Development Strategy 2035 recognises the importance of a fully functioning soil that reduces the risk of flood and protects underground water supplies by neutralising and filtering out potential pollutants. Threats to soil caused by development include soil sealing, loss of biodiversity and deposition of processed materials.

The UK Soil Observatory provides datasets to access UK soils data, used to underpin research. The following map shows the soils present in the Belfast LDP area:

⁴³ Living with Water Programme: Strategic Drainage Infrastructure Plan, An Overview (24/09/15)

⁴⁴ <http://gsintmin01:9077/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=165&MId=5711&Ver=4> Living with Water Programme: Strategic Drainage Infrastructure Plan, An Overview (24/09/15)

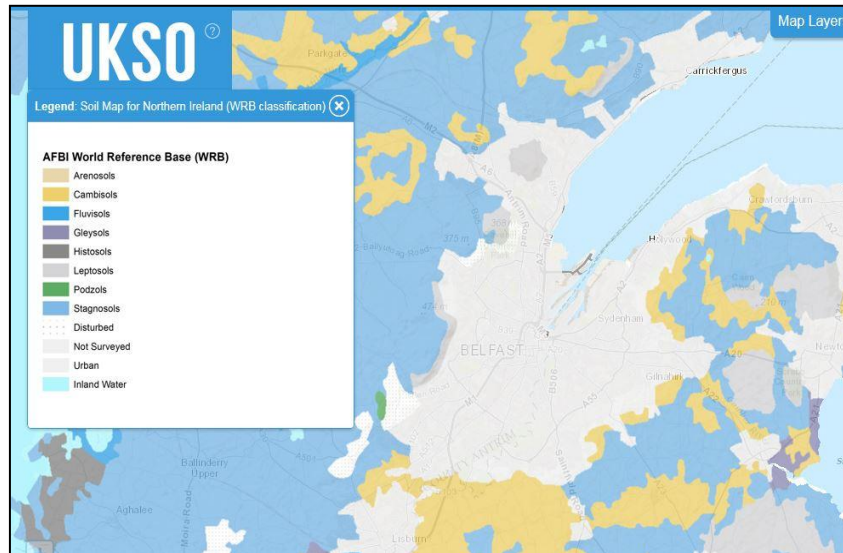


Figure 17: Map showing soils present in Belfast LDP area.
 Source: <http://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/ukso/home.html?layer=AFBIWRB>

In Belfast, heavy clays and silt dominate the surface soils. Beneath is an alluvium deposit, known as sileach which is well known for its problematic characteristics. As the map shows there are four soil types within the Belfast Area. These are:

- Urban Soil which accounts for the majority of Belfast. Urban soil is material in the urban environment which has been disturbed, manipulated or transported by man's activities. It is also used as a medium for plant growth.
- Cambisols are present to the south and east of the city. Cambisols contain a favourable aggregate structure and high content of weatherable materials. They can usually be exploited for agriculture.
- Stagnosols are present to the west of Belfast and to the east. Stagnosols are periodically wet and mottle in the top soil, their agricultural suitability is limited because of their oxygen deficiency, resulting from stagnating water above a dense topsoil.
- Leptosols are present in the west of the city towards the Belfast Hills and contain a shallow profile depth with large amounts of gravel.

Agriculture

The majority of the Belfast area is urban with 30% of the area located within the rural landscape. It is important to understand how the soil in rural areas is utilised in order to facilitate future designations.

Less Favourable Areas (LFA) are designated so under EU legislation (75/268/EEC) because of their relatively poor agricultural status. The LFA consists of Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDA) designated in 1975 and the Disadvantaged Area (DA) which was designated following reviews in 1984 and 1990⁴⁵. The Northern Ireland Agricultural Census June 2015 details accurate data of agricultural land within the Belfast City Council Area. Belfast contains 28 farms, the fewest number of farms in Northern Ireland. This is broken up into the following farm types:

- 2 Cereal Farms,
- 1 General Cropping Farm,
- 1 Horticulture Farm,
- 1 Dairy Farm,
- 17 Cattle and Sheep Less Favoured Area (LFA) Farms,
- 5 Cattle and Sheep Lowland Farms,
- 1 Mixed Farm.

⁴⁵ <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/agricultural-census-ni-june-2015.pdf>

The table below shows the LFA categorisation of farms in Belfast. Most farms (64%) are in mainly less favourable areas (LFA) with 46% in SFA's.

Belfast	Number of Farms	Percentage
Mainly Severely Disadvantaged Areas (SFA)	13	46%
Mainly Disadvantaged Areas (DA)	5	18%
Mainly Less Favourable Areas (LFA)	18	64%
Mainly non- Less Favourable Areas (LFA)	10	36%
Total	28	100%

Table 13: LFA Categorisation of Farms in Belfast⁴⁶

According to the Northern Ireland Agricultural Census June 2015, the total land within Belfast used for crops is 114 hectares. Belfast City Council has the smallest area of land used by crops in Northern Ireland; this would be expected, with Belfast being a predominantly an urban area. The crops are made up of the following:

- 65 hectares of cereals,
- 11 hectares of potatoes,
- 30 hectares of other farm crops,
- 8 hectares of horticulture crops.

Areas of Natural Constraint

Regulation (EU) no 1305/2013 includes a requirement to designate Areas of Natural Constraint (ANCs) to replace the existing "Less Favourable Areas" (LFAs). The new approach to designation is a standardised EU wide methodology which identifies constrained land by applying a set of 8 biophysical criteria and thresholds based on soil, slope and climate. The timing of the re-designation process in Northern Ireland will be driven by the choice of future financial support to these areas and ANC designation might need to be in place by 1st January 2017⁴⁷. Belfast has 5 farms designated as DA and 18 as SDA. These figures have remained unchanged since 1984. Areas of Constraint are currently at the consultation stage of implementation.

There are a number of different scenarios for the designation of Areas of Natural Constraint. In each scenario, the same wards have been designated. There are Lower Falls, Glen Road, Upper Springfield, Highfield, Glencairn, Ligoniel, Cavehill and Bellevue.

The designation of Area of Natural Constraint extends to the boundaries of the following wards which under SFA were only partially included – Highfield, Glencairn, Ligoniel, Cavehill and Bellevue.

Contaminated Land

Contaminated Land can cause wide environmental damage and has the potential to limit a healthy environment. Belfast has a legacy of contaminated land arising from its prominent past industrial use.

The Regional Development Strategy 2035, published in March 2012, set a regional target of 60% of new housing to be located in appropriate 'brownfield' sites within the urban footprints of settlements greater than 5,000 people.

⁴⁶ <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/agricultural-census-ni-june-2015.pdf>

⁴⁷ Consultation on Designation of Areas of Natural Constraint. <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/dard/designation-of-areas-of-natural-constraint.pdf>

Brownfield land - sometimes referred to as 'previously developed land', being land that is, or was occupied by a permanent structure within a defined settlement limit. The term may encompass vacant or derelict lands, infill sites, land occupied by redundant or underused buildings, a piece of industrial or commercial property that is abandoned or underused and often environmentally contaminated.

The Contaminated Land Regime is set out in Part III 'The Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997'. Contaminated Land Regime supports the principal of 'polluter pays' principle and is intended to manage issues arising from historic contamination. It is retrospective in action. Whilst the Council is the primary regulator for the regime, the initial activity will focus on the preparation of site inspection strategies. However, Part III of the Order relating to Contaminated Land has not yet been commenced.

Current contaminated land regime

The Council's Environmental Health Service acts as a statutory consultee to the Belfast Planning Service and is concerned principally with the human health impacts of development through the imposition of planning conditions and informatives. NIEA is concerned with the impact of development upon the natural environment.

Land contamination is assessed and managed in accordance with the provisions of the CLR11 'Model Procedures for the Management of Land Contamination' risk framework, the Contaminated Land Exposure Assessment (CLEA) model and the various British Standards and supporting guidance documents.

The council does not have a Contaminated Land Register for the Belfast area but has a limited database of past industrial land uses that have the potential to give rise to land contamination. It is based upon an extract from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency's Land Use Database, which was a desk based study developed for the whole of Northern Ireland in 1997. Limited additional information held by the council has been added to this database in the intervening period. The database can be informed by referring to the various DoE land contamination Industry Profiles (1995).

Development within the Urban Footprint

The Northern Ireland Housing Land Availability Summary Reports was compiled by the DOE (now DfI) prior to RPA in 2015. Within the old Belfast City Council boundary (pre-2015), there was a steady increase of units developed within the urban footprint. Within the period 2003/4, 92.5% of units in Belfast were developed within the urban footprint rising to 98.3% by 2012/13. From 2013/14 onwards 99.1% of units were developed within the urban footprint.

During 2007/8, saw the largest area of land (25.4 hectares), equating to 1,923 units, being developed in the urban footprint marking the height of the Northern Ireland property 'boom'. By 2010/11 this figure decreased to 4.9 hectares (268 units) of land being developed in the urban footprint. From 2011, this figure is steadily increasing and in 2012/14, 12 hectares of land was developed in the urban footprint equating to 644 units. Figures 18 and 19 show the Urban Footprint and Greenfield comparatives for the area development each year per hectares and the number of units developed each year.

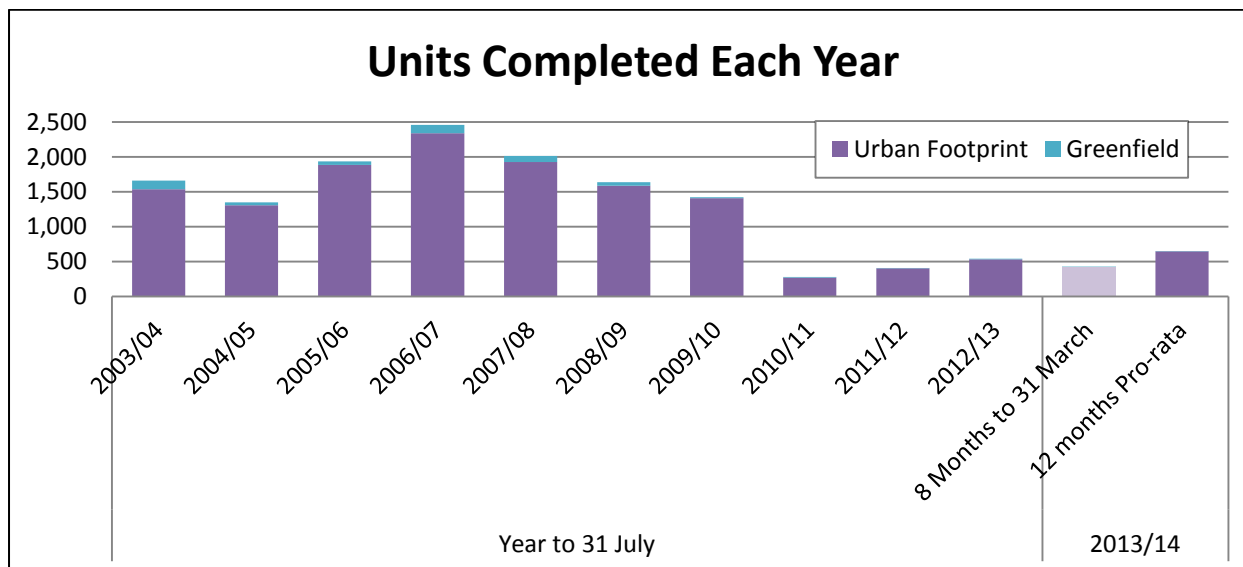


Figure 18: Number of Units Completed Each Year within the Urban Footprint and Greenfield Land⁴⁸

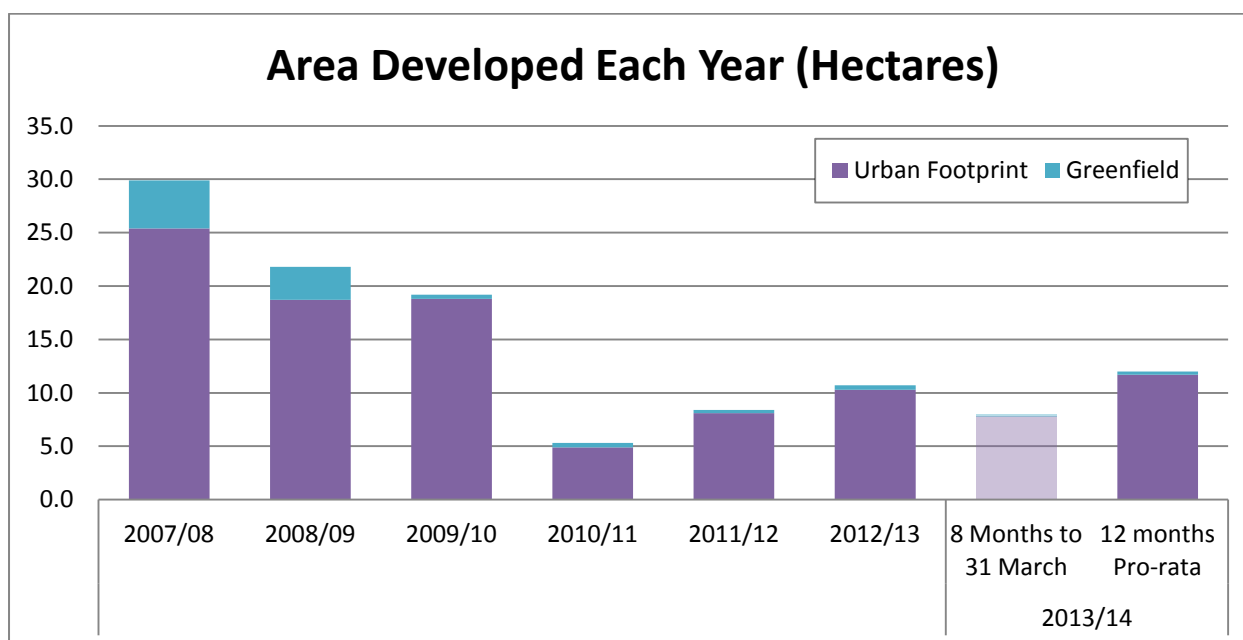


Figure 19: Area Developed Each Year (Ha) within the Urban Footprint and Greenfield Land²⁸

CULTURAL AND BUILT HERITAGE

The urban environment encompasses the totality of the built form of the city. It includes recent and contemporary developments and our built heritage assets – including archaeology, scheduled monuments, listed buildings, conservation areas, areas of townscape character, historic parks and gardens, historic buildings of local importance and vernacular heritage structures. The following cultural and built heritage elements can be found in the Belfast City Council district:

State Care Sites

Archaeological sites and monuments are taken into the care of the Department under the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995. State Care sites and monuments represent all periods of human settlement in Ireland from circa 7,000 BC to the 21st century. They are protected and managed as a public asset by Historic Environment Division (HED) in DfC regulated under the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995. They have responsibility for many sites and properties throughout Northern Ireland and work closely with the Historic Monuments Council. Shandon

⁴⁸ The Northern Ireland Housing Land Availability Summary Reports was compiled by the DoE prior to RPA in 2015

Park Motte, Drumnadrough Fort, Giant's Ring and Shaw's Bridge are the only sites in State Care within the Belfast City Council area.

Scheduled Monuments

Archaeological sites and monuments are scheduled for protection under the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995 and the work of scheduling is ongoing. The fact that a site has not yet received statutory protection does not necessarily diminish its archaeological importance or its significance as an element in the historic landscape.

According to HED, the list of Scheduled Historic Monuments contains a total of 36 scheduled archaeological monuments in the Belfast City Council Area.

Unscheduled Monuments

There were a total of 144 other recorded archaeological sites and monuments in the Belfast City Council Area.

Undesignated Heritage Assets including Local Listings

There are many sites of heritage interest which are not or have not yet been listed in HED's records. According to HED these include historic boundaries such as townland boundaries, surviving air raid shelters and some historic cemeteries. The SA will review these records as we progress and the Council will consider where appropriate, undesignated heritage assets including local listings as they may become available through the update of HED's datasets.

Listed Buildings

The SPPS recognises that Listed Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest are key elements of our built heritage and are often important for their intrinsic value and for their contribution to the character and quality of settlements and the countryside. It stresses that development may be permitted where this will secure the ongoing viability and upkeep of the building, providing it respects its essential character and setting. It notes that it may be appropriate for a LDP to highlight listed buildings and their settings which are integral to the character and inform broader heritage designations. There are approximately 1379 listed buildings within the Belfast City Council area.

The Second Survey of all Northern Ireland's building stock, is currently underway, to update and improve on the first List of buildings of special architectural or historic interest which began in 1974. This second survey is due to be completed in 2016.

Built Heritage at Risk

The Built Heritage at Risk Register lists almost 500 buildings and monuments of architectural and historic interest throughout Northern Ireland. The buildings and monuments are deemed to be under threat and may be suitable for restoration and repair. The Buildings at Risk Register was established in 1993 and is funded and managed by Department of Communities in partnership with the Ulster Architectural Society [UAHS]. There are currently 49 buildings and monuments listed on the register within Belfast.

Conservation Areas

There are 13 Conservation Areas within the Council Area:

1. Adelaide Park
2. Belfast City Centre
3. Cathedral
4. Cyprus Ave
5. Kings Road
6. Knockdene
7. Linen
8. Malone
9. Malone Park
10. Mc Master Street
11. Queens
12. Somerton
13. Stranmillis

The SPSS notes that in managing development within a designated Conservation Area the guiding principle is to afford special regard to the desirability of enhancing its character or appearance where an opportunity to do so exists, or to preserve its character or appearance where an opportunity to enhance does not arise. Accordingly, there will be a general presumption against the grant of planning permission for development or conservation area consent for demolition of unlisted buildings, where proposals would conflict with this principle.

In relation to the setting of designated Conservation Areas, new development in proximity needs to be carefully managed to ensure it respects its overall character and appearance. Important views in and out of the Conservation Area should be retained.

In the interests of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of a Conservation Area, development proposals should be sympathetic to the characteristic built form of the area and respect the characteristics of adjoining buildings in the area by way of its scale, form, materials and detailing. The SPSS notes that the LDP may include local policies or proposals for their protection and / or, enhancement.

Areas of Townscape Character

There are 57 Areas of Townscape Character within the Council Area.

The SPSS notes that in managing development within ATCs designated through the LDPs process, the council should only permit new development where this will maintain or enhance the overall character of the area and respect its built form. It states that local policies or proposals and guidance for such areas should also be included in the plan or, where appropriate, in supplementary planning guidance.

Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest (ASAs)

The SPSS notes the importance of LDPs in taking into account the implications of local policies and proposals on all features of the archaeological and built heritage. It states that where appropriate, LDPs should designate Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest (ASAs).

Areas of Archaeological Potential

The SPSS states that LDPs should highlight, for the information of prospective developers, those areas within settlement limits, where, on the basis of current knowledge, it is likely that archaeological remains will be encountered in the course of continuing development and change. These will be referred to as areas of archaeological potential.

Belfast is named as an area of archaeological potential.

A large amount of excavation undertaken in Belfast in the past 17 years has highlighted the extent and survival of archaeological remains relating to the city's evolution. All information recorded during an archaeological excavation or survey has been documented in the Sites and Monuments record.

Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes

The register of Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes of Special Historic Interest has been established to identify sites within Northern Ireland, which can be considered of exceptional importance. The identification of sites is based upon a clear set of criteria and on an appreciation of the character of Ulster's gardens and designed landscapes.

Defence Heritage

The Historic Environment Division (HED) is responsible for Northern Ireland's defence heritage, both in its conservation and protection. Northern Ireland's defence heritage represents a significant period in our history with many 20th century defensive structures dotted around the countryside and coast of Northern Ireland. These include training trenches, gun and searchlight emplacements, pillboxes, airfields, harbours etc. The majority are derelict, some have been reused or altered, and others are in a state of decay or have been demolished. The HED identify sites on an individual basis, deciding the most appropriate form of protection through legislation and policy. There are 63 sites of Defence Heritage within Belfast City Council.

Industrial Heritage

The Plan Area contains a wealth of remains of industrial heritage, all of which are reminders of the economic development in the area. Synonymous to Belfast, the Samson and Goliath cranes dominate the skyline, and numerous mills, factories, bridges, railway fixtures, graving docks and remains of the Lagan Canal infrastructure are distributed throughout the city. Many of these industrial heritage sites have been identified for special protection as scheduled monuments under the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1991. The Industrial Heritage Record is included in the DAERA Monument's and Building Record. There are 745 sites of Industrial Heritage in Belfast.

Shipwrecks

There are 245 records of shipwrecks within the Belfast region which includes Belfast harbour, lough and rivers within the plan area.

The database of shipwreck incidents is currently maintained and updated by Marine and Fisheries Division (DAERA) on behalf of the Historic Environment Division (DFC). The database includes cases of known and unknown wreck sites and maritime casualties- where the vessel in question was salvaged or recovered⁴⁹. The database is not a record of archaeological sites in every case but an indicator of the geographical and chronological past shipping loss. The shipwrecks reveal information about life, technology, trade and warfare at the time they were lost. The informing abilities of shipwrecks makes them part of our shared heritage.

Landscape

Landscape is everywhere and all landscapes matter to someone. Landscape will continue to evolve. Whilst change is constant, the management of change is essential to achieving sustainable place making, which will be the key role for LDPs.

Table 12 above, outlines a number of local designations which play an important role in protecting landscape within the Belfast Metropolitan Area:

- Areas of High Scenic Value (AOHSV) are designated to protect the setting of the Metropolitan Urban Area and other areas of particular landscape merit. There are portions of 3 AOHSV in Belfast.
- LLPAs are designated to help protect those areas within and/or adjoining settlements which are considered to be of greatest amenity value, landscape quality or local significance and are therefore worthy of protection from undesirable or damaging development. They include archaeological sites and monuments and their surroundings; Listed and other locally important buildings and their surroundings; River banks and shore lines and associated public access; Attractive vistas, localised hills and other areas of local amenity importance; and Areas of local nature conservation importance, including areas of woodland and important tree groups. There are 86 LLPA's in Belfast.
- Urban Landscape Wedges are open areas that are designated to separate localities within the Metropolitan Urban Area. They have a significant role in helping to define and retain the identities and character of the component parts of the urban area and preventing the merging of different city communities. Their open character can break up the visual impact of the housing mass in the area and offer additional benefits to local residents by enhancing amenity and by providing opportunities for informal and formal recreational use and provision of linkages to walking and cycling networks. These designations should be protected from built development to fulfil their amenity, recreational and biodiversity functions. There are 5 Urban Landscape Wedges within Belfast.
- Rural Landscape Wedges consist of buffer landscapes and open areas. It distinguishes and maintain the separate identities of the component parts of the Metropolitan Area; prevents the merging of the component parts of the Metropolitan Area; provides an important element in defining and protecting the setting of settlements; and maintain the rural character of the countryside. Within Belfast Hannahstown is the only complete Rural Landscape Wedge with portions of another 3 overlapping within the Plan area.

⁴⁹ <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/shipwrecks>

LCA's are a tool in identifying the landscape features that give a locality its 'sense of place'. The LCA grew out of the European Landscape Convention. The process applied to the LCA's can help to inform the makeup of urban areas including our City and townscape areas as well as our rural assets. Landscape Character Areas set a baseline that can not only help us understand our landscapes but also assist in making decisions about managing development.

The Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands Order (NI) 1985 (NALCO) is the current legislative basis for protecting landscapes. The Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment 2000 (NILCA) identified 130 distinct LCAs as fragile landscapes at risk of development pressures. Of which, there are 7 in Belfast:

Belfast/Lisburn (No.97)

The Belfast/Lisburn Landscape Character Area encompasses the Belfast and Lisburn urban areas, together with their broader landscape setting. It is defined by the steep ridges and escarpments, which enclose the Lagan Valley at the head of Belfast Lough. Belfast is mostly contained within the valley, although urban development has spread along the narrow coastal strips to the north and south of the Lough and inland along the Lagan and Enler Valleys. The City of Lisburn is also cited on the River Lagan but is further upstream and enclosed by slightly lower slopes. There are long views over both urban areas from the surrounding upland landscapes. The steep escarpments and ridges on the margins of the city provide a series of landmarks. The Belfast Basalt Escarpment to the north has a rugged, untamed character; Carnmoney Hill, an outlier to the north west of the basalt escarpment, dominates the landscape setting of Newtownabbey; the Craigtantlet Escarpment on the fringes of the Holywood Hills encloses East Belfast and the slopes of the Castlereagh Escarpment provide a continuous backdrop to the urban districts of South Belfast and Castlereagh.

Belfast's formal parks, such as Ormeau Park, the Botanic Gardens and Victoria Park and Lisburn's Wallace Park, provide welcome breathing space for the city centre but are relatively small in relation to the city as a whole. The Lagan Valley Regional Park is on a completely different scale. This and the other smaller river corridor parks, such as the Connswater, Lagmore and Collin Glen linear parks, have a more natural character and provide a valuable link between the urban areas and their wider landscape setting. The Laganside walkways now extend the footpath links along the Lagan right through to the city centre.

Craigtantlet Escarpment (No. 104)

The Craigtantlet Escarpment is a prominent ridge of Silurian rocks, which forms the escarpment to the Holywood Hills. The escarpment encloses and shelters the urban edge of east Belfast, which pushes up against the ridge, extending into the woodlands at Stormont. The government buildings stand out as a major landmark, situated high up on the ridge. A dense network of woodlands and avenues gives the landscape a robust structure, particularly around Stormont. Green pastures extend along the ridge, divided by hedgerows and shelterbelts. The rural/urban interface is strong and well defined. There are clear views to the ridge from the surrounding lowlands and adjacent escarpments, including an important view across Belfast Lough from the M2 at Newtownabbey; any development on the ridge is highly visible.

Castlereagh Slopes (No. 105)

The Castlereagh Slopes are the steep slopes of the north-western margins of the Castlereagh Plateau, to the south east of the Belfast/Castlereagh urban area. The prominent ridge has a smooth, rolling landform and a steep gradient. It averages 130m but at Braniel Hill, reaches an approximate height of 170m. It is deeply dissected by steep glens, which are generally well wooded. The broad slopes of the ridge are divided into a patchwork of undulating pastures and hedgerows. The remnant landscapes of the many historic estates and country houses of the Lagan Valley remain an important influence. Avenues and lines of mature beech trees mark the entrances, carriage drives and former estate boundaries and the buildings themselves are often important features in the landscape.

Lagan Parkland (No. 106)

An amenity parkland landscape set within the historic, designed landscapes of a series of 18th and 19th century estates. The undulating, steep slopes of the narrow river valley are well-wooded, with a variety of formal designed landscapes, commercial forests and natural habitats. There is a linked sequence of wooded spaces and the deep river valley seems remote from its immediate urban surroundings. Golf courses, public open space and playing fields dominate areas of flatter land on the upper fringes of the river valley. To the south of the river, a neat, rolling agricultural landscape of estate farmlands has belts of mature trees. Winding, linear woodlands follow the local streams and narrow roads, which characterise the landscape close to the foot of the Castlereagh Slopes.

Derrykillultagh (No. 110)

Rolling, relatively elevated farmland landscapes on the margins of the Antrim basalt plateau. The area is characterised by rounded hills and shallow slopes, although there are some gullies and the southern boundary of the landscape character area is marked by a steeper escarpment slope. Many slopes are divided by straight, narrow glens, which form a ladder pattern in views from below. The plateau descends gently to the west, where there is a gradual transition to the claylands on the edge of Lough Neagh.

The farmland landscape often has a relatively untidy character, with patches of gorse and scrub and a rather disconnected hedgerow network. The shallow valleys often contain areas of marsh and many fields are partially infested with rushes. Gorse and holly are typical hedgerow species and often mark the transition to marginal farmland. There are typically small farms and smallholdings which are surrounded by paddocks and scattered barns, although there is a gradual transition to a landscape of larger fields, hedgerow trees and more prosperous farmsteads on the western margins of the plateau. Most farmsteads consist of small, white rendered buildings sited on the mid-slopes or local ridges and connected to roads by straight, right-angled tracks. The older farmsteads are often focal points in the landscape, particularly where they are associated with lines and stands of mature trees. Networks of straight roads follow the ridges and connect linear villages; most junctions are staggered cross-roads.

Divis Summits (No. 111)

The Antrim basalt plateau ends in a series of broad, rounded summits overlooking Lisburn and Belfast. The principal summits of Black Mountain, Squires Hill and Cave Hill reach up to 400m, with Divis standing at 478m. They generally have gentle slopes, with some gullies and abrupt, steep slopes in places. However, the summits along the edge of the basalt escarpment have much steeper slopes, which plummet towards Belfast. Between the summits, the upper plateau has extensive areas of shallow, partially waterlogged moss, which is surrounded, by areas of marginal farmland. The landscape is relatively open, with extensive areas of windswept moss and rough farmland. However, the valley slopes have a more farmed character, with straight, overgrown hedgerows, belts of mature trees and farmsteads. There are important archaeological remains, particularly on the summits of Cave Hill. The landscape has a rather irregular, patchy pattern, with areas of scrub and wasteland which are often associated with abandoned mineral workings, derelict farmsteads and areas of waterlogged or unfarmed land.

Belfast Basalt Escarpment (No. 112)

The edge of the Antrim basalt plateau is well defined by a steep scarp slope which wraps around and contains the North-West edge of Belfast. The black basalt outcrops have a distinctive, sheer profile, which is broken by a series of steep, wooded glens. The Hills are pitted with quarries and have a rugged, almost brutal character. They provide a dramatic contrast to the dense urban areas below. The dark basalt overlies a thin band of chalk, which forms a strong contrast in colour whenever it is visible. Belfast Castle, at the northern end of the narrow strip, is set in a densely wooded designed landscape, which contrasts with the rugged, rural character of the scarp edge.

The lower escarpment slopes are a mixture of hummocky open pasture with gappy hedgerows and stands of deciduous woodland on steeper slopes. There are extensive areas of regenerating scrub and gorse.

Narrow roads provide steep links between the ridge-top road and Belfast, winding up the basalt edge. The slopes are pitted with quarries. Most are abandoned and have a rugged, untidy character and many are associated with fly tipping. The quarries are prominent and a strong influence on landscape character and quality. The basalt edge provides an opportunity for panoramic views over the city of Belfast.

Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment (NIRLCA)

The Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment (NIRLCA), which was published in April 2015, identifies 26 discrete areas that are referred to as regional landscape character areas (RLCA), some of these are shared with neighbouring districts. Each area is defined by a recognisable landscape, with its own distinct character and sense of place. The Belfast and Lagan Valley RLCA, describes the area as follows:

“The Lagan Valley is framed to the north by the dramatic slopes of the Belfast Hills including Black Mountain and Cave Hill, with a sharp contrast between the heavily urbanised and built up area in the valley and the exposed and upland character of the hills. To the south, the landform change is less dramatic, rising gently to undulating drumlin farmland south of Newtownbreda.

Further east, Craigtantlet Escarpment runs between Dundonald and Holywood and forms part of the backdrop to Belfast. It has deep wooded glens and encroachment of development on the ridge, including the Parliament Buildings at Stormont that stand out as a major landmark on the ridge”.

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is a designation in recognition of areas of national importance as their landscapes possess a distinctive character and landscape features of high scenic value. The purpose of this designation is to protect and enhance the qualities of these areas for environmental fulfilment, outdoor recreation and public enjoyment. Management of these areas falls upon landowners, public bodies and voluntary bodies.

The Lagan Valley AONB, designated in 1965, lies predominately within the Lagan Valley Regional Park and is the only AONB in the Belfast City Council Area.

The Lagan Valley (LVRP) AONB is designated under the Amenity Lands Act (NI) 1965. The legislation under which the LVRP AONB was designated has since been superseded by the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (NI) Order 1985 (as amended), however Lagan Valley AONB is yet to be reviewed or designated under this legislation.

The Lagan Valley Regional Park is a valuable asset for the people of Belfast. It has an integral position adjacent to Belfast and is a huge recreational resource covering 2116 hectares and stretching for 13 miles along the River Lagan from Belfast City to Lisburn City. Its location is situated partly within the Belfast and Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council areas.

The characteristic features of the Lagan Valley AONB include riverbank scenery, diverse biodiversity, meadows, woodland and amenity parklands. Alongside the natural environmental assets of this area, it is also rich in diverse heritage including its contribution to the development of Belfast through its cultural and industrial heritage through linen production. Containing impressive monuments of local importance including the Giant’s Ring and early Christian raths, the area became an attractive location for the early industrialists of Belfast whose successors built large houses and created the distinctive planted demesnes.

Over recent years, there has been a growing awareness of the conservation, recreation and tourism potential of the river, towpath and canal. There have been improvements in the water quality of the River Lagan over the years and water activities, such as angling, canoeing, rowing and motor boating are becoming a regular feature of the river.

The designation of Quiet Areas is a further legal requirement of END and the Environmental Noise Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006. END requires Member States to ‘preserve environmental noise quality where it is good’ by identifying Quiet Areas within agglomerations (urban areas with a minimum population density). Whilst END does not provide a prescriptive definition of identifying quiet areas, it is up to DAERA to develop the approach, definition and protection measures and advice local authorities accordingly. The

only agglomeration within Northern Ireland is the Belfast agglomeration which includes parts of Carrickfergus, Newtownabbey, Lisburn, Holywood, Dundonald, Carryduff and Bangor.

On 7th June 2016, the Lagan Meadows was proposed as a Candidate Quiet Area to the People and Communities Committee. The proposal is currently under consideration by DAERA. This designation was based upon the following qualifying criteria; publicly available park and open space within an agglomeration; a noise level less than or equal to 55 dB Lden; and a minimum area of 5 hectares. The council has indicated however, that that it will engage with DAERA in order to develop more appropriate Quiet Area screening criteria and supporting guidance to be employed in the subsequent identification, designation and management of Quiet Areas. The next round of Quiet Area designations by DAERA is due to commence in summer 2017.

The consultation by DAERA on Quiet Area Policy Guidance highlights that there is growing policy and emphasis on the positive role of open space, especially green space, in helping to ameliorate some of the problems of urban living. Whilst the adverse impacts of high levels of noise on health and quality of life are relatively well understood, the beneficial effects of access to quietness are less well understood and rarely acknowledged in policy documents

Countryside Recreation

The natural resources within the Belfast City Council area offers a wealth of opportunities for residents to enjoy the countryside experience in an urban setting through its provision of urban Parks located throughout the City. Belfast, a city framed by the Hills, is unique in its location offering countryside recreation opportunities just outside the city limits with its close proximity to the Belfast Hills.

Belfast Hills provides walking, mountain biking and rock climbing pursuits. The Belfast Hills area takes in Carnmoney Hill and Cave Hill to the north and Colin Glen, Divis and Black Mountain and Slievenacloy to the west. The operational boundary encompasses approximately 4,400 hectares (11,000 acres). From these hills, users can see a huge area that not only includes a number of key landmarks within the greater Belfast area, but also most of the counties in the north of Ireland and beyond to Scotland and the Isle of Man. Together the hills provide Belfast with a unique, stunning backdrop that dominates most of the city and offer a chance to take in magnificent views. However, much of the land within the Belfast Hills is privately owned which limits formal access.

Cavehill Country Park is managed by Belfast City Council and encompasses the heath and moorland above Cavehill, the meadows and the Milewater streams at Carr's Glen linear park, the woodlands at Hazelwood and the Belfast Castle Estate. Rich in biodiversity, the Park also offers panoramic views as well as archaeological sites of interest include the remnants of an old mill at the Milewater Stream.

Colin Glen Forest Park is managed on behalf of DAERA by the Colin Glen Trust. Colin Glen Forest Park offers a 'countryside experience' close to the city limits. Described as 'Belfast's Green Lung', the Park was awarded a Green Flag Award – a national benchmark for quality parks and green spaces. The Park offers a range of outdoor activities including golfing, archery, gymnasium, a high ropes course (funded by BCC), are just a few to mention. BCC has committed £2.5 million towards the Parks ambitious £6million masterplan which will see the creation of a new visitors' and outdoor pursuits centre, camp sites and mountain bike trails with a view to achieve self-sufficiency as well as protect the forest.

Green Belt

Following the publication of Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 21 'Sustainable Development in the Countryside', the Department of Environment (now Department of Infrastructure) withdrew the proposed Green Belt Designation in BMAP. PPS 21 sets out planning policies for development in the countryside. With the publication of PPS 21 in its final form on 1st June 2010, the policies and provisions contained within it now take precedence over the policy provisions for all Green Belts in existing statutory and published draft Plans, with a limited number of exceptions.

Seascape

The seascape can be defined as an area of sea, coastline and land, as perceived by people, whose character results from the actions and interactions of land with sea, by natural and/or human factors ('An Approach to Seascape Character Assessment', Natural England, 2012). Similar to 'landscape', the

seascape forms part of the setting of our city and our everyday lives. The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) published the Regional Seascape Character Assessment of Northern Ireland (NIEA, 2014) to provide a strategic understanding of different areas of regional seascape character along the entire Northern Ireland coast. The Assessment contributes to the aims of the European Landscape Convention through promoting the protection, management and planning of the seascape, and to support European co-operation on landscape issues

The Assessment defines 'Belfast Harbour' as a Seascape Character Area (SCA), which generally relates to the portion of Belfast Lough and adjoining lands within the City Council area. The key characteristics of the seascape area are generally founded on the port, airport and associated commercial and industrial uses, as well as the important nature conservation assets. The identified forces for change include further development, land reclamation, conservation and environmental quality. The Belfast Harbour SCA adjoins Belfast Lough SCA

MATERIAL ASSETS

Waste and Recycling

Waste management has changed and will continue to change dramatically over the next several years. Whilst the LDP will not designate or zone specific sites for the management of waste it will seek to locate new developments which maximise the efficient use of existing utility infrastructure whilst keeping the environmental impact to a minimum.

In terms of existing infrastructure, Belfast City Council operates

- centres for recycling household waste - Alexandra Park, Blackstaff Way, Ormeau and Palmerstown Road⁵⁰
- 3 Civic Amenity Sites – Agnes Street, Springfield Avenue and Cregagh Road

There are 5 recycling centres that are privately owned, Belfast City Recycling, Waste Beater, Avenue Metal Recycling, Avenue Recycling Ltd and All Electrical Recycling.

The 3 landfill sites at the Duncrue Estate have reached capacity and are no longer operational. Work is required for their permanent capping and closure.

Municipal Waste

Three sub-regional groups were formed by local councils in Northern Ireland in recognition of the mutual benefits to be gained from a regional approach to waste management planning. Belfast is part of the Waste Management Group Arc21. Arc21 represents 6 councils in the east of Northern Ireland including:

- Belfast City Council,
- Ards and North Down Council,
- Newry, Mourne and Down Council,
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council,
- Antrim and Newtownabbey Council,
- Mid and East Antrim Council.

Arc21 prepared a Waste Management Plan for the Belfast and surrounding region in fulfilment of its councils 'obligations under Article 23 of the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997. Under Article 23, District Councils have a duty to prepare Waste Management Plans for the forward planning of waste management requirements for collecting, recovering, treating and disposing of controlled waste within the region⁵¹. A revision of the Plan was determined in June 2014.

⁵⁰ <http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/bins-recycling/recycling/recyclingcentres.aspx>

⁵¹ <http://www.arc21.org.uk/download/1/arc21%20Waste%20Management%20Plan%20Oct%202014.pdf>

The EU Waste Framework Directive sets a target of 50% household waste recycling by 2020. This means that in Belfast, based on today's figures, must recycle at least 60,000 tonnes of our household waste by 2020. It also sets a 70% recycling and recovery target for construction and demolition wastes.

The EU Landfill Directive specifies that member states must reduce the amount of biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) they send to landfill to 50% of 1995 levels by 2013 and to 35% by 2020. (BMW is the organic waste collected from households and businesses).

The graph below shows the collected municipal waste landfill rate in Belfast City Council from 2006-2016.

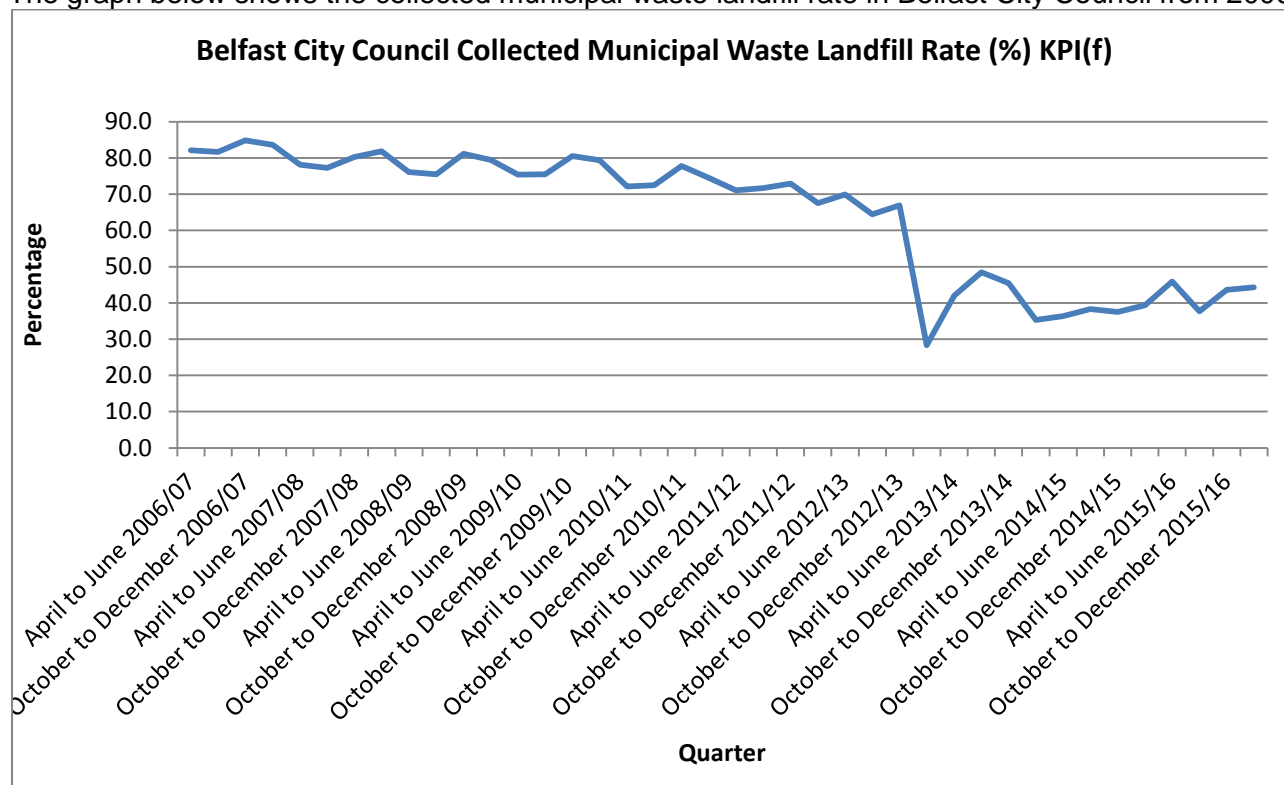


Figure 20: Northern Ireland local authority collected municipal waste management statistics
 Source: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/northern-ireland-local-authority-collected-municipal-waste-management-statistics>

Between 2006 to 2015, there has been a steady decreasing trend in the amount of household waste collected. With the onset of Local Government Reform in 2015, the Belfast City Council area increased by around 21,000 houses which may explain the increase in municipal waste land filled between 2015/2016.

The Council's 'Towards Zero Waste' Action Plan (ZAP) 2012-2015 established a series of tasks aimed at improving Belfast's recycling rate which increased from 32% in 2012 to 44% in 2015 which is working towards reaching the longer term goal set out by the EU Waste Framework Directive (EU 2008/98/EC) which outlined a 50% recycling rate and a 35% landfill diversion rate by 2020. In terms of benchmarking with similar cities in England shows that Belfast has outperformed its UK peer group and will now have to find alternative benchmark partners.

With the LGR in 2015, the recycling rate had decreased and currently stands at 40.01%⁵². A number of factors influenced this increase including, regional trends suggested by the then DoE in 2014 saw the overall amount of household waste increasing. Under LGR, around 21,000 households transferred to Belfast City Council from Castlereagh, Lisburn and North Down. Not all households from the new areas had access to the same recycling services and level of engagement as Belfast's residents. As a result, it will take time for the current recycling systems to embed within the transferring areas. The Council is researching the viability of including glass recyclability within the current system. It is anticipated this would contribute an additional 2.5% to the Council's recycling rate.

⁵² March 2016 figure

The Northern Ireland Landfill Allowance Scheme (NILAS) outlines the reductions of waste sent to landfill that councils must meet each year. NILAS reduced the annual targets for every council year-on-year up to 2020, limiting how much waste we can send to landfill. If Belfast breaches its allowance, it could be fined £150 per tonne which could potentially amount to a fine of £2million.

Through the NILAS contract with NWP, the Council has met its NILAS obligations in 2013/14 and is confident of achieving a similar result in 2014/15. Annually, this contract treats around 47,000 tonnes of residual waste and diverts approximately 30,000 tonnes from landfill. In terms of measurable environmental benefit, the diversion of the tonnage from landfill to recycling has the equivalent effect of removing carbon dioxide pollution from just over 13,000 cars. In 2015/16 43,951 tonnes of waste was sent to landfill which is under the NILAS quota of 50,753 tonnes.

Looking forward it is projected the Council may not achieve NILAS target in 2017/18 and 2018/19. This compounds the need to bring in more interventions to minimise waste sent to landfill for example recycling glass (within the current blue bin system), frequency of collections, increasing the amount sent through contracts for treatment before landfill.

The DOE's (now DAERA) "Towards Resource Management Strategy" states that we need to reach 40% recycling by 2015 and 45% by 2020. However, the Minister of the Environment has recently announced plans to introduce a new 60% recycling target for the waste we collect (LACMW) by 2020.

Waste collection in Belfast costs the rate payer £15million. In 2011 32% of waste in Belfast was recycled and 80,000 tonnes was sent to landfill.

Whilst the current performance has increased steadily, challenges remain in terms of delivering the recycling target of 50% household waste for 2020 which will only be achieved through a paradigm shift in behaviour. In this regard, EU waste policy is shifting from seeking legal compliance in the current take-make-dispose economic model, towards promoting a resource-efficient, circular economy (CE) approach (i.e. an economy which extends the useful life of materials and products through design, manufacturing and reprocessing, thereby "designing out" waste – which could be described as a by-product of poor design and manufacturing processes). This however, like all EU policies will have to be reviewed in light of the UK exiting the European Union (also termed as 'Brexit').

At present, the Council spends around £25 million annually collecting, treating, recycling and disposing of Belfast's waste. This spend ensures that the Council complies with its statutory obligations and, based on 2015/16 projected recycling performance, directly and indirectly supported around 500 jobs in a range of business sectors⁵³. The Council has been progressive in many of its approaches and is one of only a few in the UK which are considering how to implement the circular economy. Such an approach presents an opportunity to lever greater economic and social benefits while keeping pace with global thinking on best practice management and minimisation of waste.

Recycling also supports over 520 jobs in Belfast alone and is a key component in the forthcoming circular economy, so not only are residents saving money by recycling but they are creating jobs and improving the environment through increased resource efficiency. The "Towards a Resourceful Belfast: A Materials Strategy Proposition Document" explores how Belfast could benefit from moving away from the traditional waste management approach and, instead, apply a circular economy approach to generate more value and jobs for the local economy.

Minerals

The SPPS acknowledges that mineral development can make a significant contribution to the local economy in various ways; not least by providing materials for construction such as sand, gravel and crushed rock. Because of this fact, it is important to facilitate mineral development but in a sustainable fashion which balances with the need to protect the environment. Natural mineral resources should still be developed but not at the overriding cost of the environment.

⁵³ Wealth from Waste – LGA local waste review 2013

In the Belfast Council area, there are no active quarries (Black Mountain Quarry is inert) within the plan area.

Belfast is dependent on the operational quarries from the surrounding six Counties especially those based in Counties Antrim (25%) and Down (24%) which produce 49% of all minerals for Northern Ireland. The majority of quarries according to the Quarry Products Association Northern Ireland (QPANI⁵⁴) are based in the Mid Ulster District with 31 quarrying companies and 41 quarry sites producing 3.2Mt of aggregates each year. See also associated table 15 showing average quantity produced per year per County and per Mineral. See figure 23 Production of hard rock, sand and gravel production based on local geology of NI.

Table 14: Average Quantity Produced Per Year per County (GSNI/QPANI)

County	Average Quantity Produced Per Year	Average Selling Value Per Year
Co. Antrim	5,755,971	23,634,794
Co. Armagh	2,489,610	8,816,416
Co. Down	6,149,708	24,364,355
Co. Fermanagh	3,866,057	12,324,285
Co. Londonderry	3,092,140	11,468,011
Co. Tyrone	4,239,148	13,334,205
Per Mineral	Average Quantity Produced Per Year	Average Selling Value Per Year
Basalt	6,741,105	24,043,334
Sandstone	6,120,695	22,689,134
Limestone	5,174,620	16,824,827
Sand & Gravel	5,993,378	23,104,141
Other	1,562,836	7,280,629

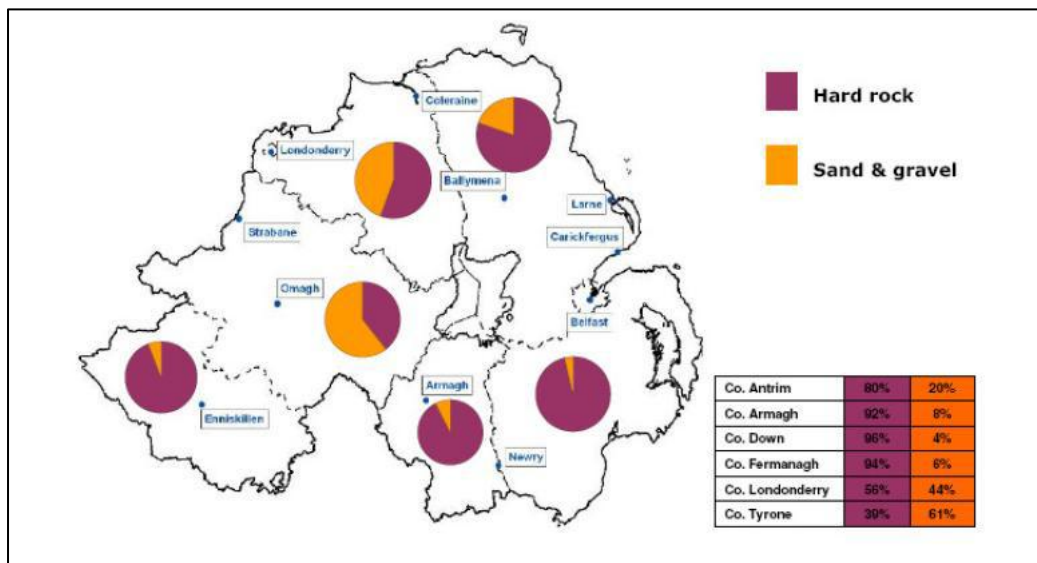


Figure 21: Map of Northern Ireland's Six Counties showing the Production of Hard Rock and Sand and Gravel Attributable to the Local Geology

Sand

Each year, the Minerals Branch in Geological Survey of Northern Ireland on behalf of the DETI collects industry data and publishes an Annual Mineral Statement – mined under the Mines Act 1969 and Quarries (NI) Order 1983. The last updated information from quarries and associated operations was produced in 2010.

DETI have advised that not all quarries in Northern Ireland provide responses to the Mineral Statement and therefore the figures in this paper are not fully reflective of the overall picture in Belfast or indeed in Northern Ireland.

⁵⁴ The Quarry Products Association Northern Ireland (QPANI) represent over 95% of the quarry products industry in NI.

While it is accepted that Belfast has no active quarry production the local economy is still dependent on the aggregate production and table 16 highlights the related companies carrying operating quarry related activities. According to QPAN, I NI produces 20Mt of aggregates and supplies materials worth over £600M, employing directly and indirectly 4,000 people. Table 16 also shows the relative importance of mineral related activity to levels of employment in Belfast Council Area.

Table 15: Belfast Related Industries Operating Quarry Related Activities

Company	Locations	Products / Activity	No of Employees
Conexpo	Belfast Harbour	export of High PSV aggregates	16
Northstone Materials	Belfast Harbour, Dunmurry	Ready Mixed Concrete	10
Six West	Belfast	Mineral Planning Agents	6
McLorian Consulting	Belfast	Mineral Planning/ Environmental Agents	5
Whitemountain Quarries	Blackmountain	Asphalt Manufacture / Inert Waste landfill	5
Whitemountain Quarries	Belfast Harbour	export of High PSV aggregates	2
Tennant Bitumen	Belfast Harbour	Bitumen	10
Lagan Bitumen	Belfast Harbour	Bitumen	10
Atlantic Bitumen	Belfast Harbour	Bitumen	10
Lagan Cement Products	Belfast Harbour	Cement import and export	2
Lagan Cement Products	Blackmountain	Ready mixed Concrete	2
Colinwell Concrete	West Belfast	Precast Concrete	15
Lafarge	Belfast	Cement	7
Larsen	Belfast Harbour	Concrete Admixtures	90
Total		190	

Many of these industries are dependent on Belfast Harbour for exporting to the UK and onwards to Europe. An example of this is Conexpo who exports products (1 Mt annually from their quarry in County Down) globally from the Port of Belfast terminal and via company distribution hubs in Bristol, London and the Netherlands. This highlights the need for a sustainable transport infrastructure and future collaborative working with adjoining councils in the support of this industry.

Climate Change, Energy Consumption and Energy Efficiency

Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) are Methane; Nitrous Oxide; Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs); Perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and Sulphur Hexafluoride (SF₆). The majority of GHGs originate from emissions made up of CO₂ (68% of emissions in Northern Ireland in 2014⁵⁵) and often for simplicity, GHG emissions are measured in terms of CO₂ emissions. Global CO₂ emissions resulting from human activity have increased by over 600% since 1950. The core cause for this is believed to be attributed to the industrial revolution. The concentration of CO₂ in the air is around 400 parts per million by volume (ppm) and rising, compared to about 280ppm in pre-industrial times.

Northern Ireland accounted for 4% of UK emissions in 2014. UK-wide, greenhouse gas emissions decreased 8% between 2013 and 2014, with an average annual fall of 2.2% between 2009 and 2014. Northern Ireland emissions decreased (3%) with an average decrease of 0.4% per year between 2009 and

⁵⁵ Northern Ireland gas inventory 1990-2014 statistical bulletin.

2014. In **Northern Ireland**, emissions in 2014 fell to 20.3 MtCO₂e⁵⁶. Northern Ireland’s target requires less emissions reduction compared to the Scottish and Welsh targets, reflecting the larger share of its emissions from difficult to reduce sectors (in particular agriculture).

- Emissions in 2014 **fell** in power, residential buildings and waste.
- Emissions in 2014 **rose** in non-residential buildings, industry and transport.

Northern Ireland has a target to reduce emissions by at least 35% compared to 1990 levels by 2025. In 2014, emissions in Northern Ireland were 17% below their 1990 levels. The Northern Ireland Executive projections suggest that progress is falling short of what is required in order to meet the 2025 target. (Meeting Carbon Budgets – 2016 Progress Report to Parliament Committee on Climate Change June 2016.)

In 2013, Belfast CO₂ Emissions per Capita (tons) was 6.08 (ranked 21 out of 63 UK Cities (Centre for Cities Outlook January 2016)). Buildings accounted for 80% of GHG emissions and Transport accounted for 19% of GHG emissions in Belfast during 2014. In 2014, Belfast CO₂ Emissions per Capita (tons) had fallen to 5.9. (Local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-2014)

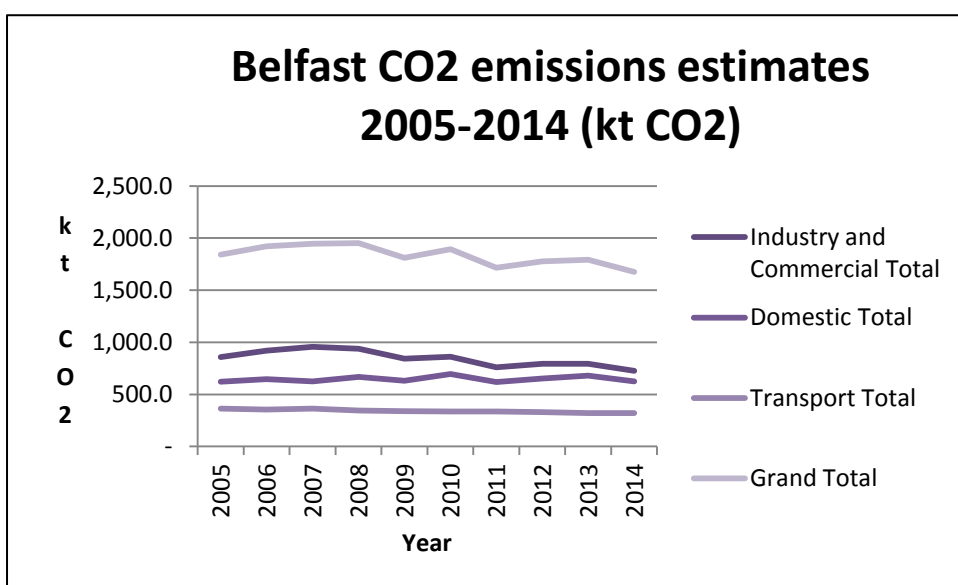


Figure 22: Belfast CO₂ Emissions Estimates 2005-2014

Source: UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions 2005-2014 National Statistics: (June 2016)

⁵⁶ MtCO₂e – Million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent. This measure can aggregate different green house gases into a single measure, using global warming potentials. One unit of carbon is equivalent to 3.664 units of carbon dioxide.

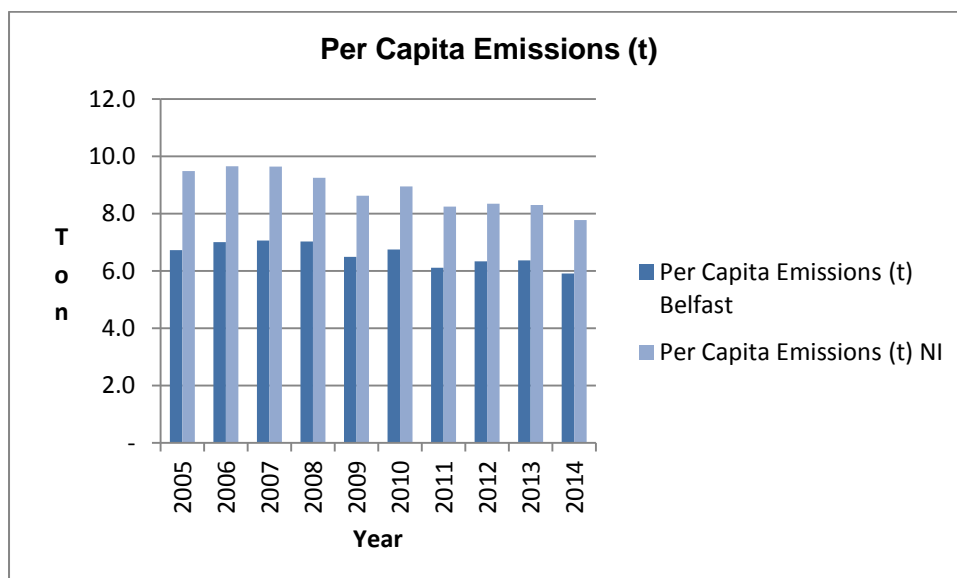


Figure 23: UK Local Authority and Regional Carbon Dioxide Emissions

Source: UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions: 2005-2014 National Statistics (June 2016)

As noted earlier in this paper, in Belfast, transport emissions are the main source of air pollution and accounts for 62.6% of the oxides of nitrogen. Air pollution from particulate matter is currently estimated to reduce the life expectancy of every person by an average of 7-8 months. The young and infirm are often particularly affected, as well as people living in deprived areas. Air pollution due to greenhouse gas emissions is a particularly relevant consideration when the focus of the Local Plan is to grow the City, and to encourage City Living. In addition, emissions of sulphur (SO₂), nitrogen (NO) and ammonia (NH₃) can be deposited on land and water causing either acidification, or nutrient enrichment (eutrophication). It is important that Belfast plays its part by reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for the impacts of climate change.

Consideration needs to be given on how to decrease greenhouse gas emissions by encouraging the reduction of energy consumption and the move to more sustainable methods of energy production. The use of fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced by improving energy efficiencies in transportation, urban design, and buildings.

Energy Consumption

The Department of Economy produced 'Energy in Northern Ireland 2016'⁵⁷, which provided the main source of information for this section. Northern Ireland has three major fossil-fuel based electricity generating plants and a number of renewable generators which make up indigenous electricity production. The 12 month rolling average in electricity consumption in Northern Ireland over the 7 year period April 2008 – April 2015 shows a fairly flat (though, from 2011 onwards, slightly downwards) trend in electricity consumption.

Average annual domestic electricity consumption per meter in Belfast is 3,459 kWh which is lower than NI average of 3,998 kWh. Belfast has the lowest domestic electricity consumption compared to the other NI Council areas.

The Northern Ireland Executive's Programme for Government (PfG) target to "Encourage achievement of 20% of electricity consumption from renewable sources by 2015" was met during 2015. The proportion reached a peak of 25.4% for the 12 month period ending December 2015.

The annual proportion of electricity consumption from renewable sources in Northern Ireland has risen considerably in recent years, from 8.4% in 2010 to 25.4% in 2015.

Wind is the dominant source of renewable electricity generation in Northern Ireland accounting for around 90% of installed capacity and volume generated. Such reliance on this source does mean that monthly

⁵⁷ <https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/articles/energy-northern-ireland>

renewable electricity generation volumes in Northern Ireland can be prone to large fluctuations, due to changing weather conditions.

In recent years, the volume of renewable electricity generated in Northern Ireland has steadily increased as has the number of sites and installed capacity at sites generating electricity from renewable sources. The volume of renewable electricity generated in 2015 (1,984 GWh) was around three times the volume generated in 2010 (706 GWh).

Belfast has the least number of renewable energy sites, 7 (0.05%) out of a total 12,701 sites in Northern Ireland. These 7 sites generate 12,457 MWh of renewable electricity which is 9% of NI's renewable electricity generation.

In terms of the percentage of total indigenous electricity generation accounted for by indigenous renewable generation, Northern Ireland had the second highest proportion (22.2%) of all four UK regions in 2014 using this measure. Scotland had the highest proportion (38.0%) with the UK average at 19.1%.

According to the Department of Communities, the rate of fuel poverty⁵⁸ in Northern Ireland is 42%. There are three factors which influence the impact of fuel poverty including income, the cost of energy and the domestic energy efficiency of the home. Approximately 32% of households in Belfast face fuel poverty⁵⁹.

Belfast has the lowest levels of coal consumption in Northern Ireland at about 76 GWh, or only 2% of the Northern Ireland total. Belfast had the lowest average consumption per household at 6.2 MWh, around half the Northern Ireland average. The lower consumption per household in Belfast Council area may be due factors such as the better availability of mains gas in that council area which would reduce the requirement for home heating oil or the housing mix in council areas.

Phoenix Gas operates the Gas network in Belfast. In 2014, 87% of total connections to the gas network are in Greater Belfast. Gas connections continue to rise each year.

The energy company 'Evermore' are expected to lodge a planning application this year (2016) for a gas powered 400-megawatt power station. The proposed facility situated on the Belfast Harbour Estate will have the capacity to produce electricity for over 400,000 homes.

Climate Change

The 2008 UK Climate Change Act established a framework to develop an economically credible emissions reductions path. The Act extends to Northern Ireland following consent by the Northern Ireland Executive and Assembly. The Act requires the UK to cut emissions by at least 80% by 2050.

The Regional Development Strategy 2035 (RDS) recognises the need to reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate adaptation to climate change. It states that climate change is one of the most serious problems facing the world and greenhouse emissions need to be reduced as well as the promotion of sustainable construction, consumption and production. Alongside this, the reduction and safe disposal of waste is also an imperative consideration.

There are two relevant documents which predict future climate change and the associated current and future risks to Northern Ireland:

The UK government must carry out a climate change risk assessment of the current and future national risks from climate change. The latest assessment is the Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017.

⁵⁸ Fuel poverty is defined as 'a household is in fuel poverty if, in order to maintain an acceptable level of temperature throughout the home, it would have to spend more than 10% of its income on all household fuel'. Home Energy Conservation 19th Annual Report NIHE (2015)

⁵⁹ 2011 House Condition Survey – District Council Figures for Key Measures (Modelled) NIHE July 2014

The Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2014 is the government's response to the risks and opportunities identified within the Climate Change Risk Assessment⁶⁰. The Programme covers the period 2014-2019 and provides strategic objectives in relation to adaptation to climate change, the proposals and policies by which each department will meet these objectives, and the timescales associated with the proposals and policies identified.

The vision of the Adaptation Programme is 'a resilient Northern Ireland which will take timely and well-informed decisions that are responsive to the key risks and opportunities presented by climate change'.

Five objectives have been identified to achieve this vision:

- Fulfil the statutory duties;
- Work in partnership across government and with relevant stakeholders to strengthen and develop policy;
- Raise awareness of the likely effects of climate change;
- Promote and support the enhancement of scientific evidence; and
- Engage with other administrations.

The programme focuses on three main principles:

- Integrating adaptation into relevant key policy areas;
- Developing the evidence base; and
- Communication and cooperation.

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Climate Change Projections

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⁶⁰ <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/doe/ni-climate-change-adaptation-programme.pdf>

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The UK Climate Change Projections predicts that as a result of Climate Change the coast of Northern Ireland will experience an increase in sea level. The medium emissions scenario projection for Belfast shows an increase of 14.5cm by the 2050s and 25.3cm by the 2080s. The relative sea level rise projections are shown in figure 24 below.

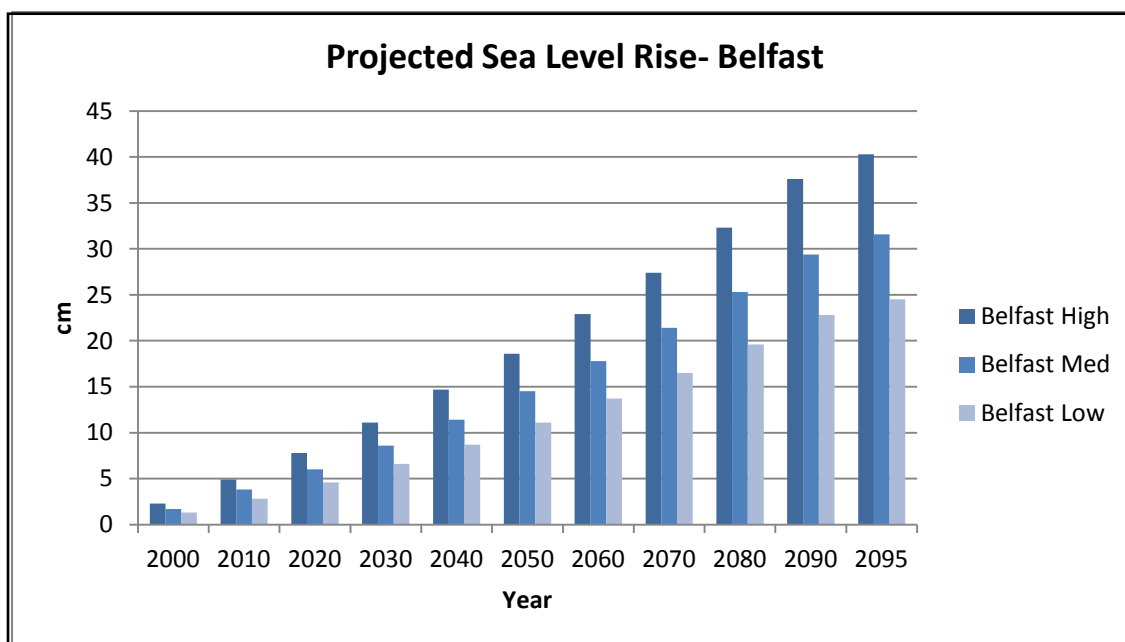


Figure 24: Graph showing relative sea level rise projections for Belfast (cm)³
Source: UK Climate Change Projections.

Annual average temperatures in Northern Ireland are similar to the UK average. The observed trend is that of warming in recent decades. The 2005-2014 decade was 0.7 degrees warmer than the 1961-1990 average.

City	Daily summer max temperature (°C)				5-day winter rainfall accumulation (mm)			
	1961-1990 Observed	2041-2060 Low	2041-2060 Central	2041-2060 High	1961-1990 Observed	2041-2060 Low	2041-2060 Central	2041-2060 High
Belfast	25.9	26.5	28.5	30.9	70.3	70.6	76.9	84.6

Table 17: Daily summer maximum temperature and 5-day winter rainfall accumulation projections for Belfast
Source: UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 Evidence Report- Summary for Northern Ireland.

The general trend of warming is set to continue with the maximum summer temperature in Belfast set to increase by between 0.6 to 5°C by 2060 based on the observed temperature from 1961-1990. Five day winter rainfall is projected to increase by between 0.3 to 14.3mm based on observed five day winter rainfall accumulation from 1961-1990.

As well as hotter summers and wetter winters the UK Climate Change Projections also predict increased frequency of extreme weather events such as heavy rain coupled with flooding, heat waves and dry spells. Key findings from the Climate Change Projections for Northern Ireland by the year 2050 are listed below:

- Reduction in summer mean precipitation of approximately 12%,
- Increase in winter mean precipitation of approximately 9%,
- Increase in summer mean temperature of approximately 2.2°C,
- Increase in winter mean temperature of approximately 1.7°C,
- Sea level rise of 14.5cm above the 1990 sea level.

The Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme lists flooding as potentially the greatest impact of climate change.

Under the Floods Directive, the Flood Risk Management Plans for Northern Ireland have been produced and highlight the flood hazards and risks in the 20 most Significant Flood Risk Areas in Northern Ireland from flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water and reservoirs.

Under the North-Eastern Flood Risk Management Plan, Belfast is designated as a Significant Flood Risk Area (SFRA). The Belfast SFRA is located within the Belfast Lough and Tidal Lagan Flood Management Area and to a lesser extent the Lagan Flood Management Area. The boundaries of the Belfast SFRA are shown in figure 25.

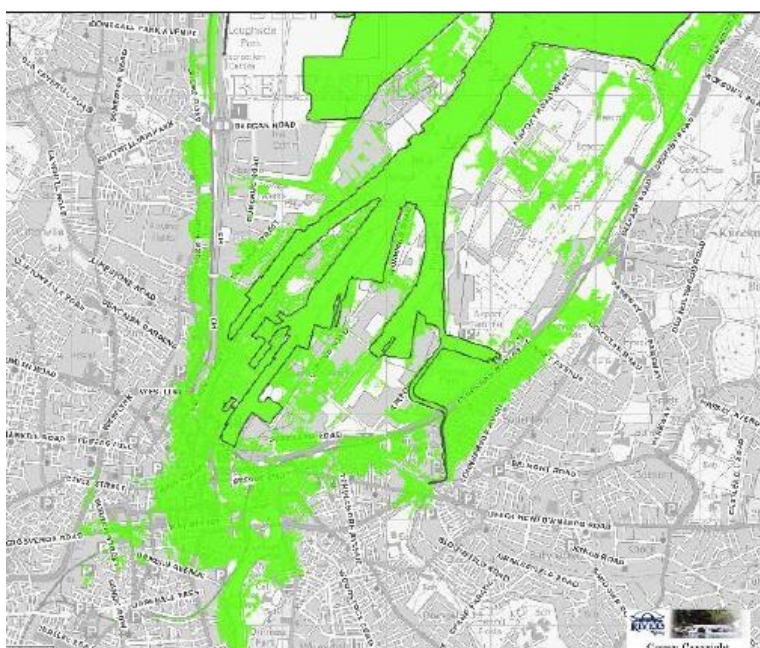


Figure 25: Belfast SFRA- Undefended Coastal Flood Plain
Source: North Eastern Flood Risk Management Plan

According to the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment, the city of Belfast in terms of the potential adverse consequences of flooding, is ranked highest of the twenty SFRA's within Northern Ireland. The city is at risk of both tidal and fluvial flooding. Up to 9,800 properties are at risk of flooding from rivers and 6,000 at risk from both rivers and the sea.

The climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 reports the impact flooding can have on infrastructure. Coastal, river, surface water and groundwater flooding can have a major impact across all sectors of infrastructure. Flooding already accounts for significant losses in infrastructure services, with outages caused by flooding tending to last longer than other weather-related hazards (during extreme events, for several days and in some cases weeks). Half of all flood events in Northern Ireland are caused by surface water flooding. The flooding in 2007 caused transport in Belfast to be severely disrupted when a new underpass flooded⁶².

Climate Change could have a significant impact on Belfast Harbour which accounts for 70% of Northern Ireland's seaborne trade. The harbour provides vital infrastructure services to the economy and wellbeing of communities in Northern Ireland. Being located in the North Sea-Mediterranean transport corridor the Northern Irish transport network is of international importance.

⁶² <https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/UK-CCRA-2017-Northern-Ireland-National-Summary.pdf>

The Belfast Harbour Port Masterplan states that climate change projections of an increase in sea level and storm surges are a risk to ports such as Belfast given their location. These risks are increased in older parts of the port which are relatively low lying. The harbour's flood risk assessment and flood risk management plan consider the coastal impacts of climate change. The 'Harbour Resilience Group' also considers the potential impacts of climate change. The Harbour's Business Continuity Planning process incorporates climate change with a warning and informing system as well as planning and operational controls for adverse weather and storm surges. The Harbour has also participated in the development of the Belfast Coastal Flood Plan^[1]. By working closely with other agencies such as Belfast City Council the Harbour can better understand the risks of flooding and identify appropriate responses.

'Brexit'

Following the referendum on 23rd June 2016, the UK voted to leave the EU. Northern Ireland voted to remain in the EU by a 56% majority. A robust assessment of the impact of leaving the EU will only be possible once the future relationship between the UK and EU has been determined. There may be a period of uncertainty in financial markets and in the economic climate generally until this is resolved.

In terms of the environment, the Northern Ireland Assembly produced a paper on 'Northern Ireland's environment – Background and Potential 'Brexit' Considerations' (September 2016) which states, "*It is not yet clear what the UK's relationship with the EU will be following withdrawal. Whether it mirrors any existing models or sees the development of a bespoke model unique to the UK is not known at this stage*". It goes on to say, "*A complete departure from the EU may give the UK Government more scope and control over environmental objectives. Whether this would involve a relaxation, tightening, or continuation of environmental standards remains to be seen depending on requirements to be retained by international/global agreements and priorities and negotiations between the EU and UK*"⁶³

⁶³ <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/assembly-business/committees/agriculture-environment-and-rural-affairs/research-papers-2016/northern-irelands-environment---background-and-potential-brexit-considerations/>

APPENDIX 4: ASSESSMENT OF OPTIONS: COMPATIBILITY MATRICES

GR1 - Supporting Economic Growth

Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Baseline Demographic Growth	Option 2 Supporting Baseline Employment Growth	Option 3 Supporting Higher Employment Growth	Justification
Social	1 Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society.	O	++	+	Option 1 is considered to have a neutral effect as it would effectively maintain the status quo. Option 2 is considered to have a significant positive effect as it would deliver increased employment options, assisting more people into work, and thereby helping to reduce deprivation and promote a more inclusive and equal society. This option is also less likely to require peripheral areas for new growth, enabling people living in deprived inner city communities to have better access to jobs. Option 3 is considered to have a minor positive effect. It would deliver increased employment options, assisting more people into work, although it is likely to lead to pressures for additional lands in more outlying, peripheral areas which may result in jobs being less accessible to those residing in these areas.
	2 Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	-	+	+/-	Increased employment opportunities in the city will have a direct positive impact on the health, wellbeing and quality of life of the population. Option 1 is considered to have a minor negative effect as it would not result in increased employment opportunities. Option 2 is considered to have a minor positive effect. Option 3 is considered to have mixed effects as the added pressures for extra land for economic development (and for new housing to facilitate same) may also result in greater distances between resident population and places of work.
	3 To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs.	-	+	++	Option 1 is considered to have a minor negative effect as it would not provide the flexibility should economic growth increase whereby additional homes are then required, and, not having planned for these, there would be an issue with the provision of good quality housing to meet people's needs. Option 2 is considered to have a minor positive effect. It is likely to lead to more choice to meet housing need as job creation generally leads to more housing. Option 3 is considered to have a significant positive effect as more economic growth is proposed than with option 2.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	O No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Baseline Demographic Growth	Option 2 Supporting Baseline Employment Growth	Option 3 Supporting Higher Employment Growth	Justification
	4	Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour.	0	0	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	5	To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities.	0	0	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities.	+/-	+	-	Adopting a balanced and plan-led approach to delivering new residential development land to sustain an increased population ensures access to local infrastructure services and facilities can be effectively planned. Option 1 is considered to have mixed effects as it retains the status quo and is not likely to enhance access for residents to the same degree as option 2 may. Option 2 is considered to have a minor positive effect for the reason set out above. Option 3 is considered to have a minor negative effect and is likely to create difficulties in sourcing enough suitable land to facilitate a very large population increase.
	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities.	--	+	++	Option 1 is considered to have a significant negative effect as it would only accommodate very limited economic growth. Option 2 is considered to have a minor positive effect as it would result in job creation for residents of the city. Option 3 is considered to have a significant positive effect as it would see enhanced economic growth in excess of that under option 2.
	8	Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's role as a regional economic driver.	--	+	++	Option 1 is considered to have significant negative effects as it would maintain the status quo and not see enhanced economic growth. Option 2 is considered to have minor positive effects; given the objective of enabling the city to compete with similar sized cities elsewhere in the UK in terms of attracting investment, creating jobs and driving the regional economy. Option 3 is considered to have a significant positive effect as it proposes higher economic growth.

Key:

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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Baseline Demographic Growth	Option 2 Supporting Baseline Employment Growth	Option 3 Supporting Higher Employment Growth	Justification
Environmental	9 Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel.	--	+	+/-	<p>Locating new homes closer to the accessible employment opportunities – thereby seeking a higher rate of population growth and residential development than Belfast has traditionally seen – represents a more sustainable pattern of development for the City.</p> <p>Option 1 is considered to have a significant negative effect. The existing demographic scenario would see existing unsustainable travel patterns continue.</p> <p>Option 2 is considered to have a minor positive effect. The lower level of population and economic development growth proposed is more likely to facilitate a well integrated transport system with a larger percentage of the population living closer to their place of work and to key local services and facilities, thereby having minor positive effects.</p> <p>Option 3 is considered to have mixed effects and whilst there would be a sequential approach to new growth, in the medium to longer term, the upper growth scenario could result in pressures for new peripheral developments that may not be well connected and will continue to encourage private car travel.</p>
	10 Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy.	--	+	+/-	<p>Option 1 is considered to have a significant negative effect as current economic patterns are unsustainable. Assuming the status quo continues there would only be limited economic growth; not supporting the transition to a low carbon economy as the current mass commuting in and out of Belfast on a daily basis would be likely to continue.</p> <p>Option 2 is considered to have a minor positive effect as it aims to deliver a realistic population increase for the city with a focus on city centre living, ensuring residents are located close to places of work. A vibrant city centre with convenient access to services and facilities would also encourage more sustainable travel modes than the private car. This would make a positive contribution to the aim of a low carbon economy.</p> <p>Option 3 is considered to have mixed effects. It may create difficulties as the level of economic growth is likely to give rise to pressures for economic development in less sustainable areas, which may reinforce existing unsustainable travel patterns.</p>

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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Baseline Demographic Growth	Option 2 Supporting Baseline Employment Growth	Option 3 Supporting Higher Employment Growth	Justification
	11 Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species.	+	-	--	Option 1, which reflects the continuation of existing trends, would see little or no growth in the economy. Therefore, the absence of new economic development sites, together with requirements for a lower level of new housing development, would serve to protect existing biodiversity assets in the Plan area, and therefore ranks as having minor positive effects. Options 2 is likely to have a minor negative effect as there would be pressure to deliver new sites for employment and housing, which could impact on biodiversity and habitat, even on urban brownfield sites. Option 3 could have significant negative effects, as higher growth would likely also necessitate bringing forward peripheral greenfield sites outside the established urban footprint.
	12 Protect and enhance soil quality.	?	+	+/-	Option 1 would be considered to have unknown effect on soil quality – development would be prioritised within the urban footprint however the location of development would be unknown. Development outside of the urban area could result on negative effect on soil quality, however this remains uncertain. Option 2 may have minor positive effects as economic growth could see existing contaminated brownfield sites brought back into active use, which is a positive for soil quality. Option 3 could have mixed effects. Whilst it would see brownfield sites redeveloped, it would also likely require the bringing forward of additional greenfield sites outside the established urban footprint, that could have detrimental effects on soil quality.
	13 Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings	?	++	+/-	Option 1 is considered to have a neutral effect on the historic environment because it effectively continues the status quo, where the SPPS advocates a sequential approach to development, with priority given to previously developed land/sites within the urban footprint. In the absence of knowing where development would occur, the effect on the built and historic environment is unknown/ uncertain. Option 2 could deliver new developments that bring disused, brownfield and heritage assets back into use thereby enhancing streetscapes and revitalising long standing areas of dereliction. The anticipated population increase of this option also aligns more closely to the available land for residential development as opposed to the upper economic growth scenario (option 3). Option 2 is therefore considered to have a significant positive effect. Option 3, the higher growth scenario, could result in adverse impacts on the built and historic environment through lower quality schemes overall and pressures for town cramming. It is likely to have both positive and negative effects and is therefore

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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Baseline Demographic Growth	Option 2 Supporting Baseline Employment Growth	Option 3 Supporting Higher Employment Growth	Justification
					scored as having mixed effects.
14	Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.	+	+	-	Option 1, which reflects the continuation of existing trends, would see little or no growth in the economy. Thereby, serving to protect existing landscape and geodiversity. This is considered a minor positive effect. Option 2 proposes a lower level of growth and is more readily accommodated within the existing urban footprint, therefore with minor positive effect on landscape and geodiversity. This is also considered a minor positive effect. Option 3 could have minor negative effects, as higher growth would likely increase pressure for development on peripheral greenfield sites outside the established urban footprint.
15	Protect and enhance open space and natural green space including Belfast's countryside asset.	+	-	--	Option 1 would be considered to have a minor positive effect on this SA objective as the lack of economic growth (and baseline levels of population growth) would minimise the requirement for new sites that could put pressure on existing green spaces. Option 2 could see some brownfield sites that have re-colonised and become valued green spaces, being redeveloped, with consequent minor negative effects. Option 3, however, with a much higher level of growth proposed, could see pressures for the development of greenfield areas in the countryside, thereby having potentially significant negative effects.
16	Promote the sustainable management of waste.	0	+	+/-	The sequential approach to new residential development in growing the city is compatible with the objective to sustainably manage waste and support existing infrastructure. Option 1 effectively maintains the status quo, so would have a neutral effect. Option 2 would be considered to have minor positive effects. Option 3 may increase pressure for development in outlying areas to facilitate growth and is therefore considered to have mixed effects.
17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources.	+/-	+/-	+/-	Belfast has a healthy supply of water, so this is not considered to be an issue for the above options. The economic growth options do not envisage any heavy industry that would require significant volumes of water usage. However, as has been documented in the 'Living with Water Programme', there are capacity issues with the existing WWT facilities in Belfast, which could prove to be a risk in the short term. However, the effective management of infrastructure in line with development in the longer term

Key:	++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Baseline Demographic Growth	Option 2 Supporting Baseline Employment Growth	Option 3 Supporting Higher Employment Growth	Justification
					should ensure quality and efficiency is maintained. All options are considered to have mixed effects.
18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality.	-	+	+/-	Option 1 is likely to have minor negative effects as it does not propose any increase in economic growth and so will not have planned for the population growth in the event that the economy does perform well. This could result in people having to live outside the city further away from their place of work. Option 2 is likely to have a minor positive effect by planning to accommodation people and jobs within the city; reducing travel distances and having a positive effect on air quality. In addition, new economic development continues to embrace clean green technologies and is compatible with an increasingly digital economy. Option 3 is predicted to have mixed effects as it may be necessary to look to greenfield sites to accommodate new development – leading to unsustainable travel patterns and potentially increasing levels of air pollution.
19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	O	+	+/-	Option 1, with no economic growth proposed, is deemed to have neutral effect and effectively maintains the status quo. The existing SPPS and RDS include general policies in relation to flood risk and adaptation to climate change. Option 2 is considered to have a minor positive effect as it aims to deliver a realistic population increase for the city ensuring residents are located close to place of work with convenient access to services and facilities and more sustainable travel opportunities. This would make a positive contribution to climate change goals including greenhouse gas emissions and is also well placed to enable more sustainable use of resources, thereby assisting with ‘future-proofing’ developments against the likely effects of climate change. Option 3 seeks a significant population increase and upper economic growth scenario resulting in more people living closer to their place of work in Belfast (as opposed to the existing scenario where more than 50% of workers commute from outside the city). However, option 3 may also create difficulties, requiring land outside the urban footprint in order to meet population and growth targets. Option 3 would therefore be considered to have mixed effects.
Mitigation or enhancement:					

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	O No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Baseline Demographic Growth	Option 2 Supporting Baseline Employment Growth	Option 3 Supporting Higher Employment Growth	Justification
		<p>SA Objective 2 - Ensure development densities would not give rise to town cramming. When allocating land, prioritise sites that will minimise distances between resident population and their places of work.</p>				
		<p>SA Objective 6 - Ensure the LDP provides sufficient local services to match the planned level of growth (see LP6).</p>				
		<p>SA Objective 10 – Ensure that all new economic development can make a positive contribution to the transition to a low carbon economy, e.g. development of the circular economy, incorporation of renewable technologies, embracing the digital economy, flexible working practices etc.</p>				
		<p>SA Objective 11 – At site selection stage, prioritise sites to minimise impact on biodiversity.</p>				
		<p>SA Objective 14 – Targeting the city centre and brownfield sites within the existing settlement will help to mitigate against likely effects on landscapes and geo-diversity (refer LP1).</p>				
		<p>SA Objective 17 – However, the effective management of infrastructure in line with development in the longer term should ensure quality and efficiency is maintained.</p>				
		<p>SA Objective 19 – Incorporate requirement for SUDS technology (where appropriate) – refer SCR12. Also, prioritise sites for development which are not at flood risk. Also, ensure that all new development is ‘future-proofed’ where possible, to take account of the likely impacts of future climate change.</p>				

Key:

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LP1 - Accommodating New Homes

Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Sequential Approach	Option 2 Sequential Approach with Brownfield Land Target	Option 3 Sequential Approach with Increased Densities	Option 4 Sequential Approach, with Brownfield Land Target & Increased Densities	Justification
Social	1 Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society.	O	+	+	++	Option 1 effectively maintains the status quo as it is already a policy requirement. Consequently, the effect is considered neutral. Option 2, by also adopting a target for the development of brownfield land, increases the likelihood of developing city centre and inner city sites that could act as a catalyst for the regeneration of deprived neighbourhoods and the potential for new shared spaces. Option 2 is considered to have a minor positive effect. Option 3 proposes increased densities rather than a brownfield land target. Increased densities on sites within the urban footprint will provide higher concentrations of people and attract increased investment opportunities that may provide more opportunities to bring people back into work. Option 3 is considered to have a minor positive effect. For options 2 and 3, many of these disconnected and deprived areas could benefit from careful site selection and well designed and integrated new developments. Given the City Centre's shared sense of ownership by all communities and the access it offers to employment and other services, new housing there would support inclusivity and equality. Option 4 combines options 1, 2 and 3 and is therefore likely to have significant positive effects.
	2 Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	+/-	+	+	++	Option 1 is likely to have mixed effects. The sequential approach to new residential development would enable new housing to be located closer to existing services and facilities and with good accessibility to the road and public transport network. Quality of life benefits will be enhanced as a result. However, it is likely that lower density development could occur in city centre / edge of centre sites, failing to maximise the capacity of land, leading to a lower number of people benefitting from convenient access to services, facilities and places of employment. Option 2, targeting brownfield sites (many of which are located in central areas) is considered to have a minor positive effect by actively seeking to develop land within the urban footprint. Option 3 is also likely to have a minor positive effect by increasing densities, ensuring people are accommodated closer to their place of work and to key services and facilities; thereby promoting sustainable travel modes and improved health and wellbeing.

Key:

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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Sequential Approach	Option 2 Sequential Approach with Brownfield Land Target	Option 3 Sequential Approach with Increased Densities	Option 4 Sequential Approach, with Brownfield Land Target & Increased Densities	Justification
							Option 4 combines options 1, 2 and 3 and is therefore likely to have significant positive effects.
	3	To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs.	?	+/-	+	++	Option 1 is considered to have an uncertain/ unknown effect as there would be no density control or target for brownfield development and pressures could increase to expand the settlement to include greenfield sites. Environmental constraints may make such sites more difficult to deliver, leading to problems in ensuring the provision of good quality housing to meet the needs of all who require it. Option 2 would be considered to have mixed effects. Targeting brownfield sites using the sequential approach has already been employed in Belfast for many years, with a large percentage of sites being developed this way. This option is likely to provide good quality housing for many and on strategically located brownfield sites close to key services and employment. However, a lack of robust density policy may result in shortages of land over the plan period. Option 3 would have minor positive effects by helping to ensure that all housing need is accommodated. Option 4, which combines options 1, 2 and 3 is best placed to ensure that an appropriate mix of housing is provided. This will enable the variety of housing needs to be met, including those of an ageing population and smaller households, whilst also offering high quality spacious family accommodation. Option 4 is therefore considered to have a significant positive effect.
	4	Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour.	0	+	+	++	Option 1 effectively maintains the status quo as a sequential approach is already a planning policy requirement. It would be considered to have a neutral effective on this objective. Option 2 is considered to have a minor positive effect by encouraging brownfield development. Many of these vacant sites are located in city centre and inner city areas. Bringing these sites back into use is likely to increase footfall and activity, which in turn leads to passive surveillance and reduced risk of crime and anti-social behaviour. Option 3 is considered to have a minor positive effect. By increasing density and activity at key locations within the urban footprint it is likely that occurrences of crime and anti-social behaviour will reduce. Option 4 is considered to have significant positive effects as it combines options 1, 2 and 3 and will assist with significantly increasing community safety and reducing

Key:

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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Sequential Approach	Option 2 Sequential Approach with Brownfield Land Target	Option 3 Sequential Approach with Increased Densities	Option 4 Sequential Approach, with Brownfield Land Target & Increased Densities	Justification	
						instances of crime and anti-social behaviour.	
	5	To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities.	○	○	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities.	-	+/-	+	++	Option 1 is considered to have a minor negative effect as relying on the sequential approach may result in a shortage of land during the plan period; increasing pressure to bring forward periphery sites that are not as accessible to local services and facilities. Option 2 is considered to have mixed effects by targeting brownfield sites, often in city centre locations, to provide new residential development accessible to local services and facilities. However, in order to meet population targets, additional land may be required at more peripheral locations which would not be as accessible to residents. This option would therefore be likely to have mixed effects. Option 3 is considered to have minor positive effects by promoting the highest densities within the city centre and at other locations benefitting from high accessibility to public transport facilities; ensuring that the majority of residents in the city continue to have easy access and, in many cases, enhanced access to local services and facilities. Option 4 is considered to have significant positive effects as it combines the benefits of all options - increased densities, targeting brownfield lands and the sequential approach.
	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities.	?	+	+	++	Option 1 is considered to have an uncertain effect as it does not clarify where within the urban footprint new economic development could or should locate. Option 2 is considered to have a minor positive effect by focusing on brownfield sites and maximising the contribution to urban regeneration. The brownfield sites will often act as a catalyst to stimulate development in the immediate surroundings. Many of these brownfield sites are located in central areas which are also an attractive location

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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Sequential Approach	Option 2 Sequential Approach with Brownfield Land Target	Option 3 Sequential Approach with Increased Densities	Option 4 Sequential Approach, with Brownfield Land Target & Increased Densities	Justification	
						for new employment growth. Option 3 is considered to have a minor positive effect as it aligns with employment opportunities, many of which also favour city centre and other accessible locations. Option 4 is considered to have a significant positive effect by combining the benefits of all the options.	
	8	Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's role as a regional economic driver.	+	+	+	++	All options, in accommodating new homes, will help to grow the population of Belfast, supporting jobs and thereby contribute to the development of Belfast as a competitive place and its role as a regional economic driver, to some degree. Option 1 is considered to have a minor positive effect. It is the least likely of the four options to have a minor positive effect on this SA objective. However, it would enable flexibility to respond to proposed new economic investment opportunities as they arise. Option 2 is considered to have a minor positive effect as it would promote a concentration of people living in accessible locations. Option 3 is considered to have a minor positive effect as it would seek to build up a concentration of the resident population at key locations, creating an accessible workforce; attractive to business and investment. Option 4 is considered to have a significant positive effect by proposing a multi-faceted approach (sequential development, higher density and targeting brownfield). This is best placed to assist the delivery of this SA objective.
Environmental	9	Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel.	?	+/-	+	++	Option 1 is considered to have an uncertain effect in the absence of a more targeted approach to new housing. Option 2 is considered to have mixed effects. It would contribute towards an integrated transport system, encouraging people to use more sustainable modes of transport to travel the shorter distances between home and work, or to recreational activities, services and facilities. However, not applying higher densities may result in additional more outlying sites being required to accommodate new homes. This could work against the objective of an integrated transport system. Option 3 is considered to have a minor positive effect by promoting an integrated transport system and encouraging sustainable travel; given its focus on higher densities at accessible locations. Option 4 is considered to have significant positive effects. Combining higher densities in

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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Sequential Approach	Option 2 Sequential Approach with Brownfield Land Target	Option 3 Sequential Approach with Increased Densities	Option 4 Sequential Approach, with Brownfield Land Target & Increased Densities	Justification
						central areas, the use of brownfield lands (many of which are also at central locations), together with the general sequential approach, means that option 4 is best placed to deliver on integrated transport and sustainable travel.
10	Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy.	?	+/-	+	++	<p>The principle of having concentrations of population in central areas of the city and at key accessible locations is beneficial in terms of encouraging sustainable travel patterns, reducing the need to travel and attracting investment which has convenient access to a large workforce. A targeted approach to accommodating new homes can also enable improved digital connectivity as telecommunications infrastructure can be provided more efficiently at less cost, to support home working and enhanced access to broadband. The rationale for and the scoring of the options is therefore the same as for SA9 above.</p> <p>Option 1 is considered to have an uncertain effect in the absence of a more targeted approach to new housing.</p> <p>Option 2 is considered to have mixed effects. It would contribute towards the transition to a low carbon economy; however, not applying higher densities may result in additional more outlying sites being required to accommodate new homes. This could work against the objective of transitioning to a low carbon economy.</p> <p>Option 3 is considered to have a minor positive effect by promoting an integrated transport system and encouraging sustainable travel; given its focus on higher densities at accessible locations.</p> <p>Option 4 is considered to have significant positive effects. Combining higher densities in central areas, the use of brownfield lands (many of which are also at central locations), together with the general sequential approach, means that option 4 is best placed to deliver on the transition to a low carbon economy.</p>
11	Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species.	-	+/-	+/-	+	<p>Option 1 is considered to have a minor negative effect. Whilst it would prioritise new residential development within the existing urban footprint, by not targeting higher densities in the city centre and areas where there is high accessibility to public transport, it is likely to result in more development pressures on open spaces and Greenfield areas outside the urban footprint, to accommodate the additional population required, which has implications for existing biodiversity assets.</p> <p>Options 2 and 3 would ensure that new development is focused within the urban</p>

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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Sequential Approach	Option 2 Sequential Approach with Brownfield Land Target	Option 3 Sequential Approach with Increased Densities	Option 4 Sequential Approach, with Brownfield Land Target & Increased Densities	Justification
						footprint, reducing the chance of requiring sites in the countryside. However, within the urban footprint, there are green spaces and some brownfield sites that have re-colonised and may have ecological merit and which could come under pressure for development. Therefore options 2 and 3 may have mixed effects. Option 4, in combining options 1, 2 and 3, would be best placed to protect open spaces and Belfast's countryside asset, including the habitats and species that they support, and so would have minor positive effects on this SA objective.
12	Protect and enhance soil quality.	-	+	+	++	Option 1 is considered to have minor negative effects as it would be likely to result in increased pressures for development in the countryside, which would have possible implications on soil quality. Options 2 is considered to have a minor positive effect as redevelopment and remediation will improve/ enhance soil quality on existing contaminated brown field sites. Option 3 is considered to have a minor positive effect. By targeting higher densities within the urban footprint, with a focus on the city centre, would reduce the likelihood of pressures developing on the countryside asset, thereby helping to protect soil quality. Option 4 is considered to have a significant positive effect by combining the benefits of brown-field redevelopment and higher densities.
13	Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings	0	+/-	+/-	+/-	Option 1 is considered to have a neutral effect as it effectively continues the status quo. Options 2, 3 and 4 are considered to have mixed effects. A higher density of city centre / inner city development, which would be advocated in option 2, 3 and 4, would offer the opportunity to reuse historic buildings, or to enhance streetscapes by redeveloping old buildings or filling in brownfield lands. This would have minor positive effects on the SA objective to Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings However, there is also a risk that as pressure for land increases over time, the historic environment could come under more pressure for demolition.
14	Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive	-	+	+	++	Option 1 is considered to have a minor negative effect. Whilst it would prioritise new residential development within the existing urban footprint, by not targeting higher densities in the city centre and areas where there is high accessibility to public transport, it is likely to result in more development pressures on areas outside the urban

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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Sequential Approach	Option 2 Sequential Approach with Brownfield Land Target	Option 3 Sequential Approach with Increased Densities	Option 4 Sequential Approach, with Brownfield Land Target & Increased Densities	Justification
	landscape and geo-diversity.					<p>footprint, which has implications for landscape quality and geo-diversity in these outlying areas.</p> <p>Options 2 and 3 are considered to have minor positive effects by ensuring that new development is focused within the urban footprint, reducing the chance of requiring sites in the countryside.</p> <p>Option 4 is considered to have a significant positive effect by combining options 1, 2 and 3, and is therefore best placed to protect Belfast's distinctive landscape and geo-diversity.</p>
15	Protect and enhance open space and natural green space including Belfast's countryside asset.	-	+/-	+/-	+	<p>Option 1 is considered to have a minor negative effect on this SA objective. Whilst it would prioritise new residential development within the existing urban footprint, by not targeting higher densities in the city centre and areas where there is high accessibility to public transport, it is likely to result in more development pressures on open spaces and natural green space outside the urban footprint.</p> <p>Options 2 and 3 are considered to have mixed effects by ensuring that new development is focused within the urban footprint, reducing the chance of requiring sites in the countryside. However, within the urban footprint, there are green spaces and some brownfield sites that are now grassed over, which may come under pressure for development.</p> <p>Option 4 is considered to have minor positive effects by combining options 1, 2 and 3, and is considered best placed to protect open spaces and natural green spaces, including Belfast's countryside asset.</p>
16	Promote the sustainable management of waste.	+/-	+	+	++	<p>Option 1 is considered to have mixed effects. It effectively maintains the status quo, (as the sequential approach is already a policy requirement in the SPPS) so it would look to accommodate new housing within the urban footprint, which is compatible with the sustainable waste management objective. However, applying the sequential approach on its own may increase development pressures outside the urban footprint which would work against this objective.</p> <p>Options 2 and 3 are considered to have minor positive effects as they are compatible with the objective to sustainably manage waste and support existing infrastructure.</p> <p>Option 4 is considered to have significant positive effects by combining the benefits of all options.</p>

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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Sequential Approach	Option 2 Sequential Approach with Brownfield Land Target	Option 3 Sequential Approach with Increased Densities	Option 4 Sequential Approach, with Brownfield Land Target & Increased Densities	Justification
17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources.	-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Option 1 is considered to have a minor negative effect. It is less likely to generate economies of scale, particularly in the shorter term. Options 2, 3 and 4 are considered to have mixed effects. These options are considered more cost effective, with less new infrastructure required and concentration of population providing economies of scale. However, as has been documented in the 'Living with Water Programme', there are capacity issues with the existing WWT facilities in Belfast, which could prove to be a risk in the short term. The effective management of infrastructure in line with development in the longer term should ensure quality and efficiency is maintained.
18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality.	-	+/-	+	++	Option 1 is considered to have a minor negative effect. Planning to have new homes within the urban footprint would be beneficial in terms of air quality. However, option 1, in not seeking increased densities or targeting brownfield sites, could have a minor negative effect through the necessity to look to more outlying, greenfield sites for new development that may compound unsustainable travel patterns and give rise to air pollution. Option 2 is considered to have mixed effects. It should provide some positive benefits to air quality as many of the brownfield sites are in city centre / inner city areas which will locate new homes closer to places of work, services and facilities. Not applying any density control however could still create demand for more outlying sites to meet population targets over the plan period. Option 3 is considered to have minor positive effects and will endeavour to ensure that the majority of people are housed closer to their place of work. Option 4 is considered to have significant positive effects by combining all three options and would be most likely to assist in reducing pollution / improving air quality.

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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Sequential Approach	Option 2 Sequential Approach with Brownfield Land Target	Option 3 Sequential Approach with Increased Densities	Option 4 Sequential Approach, with Brownfield Land Target & Increased Densities	Justification
19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	+/-	+/-	+	++	<p>Option 1 is considered to have mixed effects, it would focus development within the existing urban footprint – a more compact population closer to places of work would have positive effects in terms of sustainable travel, more efficient use of infrastructure and services etc. thereby preparing the plan area for the future impacts of climate change. However, in the absence of higher densities or targeted use of brownfield sites, pressures could develop on Greenfield sites outside the urban footprint.</p> <p>Option 2 is considered to have mixed effects. It means that residents are located closer to places of work, and to a vibrant city centre with convenient access to services and facilities. They would therefore be encouraged to use more sustainable travel modes than the private car. This would make a positive contribution to climate change goals. However, a higher proportion of development land would be required, in the absence of applying higher densities, increasing the flood risk.</p> <p>Option 3 is considered to have minor positive effects by applying higher densities with a city centre focus, would result in a concentration of population nearer places of work, services and facilities, reducing the need to travel and encouraging use of more sustainable modes of transport and also enabling more efficient energy use and infrastructure requirement.</p> <p>Option 4 is considered to have significant positive effects by increasing densities and targeting brownfield sites together, in a sequential approach.</p>

Mitigation or enhancement:

SA Objective 2 - When allocating land, prioritise sites that will minimise distances between resident population and their places of work.

SA Objective 6 - Ensure the LDP provides sufficient local services to match the planned level of new housing development (see LP9).

SA Objective 11 – At site selection stage, prioritise sites to minimise impact on biodiversity. The use of key site requirements should also help direct development on allocated sites to reduce impact on biodiversity.

SA Objective 19 – Incorporate requirement for SUDS technology (where appropriate) – refer SCR12. Also, prioritise sites for development which are not at flood risk.

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LP2 - Affordable Housing Requirement

Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Social Housing Zoning	Option 2 Key Site Requirements for Affordable Housing	Option 3 Specific Affordable Housing Target for All Larger Developments	Justification
Social	1	Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society.	-	+/-	+	<p>Option 1 is considered to have minor negative effects. It has previously seen the unintended consequence of creating single tenure housing developments. This would not assist in the objective for an inclusive society, and could compound problems of deprived neighbourhoods within Belfast.</p> <p>Option 2 is considered to have mixed effects. Whilst helping to integrate affordable housing within new developments using key site requirements, which would have positive effect, it would fail to capture opportunities to provide affordable housing within any unanticipated, or windfall, housing developments.</p> <p>Option 3 is considered to have minor positive effects by requiring a % of all new residential developments to accommodate affordable housing as an integrated part of the scheme, would contribute towards inclusivity and equality in neighbourhoods. The avoidance of single tenure developments, which have given rise to many of the existing deprived neighbourhoods.</p>
	2	Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	-	+/-	+	<p>Option 1 is considered to have a minor negative effect as it risks creating single tenure neighbourhoods which have historically seen increased incidences of poor physical and mental health, lower opportunities and consequent effects on quality of life.</p> <p>Option 2 is considered to have mixed effects. Whilst helping to integrate affordable housing within new developments using key site requirements, it would not allow opportunity to provide affordable housing within any unanticipated housing developments.</p> <p>Option 3 is considered to have minor positive effects and considered best placed to maximise the benefit of new affordable housing provision, through the 'pepper-potting' of new affordable homes within new housing developments throughout the city, as part of well integrated new housing developments on appropriately zoned land and providing the flexibility to benefit from windfall developments.</p>

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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Social Housing Zoning	Option 2 Key Site Requirements for Affordable Housing	Option 3 Specific Affordable Housing Target for All Larger Developments	Justification	
	3	To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs.	+/-	+	++	All three options would enable more people to access housing through the provision of quality, affordable homes in Belfast. However, they have differing levels of impact. Option 1 is considered to have mixed effects and would continue to see the problems associated with single tenure developments such as higher rates of crime, ASB, poorer educational and employment opportunities etc. These issues are likely to affect the popularity of any new single tenure developments in the medium to long term with consequent impact on ensuring people can meet their housing needs. Option 2 is considered to have minor positive effects by requiring new residential developments to incorporate affordable housing. Option 3 is considered to have significant positive effects by ensuring that affordable housing is also integrated into any unanticipated or windfall sites.
	4	Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour.	-	+	+	Option 1 is considered to have a minor negative effect as it could compound the problems associated with single tenure neighbourhoods, including higher crime rates and incidences of anti-social behaviour. Options 2 and 3 are both considered to have minor positive effects and would avoid the issues commonly associated with single tenure neighbourhoods and thereby increasing community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour.
	5	To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities.	?	?	?	As the locations of new housing development are as yet unknown, it is not possible to determine if new affordable housing locations will retain/enhance access to local services and facilities. Options 1, 2 and 3 are therefore all considered to have uncertain effects.
Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities.	?	?	?	As the locations of new housing development are as yet unknown, it is not possible to determine if new affordable housing locations will retain/enhance access to local services and facilities. Options 1, 2 and 3 are therefore all considered to have uncertain effects.

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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Social Housing Zoning	Option 2 Key Site Requirements for Affordable Housing	Option 3 Specific Affordable Housing Target for All Larger Developments	Justification	
	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities.	?	?	?	Options 1, 2 and 3 are all considered to have uncertain effects. Option 1 is likely to continue to create single tenure neighbourhoods which are more prone to experiencing higher levels of deprivation and unemployed and a lower standard of educational attainment. However, this does not mean that they will not have access to employment opportunities – in the absence of knowing where these sites would be located, the effects are therefore uncertain. Options 2 and 3, which propose better integration of new affordable homes within housing developments are more likely to see affordable housing residents have the same employment opportunities, and this is also important in the context of SA1. However, as for option 1, as the locations of new housing development are as yet unknown, it is not possible to determine if new affordable housing locations will retain/enhance access to local services and facilities.
	8	Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's role as a regional economic driver.	-	+	+	Option 1 is considered to have a minor negative effect by compounding the issues often facing single tenure neighbourhoods. Options 2 and 3 are considered to have minor positive effects. Both options offer an opportunity for better integration of affordable housing with housing developments and are more likely to result in more balanced communities and more equal opportunities in terms of education and jobs; all of which are positive in terms of helping to support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's role as a regional economic driver.
Environmental	9	Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel.	?	?	?	In the absence of knowing where new housing is proposed to be located, it is not possible to assess whether this would promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel. Options 1, 2 and 3 are therefore all considered to have uncertain effects.
	10	Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy.	?	?	?	As for SA9 above, in the absence of knowing where new housing is proposed to be located, it is not possible to assess whether this option would support the transition to a low carbon economy. Options 1, 2 and 3 are therefore all considered to have uncertain effects.

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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Social Housing Zoning	Option 2 Key Site Requirements for Affordable Housing	Option 3 Specific Affordable Housing Target for All Larger Developments	Justification
	11 Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species.	○	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	12 Protect and enhance soil quality.	○	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	13 Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings	○	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	14 Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.	○	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	15 Protect and enhance open space and natural green space including Belfast's countryside asset.	○	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	16 Promote the sustainable management of waste.	○	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	17 Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources.	○	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.

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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Social Housing Zoning	Option 2 Key Site Requirements for Affordable Housing	Option 3 Specific Affordable Housing Target for All Larger Developments	Justification
18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality.	0	0	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	0	0	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.

Mitigation or enhancement:

Ensure that the LDP facilitates the provision of new affordable and social housing provision at locations which are accessible to local services and facilities and that new services and facilities are provided to match the planned level of growth (see LP9).

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LP3 - Ensuring an Appropriate Mix of Housing

Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 High Level Targets for Housing Mix	Option 2 No Policy on Housing Mix	Option 3 Balanced Approach to Housing Mix	Justification
Social	Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society.	+/-	-	+	Option 1 is considered to have mixed effects. Whilst it seeks to achieve an appropriate housing mix it lacks the flexibility to react to any changing population requirements and market conditions over the plan period, which would work against the objectives of equality and inclusivity. Option 2 is considered to have a minor negative effect. Whilst giving more flexibility to providers to deliver housing schemes that developers are confident they can sell, it is known that market conditions and demand for different types of property can change rapidly and this approach could risk a proliferation of housing of a particular type failing to meet future needs of certain groups of people, thereby risking social exclusion. This would not be compatible with the objective to reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive, equal society. Option 3 is considered to have a minor positive effect as it seeks to achieve an appropriate housing mix whilst also allowing flexibility to react to any changing population requirements and market conditions over the plan period.
	Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	+	-	+	Option 1 is considered to have a minor positive effect as balanced communities are more likely to be stable and healthy communities. Option 2 is considered to have a minor negative effect as it does not propose a housing mix and is reliant on market forces. It is not guaranteed to produce balanced communities. Option 3 is considered to have a minor positive effect as balanced communities are more likely to be stable and healthy communities.
	To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs.	+/-	-	+	Option 1 is considered to have mixed effects as it lacks the flexibility to react to changing demands and market conditions. Option 2 is considered to have minor negative effects as it could lead to the exclusion of certain types / tenures of housing and would also be vulnerable to changing demands and market forces. Option 3 is considered to have a minor positive effect as it would seek an appropriate housing mix in all new developments, but also allow for agreement on a case by case basis.

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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 High Level Targets for Housing Mix	Option 2 No Policy on Housing Mix	Option 3 Balanced Approach to Housing Mix	Justification	
	4	Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour.	?	-	?	Option 1 is considered to have an uncertain effect as without knowledge of what policy approach would be adopted or what types of housing mix would be delivered, there is an element of uncertainty as to the effect of this objective. Option 2 is considered to have a minor negative effect as the failure to adopt any policy on housing mix allowing the market to determine the type of housing to be provided, could run the risk of single tenure developments being created, which could then lead to increased instances of crime and anti-social behaviour. Option 3 is considered to have an uncertain effect as without knowledge of what policy approach would be adopted or what types of housing mix would be delivered, there is an element of uncertainty as to the effect of this objective.
	5	To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities.	0	0	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities.	+	-	++	Option 1 is considered to have a minor positive effect. It is less flexible than option 3 but it does support local services and facilities by ensuring that an appropriate housing mix is provided in new residential developments. Option 2 is considered to have a minor negative effect as there would be no policy on housing mix to ensure a considered approach to local services and facilities. Option 3 is considered to have a significant positive effect as it adopts a balanced approach with flexibility to adapt to various conditions.
	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities.	0	0	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	8	Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's role as a regional economic driver.	+	-	+	Option 1 is considered to have a minor positive effect by adopting a housing mix policy that is likely to result in more balanced communities, more equal opportunities in terms of education and jobs - all of which are positive in terms of helping to support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's role as a regional economic driver. Option 2 is considered to have a minor negative effect as it fails to adopt a housing mix policy for new residential developments that could support the economic growth aspirations of Belfast. Option 3 is considered to have a minor positive effect by adopting a housing mix policy

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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 High Level Targets for Housing Mix	Option 2 No Policy on Housing Mix	Option 3 Balanced Approach to Housing Mix	Justification
						that is likely to result in more balanced communities, more equal opportunities in terms of education and jobs - all of which are positive in terms of helping to support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's role as a regional economic driver.
Environmental	9	Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel.	○	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective (this SA objective would be more influenced by the location of new housing development rather than the mix of house types).
	10	Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy.	○	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	11	Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species.	○	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	12	Protect and enhance soil quality.	○	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	13	Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings	○	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	14	Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.	○	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.

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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 High Level Targets for Housing Mix	Option 2 No Policy on Housing Mix	Option 3 Balanced Approach to Housing Mix	Justification	
	15	Protect and enhance open space and natural green space including Belfast's countryside asset.	+/-	?	+	<p>Option 1 is considered to have a mixed effect. Specific targets, in terms of the size of units in a development, would ensure that the right mix is delivered in line with predicted demand, which should help to ensure that all zoned housing sites are developed sustainably. However, there is a risk that pre-defined targets lack the flexibility to respond to changing population requirements and market conditions. Consequently, additional sites that were not anticipated originally may be required in order to meet the need of a growing population and this could potentially put existing open space and/or greenfield land at risk.</p> <p>Option 2 is considered to have an uncertain effect. Allowing the market to dictate mix provides the flexibility for providers to deliver housing schemes that they are confident they can sell, but market conditions and demand for different types of property can change rapidly and this approach could risk a proliferation of housing of a particular type failing to meet future needs and again, could result in additional outlying lands being required.</p> <p>Option 3 is considered to have a minor positive effect. This provides the optimum balance between policy direction for housing mix (as per PPS12) but retaining the element of flexibility to enable mix to be assessed as sites come forward for development, on a case-by-case basis.</p>
	16	Promote the sustainable management of waste.	○	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources.	○	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality.	○	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	○ No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 High Level Targets for Housing Mix	Option 2 No Policy on Housing Mix	Option 3 Balanced Approach to Housing Mix	Justification
	19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	?	?	+	<p>Option 1 is considered to have an uncertain effect. Specific targets, in terms of the size of units in a development, would ensure that the right mix is delivered in line with predicted demand, which should help to ensure that all zoned housing sites are developed sustainably. However, there is a risk that pre-defined targets lack the flexibility to respond to changing population requirements and market conditions. Consequently, additional sites that were not anticipated originally may be required in order to meet the need of a growing population and this could potentially necessitate unanticipated sites to be considered that may be located outside the urban footprint on Greenfield sites. This may raise issues with flood risk, but would also be less sustainable by having population more dispersed across a wider area, in terms of energy use and requirements, infrastructure development, modes of travel used and pollution. However, in the absence of knowing what the market conditions may be like in the future, or where any new sites might be located, it is not possible at this stage to determine effects.</p> <p>Option 2 is considered to have an uncertain effect. Allowing the market to dictate mix provides the flexibility for providers to deliver housing schemes that they are confident they can sell, but market conditions and demand for different types of property can change rapidly and this approach could risk a proliferation of housing of a particular type failing to meet future needs. Thereby, creating a requirement for further sites to meet need over the Plan period. However, the specific sites that might be required are not known so the effect is considered uncertain.</p> <p>Option 3 is considered to have a minor positive effect. This provides the optimum balance between policy direction for housing mix (as per PPS12) but retaining an important element of flexibility to enable mix to be assessed as sites come forward for development, on a case-by-case basis over the Plan period and beyond. Would be considered to have minor positive effects. This option is best placed to deliver sustainable development and is therefore best placed to deal with the likely future impacts of climate change.</p>

Mitigation or enhancement:

SA 19 – Ensure that all sites with the Plan area which are potentially at risk of flooding are kept free from non-compatible land uses, and to continually review flood risk data over the Plan period.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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LP4 - Specialist Accommodation for Older People

Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 General Policy Support for Specialist Homes	Option 2 Allocation of Land to Provide Homes for Older People	Option 3 Lifetime Homes Standards	Option 4 Location Criteria and Lifetime Homes	Justification
Social	1 Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society.	?	+/-	+	++	Option 1 is considered to have an uncertain effect. It would ensure that this growing section of the community is taken into account in the planning and delivery of new housing developments. However, a more targeted approach may be necessary to ensure that new developments at appropriate locations adequately plan for this requirement. The effects of this option, in the absence of any specific policy other than location criteria, are difficult to qualify and are deemed uncertain. Option 2 is considered to have mixed effects. Whilst allocating land for specialist homes is a positive effect, it would not provide the flexibility to react to changing circumstances or needs as they arise. Option 3 is considered to have minor positive effects on this objective by ensuring new housing would meet the needs of older people. Option 4 is considered to have significant positive effects as it combines the benefits of options 1 and 3, thereby providing general policy support to ensure consideration of this issue in all new housing, but specifically targeting provision of lifetime homes on strategic sites to ensure a balanced approach is taken.
	2 Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	+/-	+/-	+	++	Option 1 is considered to have mixed effects. By having location criteria for such provision, e.g. close to local services, shops, healthcare facilities etc. there would be a potential minor positive effect on health and wellbeing. However, in the absence of a more proactive approach to ensure that the needs of an ageing population are met in new developments, the effects could be detrimental. Option 2 is considered to have mixed effects. The allocation of specific sites would ensure that specialist provision is made. However, it would not allow for flexibility to bring forward such provision on windfall sites, for example. Option 3 is considered to have minor positive effects as it would ensure that all new developments integrate lifetime homes whereby older persons and/or those disabled can live in their own homes for longer – this would have important quality of life and wellbeing benefits. Option 4 is considered to have significant positive effects as the balanced approach maximises the opportunity to improve the health and wellbeing of this vulnerable section of the population.

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++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 General Policy Support for Specialist Homes	Option 2 Allocation of Land to Provide Homes for Older People	Option 3 Lifetime Homes Standards	Option 4 Location Criteria and Lifetime Homes	Justification	
	3	To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs.	+	+	+	+	Options 1, 2, 3 and 4 are all considered to have minor positive effects as they would enable the provision of good quality housing. In terms of meeting people's needs, all options would provide specialist housing / lifetime homes at appropriate locations, whether that is through having location criteria, the specific identification of sites, or the requirement for a proportion of all residential development sites to incorporate a proportion of dwellings constructed to Lifetime Homes standard.
	4	Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour.	?	-	+	+	Option 1 is considered to have uncertain effects. Using location criteria to guide new specialist housing provision but not targeting specific sites, would have uncertain effects in terms of crime and anti-social behaviour. Option 2 is considered to have minor negative effects. By selecting specific sites solely for specialist housing provision it could lead to clusters of vulnerable residents being more susceptible to crime and anti-social behaviour. Options 3 and 4 are both considered to have minor positive effects by ensuring that new specialist housing provision is well integrated into new housing developments, would avoid the problems associated with single tenure neighbourhoods, which would attract higher levels of crime and anti-social behaviour.
	5	To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities.	?	?	+	+	Options 1 and 2 are both considered to have uncertain effects as they could lack integration with local services as a result of separate developments to accommodate older persons. This may restrict access to educational facilities that offer lifelong learning opportunities. However, without knowing where developments would be located. Options 3 and 4 are both considered to have minor positive effects and would facilitate a more integrated approach, which is more likely to result in better access to local services, including educational institutions.
Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities.	+	+	+	+	Options 1, 2, 3 and 4 are all considered to have minor positive effects. They would aim to ensure that specialist housing / lifetime homes are appropriately located to enable convenient access to local services and facilities. This is of paramount importance given that this type of housing is for persons who are elderly, immobile, disabled or vulnerable adults where proximity to local services is critical.

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++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 General Policy Support for Specialist Homes	Option 2 Allocation of Land to Provide Homes for Older People	Option 3 Lifetime Homes Standards	Option 4 Location Criteria and Lifetime Homes	Justification
	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities.	○	○	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	8	Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's role as a regional economic driver.	○	○	○	○	A well skilled population encourages entrepreneurship and innovative business ideas, which can also attract investment. By properly integrating accommodation for older persons into new developments, this can facilitate enhanced access to services including learning opportunities.
Environmental	9	Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel.	?	+/-	+	+	Accessibility to public transport and convenient access to services is crucial for elderly / vulnerable / disabled persons. Option 1 is considered to have an uncertain effect as It is based solely on employing location criteria to assist the planning of such accommodation within Belfast. Option 2 is considered to have mixed effects as it may be inflexible to specific needs as they arise over the plan period where there may have been an opportunity to make provision for this housing at a suitable location that was not anticipated during plan preparation. Options 3 and 4 are both considered to have minor positive effects and are best placed to ensure that new specialist housing / lifetime homes are provided at strategic sites which assist in delivering an integrated transport system that can meet their needs. More often than not, sustainable transport modes are a necessity rather than a choice for elderly persons and those who may have restricted mobility.
	10	Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy.	?	+/-	+	+	This SA objective is linked to SA9 above and the same principle applies. The promotion of an integrated transport system and encouragement of sustainable travel directly correlates with the transition to a low carbon economy. The ranking of the options is therefore the same as for SA9.

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++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	○ No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 General Policy Support for Specialist Homes	Option 2 Allocation of Land to Provide Homes for Older People	Option 3 Lifetime Homes Standards	Option 4 Location Criteria and Lifetime Homes	Justification
	11 Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species.	○	○	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	12 Protect and enhance soil quality.	○	○	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	13 Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings	○	○	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	14 Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.	○	○	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	15 Protect and enhance open space and natural green space including Belfast's countryside asset.	○	○	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	16 Promote the sustainable management of waste.	○	○	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	17 Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources.	○	○	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	○ No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 General Policy Support for Specialist Homes	Option 2 Allocation of Land to Provide Homes for Older People	Option 3 Lifetime Homes Standards	Option 4 Location Criteria and Lifetime Homes	Justification
18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality.	O	O	O	O	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	O	O	O	O	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.

Mitigation or enhancement:

SA 9 - Ensure that all new specialist housing / lifetime homes are provided at strategic sites which assist in delivering an integrated transport system that can meet the needs of the residents who occupy them (more often than not, sustainable transport modes are a necessity rather than a choice for elderly persons and those who may have restricted mobility).

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++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	O No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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LP5 - Traveller Accommodation

Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 No Local Traveller Accomm. Policy	Option 2 Locally Specific Traveller Accomm. Policies	Justification	
Social	1	Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society.	-	+	Option 1 is considered to have a minor effect as it may carry an increased risk of isolating new traveller accommodation from key services and facilities, which would not encourage equality and inclusivity and could compound problems of deprivation. Option 2 is considered to have a minor positive effect. The adoption of locally specific policies to traveller accommodation, in addition to the general criteria based approach (in line with the SPPS) would enable the required provision to be met at appropriate locations, whilst also ensuring that there is convenient access to key services, such as health facilities, schools and public transport. It would also protect existing traveller sites within the plan area.
	2	Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	-	+	Option 1 is considered to have a minor negative effect. In not providing any local policy approach in the LDP, option 1 is likely to have minor negative effects on the objective to improve health and wellbeing and quality of life. By planning for new traveller accommodation to have convenient access to local services, such as schools and health facilities, this will contribute towards improved health and wellbeing, and can enable an improved quality of life. Thus option 2 would have minor positive effects. Option 2 is considered to have minor positive effects.
	3	To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs.	+	++	Option 1 is considered to have a minor positive effect. The option allows planning permission for a suitable facility if a demonstrable need for traveller accommodation is identified. It provides an opportunity for housing and to meet the needs of the travelling community. Option 2 is considered to have significant positive effects as it also has regard to key local services (schools, health care, public transport, shops etc.) and local circumstances, to best meet the needs of the community.
	4	Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour.	-	?	Option 1 is considered to have minor negative effects as having no policy to ensure integration of traveller accommodation could lead to instances of anti-social behaviour. It is documented that there is a potential link between deprived, disconnected communities and higher incidences of crime and anti-social behaviour. Option 2 is considered to have uncertain effects. Ensuring that new homes for travellers are well located to afford them the same opportunities and access to housing, jobs, health care, schools etc. as general needs housing, is likely to improve wellbeing and quality of life, which has the potential for minor positive effects on the objective to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. However, this cannot be claimed with any measure of certainty.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 No Local Traveller Accomm. Policy	Option 2 Locally Specific Traveller Accomm. Policies	Justification
	5	To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities.	0	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities.	-	+	Option 1 is considered to have a minor negative effect. Although the general criteria of the SPPS would still apply, this general policy does not make any reference to the issue of access to local services. It would also not protect existing traveller sites within the Plan area. Option 2 is considered to have a minor positive effect. The option proposes policies to retain existing traveller sites and to provide suitable sites for the provision of new accommodation, subject to need. This option is therefore best placed to retain and enhance access for the travelling community to local services and facilities.
	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities.	-	?	Option 1 is considered to have a minor negative effect as there would be no locally specific policy. Option 2 is considered to have an uncertain effect without demonstrating need and selecting a site, should the need arise.
	8	Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's role as a regional economic driver.	0	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
Environmental	9	Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel.	-	+	Option 1 is considered to have a minor negative effect as there would be no policy to ensure accommodation is planned to integrate with the transport system. Option 2 is considered to have a minor positive effect as it takes account of local circumstances in relation to the location of new traveller accommodation, including access to public transport and having convenient access to services (thereby reducing the need to travel by car).
	10	Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy.	-	+	Option 1 is considered to have a minor negative effect as no policy will make it difficult to plan for more sustainable travel modes and therefore support the transition to a low carbon economy. Option 2 is considered to have a minor positive effect as a locally specific approach to traveller accommodation needs would support the transition to a low carbon economy.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 No Local Traveller Accomm. Policy	Option 2 Locally Specific Traveller Accomm. Policies	Justification
11	Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species.	O	O	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
12	Protect and enhance soil quality.	O	O	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
13	Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings	O	O	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
14	Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.	O	O	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
15	Protect and enhance open space and natural green space including Belfast's countryside asset.	O	O	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
16	Promote the sustainable management of waste.	-	+	A locally specific policy approach to traveller accommodation is best placed to ensure that any selected site for such a use is located closer to services, including recycle facilities, which may encourage the more sustainable management of waste. Option 1 is therefore considered to have a minor negative effect and Option 2 is considered to have a minor positive effect.
17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources.	-	+	Belfast has a healthy supply of water, so it is not considered to be an issue for the above options. However, effectively planning sites and locally specific policy would enable key services, such as water supply, to be better planned and provided. Option 1 is therefore considered to have a minor negative effect and Option 2 is considered to have a minor positive effect.
18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality.	-	+	Enhancing access to local services and facilities would help to contribute, however small, to improved air quality, as a result of encouraging more sustainable transport modes, including cycling and walking. Option 1, in contrast, would be considered to have minor negative effects. Option 1 is therefore considered to have a minor negative effect and Option 2 is considered to have a minor positive effect.

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++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	O No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 No Local Traveller Accomm. Policy	Option 2 Locally Specific Traveller Accomm. Policies	Justification
	19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	-	+	<p>Option 1 is considered to have a minor negative effect. As there would be no specific traveller accommodation policy, it is less likely to ensure that new sites are located where they have convenient access to public transport, services and facilities – it would be reactive rather than proactive, so is less well positioned to ensure sustainable development that is properly planned and takes account of the likely future implications of climate change.</p> <p>Option 2 is considered to have a minor positive effect. A policy which seeks to take account of local circumstances in relation to the location of new traveller accommodation, including access to public transport, having convenient access to services and careful consideration of construction, energy use, connectivity etc. would be better placed to deliver positive effects, however small. A more proactive approach is also considered to reduce the likelihood of encountering flood risk issues at planning application stage.</p>

Mitigation or enhancement:

All SA objectives: Subject to demonstrable need, any proposed new traveller accommodation sites identified in the LDP should ensure early and proactive engagement with both traveller representative groups and the local public.

Ensure that any traveller sites identified take account of their accessibility to employment opportunities and their contribution towards community safety.

Ensure that any site(s) selected minimise impact on the natural environment, biodiversity and landscape etc.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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LP6 - Shared Housing Provision

Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Continue the Existing HMO Subject Plan Policy Approach	Option 2 Manage Mix of Housing in Specific Areas of the City	Justification
Social	1 Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society.	-	+	Option 1 is considered to have a minor negative effect as it effectively maintains the status quo. There has been evidence of a fall in HMO numbers within the existing HMO Policy Areas and a corresponding increase in the number of flats in the same area which suggests that both HMO's and conversions to flats need to be more actively managed. Failure to do this could result in an over-proliferation of such properties and an imbalance within neighbourhoods in terms of housing mix and tenure, which could have negative implications for inclusivity and equality. Option 2 is considered to have a minor positive effect as it recognises that, in the Belfast context, it is important to seek tighter control of conversion of dwellings to HMOs <i>and</i> conversions to flats or apartments. This proactive management approach can help in the high level regional objectives to achieve balanced communities and strengthen community cohesion. This in turn will contribute to reducing deprivation in the city and encouraging well balanced neighbourhoods that are more inclusive.
	2 Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	-	+	It is considered that there is a significant correlation between an inclusive and equal society and a higher standard of health, wellbeing and enhanced quality of life. A more proactive approach to the management of both HMO's and conversions to flats/apartments in the Plan area will assist in the creation of balanced communities and neighbourhoods, thereby helping to retain balanced communities. Accordingly, Option 1, the existing policy approach, is considered to have minor negative effects and Option 2 is considered to minor positive effects,
	3 To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs.	-	+	Those who require accommodation within HMO's and/or converted flats (e.g. students, single persons, those in temporary employment, migrant workers and low income households) can be best served by a robust and balanced approach that seeks to create an enabling environment for the provision of such housing at more appropriate locations while adopting stricter controls in designated target areas where the proliferation of such accommodation can work against the objective of good quality housing. Option 1 is considered to have minor negative effects as it would not provide the opportunity for housing to meet the needs of those who require it and it fails to adequately manage the sub-division of larger units into smaller flats, leading to loss of larger homes in some areas. Option 2 is considered to have a minor positive effect.
	4 Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour.	-	+	Higher incidences of crime and anti-social behaviour have been documented in areas of the city where there are concentrations of HMO's. Option 1 is considered to have minor negative effects as it does nothing to improve the current situation. Option 2 is considered to have a minor positive effect by enabling HMO's and conversions to flats at more appropriate locations, and adopting stricter controls within problem areas, would assist the retention / establishment of balanced communities and thereby

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Continue the Existing HMO Subject Plan Policy Approach	Option 2 Manage Mix of Housing in Specific Areas of the City	Justification
				support the reduction of crime and anti-social behaviour.
	5 To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities.	+	++	Shared housing is often occupied by students. Option 1 is considered to have minor positive effects as it would continue to rely on the HMO Subject Plan, which seeks to accommodate the need and demand for multiple occupation while maintaining a community balance. It also promotes appropriate purpose built student accommodation. These aims serve the universities and contribute to the objective to improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities. Option 2 is considered to have a significant positive effect by taking a more active management approach to the mix of shared housing accommodation (and PBMSA) throughout the city. This option is best placed to ensure a solution to shared accommodation that benefits both residents and the universities themselves.
Economic	6 Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities.	?	+	Option 1 is considered to have an uncertain effect whilst Option 2 is considered to have a minor positive effect as it ensures that shared housing provision is located where convenient access is afforded to local services and facilities; as a result of an active management approach to shared housing / HMO's in specific parts of the city.
	7 To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities.	+	++	Shared housing provision is often occupied by students, migrant workers and low income households. Option 1 is considered to have a minor positive effect as it relied on the current HMO subject plan and would still aim to accommodate need and demand, and also seek to provide housing at places where it may assist the area in terms of regeneration. Option 2 is considered to have a significant positive effect as it involves a more active management approach.

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++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Continue the Existing HMO Subject Plan Policy Approach	Option 2 Manage Mix of Housing in Specific Areas of the City	Justification	
	8	Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's role as a regional economic driver.	+	++	HMOs, alongside other accommodation options within the private rented sector, play an important role in meeting the housing needs of people who are single, who have temporary employment, students, low income households and, more recently, migrant workers. To deliver the regional policy aspiration for balanced communities, shared housing provision needs to be well planned and appropriately managed. Therefore option 2 ranks as having significant positive effects, while the absence of a more proactive, managed approach means that option 1 would be likely to have minor positive effects. Both options would also support universities and colleges by providing accommodation, be it HMO's or PBSA, for students, thereby protecting their viability and enabling continued rollout of highly skilled graduates to support Belfast as a competitive place and regional economic driver.
Environmental	9	Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel.	+	+	Options 1 and 2 are both considered to have minor positive effects. Both would target accessible locations for this type of housing provision (to serve low income households, migrant workers, students etc.) therefore both options would have minor positive effects on promoting an integrated transport system and encouraging sustainable travel.
	10	Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy.	+	+	Options 1 and 2 are both considered to have minor positive effects. Both options would target accessible locations for this type of housing provision (to serve low income households, migrant workers, students etc.) therefore both options would have minor positive effects on promoting an integrated transport system and encouraging sustainable travel.
	11	Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species.	0	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	12	Protect and enhance soil quality.	0	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Continue the Existing HMO Subject Plan Policy Approach	Option 2 Manage Mix of Housing in Specific Areas of the City	Justification
	13	+/-	+	It is acknowledged that an over-proliferation in the number of HMOs or houses converted into flats within certain localities can change the character of an area, there is a clear justification for seeking to proactively manage the number of these specific accommodation types in order to maintain the amenity of local areas. Buildings and streetscapes which may have architectural merit could be affected by HMO use or the conversion into flats. This could be detrimental to the character and appearance of these areas. Option 1 is considered to have mixed effects. It would continue the HMO Subject Plan approach which itself would seek to prevent further concentrations of HMO's, avoid existing proliferated areas and promote more suitable areas. This is a positive measure in respect of the built environment, however the failure to also target the sub-division of larger units and their conversion to flats, which is becoming an increasing problem, would have a minor negative effect. Option 2 is considered to have minor positive effects as it would actively target the conversion of houses into flats as well as the use of houses as HMOs.
	14	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	15	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	16	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	17	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	18	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	○ No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Continue the Existing HMO Subject Plan Policy Approach	Option 2 Manage Mix of Housing in Specific Areas of the City	Justification
19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	O	O	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.

Mitigation or enhancement:

SA13 – Ensure that the sub-division of larger units and their conversion to flats is satisfactorily addressed in the consideration of HMO's across the Plan area.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	O No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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LP7 - Quality Design in Residential Developments

Theme	SA Objective	Only Option Overarching Policy Approach to Good Design, Supported by Specific Local Policies & Guidance	Justification
Social	1	+	This option is considered to have minor positive effects. Good general design standards that are supported by specific local policies can help to ensure that all residential developments, be it for affordable housing, general needs housing, elderly accommodation / supported housing or traveller accommodation, are designed and delivered to high standard. Ensuring all elements are covered, including space standards, public and private space, sense of place, promotion of walking and cycling etc. would help to ensure that no issues develop relating to lack of inclusivity or equality. As can be seen in many of Belfast's existing deprived neighbourhoods, poor design can contribute to deprivation, lower living standards and feelings of isolation.
	2	+	This option is considered to have minor positive effects. Good quality design that is tailored to local circumstances would be considered to have minor positive effects on objectives relating to health, wellbeing and quality of life.
	3	+	This option is considered to have minor positive effects. A key component of good quality housing is a high standard of design. People's needs will be met by having a quality home in a development that has adequate green / amenity space provision, is safe and accessible, proximate to local services and facilities and where appropriate, provides local neighbourhood facilities.
	4	+	This option is considered to have minor positive effects. Good design, including Secure by Design principles, would help to create safe and accessible places. This can increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour.
	5	O	The option would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
Economic	6	+	This option is considered to have minor positive effects. Good design of residential development would include the provision of local neighbourhood facilities as an integral part of larger developments. In addition, convenient access to public transport would be a requirement which would help to connect new neighbourhoods to local services and facilities.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	O No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Only Option Overarching Policy Approach to Good Design, Supported by Specific Local Policies & Guidance	Justification
	7	+	This option is considered to have minor positive effects. The provision of local neighbourhood facilities for larger schemes, together with ensuring convenient access to public transport is designed into the scheme, will enable better access to employment opportunities.
	8	+	This option is considered to have minor positive effects. The approach would also have a minor positive effect in supporting the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contributing to its role as a regional economic driver.
Environmental	9	+	This option is considered to have minor positive effects. The requirement to design residential schemes that provide convenient access to public transport, which would support cycling and walking, would have a minor positive effect on this objective.
	10	+	This option is considered to have minor positive effects. Designing new residential developments to provide convenient access to public transport and encouraging walking and cycling (as opposed to less sustainable travel modes) would help to support the transition to a low carbon economy. In terms of building design itself, the materials used, renewable technologies employed, opportunities for solar gain etc. can have a minor positive effect too (see LP17).
	11	+	This option is considered to have minor positive effects. Good design will include the provision of adequate open space and delivering a quality living environment. This will serve to maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species.
	12	O	The option would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	13	+	This option is considered to have minor positive effects. Good quality design in all new residential development, together with all extensions and alterations and conversions to residential use, would help to safeguard and in certain cases, enhance the quality of the built and historic environment.
	14	+	This option is considered to have minor positive effects. A good design approach will seek to protect landscape views, respect existing topography etc. Accordingly, it is considered to have minor positive effects on this SA objective.

Key:

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Theme	SA Objective	Only Option Overarching Policy Approach to Good Design, Supported by Specific Local Policies & Guidance	Justification
15	Protect and enhance open space and natural green space including Belfast's countryside asset.	+	This option is considered to have minor positive effects. The adequate provision of public open space would be required as a key component of good design. This would have minor positive effects on this SA objective. A local design policy approach would also be likely to include maximising the opportunity for the creation of local landmarks and the use of public art, which could enhance public spaces.
16	Promote the sustainable management of waste.	+	This option is considered to have minor positive effects. A high quality and well integrated design for developments can help to enable more efficient servicing. Therefore, in relation to the sustainable management of waste, this approach would be considered to have minor positive effects.
17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources.	O	The option would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality.	+	This option is considered to have minor positive effects. Using good quality design to encourage walking and cycling, and provide accessibility to public transport facilities, would assist in the reduction of air pollution and continued improvements to air quality.
19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	++	This option is considered to have significant positive effects. Using good quality design to encourage walking and cycling, provide well designed open space, ensure accessibility to public transport facilities, use innovative construction methods, incorporate renewable / energy efficient technologies, be capable of adaption to meet lifetime needs etc., would all contribute towards more sustainable development and provide a design standard that can be continued well into the future to better prepare the population for the likely effects of climate change over time.

Mitigation or enhancement:

All SA objectives – Enhancement of the minor positive effects of this option by:

including a suite of additional specific criteria to supplement a general approach to good design. These criteria would apply to housing development and include, for example:

- The requirement for all new developments to provide an assessment of how their design has incorporated Secure by Design Principles and will contribute towards objectives to increase community safety, reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, enhance wellbeing and promote equality
- Promotion of sustainable travel and provision of accessible local neighbourhood facilities
- Detailed requirements relating to dwelling sizes, public and private open space provision
- Maximising opportunities for use of public art, creation of local landmarks and contribution to sense of place
- The provision of legible, well connected new developments.

LP8 - Promotion of Health and Wellbeing

Key:	++	+	O	-	--	+/-	?
	Significant positive effect	Minor positive effect	No effect or relationship	Minor negative effect	Significant negative effect	Mixed Effects	Uncertain /effect unknown

Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 No Specific Policy on Health and Wellbeing	Option 2 Over-arching Policy on Health and Wellbeing	Justification
Social	1	Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society.	-	+	Option 1 is considered to have a minor negative effect as it fails to address specific local challenges around the health and wellbeing of its residents, evidenced as a persistent element of local inequalities over the last decade. Option 2 is considered to have a minor positive effect by adopting an over-arching policy on health and wellbeing it would assist in tackling one of the key issues affecting areas of deprivation.
	2	Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	--	++	An over-arching policy on health and wellbeing in the LDP would have obvious significant positive effects on this SA objective. Option 1, with no specific policy approach, would have significant negative effects, particularly with regard to the absence of targeted measures to improve the health and wellbeing of those living within the many areas of deprivation designated in the Plan area. Option 2 is considered to have significant positive effects.
	3	To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs.	-	+	The provision of good quality housing that includes consideration of healthy lifestyle, will enable people to meet their housing needs. Option 1 would not provide the opportunity to emphasise the link between good quality housing developments and a healthy and active lifestyle. It therefore is considered to have minor negative effects. Option 2 would provide the opportunity for strategic objectives to be included in the LDP, to ensure that all new developments maximise opportunities to promote healthy and active lifestyles. It is therefore likely to have minor positive effects.
	4	Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour.	-	+	Addressing general health and wellbeing inequalities and facilitating a more active and healthy lifestyle, is likely to make a positive contribution to the reduction of crime and anti-social behaviour. Option 1, with no specific health and wellbeing policy, would be considered to have minor negative effects. Option 2 would be considered to have minor positive effects, as it proposes an over-arching policy specifically focusing on health and wellbeing.
	5	To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities.	O	O	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities.	-	+	Including an over-arching policy on health and wellbeing in the LDP would enable strategic objectives to be included that would encourage a more healthy and active lifestyle. One of the key objectives would include enhanced accessibility to local service centres (to

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	O No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 No Specific Policy on Health and Wellbeing	Option 2 Over-arching Policy on Health and Wellbeing	Justification	
				encourage cycling and walking). Option 1, by having no specific policy on health and wellbeing, would fail to recognise the link between healthy, active communities and proximity to local services and facilities. It is considered therefore to have minor negative effects. Option 2 therefore would be considered to have minor positive effects.	
	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities.	-	+	Including an over-arching policy on health and wellbeing in the LDP would enable strategic objectives to be included that would encourage a more healthy and active lifestyle. One of the key objectives would include enhanced accessibility to centres and places of employment (to encourage cycling and walking). Option 1, by having no specific policy on health and wellbeing, would fail to recognise the link between healthy, active communities and proximity to places of work. It is considered therefore to have minor negative effects. Option 2 therefore would be considered to have minor positive effects.
	8	Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's role as a regional economic driver.	o	o	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
Environmental	9	Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel.	-	+	Including an over-arching policy on health and wellbeing in the LDP would enable strategic objectives to be included that would encourage a more healthy and active lifestyle. One of the key objectives would include enhanced accessibility to local service centres (to encourage cycling and walking). This would encourage sustainable travel. Moreover, in ensuring residents are closer to local service centres supports the delivery of a more integrated transport system. Option 1 would mean that the LDP would fall short in terms of promoting healthy and active lifestyles, a n important component in encouraging more sustainable travel. It therefore ranks as having minor negative effects. Option 2, in contrast, by having an overarching policy on health and wellbeing would be considered to have minor positive effects. Promoting health and wellbeing is likely to coincide with conscious choices to use more sustainable travel modes, where these are viable.

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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 No Specific Policy on Health and Wellbeing	Option 2 Over-arching Policy on Health and Wellbeing	Justification
10	Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy.	-	+	The transition to a low carbon economy can be assisted through objectives for the encouragement of, for example, sustainable travel and improved accessibility to local services and facilities and to jobs. Therefore option 2, would be considered to have minor positive effects. Option 1 would have minor negative effects.
11	Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species.	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
12	Protect and enhance soil quality.	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
13	Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
14	Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
15	Protect and enhance open space and natural green space including Belfast's countryside asset.	○	+	Open space and natural green space are important components in enabling healthy lifestyles. Option 1 is considered to have no effect and Option 2 should encourage more open space and green space, better use and improved accessibility to open space, by having a specific policy approach for improving the general health and wellbeing of the population. Option 2 would therefore be considered to have minor positive effects.
16	Promote the sustainable management of waste.	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	○ No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 No Specific Policy on Health and Wellbeing	Option 2 Over-arching Policy on Health and Wellbeing	Justification
	18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality.	-	+	<p>Option 1 would mean that the LDP would fall short in terms of promoting healthy and active lifestyles, a key component in encouraging sustainable travel. Also, the absence of a policy on health and wellbeing would be less likely to focus on the link between certain types of land use (e.g. industrial) and patterns of development that could result in increased air pollution, with consequent impact on human health. This option therefore ranks as having minor negative effects.</p> <p>Option 2 – including an over-arching policy on health and wellbeing in the LDP would enable strategic objectives to be included that would encourage a more healthy and active lifestyle. One of the key objectives would include enhanced accessibility to local service centres (to encourage cycling and walking and more sustainable travel modes). This would contribute towards the objective of reduced air pollution and increased air quality as a result of people a) being able to and b) actively choosing to use a means of travel other than the private car. Therefore, option 2 would be considered to have minor positive effects.</p>
	19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	-	+	The transition to a low carbon economy would have minor positive effects in terms of supporting the adaptation to climate change, particularly as resources are likely to become scarcer over time. Therefore, the options score the same as for SA10 above.

Mitigation or enhancement:
All SA objectives – Ensure that all development plan policies take account, as appropriate, of the need to encourage a more healthy and active lifestyle and to foster increased health and wellbeing.

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++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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LP9 - Community Infrastructure

Theme	SA Objective	Only Option Development opportunities for Community Infrastructure	Justification
Social	1	+	This option is considered to have minor positive effects. One of the deprivation indicators set out by NISRA is 'Proximity to Services'. The above policy approach could therefore potentially make a contribution towards alleviating deprivation in the Plan area. The delivery of neutral venues such as leisure centres, libraries and shopping centres that are accessible, well connected to their neighbourhoods can promote inclusivity.
	2	+	This option is considered to have minor positive effects. Locating services in one place can promote 'walkability' and accessibility, therefore encouraging healthier lifestyles and sustaining vibrant neighbourhoods.
	3	+	This option is considered to have minor positive effects. The provision of good quality housing to enable people to meet their needs includes a number of factors, including accessibility to local services, active travel options and provision of leisure and recreation facilities etc. In proposing a policy on the provision, protection of and accessibility to community infrastructure, would have minor positive effects.
	4	+	This option is considered to have minor positive effects. The delivery of neutral venues such as leisure centres, libraries and shopping centres that are accessible, well connected to their neighbourhoods can promote inclusivity and provide opportunities to socialise and relax – a lack of such facilities can often precipitate crime and ASB, particularly with younger people, who feel there is ' <i>nothing else to do</i> ' in the area. The plan can also adapt to changing needs and priorities over the plan period and should be flexible to allow for meanwhile or temporary uses and support the sustainable re-use of redundant facilities and vacant buildings.
	5	+	This option is considered to have minor positive effects as this approach would seek to protect and provide development opportunities for educational facilities as part of community infrastructure based on local need, and to require developer contributions towards new necessary community infrastructure arising as a result of development, it would be considered to have minor positive effects on this SA objective.
Economic	6	++	This option is considered to have significant positive effects. By protecting existing and providing new community infrastructure, together with seeking contributions for developments requiring new community facilities.

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++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Only Option Development opportunities for Community Infrastructure	Justification
	7	+	This option is considered to have minor positive effects. By protecting existing and providing new community infrastructure, together with seeking contributions for developments requiring new community facilities, this would ensure that local residents have access to employment opportunities. The services and facilities that will be protected and created would also provide employment opportunities for those living in the local area.
	8	+	This option is considered to have minor positive effects. The provision of necessary community infrastructure would help to sustain population and encourage people to move into new neighbourhoods. A critical mass of population living within well serviced residential neighbourhoods would provide a settled workforce to support the economic development of Belfast.
Environmental	9	+	This option is considered to have minor positive effects. By ensuring that people have convenient access to key services and facilities, this would encourage more sustainable methods of travel such as walking and cycling, as opposed to making longer journeys by private car. In addition, having residential development close to key facilities such as schools, crèches, health centres, leisure centres etc. would also support integrated transport focused around and linking key development nodes.
	10	+	This option is considered to have minor positive effects. The above approach would be considered to support more sustainable travel, so would also have minor positive effects in supporting the transition to a low carbon economy where people adopt walking and cycling as the preferred mode of travel to access their place of employment and key services and facilities.
	11	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	12	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	13	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
14	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.	

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Theme	SA Objective	Only Option Development opportunities for Community Infrastructure	Justification
15	Protect and enhance open space and natural green space including Belfast's countryside asset.	O	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
16	Promote the sustainable management of waste.	O	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources.	O	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality.	+	This option is considered to have minor positive effects as this approach would have minor positive effects in relation to encouraging sustainable travel and supporting a low carbon economy, it would also support the objective to improve air quality.
19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	+	This option is considered to have minor positive effects. In helping to improve air quality and encouraging more sustainable travel modes, this approach would also assist in supporting the adaptation to climate change through reducing greenhouse gas emissions and ozone depleting substances.

Mitigation or enhancement:

None noted.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	O No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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LP10 - Community Cohesion

Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Strategic Policy and Community Cohesion	Option 2 Site Specific Guidance for Key Locations	Option 3 Over-arching Policy with Supplementary Guidance	Justification
Social	1 Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society.	+/-	+	++	Options 1 and 2 would contribute to a society where diversity is valued and in which communities have a shared sense of belonging. Whilst Option 2 would have a minor positive effect, the effectiveness of Option 1 would be limited by the lack of a targeted approach, meaning it would likely have mixed effects. The more targeted approach of Option 2 would be of increased benefit in addressing issues of deprivation and exclusion in areas of greatest need. Operating at smaller geographic scales would facilitate a better understanding of the issues confronting communities and enable specific guidance towards a reduction in levels of deprivation and inequality, and to greater levels of inclusion. Option 3 would have a significant minor positive effect by combining the two approaches of Options 1 and 3.
	2 Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	+	+	++	Options 1 and 2 would promote community cohesion and make a minor positive contribution to community relations that would have consequential effects in encouraging communities to access public services in all areas of the city, free from fear or similar negative emotions. Option 2 would have added benefit in promoting greater levels of cohesion and strengthening relationships in areas that are most divided. This could potentially encourage the location of essential services in areas of greatest need and help to increase access to existing services and open spaces within the wider locality that are perceived as being under 'ownership' of a single-identity community grouping. This would help generate better access to essential health care facilities and open up areas of the city to support healthy lifestyles and recreation opportunities. Option 3 would have a significant positive effect by combining Options 1 and 2.
	3 To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs.	+	+	++	Options 1 and 2 would have a minor positive effect by encouraging neighbourhoods in which everyone in the community is valued and respected, and where diversity is celebrated. However, Option 2 has greater potential to confront the contentions and issues preventing housing needs from being met in specific areas of the City and to promote equality of opportunity in terms of local demand and supply. Option 3 would have a significant minor positive effect in combining the approaches of Options 1 and 2, and in seeking to overcome issues such as the territorialisation of space. This option would help promote greater cohesion, improve relationships and provide opportunities for mixed-tenure housing in shared neighbourhoods that are capable of meeting the differential needs of all the City's communities.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Strategic Policy and Community Cohesion	Option 2 Site Specific Guidance for Key Locations	Option 3 Over-arching Policy with Supplementary Guidance	Justification
	4	Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour.	+	+	++	Option 1 would have a minor positive effect in contributing to an increase in community safety across the City by encouraging greater social integration that would facilitate a reduction in crime and antisocial behaviour. Option 2 would also have a minor positive effect through a targeted approach to areas most impacted by the physical and psychological aspects of crime. Site specific guidance facilitating community cohesion, specifically at interface areas which attract anti-social disturbance, would foster respect and understanding amongst the communities of Belfast. This would help reduce the fear of crime and actual instances of crime, with consequential benefits in terms of increased community safety. Option 3 would promote community cohesion, foster improved community relations and target areas experiencing the greatest levels of social exclusion. This would have a significant positive effect in increasing community safety throughout the City by supporting a reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour.
	5	To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities.	+	+	++	Options 1 and 2 would have a minor positive effect by helping to open up the City's learning environments to communities historically perceived or actually excluded from educational facilities. Option 2 would supplement this by promoting stability within traditionally divided areas of the city, with consequential benefits in terms of opportunities for access to shared learning facilities or the location of new learning and development establishments within areas suffering lowest levels of educational attainment. Option 3 provides the greatest benefit by helping to enhance social relations that will improve the skills and education of residents by providing access to new or existing learning opportunities throughout the City.
Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities.	+	+	++	Options 1 and 2 would have a minor positive effect by facilitating the development of social relations and creating stability in all areas of the City in order to attract investment in key community services and enhance the mutual access of communities to services in the wider locality. Option 3 would have a significant positive effect by combining the two approaches.

Key:

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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Strategic Policy and Community Cohesion	Option 2 Site Specific Guidance for Key Locations	Option 3 Over-arching Policy with Supplementary Guidance	Justification	
	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities.	+	+	++	Options 1 and 2 would have a minor positive effect by facilitating the development of improved social relations and creating stability in all areas of the City, with potential to attract investment leading to an increase in employment opportunities. The localised focus of Option 2 would further support short and long-term employment opportunities to facilitate the long-term unemployed, residing in traditionally deprived areas, in gaining access to the labour market. Option 3 would provide a significant positive effect by combining the two approaches.
	8	Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's role as a regional economic driver.	+	+	++	In contributing to City-wide stability, Options 1 and 2 would have a minor positive effect in helping to attract inward investment from a range of business sectors, encouraging new start-up opportunities and existing business to locate in Belfast. Option 2 would also have potential to contribute to the redevelopment of interface areas, with opportunity for the removal of peacewalls. This would help to attract investment to deprived areas of Belfast, with potential to reconnect the City by encouraging regeneration that is of local and City-wide benefit. Option 3 would have a significant positive effect in supporting the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to its role as a regional economic driver.
Environmental	9	Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel.	+	+	++	Options 1 and 2 would have a minor positive effect by encouraging an environment in which people feel safe to navigate by sustainable travel means, such as walking and cycling. Option 2 is likely to be of benefit in improving social relations and stability in areas of the City experiencing the greatest levels of communal division, with potential to contribute towards the removal of peacewalls and create or renew access to neighbouring areas, promoting connectivity and enhancing permeability. This would help to reconnect areas of the City and increase opportunities for walking and cycling. The consequential benefits of reconnecting the City would be found in reduced commuting distances and improved linkages, for example, between residential spaces and areas of employment. Option 3 would have a significant positive effect in combining Options 1 and 2, encouraging reconnection of the City in a way that promotes sustainable travel patterns.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Strategic Policy and Community Cohesion	Option 2 Site Specific Guidance for Key Locations	Option 3 Over-arching Policy with Supplementary Guidance	Justification
	10	+	+	++	Options 1 and 2 would have an overall minor positive effect by encouraging an environment in which people feel safe to navigate by sustainable travel means, such as walking and cycling. Option 2 also has the potential to address peacewalls and create or renew access to neighbouring areas in order to promote connectivity and enhance permeability. This would help to reconnect the City, with consequential benefits found in reduced commuting distances and improved linkages between different areas, reducing the need to travel further by vehicle and encouraging travel by foot or bicycle which have potential to contribute to reduced energy consumption. Option 3 would have a significant positive effect by combining Options 1 and 2, encouraging reconnection of the City in a way that promotes sustainable travel patterns.
	11	o	o	o	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	12	o	o	o	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	13	o	+	+	Option 1 would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective. Options 2 and 3 would have a minor positive effect on the quality of the built environment by contributing towards the regeneration of brownfield sites, particularly at interface areas.
	14	o	o	o	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	o No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Strategic Policy and Community Cohesion	Option 2 Site Specific Guidance for Key Locations	Option 3 Over-arching Policy with Supplementary Guidance	Justification
15	Protect and enhance open space and natural green space including Belfast's countryside asset.	+	+	++	Options 1 and 2 would have a minor positive effect in contributing to community cohesion and improved community relations, with potential to de-link territory from identity in order to promote redevelopment of brownfield sites for wider public benefit. These options would also have potential to contribute to levels of communal stability that would permit safe and shared access to all public open space within walking distance from peoples' homes. Option 3 would have a significant positive effect in protecting and enhancing open space and natural green space, including Belfast's countryside asset, by making accessible the City's open spaces for wider public use, regardless of community background, and by encouraging the adaptation and reuse of existing building stock, alongside the redevelopment of brownfield development sites.
16	Promote the sustainable management of waste.	0	0	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources.	0	0	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality.	+	+	++	Options 1 and 2 would have an overall minor positive effect by encouraging an environment in which people feel safer to navigate by sustainable travel means, such as walking and cycling. With Option 2, there is potential to address peacewalls and create or renew access to neighbouring areas in order to promote connectivity and enhance permeability. This would help to reconnect the City, with consequential benefits found in reduced commuting distances and improved linkages between different areas, reducing the need to travel further by vehicle and encouraging travel by foot or bicycle which have potential to contribute to reduced emissions of key pollutants. Option 3 would have a significant positive effect in combining the two options to create conditions of communal stability throughout Belfast, sufficiently strong to encourage reconnection of the City in a way that promotes sustainable travel patterns.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Strategic Policy and Community Cohesion	Option 2 Site Specific Guidance for Key Locations	Option 3 Over-arching Policy with Supplementary Guidance	Justification
19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	+	+	++	Options 1 and 2 would have an overall minor positive effect by encouraging an environment in which people feel safe to navigate by sustainable travel means, such as walking and cycling. With Option 2, there is potential to address peacewalls and create or renew access to neighbouring areas in order to promote connectivity and enhance permeability. This would help to reconnect the City, with consequential benefits found in reduced commuting distances and improved linkages between different areas, reducing the need to travel further by vehicle and encouraging travel by foot or bicycle which have potential to contribute to reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Option 3 would have a significant positive effect in combining Options 1 and 2 to create conditions of communal stability throughout Belfast, sufficiently strong to encourage reconnection of the City in a way that promotes sustainable travel patterns.

Mitigation or enhancement:
None noted.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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LP11 - Urban Design

Theme	SA Objective	Only Option Overarching Policy Approach to Good Design, Supported by Specific Local Policies & Guidance	Justification
Social	1	+	Good general design standards that are supported by specific local policies can help to ensure that all development, of buildings for all types of uses, seeks to improve design quality and the aesthetic quality of their context. Good design promotes attractive places to live, work and play encouraging investment which would assist in reducing deprivation. Well designed places are places where people will seek to live thereby encouraging inclusivity. As can be seen in many of Belfast's existing deprived neighbourhoods, poor design can contribute to deprivation, lower living standards and feelings of isolation. The option would have minor positive effects on this SA objective.
	2	+	Good quality design that is tailored to local circumstances would be considered to have positive effects on objectives relating to health (particularly mental health), wellbeing and quality of life. Major developments should consider and encourage travel by alternative transport methods to the car – encouraging active lifestyles. The option would have minor positive effects on this SA objective.
	3	+	Good quality design will encompass all development types including housing. It will facilitate a range of housing types to meet the diverse range of housing need, by having a quality home in a development that has adequate green / amenity space provision, is safe and accessible, proximate to local services and facilities and where appropriate, provides local neighbourhood facilities. The option would have minor positive effects on this SA objective.
	4	+	Good design, including Secure by Design principles, would help to create safe and accessible places. This can increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour – e.g. by having spaces with natural surveillance. This option therefore ranks as having minor positive effects.
	5	0	The option would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
Economic	6	+	Good design will encourage investment creating sustainable environments close to existing facilities or include the provision of local neighbourhood facilities as an integral part of larger developments. In addition, convenient access to public transport would be a requirement which would help to connect new neighbourhoods to local services and facilities. Considered to have minor positive effects.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Only Option Overarching Policy Approach to Good Design, Supported by Specific Local Policies & Guidance	Justification
	7	+	Good design encourages investment and attracts employers who wish to locate in high quality environments. This would also have a positive effect in ensuring residents have access to employment opportunities. Considered to have minor positive effects.
	8	+	Good design encourages investment and attracts employers who wish to locate in high quality environments. This would also have a minor positive effect in supporting the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contributing to its role as a regional economic driver.
Environmental	9	+	Good design will ensure convenient access to public transport and which would also support cycling and walking. This would have a minor positive effect on the SA objective to promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel.
	10	+	Quality design will aim to provide convenient access to public transport and encouraging walking and cycling (as opposed to less sustainable travel modes) and would help to support the transition to a low carbon economy. In terms of building design itself, the materials used, renewable technologies employed, opportunities for solar energy etc. can have a minor positive effect too.
	11	+	Good design will seek to incorporate natural and landscaping features including open space. Retention of features such as trees and hedgerows will protect existing biodiversity assets. The option would be considered to have minor positive effects.
	12	0	The option would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	13	++	Good quality design will respond appropriately to context and reinforce local distinctiveness. Scale, massing, proportion and materials should enhance legibility. This will protect built heritage assets such as listed buildings, Conservation Areas and Areas of Townscape Character. The option is considered to have significant positive effects.
	14	+	Good quality design will be responsive to topography, landscape setting and impact on views – including key views into and out of the city centre. Considered to have minor positive effects.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Only Option Overarching Policy Approach to Good Design, Supported by Specific Local Policies & Guidance	Justification
15	Protect and enhance open space and natural green space including Belfast's countryside asset.	+	Good quality design will respond to open spaces taking account of how it addresses it and the resultant scale of enclosure. This would have minor positive effects on the SA objective to protect and enhance open space and natural green space. A local design policy approach would also be likely to include maximising the opportunity for the creation of local landmarks and the use of public art, which could enhance public spaces.
16	Promote the sustainable management of waste.	+	Good design would provide well integrated developments that can use existing service delivery mechanisms including collection of waste. Also, new development could design in accessible recycling facilities. This would be considered to have minor positive effects.
17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources.	O	The option would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality.	+	Good quality design in encouraging walking and cycling, and providing accessibility to public transport facilities, would assist in the reduction of air pollution and continued improvements to air quality. Considered to have minor positive effects.
19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	++	Good quality design encouraging walking and cycling, providing accessibility to public transport facilities, and using sustainable technologies and using innovative construction methods, including renewable / energy efficient technologies contributing to sustainable development and provide better preparation for the likely effects of climate change over time. Considered to have significant positive effects.

Mitigation or enhancement:

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	O No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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LP12 – Arterial Routes / Greenways

Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 No Specific Design Guidance for Arterial Routes / Gateways	Option 2 Design Guidance for Arterial Routes / Gateways	Justification
Social	1 Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society	-	+	Good design will promote sustainable aesthetically pleasing environments, which will encourage investment, thereby increasing employment opportunities. Most arterial routes pass through areas that suffer from multiple deprivation and so improvements are likely to provide positive effects. Option 1, with no specific policy on arterial routes, would have minor negative effects. Option 2 will assist in tackling one of the key issues affecting areas of deprivation, which will have a minor positive effect on this SA objective.
	2 Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life	-	+	Good quality design that is tailored to local circumstances would have positive effects on objectives relating to health (particularly mental health), wellbeing and quality of life. Option 1, with no specific policy approach, would have minor negative effects, particularly regarding the absence of targeted measures to improve the health and wellbeing of those living within the areas of deprivation designated in the Plan area, many of which are located near key arterial routes into the centre of the city. Option 2 would have a minor positive effect as good design on arterial routes would contribute to vitality and enhanced function, with consequent benefits in terms of quality of life and wellbeing.
	3 To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs	0	+	Under Option 1, which proposes no specific policy, residential development would still be subject to broader design policies and any specific policies relating to design in residential developments, which would help mitigate any potential minor effects. It therefore is considered to have no substantive effects. Good quality design will encompass all uses including residential use, and a range of housing types to cater for different housing needs. Residential developments are likely to be particularly pertinent in areas of long-term vacancy, where commercial uses may no longer be viable. Option 2 would seek to promote key routes with a strong urban image appropriate to reading of these places as local centres where people can live, work, shop and avail of entertainment opportunities in a sustainable manner. Therefore, the opportunity would be provided for quality housing and this option would therefore be considered to have minor positive effects.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 No Specific Design Guidance for Arterial Routes / Gateways	Option 2 Design Guidance for Arterial Routes / Gateways	Justification
	4	-	+	Good design will seek to reduce crime and promote community safety. A specific policy on design for arterial routes that includes criteria on safety is likely to make a positive contribution to the reduction of crime and anti-social behaviour. Option 1 – the absence of specific design policy for arterial routes / gateways would be considered to have a minor negative effect. Any proposed developments would still be guided by general design principles, e.g. the SPP Option 2 - would have minor positive effects, as specific design guidance for arterial routes / gateways would be likely to include 'Secure by Design Principles' and would help to contribute to how safe these places are and feel.
	5	0	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
Economic	6	-	+	Good design will seek to aesthetically enhance arterial routes encouraging investment in services and facilities. Enhanced vibrancy, quality design standards and safeguarding the function of these important routes into and out of the city would help to ensure that local communities benefit from access to local services. Option 1, by having no specific policy on design, would fail to recognise the important link between it and investment in local services and facilities along important arterial routes and gateways in the city. It would therefore have minor negative effects. Option 2 would have minor positive effects for the reason identified above.
	7	-	+	Good design encourages investment and attracts employers who wish to locate in high quality environments. This would also have a positive effect in ensuring residents have access to employment opportunities. Option 1, by having no specific policy on design, would fail to recognise the link between it and investment. Option 1 considered therefore to have minor negative effects. Option 2 would have minor positive effects by encouraging investment, as a result of adopting a proactive approach to good quality design along arterial routes and at key gateway locations.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 No Specific Design Guidance for Arterial Routes / Gateways	Option 2 Design Guidance for Arterial Routes / Gateways	Justification
	8 Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's role as a regional economic driver	-	+	Good design encourages investment and attracts employers who wish to locate in high quality environments. It would be beneficial in supporting the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contributing to its role as a regional economic driver. Option 1 having no specific policy on design would fail to recognise the link between it and investment and would have minor negative effects. Option 2 would be considered to have minor positive effects by encouraging investment as a result of adopting a proactive approach to good quality design along arterial routes and at key gateway locations.
Environmental	9 Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel	-	+	Option 1 would mean that the LDP would fall short in terms of promoting accessibility to sustainable transport modes, a key component in encouraging sustainable travel. It therefore ranks as having minor negative effects. Option 2 would have minor positive effects. A design policy for arterial routes will seek provision of access to public transport and incorporation of sustainable transport modes. One of the key objectives of a design policy would include enhanced accessibility to local service centres (to encourage cycling and walking). This would encourage sustainable travel. Moreover, in ensuring residents are closer to local service centres supports the delivery of a more integrated transport system.
	10 Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy	-	+	Option 1 would have minor negative effects – the absence of specific design guidance for arterial routes could result in weakening investment in these areas, people having to travel further to access services, and failing to provide good connectivity within and to/from these areas. This would have minor negative effect on the overall aim to move towards a low carbon economy. Option 2, which would include criteria on sustainable design, would have minor positive effects. Quality design will aim to provide convenient access to public transport and encouraging walking and cycling (as opposed to less sustainable travel modes) and would help to support the transition to a low carbon economy. In terms of building design itself, the materials used, renewable technologies employed, opportunities for solar energy etc. can have a positive effect too.
	11 Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species	0	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 No Specific Design Guidance for Arterial Routes / Gateways	Option 2 Design Guidance for Arterial Routes / Gateways	Justification
12	Protect and enhance soil quality	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
13	Protect, enhance and manage the quality of the built and historic environment	+/-	+	Whilst Option 1 would fail to recognise the location of heritage assets along arterial routes, protection would still be afforded to any historic assets through wider heritage policies and legislation (e.g. listings or conservation areas). Option 1 would therefore have neutral effects. Good quality design will respond appropriately to context and reinforce local distinctiveness. Scale, massing, proportion and materials should enhance legibility. This will protect built heritage assets such as listed buildings, Conservation Areas and Areas of Townscape Character many of which are located along arterial routes. Option 2 would therefore have minor positive effects as it is likely to include a criteria relating to how new development should respond to heritage assets.
14	Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
15	Protect and enhance open space and natural green space including Belfast's countryside asset	-	+	Good design criteria specifically for arterial routes and gateway sites would be more likely to safeguard and/or enhance existing or provide new open space to contribute to the added vibrancy and vitality of the areas along arterial routes. Accordingly, Option 1 would therefore be considered to have minor negative effects and Option 2 minor positive effects.
16	Promote the sustainable management of waste	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	○ No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 No Specific Design Guidance for Arterial Routes / Gateways	Option 2 Design Guidance for Arterial Routes / Gateways	Justification
18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality	-	+	<p>Good quality design, in encouraging walking and cycling, and providing accessibility to public transport facilities, would assist in the reduction of air pollution and continued improvements to air quality – this could be particularly beneficial along heavily trafficked arterial routes.</p> <p>Option 1 -Having no specific policy on design would fail to recognise the opportunity for new design to encourage sustainable transport modes. Option 1 would therefore have minor negative effects.</p> <p>Option 2 - Would be considered to have minor positive effects as it is likely to include criteria relating to how new development should respond to public transport facilities and include provision for cycle parking / showering etc.</p>
19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	-	+	<p>Option 1 - Having no policy criteria is considered to have minor negative effects.</p> <p>Option 2 – Good quality design encouraging walking and cycling, providing accessibility to public transport facilities, and using sustainable technologies would assist in the reduction of air pollution. This would be of particular benefit along heavily trafficked arterial routes. Sustainable technologies, using innovative construction methods, including renewable / energy efficient technologies, contributing to sustainable development would all provide better preparation for the likely effects of climate change over time.</p>

Mitigation or enhancement:

Objective 3 – LDP should include general design policies (see LP11) and policies on design in residential development (see LP7).

Objective 19 - Sustainable technologies, using innovative construction methods, including renewable / energy efficient technologies could all be promoted to better prepare areas for the likely effects of climate change over time.

Key:

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LP13 – Promoting Greater Connectivity

Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 No Specific Policy on Spatial Connectivity	Option 2 Strategic Policy on Spatial Connectivity	Justification
Social	1 Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society	-	++	<p>Promoting greater connectivity – particularly between the city centre and inner city area that often suffers from deprivation will increase access to employment opportunities. It will increase access to the ‘community neutral’ city centre, thereby helping facilitate a more inclusive and equal society.</p> <p>Option 1 - Having no specific policy on enhancing connectivity would be considered to have minor negative effects.</p> <p>Option 2 In adopting an over-arching policy and supplementary planning guidance on improving spatial connectivity, will assist in tackling one of the key issues affecting areas of deprivation – access to employment opportunities and to key services and facilities, which would assist in integrating communities that have become isolated – and would be considered to have significant positive effects on this SA objective.</p>
	2 Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life	-	+	<p>Promoting greater connectivity – particularly between the city centre and inner city area - should encourage travel by alternative transport methods to the car – cycling and walking – and encouraging healthier, more active lifestyles. Option 1 - Having no specific policy approach would be considered to have minor negative effects, as it would not encourage the use of healthier methods of travel, and the benefits to wellbeing of better connectivity and accessibility to key services and to jobs would not be facilitated.</p> <p>Neighbourhoods which are better connected are more likely to reap the benefits of enhanced access to key facilities and services, places of work and recreation / leisure / entertainment uses. Option 2 therefore considered to have minor positive effects.</p>
	3 To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs	o	o	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	o No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 No Specific Policy on Spatial Connectivity	Option 2 Strategic Policy on Spatial Connectivity	Justification
	4	Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour	-	+	Option 1 - No policy on connectivity would have minor negative effects on community safety as poorly designed, and in some cases unsafe, routes will continue to be used by local residents. Good design will seek to reduce crime and promote community safety. A specific policy / supplementary guidance on connectivity will seek to promote re-established urban fabric to current shatter zones with a high level of vacancy, gaps sites etc. This will promote definition, frontage and enclosure with active frontages and natural surveillance of these routes / spaces, likely to make a positive contribution to safety, the reduction of crime and anti-social behaviour. Option 2 would therefore be considered to have minor positive effects.
	5	To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities	-	+	Enhanced connectivity is likely to improve access for more people to high quality education facilities and lifelong learning opportunities. Option 1, with no policy direction on spatial connectivity proposed, would be considered to have minor negative effects, and option 2, in contract, which would include specific criteria in the LDP, would have minor positive effects.
Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities	-	+	Promoting greater connectivity through greater permeability and master planning of existing shatter zones, will increase provision of and access to local services. Option 1, by having no specific policy on connectivity, would fail to recognise the importance of well connected neighbourhoods with convenient access to local services and facilities. More accessible local services and facilities are more likely to be viable and therefore retained for the benefit of the communities they serve. Option 1 is therefore considered to have minor negative effects. Option 2 - Having a specific policy in the LDP on spatial connectivity would be considered to have minor positive effects.
	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities	-	+	Promoting greater connectivity – particularly between the city centre and inner city areas that often suffer from deprivation will increase access to employment opportunities. Option 1 - Having no specific policy on spatial connectivity would be considered to have minor negative effects. Option 2 - In adopting an over-arching policy and supplementary planning guidance on improving spatial connectivity, will assist in promoting access to employment opportunities, which would have a minor positive effect on this SA objective.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 No Specific Policy on Spatial Connectivity	Option 2 Strategic Policy on Spatial Connectivity	Justification
	8	Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's role as a regional economic driver	-	++	<p>Promoting greater connectivity through enhanced permeability and master planning of existing shatter zones, / deprived neighbourhoods, through a site specific urban design process, would enhance edge of city centre environments, thereby increasing the likelihood of securing investment in these areas supporting economic development and the role of Belfast as a regional economic driver.</p> <p>Option 1 - Having no specific policy on connectivity would miss the opportunity to address existing areas of blight such as the periphery of the city centre, together with the opportunity to enhance connectivity between areas and thereby facilitate and promote economic development. Option 1 is considered therefore to have a minor negative effect.</p> <p>Option 2 – This approach would assist in supporting business and attracting investment. It would enable better access between people and jobs, access to services and facilities, quicker movement of people and goods within the city, provide better city legibility etc, create more areas of perceived neutral/shared space. All of these factors would be important in the context of Belfast continuing to develop as a competitive place in which to live, work visit and do business and as a regional economic driver. The opportunity to redevelop and shape more successful areas which are currently deprived and suffer under investment is considered critical. Option 2 is therefore considered to have significant positive effects.</p>
Environmental	9	Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel	-	++	<p>Option 1 would mean that the LDP would fall short in terms of promoting accessibility to sustainable transport modes, a key component in encouraging sustainable travel. It therefore ranks as having minor negative effects.</p> <p>Promoting greater connectivity, particularly between the city centre and inner city area, should encourage travel by alternative transport methods to the car such as cycling and walking – i.e. sustainable transport options. Better connectivity will contribute to the viability of existing public transport network and the opportunity to enhance them. This would encourage sustainable travel. New development will be closer to city centre transport hubs</p>

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 No Specific Policy on Spatial Connectivity	Option 2 Strategic Policy on Spatial Connectivity	Justification
				– bus and train stations etc. Option 2 is therefore considered to have significant positive effects.
10	Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy	--	++	Proactive intervention in areas of poor connectivity and ensuring that all new development is well connected, will help to provide convenient access to public transport, jobs, key services/facilities and encourage walking and cycling (as opposed to less sustainable travel modes). This would make a positive contribution towards the transition to a low carbon economy. Option 1 - Having no specific policy approach on connectivity would fail to deliver the opportunity to target poorly connected areas or take a spatial, planned approach to new development over the Plan period. It would therefore have a significant negative effect, continuing the existing approach which gives no consideration to a transition to a low carbon economy. Option 2 - Having a specific policy and criteria on connectivity, with targeted interventions in poorly connected places, would be considered to have significant positive effects on this objective.
11	Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
12	Protect and enhance soil quality	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
13	Protect, enhance and manage the quality of the built and historic environment	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
14	Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	○ No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 No Specific Policy on Spatial Connectivity	Option 2 Strategic Policy on Spatial Connectivity	Justification
15	Protect and enhance open space and natural green space including Belfast's countryside asset	O	O	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
16	Promote the sustainable management of waste	-	+	Better connectivity within the Plan area is likely to support an objective to promote the sustainable management of waste. The absence of a detailed policy and spatial guidance on connectivity in the LDP would work against this objective. Option 1 is therefore considered to have minor negative effects. Option 2, in contrast is best placed to enable sustainable management of waste into the future as the population grows, and would therefore be considered to have minor positive effects.
17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources	-	+	Better connectivity within the Plan area is likely to support an objective to promote the quality and efficient use of water resources. The absence of a detailed policy and spatial guidance on connectivity in the LDP would work against this objective. Option 1 is therefore considered to have minor negative effects. Option 2, in contrast, is best placed to enable efficient use of water resources into the future as the population grows and would therefore be considered to have minor positive effects.
18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality	-	+	Good quality masterplanning of shatter zones around the periphery of the city centre, re-establishing urban fabric in close proximity to the city centre, encouraging walking and cycling, providing accessibility to public transport facilities would all assist in the reduction of air pollution and continued improvements to air quality. Option 1 - Having no specific policy on connectivity would fail to adequately plan for well connected places, people, services and neighbourhoods. Option 1 is considered therefore to have minor negative effects. Option 2 - Would be considered to have minor positive effects on this SA objective as it is likely to include a criteria relating to how new development should respond to public transport facilities and include provision for cycle parking / showering etc.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	O No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 No Specific Policy on Spatial Connectivity	Option 2 Strategic Policy on Spatial Connectivity	Justification
	19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	-	+	High quality, well designed and connected places that encourage walking and cycling, and provide accessibility to public transport facilities, would assist in the reduction of air pollution, thereby supporting the adaptation to Climate Change through the reduction in emissions. Better connected places, where residents, jobs, services and other facilities are all easily accessible and well connected, are also likely to be more energy efficient and require less infrastructural investment to sustain them. They are therefore places that are better prepared for the future likely impacts of climate change. Option 2 would be considered to have minor positive effects on this SA objective with Option 1 having minor negative effects.
Mitigation or enhancement:					

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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LP14 - Tall Buildings

Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Continue Maximum/ Minimum Height Guidance	Option 2 Specific Tall Buildings Policy	Option 3 No Policy on Tall Buildings	Justification
Social	1 Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society.	?	+	?	<p>Tall buildings may assist in economic development – particularly catering for the office and knowledge based sectors of the economy. The provision of employment in these buildings will assist in reducing deprivation and inclusivity in society – as they are likely to be most appropriate in community neutral and highly accessible locations, such as the city centre. Tall buildings may be located in areas in central areas where they may act as a catalyst for regeneration.</p> <p>Option 1 will not be sufficiently detailed in relation to tall buildings to influence this SA objective in the absence of guidance outside the city centre the effects of this objective are uncertain.</p> <p>Option 2 could have a minor positive effect as it will assist in tackling provision of employment and residential opportunities in community neutral locations. A tall buildings policy supported by specific local policies can help to ensure that tall buildings do not result in harm to their context and promote attractive places to live, work and play encouraging investment which would assist in reducing deprivation. Tall buildings as part of well designed places are places where people will seek to live thereby encouraging inclusivity.</p> <p>Option 3, with no specific policy on tall buildings, would have a negative effect because this leave it to market forces to determine where such buildings are proposed. Therefore, their contribution to reducing deprivation is uncertain.</p>
	2 Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	o	o	o	The option would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	3 To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs.	?	?	?	<p>Tall building may provide a number of uses including housing. In the proper locations, tall buildings higher than their surroundings, may assist in facilitating a range of housing types to meet the diverse range of housing need. This is especially in a context with a projected increase in single person households.</p> <p>Under Options 1, 2 and 3, market forces would determine the uses of such buildings therefore the effect on this objective is uncertain.</p>
	4 Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour.	o	o	o	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	5 To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong	o	o	o	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	o No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Continue Maximum/ Minimum Height Guidance	Option 2 Specific Tall Buildings Policy	Option 3 No Policy on Tall Buildings	Justification
	learning opportunities.				
Economic	6 Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities.	O	+	-	<p>Tall buildings in sustainable locations close to major transport nodes / commercial centres may help improve access to local services and facilities. This will assist in retention of these facilities in sustainable locations by facilitating greater numbers of people to access whether they be commercial or residential tall buildings.</p> <p>Tall buildings will encourage investment creating sustainable environments close to existing facilities or include the provision of local neighbourhood facilities as an integral part of larger developments.</p> <p>Option 1 - Continuing the BMAP criteria of minimum / maximum building heights will not be sufficiently detailed in relation to tall buildings to influence this SA objective.</p> <p>Option 2 will assist in provision of tall buildings in accessible locations close to local services and facilities, thereby encouraging their retention and generating a minor positive effect.</p> <p>Option 3, with no specific policy on tall buildings, would be considered to have minor negative effects.</p>
	7 To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities.	O	+	?	<p>Tall buildings may assist in economic development – particularly catering for the office and knowledge based sectors. The provision of employment in these buildings in sustainable locations close to high density centres of population will improve accessibility to employment opportunities in them.</p> <p>A tall buildings policy supported by specific local policies can help to ensure that tall buildings do not result in harm to their context and promote attractive places to live, work and play, encouraging investment which would also improve access to employment opportunities.</p> <p>Option 1 will not be sufficiently detailed in relation to tall buildings to influence this SA objective.</p> <p>Option 2 will assist in tackling provision of employment, providing a minor positive effect.</p> <p>Option 3, with no specific policy on tall buildings, would be considered to have uncertain effects because market forces would largely determine the location of tall buildings.</p>

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	O No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Continue Maximum/ Minimum Height Guidance	Option 2 Specific Tall Buildings Policy	Option 3 No Policy on Tall Buildings	Justification
	8 Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's role as a regional economic driver.	O	+	-	<p>Tall buildings may assist in economic development – particularly catering for the office and knowledge based sectors of the economy. The provision of employment in these buildings in sustainable locations close to high density centres of population will improve accessibility to employment opportunities in them.</p> <p>A tall buildings policy supported by specific local policies can help to ensure that tall buildings do not result in harm to their context and promote attractive places to live, work and play encouraging investment which would assist economic development and Belfast's role as an economic driver.</p> <p>Option 1 - Continuing the BMAP criteria of minimum / maximum building heights will not be sufficiently detailed in relation to tall buildings to influence this SA objective. Option 2 - Adopting an over-arching policy and supplementary planning guidance on tall buildings and their preferred locations will assist in supporting economic development and have a minor positive effect. Option 3 - No specific policy on tall buildings would be considered to have minor negative effects as this would not provide clarity on Council policy discouraging investment.</p>
Environmental	9 Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel.	O	++	-	<p>Option 1 - Continuing the BMAP criteria of minimum / maximum building heights will not be sufficiently detailed in relation to tall buildings to influence this SA objective. Option 2 - Tall buildings in sustainable locations – e.g. close to city centre transport hubs, allows a large number of commuters to travel to work by alternative modes of transport to the private car – i.e. sustainable transport modes. Good design will ensure convenient access to public transport and which would also support cycling and walking. A specific policy identifying suitable locations would have a significantly positive effect on the SA objective to promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel. Option 3, with no specific policy on tall buildings, would be considered to have minor negative effects.</p>

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	O No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Continue Maximum/ Minimum Height Guidance	Option 2 Specific Tall Buildings Policy	Option 3 No Policy on Tall Buildings	Justification
	10	O	++	-	Option 1 - Continuing the BMAP criteria of minimum / maximum building heights will not be sufficiently detailed in relation to tall buildings to influence this SA objective. Option 2 - Tall buildings in sustainable locations – e.g. close to city centre transport hubs allow a large number of commuters to travel to work by alternative modes of transport to the private car – i.e. sustainable transport modes. Good design will ensure convenient access to public transport and which would also support cycling and walking. This would have a significantly positive effect on the SA objective to promote an integrated transport system and support the transition to a low carbon economy. Option 3, with no specific policy on tall buildings, would be considered to have minor negative effects.
	11	O	O	O	The option would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	12	O	O	O	The option would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	13	O	++	-	Good quality design will respond appropriately to context and reinforce local distinctiveness. Scale, massing, proportion and materials should enhance legibility. This will protect built heritage assets such as listed buildings, Conservation Areas and Areas of Townscape Character, including views of these assets and views into and out of the city centre. By having a specific policy on tall buildings, Option 2 will identify locations where they will not have an adverse impact on heritage assets ensuring that they do not draw the eye disproportionately from them – i.e. visually compete with them. In this respect, visual primacy will remain with the heritage assets protecting their role / status in legibility terms as listed building, legible districts etc. It is considered that Option 2 will have a significantly positive effect. Option 1 - Continuing the BMAP criteria of minimum / maximum building heights will not be sufficiently detailed in relation to tall buildings to influence this SA objective, as it would allow tall buildings to come forward on an ad hoc basis. Option 3, with no specific policy on tall buildings, would be considered to have minor negative effects.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	O No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Continue Maximum/ Minimum Height Guidance	Option 2 Specific Tall Buildings Policy	Option 3 No Policy on Tall Buildings	Justification
	14	0	+	-	Option 1 - Continuing the BMAP criteria of minimum / maximum building heights will not be sufficiently detailed in relation to tall buildings to influence this SA objective, as it would allow tall buildings to come forward on an ad hoc basis. Option 2 - Good quality design will be responsive to topography, landscape setting and impact on views – including key views into and out of the city centre. A specific policy which controls building location would be considered to have minor positive effects. A policy and supplementary design guidance identifying preferred locations for tall buildings would assist in the protection of key views of Belfast's distinctive setting and other landscape features – including views from major public open space. Option 3 - Having no specific policy on tall buildings, would be considered to have minor negative effects.
	15	0	+	-	Option 1 - Continuing the BMAP criteria of minimum / maximum building heights will not be sufficiently detailed in relation to tall buildings to influence this SA objective as it would allow tall buildings to come forward on an ad hoc basis. Option 2 - Good quality design will be responsive to topography, landscape setting and impact on views – including key views into and out of the city centre. Considered to have positive effects. A policy and supplementary design guidance identifying preferred locations for tall buildings would assist in the protection of key views of Belfast's distinctive setting and other landscape features – e.g. the surrounding hills. It will include protection of key views – e.g. from major public open space, where in these large spaces, when views of the surrounding city are absent, there is a sense of being in the countryside, and views of tall buildings would have an adverse impact on the open space experience. A specific tall buildings policy may relieve pressure for development on greenfield sites thereby supporting this objective with minor positive effects. Option 3 - With no specific policy on tall buildings, would be considered to have negative effects.
	16	0	0	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	17	0	0	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Continue Maximum/ Minimum Height Guidance	Option 2 Specific Tall Buildings Policy	Option 3 No Policy on Tall Buildings	Justification
18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality.	O	+	-	Option 1 - Continuing the BMAP criteria of minimum / maximum building heights will not be sufficiently detailed in relation to tall buildings to influence this SA objective. Option 2 - Tall buildings in sustainable locations – e.g. close to city centre transport hubs allow a large number of commuters to travel to work by alternative modes of transport to the private car – i.e. sustainable transport modes. Good design will ensure convenient access to public transport and which would also support cycling and walking. This will have a minor positive effect in reducing air pollution. Option 3 - Having no specific policy on tall buildings, would be considered to have minor negative effects.
19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	O	+	-	Option 1 - Continuing the BMAP criteria of minimum / maximum building heights will not be sufficiently detailed in relation to tall buildings to influence this SA objective. Option 2 - Tall buildings in sustainable locations – e.g. close to city centre transport hubs allow a large number of commuters to travel to work by alternative modes of transport to the private car – i.e. sustainable transport modes. Good design will ensure convenient access to public transport and which would also support cycling and walking. This will have a minor positive effect in reducing CO2 production and indirectly climate change. Planning for tall buildings will allow a greater density of provision of jobs and housing with consequent benefits to energy use, infrastructure requirements and land take. Considered to have minor positive effects. Option 3- Having no specific policy on tall buildings, would be considered to have minor negative effects.

Mitigation or enhancement:

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	O No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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LP15 – Archaeology & Built Heritage

Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 No Local Policies on Arch. & Built Heritage	Option 2 Balanced approach to Arch. & Heritage Assets	Option 3 Detailed Local Policies on Arch. & Heritage Assets	Justification
Social	1	Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society	-	O	+	<p>Aesthetically quality environments supported by specific local policies can help provide environments that stimulate investment and economic activity.</p> <p>Heritage assets such as listed buildings, and area built heritage designations such as Conservation Areas and Areas of Townscape character provide the city with a strong sense of place, they suggest continuity and stability, provide aesthetically pleasing quality environments, contribute to a high quality of life and thus stimulate economic activity, investment and tourism. The buildings within them contribute to maintenance of craftsman ship skills and sustainability. They contribute to the visual environment, sense of community and civic pride throughout the city.</p> <p>Aesthetically pleasing environments promote attractive places to live, work and play encouraging investment and economic activity which would assist in reducing deprivation.</p> <p>Option 1 - No specific policy on archaeology and built heritage would be considered to have minor negative effects.</p> <p>Option 2 - Less likely to be effective as it is considered that this will not be as sufficiently detailed to be as effective as Option 3.</p> <p>Option 3 - In adopting an over-arching policy and an area specific approach based on a character appraisal of the assets, would have a minor positive effect against this SA objective – by protecting the character of these areas thereby retaining the qualities likely to attract investment.</p>

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	O No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 No Local Policies on Arch. & Built Heritage	Option 2 Balanced approach to Arch. & Heritage Assets	Option 3 Detailed Local Policies on Arch. & Heritage Assets	Justification
	2	-	○	+	<p>Aesthetically quality environments supported by specific local policies can help provide environments provide aspects of the environment that are considered to be positive promoting a sense of stability and emotional security.</p> <p>Heritage assets such as listed buildings, and area built heritage designations such as Conservation Areas and Areas of Townscape character provide the city with a strong sense of place, they suggest continuity and stability, provide aesthetically pleasing quality environments.</p> <p>These have positive effects on objectives relating to health (particularly mental health), wellbeing and quality of life.</p> <p>Option 1 - No specific policy on archaeology and built heritage would be considered to have negative effects. Option 2 - Less likely to be effective as it is considered that this will not be as sufficiently detailed to be as effective as Option 3. Option 3 - In adopting an over-arching policy and an area specific approach based on a character appraisal of the assets, would have a minor positive effect against this SA objective – by protecting the character of these areas thereby leading to an enhanced quality of life.</p>
	3	○	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	4	Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour	○	○	○

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	○ No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 No Local Policies on Arch. & Built Heritage	Option 2 Balanced approach to Arch. & Heritage Assets	Option 3 Detailed Local Policies on Arch. & Heritage Assets	Justification
	5	To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities	○	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities	○	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities	○	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	8	Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's role as a regional economic driver	-	○	+	<p>Aesthetically quality environments supported by specific local policies can help provide environments that stimulate investment and economic activity. Protection of heritage assets will contribute to a high quality of life and thus stimulate economic activity, investment and tourism. This will support the economic development of Belfast.</p> <p>Option 1 - Having no specific policy on archaeology and built heritage, would be considered to have negative effects.</p> <p>Option 2 - Less likely to be effective as it is considered that this will not be as sufficiently detailed to be as effective as Option 3.</p> <p>Option 3 - In adopting an over-arching policy and an area specific approach based on a character appraisal of the assets, would have a minor positive effect against this SA objective – by protecting the character of these areas thereby retaining the qualities likely to attract investment.</p>
Environmental	9	Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel	○	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	10	Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy	○	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	○ No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 No Local Policies on Arch. & Built Heritage	Option 2 Balanced approach to Arch. & Heritage Assets	Option 3 Detailed Local Policies on Arch. & Heritage Assets	Justification
	11	Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species	O	O	O	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	12	Protect and enhance soil quality	O	O	O	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	13	Protect, enhance and manage the quality of the built and historic environment	-	+	++	<p>An aspect of the historic environment is archaeological remains of regional and local significance. It is important that the LDP has a detailed character appraisal of areas of archaeological potential so that these remains and their settings are protected. Such a policy will guide the preservation and protection of these remains and their settings. Policies to protect or enhance heritage assets such as listed buildings, Conservation Areas and Areas of Townscape Character and their settings will assist in the enhancement and management of change to them and their immediate context.</p> <p>Option 1 – Having no local policies would be considered to have minor negative effects. Option 2 – A balanced approach would have a minor positive effect i.e. less significant effect than one which identified specified assets and contained policies for their protection – i.e. Option 3. Option 3 - A policy on archaeology and heritage assets will ensure that archaeological remains of regional and local significance / heritage assets are managed and protected. It is considered that this policy will have a significant positive effect.</p>

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	O No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 No Local Policies on Arch. & Built Heritage	Option 2 Balanced approach to Arch. & Heritage Assets	Option 3 Detailed Local Policies on Arch. & Heritage Assets	Justification
	14	-	○	+	<p>An aspect of the historic environment is the landscaping elements of Conservation Areas. It is important that the LDP has a detailed character appraisal of heritage assets including the landscaping elements such as trees that contribute to their character. This will increase the probability that the landscaping elements associated with these heritage assets can be protected.</p> <p>Option 1 – Having no local policies - would be considered to have negative effects; Option 2 – A balanced approach would have a minor positive effect, less significant than one which identified specified assets and contained policies for their protection – i.e. Option 3. Option 3 - A policy on archaeology and heritage assets will ensure that landscaping elements associated with will be protected thereby enhancing this aspect of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity. It is considered that this policy will have a minor positive effect.</p>
	15	○	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	16	○	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	17	○	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	18	○	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	19	○	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
Mitigation or enhancement:					

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	○ No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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LP16 – Local Distinctiveness

Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 No Specific Design Guidance on Local Distinctiveness	Option 2 Design Guidance on Local Distinctiveness	Justification
Social	1	-	+	Good design which is responsive to local distinctiveness will promote sustainable, aesthetically pleasing environments, with a strong sense of place and local identity. This will be positive in terms of urban design. Option 1 - Having no specific policy on local distinctiveness would be considered to have a minor negative effect. Option 2 - In adopting an over-arching policy on improving the local distinctiveness aspect of design throughout the city, will encourage investment thereby assisting in reducing deprivation, which will have a minor positive effect on this SA objective.
	2	-	+	Good design responsive to local distinctiveness will promote sustainable aesthetically pleasing environments, with a strong sense of place and local identity. This will be positive in terms of urban design. Good quality design that is tailored to local distinctiveness would be considered to have positive effects on objectives relating to health (particularly mental health – emotional security etc.), wellbeing and quality of life. Option 1 – Having no specific policy on local distinctiveness would be considered to have a minor negative effect. Option 2 - In adopting an over-arching policy on improving the local distinctiveness aspect of design throughout the city, will assist in improving the quality of life of citizens which will have a minor positive effect on this SA objective.
	3	o	o	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	4	o	o	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	5	o	o	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	o No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 No Specific Design Guidance on Local Distinctiveness	Option 2 Design Guidance on Local Distinctiveness	Justification
Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	8	Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's role as a regional economic driver	-	+	Good design responsive to local distinctiveness will promote sustainable, aesthetically pleasing environments, with a strong sense of place and local identity. This will be positive in terms of urban design. Option 1 - Having no specific policy on local distinctiveness would be considered to have a minor negative effect. Option 2 In adopting an over-arching policy on improving the local distinctiveness aspect of design throughout the city, will encourage investment thereby supporting the economic development of Belfast as the regional economic driver and will have a minor positive effect on this SA objective.
Environmental	9	Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	10	Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	11	Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
	12	Protect and enhance soil quality	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	○ No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 No Specific Design Guidance on Local Distinctiveness	Option 2 Design Guidance on Local Distinctiveness	Justification
13	Protect, enhance and manage the quality of the built and historic environment	-	+	Option 1 - Having no specific policy on local distinctiveness would fail to recognise the issue of local distinctiveness in design and would therefore have a minor negative effect. Good quality design will respond appropriately to context and reinforce local distinctiveness. Scale, massing, proportion and materials should enhance legibility. This will protect built heritage assets such as listed buildings, Conservation Areas and Areas of Townscape Character and their settings. Option 2 would have a minor positive effect as it is likely to include criteria relating to how new development should respond to heritage assets.
14	Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
15	Protect and enhance open space and natural green space including Belfast's countryside asset	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
16	Promote the sustainable management of waste	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA objective.
Mitigation or enhancement:				

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	○ No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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LP17 – Energy Efficient Design

Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 No Local Policy on Energy Efficient Design	Option 2 Local Policy on Energy Efficient Design	Justification
Social	1	Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society	○	++	Option 1 would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective. Option 2 has a significant positive effect that would help to address fuel poverty whereby energy efficiency measures would help to reduce energy cost. Currently 32% of the population are in fuel poverty due to the high cost of heating poorly insulated homes.
	2	Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	-	++	Option 1 has a minor negative effect on this SA Objective. Option 2 has a significant positive effect because it would help to improve health and wellbeing. Fuel poverty is a long-standing health issue. The impact of cold housing on health is well-established, ranging from cardiovascular and respiratory problems. Energy efficiency design measures would help to reduce energy costs and reduce fuel poverty.
	3	To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs	○	+	Option 1 would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective. Option 2 has a minor positive effect because it would help to improve the quality of housing alongside lower energy costs that would meet the needs to reduce fuel poverty in the city.
	4	Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour	○	○	The two options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	5	To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities	○	○	The two options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities	○	○	The two options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities	○	○	The two options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.

Key:	++	+	○	-	--	+/-	?
	Significant positive effect	Minor positive effect	No effect or relationship	Minor negative effect	Significant negative effect	Mixed Effects	Uncertain /effect unknown

	8	Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's roles as a regional economic driver	-	+	Option 1 has a minor negative effect on this SA Objective. Option 2 has a minor positive effect because it will help to reduce building energy costs. NI is considered to have the highest energy costs due to its dependence on fossil fuels. This option will mitigate these high-energy costs and make the city an attractive place for investment that would promote economic and population growth.
Environmental	9	Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel	0	0	The two options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	10	Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy	-	++	Option 1 has a minor negative effect on this SA Objective. Option 2 has a significant positive effect because the adoption of low carbon design and technology, to reduce dependency on fossil fuel for space heating, will contribute to the reduction of GHG emissions and contribute to the shift to a low carbon economy.
	11	Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species	-	+	Option 1 has a minor negative effect on this SA Objective. Option 2 has a minor positive effect because the reduction in the use of fossil fuel for space heating will reduce the emissions of GHG that is contributing to climate change and impacting on biodiversity.
	12	Protect and enhance soil quality	0	+	Option 1 would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective. Option 2 has a minor positive effect because the reduction in the use of fossil fuel for space heating will reduce the emissions of GHG that is contributing air pollution causing the acidification of the soils.
	13	Protect, enhance and manage the quality of the built and historic environment	0	-/+	Option 1 would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective. Option 2 has a mixed effect because the reduction in the use of fossil fuel for space heating will reduce the emissions of GHG that is contributing air pollution causing the acidification of rain water that can affect erosion of the building fabric. However, energy efficiency solutions may affect the quality of the historic built environment.
	14	Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.	0	+	Option 1 would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective. Option 2 has a minor positive effect because the reduction in the use of fossil fuel for space heating will reduce the emissions of GHG that is contributing to climate change and impacting on the natural environment due to increasing flood risk and higher temperatures.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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15	Protect and enhance open space and natural green space including Belfast's countryside asset	O	+	Option 1 would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective. Option 2 has a minor positive effect because the reduction in the use of fossil fuel for space heating will reduce the emissions of GHG that is contributing to climate change and impacting on the natural environment due to increasing flood risk and higher temperatures.
16	Promote the sustainable management of waste	-	+	Option 1 has a minor negative effect on this SA Objective. Option 2 has a minor positive effect because energy efficiency technology would encourage the potential use of waste heat, particularly for district heating schemes.
17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources	-	+	Option 1 has a minor negative effect on this SA Objective. Option 2 has a minor positive effect because the reduction in the use of fossil fuel for space heating will reduce the emissions of GHG that is contributing air pollution causing the acidification of the water resource which affects its quality.
18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality	-	+	Option 1 has a minor negative effect on this SA Objective. Option 2 has a minor positive effect because the reduction in the use of fossil fuel for space heating will reduce the emissions of GHG that is contributing air pollution.
19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	-	+	Option 1 has a minor negative effect on this SA Objective. Option 2 has a minor positive effect because the reduction in the use of fossil fuel for space heating will reduce the emissions of GHG and mitigate potential flood risk. This would also help buildings adapt to climate to mitigate the impact of higher temperatures, through passive measures to cool buildings.
Mitigation or enhancement:				

VE1 - Employment Land Supply

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	O No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1: Population Growth	Option 2: Supporting Baseline Employment Growth	Option 3 Supporting Higher Employment Growth	Justification
Social	1	Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society.	?	++	+	<p>Option 1, is expected to have an unknown effect as it is difficult to ascertain the amount of economic growth over the plan period. In that there could be too many uncertainties and external factors to conclude decisively the effect.</p> <p>Options 2 and 3 are expected to have a positive effect by encouraging an inclusive society through facilitating economic development in locations accessible to disadvantaged urban areas. Option 2 would a significantly positive effect as it aims to support the re-use of previously developed land and could assist with economic regeneration and physical renewal by stimulating enterprise in disadvantaged areas to tackle long-term unemployment. Option 2 is considered the more realistic approach and significantly more positive when compared with Option 3 which would have a minor positive effect.</p>
	2	Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	?	+	+/-	<p>Option 1 is expected to have unknown effect on the creation of job opportunities and therefore would not assist in improving health and wellbeing and improving quality of life.</p> <p>Option 2 is expected to have a minor positive effect in assisting in the improved quality of life by creating more jobs and providing people with a better quality of life. While Option 3 could have a mixed effect on this objective as it aims for a higher level of economic growth and job creation, however, not all residents of Belfast will be eligible for such employment opportunities through skills gaps for example.</p>
	3	To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs.	+/-	++	+	<p>Option 1 is expected to result in mixed effects as its projection is based on population, and may not provide the housing choice required.</p> <p>Options 2 and Option 3 are both expected to have positive effect as improved employment opportunities will assist in helping people into employment and the opportunity to avail of better housing choices. Option 2 proposes 46,000 additional jobs and would be significantly more positive than Option 3 as it considered that this would be a more sustainable option to achieve in providing more opportunity for good quality housing and enabling people to meet their housing needs.</p>
	4	Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour.	o	o	o	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	o No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1: Population Growth	Option 2: Supporting Baseline Employment Growth	Option 3 Supporting Higher Employment Growth	Justification
	5 To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities.	+/-	++	+	Option 1 is expected to have a mixed effect as it proposes little growth and while there has been an improvement in the skills base over time there still gaps remaining. Options 2 & 3 are both expected to have positive effects. Option 2 would be more significantly positive through provision of zoned land at the right locations that attracts investment and greater opportunity for developing skills in various employment sectors at a more sustainable level of growth. New economic opportunities and the promotion of new skills for example ICT Software engineering, Data / Data Analytics, Cyber Security requiring lifelong learning opportunities.
Economic	6 Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities.	?	++	+/-	Option 1 is expected to be unknown as it proposes little growth and may not enhance access to local services and facilities over the plan period. Option 2 is expected to have a significant positive effect and will enable a balanced approach to ensure that that there is convenient access to local services and facilities for a growing economy. Through this option as employment increases, there is the potential to benefit from the multiplier effect and increased spending on local services and facilities thereby ensuring enhanced access. Option 3 is expected to result in mixed effects. Whilst it will ensure economic growth and employment opportunities and consequential enhanced access to services and facilities it also has the potential to result in a negative effect stemming from difficulties in identifying and zoning enough suitable lands to facilitate economic growth that would enable convenient access to local facilities.
	7 To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities.	-	++	+	Option 1 is expected to have a minor negative effect as it would not see any significant economic growth and would not ensure local residents have access to future employment opportunities. Options 2 and 3 are expected to have a positive effect in the creation of job opportunities and prosperity for local residents. Option 2 would expect to significantly positive and create a strong job creation, adding a further 46,000 jobs. Option 3 would have a minor positive effect, which would see enhanced economic growth, with 69,000 additional jobs but may be difficult to achieve and is therefore not as sustainable.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1: Population Growth	Option 2: Supporting Baseline Employment Growth	Option 3 Supporting Higher Employment Growth	Justification
	8 Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's roles as a regional economic driver.	?	++	+	Option 1 is expected to have an unknown effect as it would see only limited economic growth, therefore not support this SA objective. Option 2 (baseline economic scenario) would have a significant positive effect as it would seek to secure an ambitious level of economic growth attracting investment, creating jobs and driving the regional economy offering choice and flexibility to support economic growth of the city with 46,000 additional jobs over the plan period. Option 3 at the upper economic scenario would have a minor positive effect and will undoubtedly support economic development of Belfast but is considered unrealistic and not sustainable in the short / medium term.
Environmental	9 Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel.	-	++	+/-	Encouraging new employment opportunities closer to housing and sustainable modes of transport that avails of future transport schemes such as the Belfast Rapid Transit System represents a more sustainable pattern of development. Option 1 is likely have a negative effect as it would see existing less sustainable travel patterns continue and not resolve the disproportionately high private car commuter travel into Belfast, which currently at 52%. While Option 3 would have a mixed effect as in order to provide the required employment it would be likely to result in pressures for new developments that may not be well connected and will continue to encourage private commuter travel. Option 2, is expected to have a significantly positive effect as it proposes a lower level of economic development growth and would be more likely to facilitate a well integrated transport system with residential population living closer to their place of work and to key local services and facilities.
	10 Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy.	-	+	-	Option 2 would have a minor positive effect on this SA objective as it aims to manage waste and promote resource efficiency through development of the Circular Economy and encouragement of smart low and zero carbon buildings to reduce greenhouse emissions. Option 1, would have a negative effect as it would assume the status quo and would see only limited economic growth therefore not support the transition to a low carbon economy. While option 3 would have a minor negative effect, and could lead to pressures for economic development in less sustainable areas, which may not support the transition to a low carbon economy.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1: Population Growth	Option 2: Supporting Baseline Employment Growth	Option 3 Supporting Higher Employment Growth	Justification
	11	+	-	--	<p>Option 1 would have a minor positive effect as it would see little or no growth in the economy. The absence of new economic development sites has the potential to put less pressure on existing designations such as habitats and Biodiversity assets.</p> <p>Options 2 and 3 are expected to both result in minor negative effects due to pressure to deliver new sites for employment could affect existing habitats and species. Option 3, however, could have significantly more negative effect, as higher growth would likely necessitate bringing forward Greenfield sites outside the development limits putting a greater strain on habitats and species.</p>
	12	?	+	+/-	<p>Option 1 is expected to have neutral effect on soil quality. Option 2 is expected to have minor positive effects as economic growth could see existing contaminated brownfield sites and vacant building brought back into active use. Option 3 could have mixed effects – whilst it would also see brownfield sites redeveloped, it would likely require the bringing forward of additional Greenfield sites outside the established urban footprint, that could have detrimental effects on soil quality.</p>
	13	?	++	+	<p>Option 1, effects are unknown as it is uncertain where development proposal will come forward over the plan period. Options 2 and 3 are expected to result in minor positive effects with the support the re-use of previously developed economic development sites and buildings. Option 2 is expected to significantly more positive as development will be in a more sustainable form.</p>
	14	+	+	-	<p>Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect as it would result in little or no growth in the economy therefore limiting the impact on distinctive landscape and geo-diversity over the plan period.</p> <p>Option 2 would also be considered to have minor positive effects on this SA objective – it proposes a lower level of growth which is more readily accommodated within the existing urban footprint, reducing the likelihood of requiring additional lands, therefore with minor positive effect on landscape and geo-diversity.</p> <p>Option 3 would be considered to have minor negative effects, as the upper scenario of employment growth would be likely to necessitate bringing forward Greenfield sites outside the urban footprint, which could impact on Belfast’s distinctive landscape and geo-diversity.</p>

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1: Population Growth	Option 2: Supporting Baseline Employment Growth	Option 3 Supporting Higher Employment Growth	Justification
	15 Protect and enhance open space and natural greenspace including Belfast's countryside asset.	+	-	--	<p>Option 1 is expected to have a positive effect, as it would see very limited economic growth over the plan period and therefore less pressure on existing open space and Greenfield sites.</p> <p>Option 2 is expected to result in a minor negative effect. Having regard to the aspiration economic growth level it has the potential to result in increased pressure on open space and Greenfield sites through increased demand for land to facilitate need.</p> <p>Option 3, however, is expected to result in significantly negative effects, as higher growth would likely necessitate bringing forward Greenfield sites outside the development limits and would put greater pressure on existing open space within the settlement limits.</p>
	16 Promote the sustainable management of waste.	-	+	+	Options 2 and 3 are expected to have minor positive effects as the green circular economy sector is expected to grow. Option 1 is expected to have a minor negative effect as it would not have the framework in place to support the sustainable management principles of waste.
	17 Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources.	+/-	+/-	+/-	All 3 options are expected to result in mixed effects. The economic growth options do not envisage any heavy industry that would require significant volumes of water usage. However, there is the potential for all options to result in negative impacts through accidental discharge of pollutants into watercourses.
	18 Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality.	-	-	--	<p>Option 1 would be expected to result in a minor negative effect due to the continuing reliance on less sustainable travel patterns.</p> <p>Option 2 would also be expected to result in minor negative effects - the supply of employment land required to facilitate economic growth would be likely to result in increased air pollution.</p> <p>Option 3 ranks as having significant negative effects as it proposes additional economic growth to that proposed in option 2, thereby with even more likelihood of resulting in increased emissions that would impact negatively on air quality.</p>

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1: Population Growth	Option 2: Supporting Baseline Employment Growth	Option 3 Supporting Higher Employment Growth	Justification
19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	-	-	--	Option 1, would have a minor negative effect as it reflects the baseline level of population growth and would see little or no growth in the economy therefore should not cause significant effects on development. Options 2 & 3 would have negative effects, as there could be pressure to develop in areas prone to existing flood risk Option 3 however could have significant negative effects, as higher growth would likely result in increased CO2 emissions and consequential impacts on climate change.

Mitigation or enhancement:

SA Objective 1 & 2 - Ensure economic development in locations accessible to disadvantaged urban areas.

SA Objective 6 - Ensure the LDP provides sufficient local services to match the planned level of economic growth.

SA Objective 7 – Ensure the LDP provides sites that benefit of high levels of accessibility.

SA Objective 9- Through the LDP ensure that sites identified for economic are located in areas best served by public transport near key transport corridors and are located sufficiently close to residential populations so as to encourage walking and cycling.

SA Objective 11, 14 & 15 – Targeting the city centre and Brownfield sites within the existing settlement will help to mitigate against likely effects on landscapes, geo-diversity are areas of open space provision. Potential negative effects can be mitigated through application of EIA, Habitat Regulation Assessment and local policies

SA Objective 19 – Incorporate requirement for SUDS technology (where appropriate). Also, prioritise sites for development, which are not at flood risk.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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VE2 - Strategic Employment Locations

Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Review Strategic Employment Sites & Identify New Smaller Opportunity Sites	Option 2 Allocate Large Sites Over 2ha. to Provide Key Development Opportunity Sites	Justification
Social	1 Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society.	++	+/-	<p>Option 1 is expected to have a significant positive effect on reducing deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society. It is in line with the RDS which seeks to facilitate economic development in locations accessible to disadvantaged urban areas. Option 1 would aim to support increased employment which in turn will help transform Belfast into a more competitive and successful city that can attract talent and inward investment in the medium and long term.</p> <p>Option 2 is expected to have a mixed effect on reducing deprivation and encourages an inclusive and equal society. It will have a positive effect by supporting increased employment but may however fail to meets the needs of disadvantaged areas in the short to medium term.</p>
	2 Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	++	+/-	<p>Option 1 is expected to have a significant positive effect in the creation of job opportunities, especially in relation to disadvantages areas in the short and medium term. It will ultimately result in a better quality of life and improve overall wellbeing.</p> <p>Option 2 is expected to have mixed effects. It will facilitate some economic growth, creating access to jobs with consequential benefits of improved health and wellbeing for residents in the short to medium term. However, it has the potential to cause negative effects by being too rigid an approach by not allowing for alternative uses to come forward over the plan period especially if there is little demand for economic uses on particular sites.</p>
	3 To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs.	+	-	<p>Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect by creating additional employment opportunities in locations that are accessible to all members of the community. This approach will assist residents, especially in disadvantaged areas in the medium to long term to avail of better housing choices.</p> <p>Option 2 is expected to result in a minor negative effect. It is considered too rigid an approach, which does not facilitate the release of excess employment land for suitable alternative uses such as housing, should employment supply exceed need.</p>

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Review Strategic Employment Sites & Identify New Smaller Opportunity Sites	Option 2 Allocate Large Sites Over 2ha. to Provide Key Development Opportunity Sites	Justification
	4	Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour.	+	+	Option 1 and 2 are both likely to have minor positive effect on this objective by adherence at design and build stage to designing out crime and positive place making.
	5	To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities.	++	+	Both Option 1 and 2 are expected to have a minor positive effect through provision of zoned land at right locations that attracts investment and greater opportunity for developing skills in various employment sectors. However, Option 1 is expected to be significantly more positive in that allows for greater flexibility and scope to provide learning opportunities to disadvantaged areas through smaller opportunity sites.
Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities.	++	+	Option 1 is expected to have a significant positive effect on this SA objective. By reviewing strategic employment locations and identifying smaller opportunities sites with good accessibility to all members of the community there is the potential to benefit from the multiplier effect and increased spending on local services and facilities thereby ensuring enhanced access. Option 2 is also expected to have a minor effect but its benefits will be more limited especially if land supply exceeds needs and there is little scope to allow alternative uses.
	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities.	++	++	Both Options would be expected to have significantly positive effect in the creation of job opportunities and prosperity to assist in the improved quality of life for local residents.
	8	Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's roles as a regional economic driver.	++	+	Option 1 is expected to have a significant positive effect on this SA objective as it is required to support the economic growth aspiration of the City, supporting the creation of new jobs will help to support result in attracting investment, creating jobs and driving the Regional Economy. In line with the key objective of RDS and SPPS to ensure the Plan will provide an ample supply of suitable land to meet future economic development needs within the plan area in terms of range, choice and flexibility of sites. Option 2 is expected to have a minor positive effect but would not provide the clarity required to support the future needs of a broad based economy.

Key:	++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Review Strategic Employment Sites & Identify New Smaller Opportunity Sites	Option 2 Allocate Large Sites Over 2ha. to Provide Key Development Opportunity Sites	Justification	
Environmental	9	Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel.	+	+	Option 1 and Option 2 are expected to have a minor positive effect. Through the process of reviewing all strategic employment locations and identifying smaller opportunity sites there is the ability to ensure only those sites with good accessibility and connectivity come forward encouraging more sustainable modes of transport such as cycling and walking. Similarly, to Option 1, Option 2 has the potential to identify sites of over 2 hectares that are in accessible locations which will encourage sustainable travel.
	10	Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy.	+	+/-	Options 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect that should help to ensure a reduction in Green House Gas Emissions and help the City contribute to the Executives GHG Emission Targets. Option 2 is expected to have a mixed effect as some employment locations in the short to medium term would not benefit from access to sustainable modes of transport thereby impacting on the transition to a low carbon economy.
	11	Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species.	0	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	12	Protect and enhance soil quality.	+/-	+/-	Both options are expected to result in a mixed effect. They have the potential to ensure that vacant or underused land within the settlement limits is returned to productive use and limiting development in Greenfield sites. However, some employment uses may result in contamination issues due to industrial processes and by-products.
	13	Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings	+	?	Option 1 is expected to result in a minor positive effect with the support the re-use of previously developed economic development sites and vacant buildings. Option 2 is expected to be unknown.
	14	Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.	+	+	Both Options are expected to result in minor positive effects. These options have the potential to ensure that vacant or underused land within the settlement limits are returned to productive use and therefore reducing the pressure on protected landscapes and sites of geodiversity.
	15	Protect and enhance open space and natural greenspace including Belfast's countryside asset.	+	+	Both options are expected to result in minor positive effects. These options have the potential to ensure that Brownfield, vacant or underused land within the settlement limits is returned to productive use and therefore put less pressure on Greenfield sites and open space.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Review Strategic Employment Sites & Identify New Smaller Opportunity Sites	Option 2 Allocate Large Sites Over 2ha. to Provide Key Development Opportunity Sites	Justification	
	16	Promote the sustainable management of waste.	+/-	+/-	Pursuing Option 1 and Option 2 is likely to result in mixed effects. Greater economic development will lead to an increase in waste production, some of which has the potential to be hazardous. However, there may be positive effects as businesses that promote the circular green economy come forward over the plan period.
	17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water.	+/-	+/-	Options 1 and 2 are both expected to result in mixed effects. The economic growth options do not envisage any heavy industry that would require significant volumes of water usage. However, there is the potential for all options to result in negative impacts through accidental discharge of pollutants into watercourses.
	18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality.	+/-	+/-	Both options are expected to result in mixed effects - whilst they would be likely to lead to increased CO2 emissions through associated traffic generation and emissions from industrial processes, the identification of specific strategic sites can enable the proper planning of development, maximising the opportunity for more sustainable transport modes and reducing the need to travel. This could be achieved by, for example locating employment opportunities closer to homes and by incorporating new public transport infrastructure (or enhancement of existing infrastructure) to provide more convenient access.
	19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	-	-	Both options have the potential to result in minor negative effects due to increased overland flow / run off as a result of more hard surfaces.

Mitigation or Enhancement

SA Objective 2 - At policy stage, to ensure that new developments would result in greater distances between resident population and their places of work.

SA Objective 6 - At policy stage, to ensure that the LDP provides sufficient local services to match the planned level of growth

SA Objective 10 – At policy stage and in the identification of suitable sites, ensure that all new economic development can make a positive contribution to the transition to a low carbon economy.

SA Objective 11 – Check on biodiversity issues at site selection stage to minimise impact.

SA Objective 14 – Targeting the city centre and Brownfield sites within the existing settlement will help to mitigate likely effects

SA Objective 19 – Incorporate requirement for SUDS technology (where appropriate). Also, prioritise sites for development which are not at flood risk.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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VE3 - Flexible Approach to Existing Employment Locations

Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Protect Areas of Existing Employment Against Competing Uses to Facilitate Opportunities for Economic & Employment Growth	Option 2 Apply a More Rigid Approach & Retain all Employment Land Irrespective of Need & Local Context	Justification
Social	1 Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society.	++	+/-	<p>Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect. RDS seeks to facilitate economic development in locations accessible to disadvantaged urban areas. Whilst there is a presumption in favour of retaining employment focus there is scope for the accommodation of similar employment / compatible uses to drive forward employment and economic growth within areas where there has been closures or a lack of demand. Such a focus will ultimately reduce deprivation levels through better access to employment leading to an inclusive society.</p> <p>Option 2 is expected to result in mixed effects. It will help ensure that there is an adequate supply of employment land over the plan period to drive forward economic growth to facilitate jobs creating the right atmosphere for a more inclusive society. However, it is considered too rigid an approach that also has the potential to limit growth in some areas by not allowing vacant land to be given over for other compatible alternative uses.</p>
	2 Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	++	+/-	<p>Option 1 is expected to have a significant positive effect in the creation of job opportunities, especially in relation to disadvantaged areas in the short and medium term. It will ensure existing employment areas remain economically buoyant by allowing alternative compatible uses where closures or relocations occur. Such an approach will help improve health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Option 2 is expected to have mixed effect as it will facilitate some economic growth, creating access to jobs with consequential benefits of improved health and wellbeing for residents in the short to medium term. However, it has the potential to cause negative effects by being too rigid an approach by not allowing for alternative uses to come forward over the plan period especially if there is little demand for economic uses on particular sites.</p>

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Protect Areas of Existing Employment Against Competing Uses to Facilitate Opportunities for Economic & Employment Growth	Option 2 Apply a More Rigid Approach & Retain all Employment Land Irrespective of Need & Local Context	Justification	
	3	To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs.	+	+/-	Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive impact. By providing more employment opportunities it will assist in people getting jobs and the ability to avail of better housing choices. Option 2 is likely to have mixed effects. Like option 1 it will provide residents with the opportunity to avail of better housing but by adopting a less flexible approach it may hinder meeting housing needs as there is limited prospect of land zoned for employment being allowed to go to other uses such as housing.
	4	Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour.	+	+	Both options are likely to have minor positive effects by adherence at design and build stage to designing out crime and positive place making.
	5	To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities.	+	+/-	Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect through provision of zoned land at right locations that attracts investment and greater opportunity for developing skills in various employment sectors. Option 2 is expected to result mixed effects. It has the potential to have similar effects as Option 1 but less pronounced but may also have a negative impact by being less flexible to allow for compatible alternatives uses that may be beneficial in terms of learning.
Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities.	+	+/-	Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect. By reviewing strategic employment locations and identifying smaller opportunities sites with good accessibility to all members of the community there is the potential to benefit from the multiplier effect and increased spending on local services and facilities thereby ensuring enhanced access. Option 2 is expected to have a mixed effect. The benefits will be limited especially if land supply exceeds needs and there is little scope to allow alternative uses.
	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities	+/-	+/-	Options 1 & 2 are both expected to have a mixed effect on the creation of job opportunities as not all residents.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Protect Areas of Existing Employment Against Competing Uses to Facilitate Opportunities for Economic & Employment Growth	Option 2 Apply a More Rigid Approach & Retain all Employment Land Irrespective of Need & Local Context	Justification
	8 Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's roles as a regional economic driver.	++	-	Option 1 is expected to have a significant positive effect on this SA objective as such a flexible approach would support the economic growth aspiration of the City, supporting the creation of new jobs will help to support result in attracting investment, creating jobs and driving the Regional Economy. Option 2 is also expected to have a minor positive effect but would not provide the flexibility required to support the future needs of a broad based economy.
Environmental	9 Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel.	+	+/-	Option 1 would have a minor positive effect and would aim to promote employment to encourage sustainable modes of transport and choices. Option 2 would have a mixed effect.
	10 Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy.	+	+/-	Option 1 would have a minor positive effect. Employment opportunities may increase in traffic will lead to increase in travel and likely negative effect on air quality
	11 Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species.	0	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	12 Protect and enhance soil quality.	+/-	+/-	Both options are expected to have a mixed effect. They have the potential to ensure that vacant or underused land within the settlement limits is returned to productive use and limiting development in Greenfield sites. However, some employment uses may result in contamination issues due to industrial processes and by-products.
	13 Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings	+	+	Both options are expected to result in minor positive effects. These options have the potential to ensure that vacant or underused land within the settlement limits is returned to productive use and therefore put less pressure on Greenfield sites.
14 Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.	+	+	Both options are expected to result in minor positive effects. These options have the potential to ensure that vacant or underused land within the settlement limits are returned to productive use and therefore reducing the pressure on protected landscapes and sites of geodiversity.	

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Protect Areas of Existing Employment Against Competing Uses to Facilitate Opportunities for Economic & Employment Growth	Option 2 Apply a More Rigid Approach & Retain all Employment Land Irrespective of Need & Local Context	Justification
	15	Protect and enhance open space and natural greenspace including Belfast's countryside asset.	+	+	Both options are expected to result in minor positive effects. These options have the potential to ensure that Brownfield, vacant or underused land within the settlement limits is returned to productive use minimise adverse impacts on the open space and natural green space including the countryside asset.
	16	Promote the sustainable management of waste.	+/-	+/-	Pursuing Option 1 and Option 2 is likely to result in mixed effects. Greater economic development will lead to an increase in waste production, some of which has the potential to be hazardous. However, there may be positive effects as businesses that promote the circular green economy come forward over the plan period.
	17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources and effective management against flood risk	+/-	+/-	Options 1 & 2 are expected to result in mixed effects. The economic growth options do not envisage any heavy industry that would require significant volumes of water usage. However, there is the potential for all options to result in negative impacts through accidental discharge of pollutants into watercourses.
	18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality	+	+/-	Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect that should help to ensure a reduction in air pollution. It would contribute to the Air Quality Management Area action plan to reduce NO2 and build in Sustainable modes of transport. Option 2 would have a mixed effect.
	19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	+	+/-	Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect that should help to ensure a reduction in Green House Gas Emissions to mitigate environmental change. Option 2 is expected to have mixed effects from increased overland flow/run off as a result of more hard surfaces. Surface water flooding however can generally be mitigated and should not cause a significant constraint.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	O No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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VE4 - Supporting Development Needs of Higher Education Institutions

Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Policy Framework Supportive of HEIs Development Needs	Option 2 No Specific Policy Supporting HEI Growth.	Justification
Social	1	Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society.	+	-	<p>Education has an important role to play in promoting economic well –being, improving social mobility and tackling multi deprivation. Option 1 would have a minor positive effect as it would seek to support a range of development needs associated with the 5 HEI’s in locations accessible to disadvantaged urban areas. It will aim to support and encourage an inclusive and equal society as better education improves access to employment opportunities and improves the quality of people’s lives leading to broader social benefits.</p> <p>Option 2 would have a minor negative effect as it likely that policy aimed at supporting HEI growth and would not reduce the barriers which exist to education attainment for all.</p>
	2	Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	++	+/-	<p>Option 1 is likely to have a significantly positive effect as it in line with Executives’ key priority of improving health and wellbeing and is expected to have a significant positive effect by supporting learning as a positive force to expand and enhance life chances for all citizens of all ages in Belfast. Access to education opportunities will allow people to gain from greater job opportunities which would lead to greater prosperity and give people a better quality of life. Therefore, improving their overall wellbeing.</p> <p>Option 2 would have a mixed effect by not developing a policy to support HEIs and therefore would creating more jobs can give people a better quality of life and improve overall wellbeing.</p>
	3	To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs.	++	-	<p>Option 1 is likely to have a significantly positive effect as it in line with Executives’ key priority of improving health and wellbeing and is expected to have a significant positive effect by supporting learning as a positive force to expand and enhance life chances for all citizens of all ages in Belfast. Access to education opportunities will allow people to gain from greater job opportunities which would lead to greater prosperity and give people a better quality of life. Therefore, improving their overall wellbeing.</p> <p>Option 2, would have a negative effect by not developing a policy to support HEIs and therefore would not provide the opportunity for access to good quality housing to meet the needs of those who require it.</p>

Key:

++	+	0	-	--	+/-	?
Significant positive effect	Minor positive effect	No effect or relationship	Minor negative effect	Significant negative effect	Mixed Effects	Uncertain /effect unknown

Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Policy Framework Supportive of HEIs Development Needs	Option 2 No Specific Policy Supporting HEI Growth.	Justification	
	4	Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour.	+	-	Option 1 is likely to have minor positive effect by adherence at design and build stage to designing out crime and positive place making. Encouraging education The impact of Option 2 of allowing market forces to dictate the level of not supporting development is relatively unknown. Some areas within the City Centre suffer from higher levels of crime and anti-social behaviour and without knowing where residential development is likely to come forward it is difficult to conclude whether this option will lead to a reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour.
	5	To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities.	+	-	Option 1 would have a minor positive effect through provision of zoned land at right locations that attracts investment and greater opportunity for developing skills in various learning and employment sectors. It supports the City's aspirations of a 'learning city' is founded within Queens University Belfast (QUB), the University of Ulster (UU) and Belfast Metropolitan College (BMC) which have some of the leading courses and research institutes specialising in medical sciences, pharmacy, law, nursing, art and design, ICT and renewable technologies. It is recognised that there are good examples of quality learning opportunities throughout the city but a significant proportion of Belfast's population are not benefiting from the rewards of what Belfast's learning environment has to offer. Therefore, by not supporting such a policy for HEI growth Option 2 would have a negative effect as it could see the continued and persistent inequalities in the city that many areas have experienced with little or no change over the last decade
Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities.	+	-	Option 1 would have a minor positive effect as it would assist in attracting investment in key community services and create the conditions for a City-wide approach helping to retain and enhance access to local facilities. Option 2 would have a minor negative effect in that it would not provide the necessary infrastructure to retain or ensure access to local services and facilities.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Policy Framework Supportive of HEIs Development Needs	Option 2 No Specific Policy Supporting HEI Growth.	Justification
	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities.	++	-	Option 1 would have a significant positive effect as education has an important role to play in promoting economic well –being, improving people’s social mobility and leading to the creation of greater job opportunities. Learning can be a tool for life to increase citizen’s confidence, resilience and sense of belonging and as mechanism for progression in the workplace. By supporting such a framework, it creates the right conditions needed to ensure that all can prosper where learning is used as a positive force to expand and enhance life chances for all ages and all residents in Belfast. While Option 2 would have a negative effect as it would not address the current economic disadvantage and inequality experienced by most of the deprived areas of Belfast.
	8	Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast’s roles as a regional economic driver.	++	+/-	<p>Option 1 would have a significantly positive effect it is in line with the key objective of RDS and SPPS to ensure the Plan will provide an ample supply of suitable land to meet future economic development needs within the plan area. It would have a significantly positive effect in supporting the creation of the growth aspiration of the City, supporting the creation of new jobs; help attract inward investment from a range of business sectors, encouraging new start-up opportunities and existing business to locate in Belfast boosting the Regional Economy. The e3 campus within the Titanic Quarter has already aided regeneration of the City waterfront area and the current relocation of the £250m UU will further enhance the educational offer of the City to students, by providing employment to lecturers and ancillary staff and generate complementary services. These jobs would help attract inward investment from a range of business sectors, encouraging new start-up opportunities and existing business to locate in Belfast.</p> <p>Option 2 would have a mixed effect by promoting economic development but without a framework to guide future development this would not be in cohesive and managed way that may not assist in supporting the economy to act as the economic driver for the Region.</p>

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Policy Framework Supportive of HEIs Development Needs	Option 2 No Specific Policy Supporting HEI Growth.	Justification
Environmental	9	+	-	Option 1 would have a minor positive effect on this SA Objective, by creating the supporting infrastructure in which people are encouraged to use alternative means of sustainable travel, such as public transport, walking and cycling. By improving and promoting connectivity and enhancing permeability and increasing opportunities for improved linkages between educational, residential spaces and areas of future employment in a way that promotes sustainable travel patterns. Option 2, would have a negative effect as it would see the continued unsustainable modes of transport and reliance on the private car.
	10	+	?	Option 1 would have a minor positive effect has it support a policy framework positive effect that should help to ensure a reduction in Green House Gas Emissions and help the City contribute to the Executives GHG Emission Targets and support the universities in future Research and Development/ new technologies in support of this transition to local carbon. Option 2 would have an unknown effect
	11	+	+/-	Option 1 is expected to have minor positive effect as policy aims to ensure that vacant or underused land within the settlement limits are returned to productive use and therefore reducing the pressure on protected landscapes and sites of geodiversity. Option 2 is Likely effect is uncertain.
	12	+	?	Option 1 would have a minor positive effect to ensure a reduction in air pollution, to minimise further acidification of soils. In remediating contaminated sites would help to improve soil quality. Option 2 would have an unknown effect.
	13	+	?	Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect by ensuring the reuse and conversion of listed and historic building adaption. Option 2 would have an unknown effect.
	14	0	0	Options 1 and 2 would be expected to have no effect on distinctive landscape and geodiversity due to the locations of the institutions within the existing urban footprint.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Policy Framework Supportive of HEIs Development Needs	Option 2 No Specific Policy Supporting HEI Growth.	Justification	
	15	Protect and enhance open space and natural greenspace including Belfast's countryside asset.	+	?	Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect that should help to minimise adverse impacts on the open space and natural green space including the countryside assets. Option 2 would have an unknown effect.
	16	Promote the sustainable management of waste.	+	?	Option 1 would have a minor positive effect on this SA Objective, to support the HEIs in developing and promoting the sustainable management of Waste through the Circular Economy. The HEIs are at the forefront of developing future research and development in relation to the Circular Economy. Option 2 would have an unknown effect.
	17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water.	+/-	+/-	Both Options would have a mixed effect as there could be negative effects due to increase potential for discharges from industrial uses.
	18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality.	+	+/-	Option 1 would have a minor positive effect on this SA objective, by encouraging an environment in which people can avail of alternative modes of sustainable travel such as public transport, walking and cycling. Therefore, reducing the need to travel further by private vehicle and encouraging travel by foot or bicycles which have potential to contribute to reduced emissions of key pollutants in a way that promotes sustainable travel patterns. Option 2 would likely have a mixed effect due to increased emissions from associated development associated traffic generation.
	19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	+	?	Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect is expected to have a positive effect that should help to ensure a reduction in Green House Gas Emissions to mitigate environmental change. Option 2 would have an unknown effect.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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VE5 - Network and Hierarchy of Centres

Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Define Network & Hierarchy of Centres	Option 2: Rely on SPPS (Exclude commercial nodes arterial routes)	Justification
Social	1 Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society.	++	+/-	Option 1 is expected to result in a minor positive effect by reducing deprivation. Many of the centres are located in deprived areas and it will ensure a sustainable hierarchical approach that is capable of facilitating the required growth across the plan period, creating better access to jobs for the population and encouraging a fairer more inclusive society. Option 2 is expected to result in a mixed effect. By removing commercial nodes, it would not support strong neighbourhood centres and militates against the regeneration of these routes leaving areas vulnerable to increased deprivation. However, by directing facilities and services to existing centres it will ensure an increase in vitality and viability through addressing vacancy for example.
	2 Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	++	+/-	By defining all districts, local centres and commercial nodes on arterial routes it will ensure the delivery of more sustainable neighbourhoods where services and facilities are readily accessible and within walking distance for a high percentage of the urban population with consequential improvement in quality of Life. Option 2 is expected to result in a mixed effect. By removing commercial nodes, it would not support strong neighbourhood centres and could militate against the regenerate of these routes impacting on the quality of life of residents. However, by directing facilities and services to existing centres it will ensure better management of the retail and wider employment offer, improving quality of life for residents.
	3 To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs.	0	0	The Options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	4 Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour.	+	-	Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect on reducing the fear of crime by directing retail and services to existing centres and arterial routes, creating more vibrant places with greater footfall and better surveillance. Option 2 is expected to have a negative effect as it will result in weaker commercial nodes on arterial routes with the potential to increase dereliction, crime and anti-social behaviour.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Define Network & Hierarchy of Centres	Option 2: Rely on SPPS (Exclude commercial nodes arterial routes)	Justification
	5 To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities.	O	O	The Options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective
Economic	6 Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities.	++	+/-	Option 1 is expected to have minor positive effect by ensuring local facilities and services are consolidated and strengthened by directing service, retail and other uses to these areas. This will help deliver sustainable neighbourhoods with enhanced access for local residents. Option 2 is expected to have mixed effects. It will create stronger district and local centres by directing shopping, services and facilities to these locations. However, by removing commercial nodes it is difficult to conclude decisively the potential effects if commercial nodes on arterial routes are removed.
	7 To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities.	+	+/-	Option 1 has a crucial role in supporting surrounding communities, encouraging development and investment in centres across the city. By ensuring robust centres, local residents will have better access to employment opportunities and it is therefore considered to have a minor positive effect. Option 2 is expected to result in mixed effects. Whilst it still delivers a co-ordinated approach to a sustainable network of retail and service provision across the city with enhanced access to employment opportunities it also has the potential to result in weaker performing commercial nodes with a reduction in access to employment opportunities.
	8 Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's roles as a regional economic driver.	++	+	Option 1 is expected to have a significant positive effect by focusing development within existing centres; promoting a City Centre first approach in protecting it from out of town developments and therefore supports the economic development of Belfast and reinforces Belfast's role as a regional economic driver. Option 2 is expected to result in a minor positive effect. It will still support the economic development of Belfast by ensuring a sustainable hierarchy of centres with a City Centre first approach

Key:	++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	O No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Define Network & Hierarchy of Centres	Option 2: Rely on SPPS (Exclude commercial nodes arterial routes)	Justification
Environmental	9	Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel.	+	?	Option 1 is expected to result in minor positive effect encouraging more sustainable modes of transport including walking and cycling given the enhanced local access to shopping and service provision, whilst Option 2 effects are unknown as it is difficult to conclude decisively the potential effects if commercial nodes on arterial routes are removed.
	10	Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy.	+	?	Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect by ensuring the development of more compact sustainable neighbourhoods with lower carbon footprints whereas Option 2 effects like SA09 above are unknown as it is difficult to conclude decisively the potential effects if commercial nodes on arterial routes are removed.
	11	Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species.	○	○	The Options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective
	12	Protect and enhance soil quality.	○	○	The Options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective
	13	Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings	+	+	The built heritage of Belfast includes archaeological sites and monuments and historic buildings. Both Options offers more protection of assets such as listed buildings by promoting their conversion and re-use and therefore safeguarding their future.
	14	Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.	○	○	The Options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	15	Protect and enhance open space and natural greenspace including Belfast's countryside asset.	+	+	Both Options are expected to result in minor positive effects, as they will ensure less pressure on designations of natural greenspace by encouraging sustainable development in existing centres.
	16	Promote the sustainable management of waste.	○	○	The Options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	○ No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Define Network & Hierarchy of Centres	Option 2: Rely on SPPS (Exclude commercial nodes arterial routes)	Justification
	17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources.	+/-	+/-	The water provision for Belfast is considered healthy. However, the existing infrastructure for combined sewers has inadequate capacity for future development in the short term with consequential potential for incidences of pollution. Both Options are expected to therefore result in mixed effects.
	18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality.	+	+/-	Option1 will ensure there is a focus on directing development to existing centres and that they are capable of absorbing new development required to deliver growth over the plan period. Pursuing this Option will lead to more sustainable communities with a greater emphasis on sustainable forms of transport. It therefore has the potential to improve air quality a reduction in CO2 emissions. The effects of Option 2 are mixed. This Option proposes a network of centres but excludes commercial nodes. By retaining a network of centres, it is expected to result in a minor positive effect. However, in excluding commercial nodes it has the potential to result in more dispersed, sporadic development resulting in residents having to use less sustainable forms of transport leading to increased CO2 emissions for example.
	19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	+/-	+/-	Both Option are expected to deliver mixed effects. Both Options aim to deliver a more sustainable form of development by directing proposals to existing centres with convenient access to retail and services encouraging the use of sustainable modes of transport that would make a minor positive contribution to climate change goals. However, increased development pressure in existing centres may result in more built form and hardstanding leading to higher incidences of surface water flooding.

Mitigation or enhancement:

None Noted.

Key:	++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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VE 6 - Centre Boundaries

Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Define Centre Boundaries for all District, Local & Commercial Nodes on Arterial Routes	Option 2 Rely on the Boundaries as Defined in BMAP	Option 3 Rely on SPPS	Justification
Social	1 Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society.	+	-	?	<p>Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect on reducing deprivation, as it will ensure that the boundaries of centres are defined to facilitate the required growth across the plan period, creating better access to jobs, services and facilitates for the population. This will ultimately encourage a fairer, more inclusive society.</p> <p>Option 2 is expected to result in a negative effect as some centres are underperforming and experiencing high vacancy rates and this trend could continue to worsen.</p> <p>Option 3 effects are unknown. It does not include commercial nodes and if pursued it is difficult to know the likely effects.</p>
	2 Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	+	-	?	<p>By redefining all district, local centres and commercial nodes on arterial routes it will ensure the delivery of more sustainable neighbourhoods where services and facilities are readily accessible and within walking distance for a high percentage of the population therefore leading to an improved quality of Life.</p> <p>Option 2 effects are similar to the effects on SA1 above. There is the potential for centres to continue to underperform, whilst not allowing other centres the chance to grow, especially where there is full occupancy.</p> <p>Option 3 effects are unknown. It does not include commercial nodes and if pursued it is difficult to know the likely effects.</p>
	3 To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs.	0	0	0	The Options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Define Centre Boundaries for all District, Local & Commercial Nodes on Arterial Routes	Option 2 Rely on the Boundaries as Defined in BMAP	Option 3 Rely on SPPS	Justification	
	4	Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour.	+	+/-	?	<p>Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect in reducing the fear of crime by directing retail and services to existing centres and arterial routes, creating more vibrant places with greater footfall and better surveillance.</p> <p>Option 2 is expected to deliver mixed effects. Whilst some centres and nodes are vibrant and benefit from high footfall and surveillance and should continue to flourish there are other centres, which suffer from high vacancy rates where the fear of crime is likely to be more prevalent.</p> <p>Option 3 effects are unknown. By removing commercial nodes on arterial routes, it is difficult to know the future consequences concerning crime and antisocial behaviour.</p>
	5	To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities.	0	0	0	The Options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities.	+	-	?	<p>Option 1 will ensure local facilities and services are consolidated and strengthened by directing service, retail and other uses to these areas. This will help deliver sustainable neighbourhoods with enhanced access for local residents.</p> <p>Option 2 is expected to have a negative effect as some of the centres have been underperforming and this trend is likely to continue reducing access to local services and facilities.</p> <p>By adopting approach set out in the SPPS and not defining commercial nodes on arterial routes the effects are unknown as it is difficult to forecast future trends in shopping and service provision.</p>

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Define Centre Boundaries for all District, Local & Commercial Nodes on Arterial Routes	Option 2 Rely on the Boundaries as Defined in BMAP	Option 3 Rely on SPPS	Justification	
	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities.	++	+	+	Option 1 is expected to result in a significant positive effect by supporting surrounding communities and encouraging sustainable development and investment in centres and commercial nodes across the city. By ensuring robust centres local residents will have better access to employment opportunities. Both Option 2 and 3 are expected to have a minor positive effect. Both will ensure access to employment opportunities but the benefits will not match those of Option 1.
	8	Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's roles as a regional economic driver.	++	+	+	Option 1 is likely to have a significant positive effect by focusing development within existing centres and therefore supporting the economic development of Belfast and reinforcing Belfast's role as a regional economic driver. Options 2 and 3 will have a minor positive effect by ensuring delivery of a City Centre first approach to retail and other town centre uses, reinforcing and enhancing the economic development of Belfast and its contribution to the wider region. But are considered less positive than Option 1 as there has been concern around a number of centre that are suffering from high vacancy rates (Connswater 22% and Cityside 20%).
Environmental	9	Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel.	+	+	?	Options 1 and 2 have the potential to encourage more sustainable modes of transport including walking and cycling as the centres and arterial routes are all highly accessible. This Option is considered to have a minor positive effect. Option 3, adopting the SPPS approach would see commercial nodes excluded and the effects would be unknown at this stage.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Define Centre Boundaries for all District, Local & Commercial Nodes on Arterial Routes	Option 2 Rely on the Boundaries as Defined in BMAP	Option 3 Rely on SPPS	Justification
	10 Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy.	+	+	?	Option 1 and 2 are expected to have a minor positive effect by ensuring compact sustainable neighbourhoods with lower carbon footprints, whilst Option 3 effects are unknown at this stage.
	11 Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species.	o	o	o	The Options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	12 Protect and enhance soil quality.	o	o	o	The Options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	13 Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings	+	+	?	The built heritage of Belfast includes archaeological sites and monuments and historic buildings. Option 1 and 2 offers more protection of assets such as listed buildings by promoting their conversion and re-use and therefore safeguarding their future. The effects of commercial nodes on arterial routes, being excluded are unknown and there is no scope for predicting the type and location of development in these areas if this Option is taken forward.
	14 Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.	o	o	o	The Options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective
	15 Protect and enhance open space and natural greenspace including Belfast's countryside asset.	+	+	?	By redefining centres as suggested in Option 1 or retaining as set out in BMAP (Option 2) it will ensure that there is less development pressure on designations of natural greenspace. Both Options would therefore result in a minor positive effect. The effects of Option 3 are unknown as it is difficult to foresee future development trends, which may or may not impact upon existing areas of open space.

Key:	++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	o No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Define Centre Boundaries for all District, Local & Commercial Nodes on Arterial Routes	Option 2 Rely on the Boundaries as Defined in BMAP	Option 3 Rely on SPPS	Justification	
	16	Promote the sustainable management of waste.	O	O	O	The Options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources and effective management against flood risk.	+/-	+/-	?	The water provision for Belfast is considered healthy. However, the existing infrastructure for combined sewers is inadequate capacity for future development in the short term and there is the potential for pollution incidents if Options 1 and 2 are taken forward. The effect of Option 3 is unknown as the location and density of development is uncertain.
	18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality.	+	+	?	By defining the centres, Option1 or adopting the current BMAP position it would ensure a focus on directing development to existing centres and that that they are capable of absorbing new development required to deliver growth over the plan period. Pursing Options 1 or 2 would result in a minor positive. It would lead to more sustainable communities with a greater emphasis on sustainable forms of transport and it is therefore having the potential to improve air quality. Options 3 effects are unknown as it is difficult to foresee how it will affect their function over the plan period.
	19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	+	+	?	Option 1 and 2 aim to deliver a more sustainable form of development by directing proposals to existing centres with convenient access to services and facilities, and who are encouraged to use more sustainable travel modes. This would make a minor positive contribution to climate change goals. Options 3 effects are unknown as it is difficult to foresee how it will affect their function over the plan period.

Mitigation or Enhancement:

SA Objective 1, 2, 5 & 6, 7 – Ensure the LDP allows for sufficient growth when defining the boundaries to match planned level of economic growth.

SA Objective 19 – Incorporate requirement for SUDS technology (where appropriate).

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	O No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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VE 7 - Vitality & Viability of Centres

		SA Objective	Option 1 Maintain Portion of Units in Defined Centres as Class A1 & Change of Use will be Managed	Option 2: Do Not Manage Proportions of Non- A1 Retail Uses	Justification
Social	1	Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society.	+	-	<p>Option 1 is likely to have a minor positive effect on reducing deprivation. Through managing the proportion of A 1 retail use within defined centres it will ensure that the viability and vitality of centres are maintained and enhanced, creating better provision of jobs, access to services and facilities thereby creating a more inclusive society.</p> <p>Option 2 is expected to result in a negative impact by weakening the potential for growth of these centres if market forces can dictate development. This has the potential to result increased deprivation over the plan period leading to less equal society as the proportion of non –retail uses increases leading to a poor retail offer and limited services.</p>
	2	Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	+	-	<p>Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect. By managing the proportion of Class A 1 retails uses to other uses it will help ensure less vacancy rates and more healthy and vibrant centres. In following this approach, it will help create more sustainable neighbourhoods where shops, services and facilities are readily accessible and within walking distances for a higher percentage of the population.</p> <p>Option 2 could result in higher vacancy rates, imbalances in proportions of retail versus non-retail resulting less vibrant and healthy centres leading to poorer access to shops and services ultimately reducing the health and wellbeing of residents.</p>
	3	To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs.	0	0	The Options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	4	Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour.	+	-	<p>Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect in reducing crime and levels of antisocial behaviour through better management and a reduction of vacancy rates, creating vibrant centres, which benefit from greater footfall and surveillance.</p> <p>Option 2 is expected to have a negative effect as it will result in an ad hoc, market led delivery of development that could result could increase vacancy rates or lead to a build-up or proliferation of uses that may attract anti-social behaviour; for example, hot food takeaways.</p>

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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		SA Objective	Option 1 Maintain Portion of Units in Defined Centres as Class A1 & Change of Use will be Managed	Option 2: Do Not Manage Proportions of Non- A1 Retail Uses	Justification
	5	To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities.	O	O	The Options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities.	++	-	<p>Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect ensuring local facilities and services are consolidated and strengthened by actively managing the balance / proportion of A 1 retail uses and other uses within defined centres. This will help deliver sustainable neighbourhoods with enhanced access for local residents.</p> <p>Option 2 is expected to have a negative effect. It will result in an ad hoc piece meal delivery of development that could result in higher vacancy rates, imbalances in provision between A1 retail and other uses, reducing the access to local services and facilities.</p>
	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities.	+	-	<p>Option 1 has a crucial role in supporting surrounding communities encouraging development and investment in centres across the city. By actively managing the proportions of A1 retail use versus other uses there is scope to help ensure greater vitality and viability of centres and therefore creating better access to employment opportunities.</p> <p>Option 2 is expected to have a negative impact as market forces could result in weaker performing centres and therefore less access to employment opportunities.</p>
	8	Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's roles as a regional economic driver.	++	-	<p>Some centres are already experiencing high vacancy rates whilst others are vibrant and healthy. Option 1 is expected to have a significant positive effect by actively managing uses within existing centres to ensure maximum vitality and viability and therefore supporting the economic development of Belfast and reinforcing Belfast's role as a regional economic driver.</p> <p>Option 2 is likely to have the opposite effect causing vacancy rates to further increase and weakening Belfast's role as an economic driver for the region.</p>

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	O No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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		SA Objective	Option 1 Maintain Portion of Units in Defined Centres as Class A1 & Change of Use will be Managed	Option 2: Do Not Manage Proportions of Non- A1 Retail Uses	Justification
Environmental	9	Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel.	+	-	Option 1 has the potential to encourage more sustainable modes of transport by ensuring the right balance of uses, encouraging greater footfall and walkability within defined centres and therefore is considered to have a minor positive effect. Option 2, however, could result in over concentration of some uses affecting local residents' access to day to day necessities. This has the potential to discourage sustainable modes of transport as local residents may need to travel further afield to meet their day to day needs.
	10	Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy.	+	-	Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect by endorsing the principles of sustainable neighbourhoods whereby defined centres have the right mix of uses reducing the need to travel which in turn can lower carbon footprints. Option 2 similar to SA9 could result in over concentration of some uses affecting local residents' access to day-to-day necessities. This has the potential to discourage sustainable modes of transport as local residents may need to travel further afield to meet their day to day needs, thereby not support the transition to a low carbon economy.
	11	Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species.	o	o	The Options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective
	12	Protect and enhance soil quality.	o	o	The Options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective
	13	Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings	+	?	Options 1 offers protection of assets such as listed buildings by promoting their conversion and re-use and therefore safeguarding their future. However, the effects of Option 2 are unknown as it is difficult to ascertain the location of future development over the plan period.
	14	Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.	o	o	The Options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	o No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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		SA Objective	Option 1 Maintain Portion of Units in Defined Centres as Class A1 & Change of Use will be Managed	Option 2: Do Not Manage Proportions of Non- A1 Retail Uses	Justification
	15	Protect and enhance open space and natural greenspace including Belfast's countryside asset.	+	?	By ensuring less vacancy within existing defined centres through managing the proportions of non-retail uses Option 1 will ensure that there is less development pressure on designations of natural greenspace. Option 2 effects are unknown as it is difficult to ascertain the location of new development and whether it will affect areas of existing open space.
	16	Promote the sustainable management of waste.	+	-	Option 1 is likely to have a minor positive effect. It is compatible with the sustainable waste management objectives and will support existing infrastructure. A market led approach could put pressure on areas where there is no infrastructure and therefore may not promote the sustainable management of waste.
	17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources.	+/-	+/-	Both Options are expected to have mixed effects. Whilst Belfast has a healthy supply of water and development will not affect the supply there could be capacity issues in the short term with aging infrastructure.
	18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality.	+	-	By managing the proportion of A 1 retail use in relation to non-retail uses, Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect by ensuring more vibrant, healthier defined centres with optimum access to day-to-day necessities that will encourage sustainable forms of transport. This has the potential to improve air quality by reducing Co2 emissions. Option 2 is expected to have a negative effect resulting in greater distances between services and facilities lead to greater use of less sustainable mode of transport which could increase CO2 emissions.
	19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	+	-	By managing the proportion of A 1 retail use in relation to non-retail uses, Option 1 like SA18 above is expected to have a minor positive effect by ensuring more vibrant, healthier defined centres with optimum access to day-to-day necessities that will encourage sustainable forms of transport. This will help reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by reducing energy consumption and the need to travel. Conversely, Option 2 is likely to have a negative effect by resulting in higher vacancy rates and less vibrant centres which could lead to a reduction in access to day-to-day necessities leading to greater travel distances and increased emissions of greenhouses gases through increased energy consumption.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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VE8 - City Centre Boundary

Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Review & Define City Centre Boundary	Option 2 Keep Boundary as set out in BMAP	Justification
Social	1 Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society.	+	-	Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect on reducing deprivation and social exclusion by ensuring that the City Centre is redefined to accommodate projected development needed over the plan period, which will act as a stimulus for more employment opportunities, and thereby reducing deprivation. Option 2 may have a negative impact by not addressing the needs of established residential areas which current occupy parts of the City Centre.
	2 Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	+	-	Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect on improving health and wellbeing by redefining the boundary to reflect the projected development needs over the plan period and ensuring access to jobs, services and facilities thereby improving the quality of life of residents. Option 2 may have a negative impact by not addressing the needs of established residential areas which current occupy parts of the City Centre.
	3 To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs.	+	-	Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive by ensuring the new boundary takes into account the existing baseline and the projected housing need over the plan period as the City Centre has a relatively low population in comparison to other UK cities of a similar size. Option 2 is expected to have a negative effect as the aspirations of growing the City Centre population may not be realised going by past trends.
	4 Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour.	+	-	Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive impact by consolidating the physical development of the city within a defined area. This has the potential to make more effective use of vacant and underused land, fostering a vibrant and integrated City Centre with the promotion of design to reduce crime and fear of crime. Option 2 is expected to have a negative effect. There a lack of connectivity between uses which has resulted in dereliction and under used areas lacking footfall where anti-social can occur and if pursued could exacerbate these problems.

Key:	++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Review & Define City Centre Boundary	Option 2 Keep Boundary as set out in BMAP	Justification
	5	To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities.	O	O	The Options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities.	+	?	Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect by ensuring that the redefined City Centre can accommodate the projected development growth across the plan period and allowing for enhanced access to services and facilities. Option 2 is expected to have an unknown effect. The City Centre boundary encompasses a large area and it is difficult to foresee the type of services and facilities and their location if the Centre boundary is remains as defined in BMAP.
	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities.	+	?	Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive impact by ensuring that the redefined City Centre can accommodate the projected development growth across the plan period and allowing for greater access to wider employment opportunities. Option 2 is expected effects are unknown. It is difficult to forecast the future trends in terms access to employment opportunities for local residents if the boundary is retained as that defined in BMAP.
	8	Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's roles as a regional economic driver.	++	-	Option is expected to have a minor positive effect as it recognises the City Centre as the key driver of the region's economy and this will be enhanced by defining it spatial extent allowing for projected development needs. Option 2 is expected to result in a negative impact by not allowing for projected development needs which have a detrimental impact on Belfast role as the regional economic driver.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	O No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Review & Define City Centre Boundary	Option 2 Keep Boundary as set out in BMAP	Justification
Environmental	9	++	+	By pursuing Option 1 it is expected to result in a significantly positive effect. The City Centre is the most accessible location within the City. By defining the City Centre to allow for projected development needs over the plan period it has the potential to reduce traffic volumes and congestion as people move to more sustainable modes of transport such as walking and cycling. Option 2 is also likely to have a minor positive effect for the same reasons but with slightly but would be slightly more limited given the lack of connectivity between parts of the City Centre.
	10	+	+	The City Centre is the most accessible part of the City and the Region. Both Options are expected to result in a minor positive effect through promotion of sustainable modes of transport and less reliance of the private car for travel, with a consequential reduction in carbon footprints.
	11	?	?	The effects of both Options are unknown. Whilst there are pockets of green open space within the City Centre with biodiversity value it is difficult to predict potential impacts.
	12	+	+	Both Options are expected to have a minor positive effect. There will be scope, as development proposals come forward, to remove contaminated soil linked to Belfast's industrial past and ensuring the sites are fit for end use.
	13	+/-	+/-	The built heritage of Belfast includes archaeological sites and monuments and historic buildings. Option 1 and 2 offer mixed effects. There will be more protection of assets such as listed buildings by promoting their conversion and re-use and therefore safeguarding their future, whilst there may be development pressure on other sites especially where large mixed-use schemes come forward over the plan period.
	14	0	0	The Options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.

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++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Review & Define City Centre Boundary	Option 2 Keep Boundary as set out in BMAP	Justification
15	Protect and enhance open space and natural greenspace including Belfast's countryside asset.	+/-	-	Option 1 is expected to have mixed effects as it recognises that the City Centres boundary requires defining to reflect projected development which necessitates reviewing open space requirements for example to reflect increases in residential populations. However, by redefining the boundary and bringing in open space which was previously outside the City Centre could result in greater pressure for alternative uses. Option 2, by not reviewing and defining the boundary is expected to result in a negative effect and restrict further provision of open space in areas which has a low percentage of provision in comparison to other similar sized UK cities.
16	Promote the sustainable management of waste.	0	0	The Options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective
17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources.	+/-	+/-	Both Options are expected to result in a mixed effect. The water provision for Belfast is considered healthy and both Options will not impact on its quality. However, in the short term, issues concerning increased waste water and sewage through new development could put pressure on existing infrastructure with an increased risk of pollution incidences.
18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality.	++	+	By redefining the City Centre boundary to allow for projected growth needs it is expected to have a significantly positive effect. It has strong potential to create the right ingredients for a more vibrant, healthy and connected City Centre which promotes more sustainable modes of transport. Option 2 is expected to result in a minor positive effect than Option1, as there are still issues around connectivity between quarters within the City Centre.
19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	+	?	By refining the City Centre boundary, it is expected to have a positive effect on this SA objective. Such an approach will ensure the City Centre can accommodate the level of growth required over the plan period and lead to reduction in emissions from greenhouse gases as more residents use sustainable modes of transport. Option 2 is expected to result in an unknown effect. There are large portions of the City Centre that are vacant and within private ownership and there are challenges if this Option is pursued.

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VE 9 - City Centre Primary Retail Area

Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Review Primary Shopping Area & Type of Uses & Define Boundary to Accommodate Growth	Option 2: Do Not Manage	Justification	
Social	1	Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society.	+	-	Option 1 is likely to have a positive impact on reducing poverty as it will continue to support and help sustain a vibrant City Centre. This Option will promote the vitality and viability of Belfast City Centre and ensure jobs are created which could improve the income of residents and ultimately result in less deprivation and an equal society. Option 2 is expected result in a negative impact by weakening the current retail offer and resulting in jobs loss. It also has the potential to weaken the role of Belfast City Centre as the primary retail location in Northern Ireland, which could ultimately lead to a higher deprivation and unequal society.
	2	Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	+	-	Option 1 is likely to have a positive impact by ensuring that the vitality and viability of the primary shopping area is enhanced, ultimately improving the quality of life of residents through job creation. Option 2 is likely to have a negative effect by weakening the current retail offer and resulting in jobs loss, which could ultimately lead to a reduced quality of life.
	3	To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs.	0	0	The Options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	4	Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour.	+	-	Option 1 is expected to have a positive impact by ensuring that the vitality and viability of the primary retail core and frontage is strengthened and there is an adequate provision of services for the projected population growth. This would promote greater footfall, and less opportunity for crime and anti-social behaviour to take place. Option 2 could have a negative impact leading to increased vacancy rates or the potential for a proliferation of uses, which can cause anti-social behaviour such as hot food takeaways.

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++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Review Primary Shopping Area & Type of Uses & Define Boundary to Accommodate Growth	Option 2: Do Not Manage	Justification
	5	To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities.	O	O	The Options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities.	+	?	Option 1 is likely to have a positive effect by ensuring that the primary shopping area is strengthened, increasing access to a strong retail offer whilst the effects of Option 2 are unknown as it is difficult to predict future trends.
	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities.	++	+/-	Option 1 is likely to have a significant positive impact as it will help deliver a vibrant primary shopping area. This will promote the vitality and viability and ensure access to more retail and service related employment opportunities. Option 2 would still allow for compatible alternative uses especially where there are vacancies in uptake creating employment opportunities but it has the potential to result in imbalances and proliferation of non-retail uses leading to an underperforming primary shopping area.
	8	Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's roles as a regional economic driver.	++	+	Option 1 recognises the importance of Belfast as the primary retail location in Northern Ireland. A strong retail offering is essential for Belfast to remain successful and competitive and fulfil its role as a regional economic driver. Option 2 will have less of a positive effect than Option 1 but still would assist in contributing to Belfast's role as the economic driver for the region.
Environmental	9	Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel.	+	+	Both Options are expected to have a positive effect as a compact and well defined primary shopping area will promote sustainable modes of transport such as walking and cycling.
	10	Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy.	+	+	Both Options similar to SA9 above would deliver a positive effect as the primary shopping area is located within the City Centres the most accessible part of the City and given its compactness will promote more sustainable modes of transport reducing carbon footprints.

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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Review Primary Shopping Area & Type of Uses & Define Boundary to Accommodate Growth	Option 2: Do Not Manage	Justification	
	11	Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species.	○	○	The Options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	12	Protect and enhance soil quality.	+	+	Both Options are expected to have a positive effect, as there is scope as development proposals come forward to mitigate impacts by decontaminating soil and break pollutant linkages to ensure sites are fit for end use therefore enhancing soil quality.
	13	Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings	+/-	-	There are parts of the primary shopping area within special designations such as the Conservation Areas and Areas of Townscape Character. By redefining the Primary Shopping area Option1 is expected to have mixed effects. It would ensure restoration and re-use of existing buildings and supporting their upkeep for future generations but some areas could come under more development pressure with consequential negative effects. Option 2 is expected to have a negative effect. By not managing the proportions allowed there is the potential for future development proposals to come forward seeking alteration / demolition of buildings that are located in special designations.
	14	Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.	○	○	The Options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	15	Protect and enhance open space and natural greenspace including Belfast's countryside asset.	○	○	The Options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	16	Promote the sustainable management of waste.	○	○	The Options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.

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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Review Primary Shopping Area & Type of Uses & Define Boundary to Accommodate Growth	Option 2: Do Not Manage	Justification	
	17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources.	+/-	+/-	Both Options are expected to have mixed effects. Whilst Belfast has a healthy supply of water and development will not impact adversely on this there could be capacity issues in the short term with aging infrastructure.
	18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality.	+	0	By defining the boundary of the primary shopping area, Option 1 is expected to have a positive effect with a greater emphasis on sustainable forms of transport and it therefore has the potential to improve air quality. Option 2 will have a negligible effect.
	19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	+/-	+/-	Both Options would help deliver more sustainable forms of development and it has the potential to encourage to use more sustainable travel modes. This would make a positive contribution to climate change goals. Conversely, as more development comes forward there is the potential for more hardstanding and consequential surface water flooding.

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VE10 - LEISURE AND TOURISM IN THE CITY CENTRE

Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Policy Framework to Guide & Support Opportunities for Tourism Projects & Hotels	Option 2 Allocate Specific Sites for Tourism and Leisure Based on Forecasted Need	Justification	
Social	1	Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society.	+	+/-	<p>Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect by ensuring the City Centre remains the first choice for tourism related projects and enhances its role as the Regional Economic Driver. This will likely create economic growth and result in job creation and reduction in deprivation. A policy framework could also seek to encourage projects that contribute to an inclusive and equal society.</p> <p>Option 2 is expected to have mixed effects. By allocating sites for tourism and leisure uses which contribute to economic growth and job creation there may be a reduction in deprivation. However, the prescriptive nature of this option lacks flexibility to adapt to changing needs.</p>
	2	Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	+	+/-	<p>Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect. Facilitating tourism related projects, which in turn create direct and indirect jobs and economic growth, will contribute towards an improved quality of life for residents.</p> <p>Option 2 is expected to have mixed effects. It provides certainty around the location of tourism related development, creating related employment opportunities. However, this approach lacks flexibility to deal with changing development needs which could reduce the deliverability of tourism and leisure projects.</p>
	3	To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs.	0	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	4	Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour.	+	+	<p>Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect as it facilitates tourism and culture related projects which generally contribute to the evening economy and increase footfall throughout the day. This increased footfall, and natural surveillance, is likely to contribute towards a reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Option 2 is also expected to have a minor positive effect, particularly over the medium to long term, as tourism and leisure projects are delivered and the resultant increase in footfall and evening activity creates enhanced natural surveillance.</p>

Key:	++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Policy Framework to Guide & Support Opportunities for Tourism Projects & Hotels	Option 2 Allocate Specific Sites for Tourism and Leisure Based on Forecasted Need	Justification
	5	To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities.	O	O	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities.	+	?	Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect by ensuring a framework for tourist related projects is put in place that allows for this type of development to be carried out with a degree of flexibility in an integrated and sustainable way that delivers enhanced access for residents. Option 2's effects are uncertain. Whilst it creates better certainty for projects to be realised over the plan period it lacks flexibility to deal specifically with development needs as and when they arise.
	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities.	+	+	Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect by providing a framework for tourism related projects there will be both certainty and flexibility to facilitate development of related projects. These projects will deliver both direct and indirect employment opportunities. Option 2 is also expected to have a minor positive effect by allocating sites for tourism and leisure based projects which, when developed in the medium to long term, will contribute to job creation.
	8	Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's roles as a regional economic driver.	++	+	Option 1 is expected to have a significant positive effect as it sets a framework in the context of Belfast as the regional economic driver and principle location for tourism related projects in Northern Ireland. Option 2 is expected to have a minor positive effect as development will naturally come forward, but it will be restricted to the allocated sites and there is no flexibility to accommodate changes in development needs.

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++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	O No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Policy Framework to Guide & Support Opportunities for Tourism Projects & Hotels	Option 2 Allocate Specific Sites for Tourism and Leisure Based on Forecasted Need	Justification
Environmental	9	Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel.	+	+	Option 1 and Option 2 are both expected to have a minor positive effect over the medium to long term as tourism and leisure related projects are delivered within the City Centre. The projects will be within walking and cycling distance and close to public transport connections, reducing reliance on less sustainable modes of transport.
	10	Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy.	+	+	Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect. Focusing tourism and leisure related projects in the City Centre and supports the transition to a low carbon economy by limiting the amount of travel required, particularly via less sustainable modes. Option 2 is also expected to have a minor positive effect as it would identify sites in the City Centre where there are good public transport connections, reducing reliance on less sustainable forms of transport.
	11	Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species.	0	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	12	Protect and enhance soil quality.	+	+	Option 1 and Options 2 are both expected to have a minor positive effect over the medium to long term as potential City Centre 'brownfield' sites are decontaminated, enhancing soil quality, and redeveloped for tourism and leisure related uses.
	13	Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings	+	+	Option 1 and Option 2 are both expected to have a minor positive effect by ensuring restoration and re-use of buildings that contribute to the Belfast built heritage either via a policy framework (Option 1) or allocation of appropriate sites (Option 2).
	14	Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.	0	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	15	Protect and enhance open space and natural greenspace including Belfast's countryside asset.	+	+	Option 1 and Option 2 are both expected to have a minor positive effect. By operating a City Centre first approach to tourism related development it is likely that there will be less development pressure on open space and green space, particularly the countryside asset.

Key:	++	+	0	-	--	+/-	?
	Significant positive effect	Minor positive effect	No effect or relationship	Minor negative effect	Significant negative effect	Mixed Effects	Uncertain /effect unknown

Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Policy Framework to Guide & Support Opportunities for Tourism Projects & Hotels	Option 2 Allocate Specific Sites for Tourism and Leisure Based on Forecasted Need	Justification
	16	Promote the sustainable management of waste.	+	+	Option 1 and Option 2 are both expected to have minor positive effects as accommodating development within the footprint of the City Centre meets the sustainable waste management objectives.
	17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources.	+/-	+/-	Option 1 and Option 2 are both expected to have mixed effects. Belfast has a healthy supply of water, so it is not considered to be a significant issue for these options. However, the 'Living with Water Programme' notes that there are capacity issues with the existing WWT facilities in Belfast that could prove to be a risk in the short term. Effective management of infrastructure throughout the plan period as development progresses should ensure quality and efficiency is maintained in the long term.
	18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality.	+	+	Option 1 and Option 2 are both expected to have minor positive effects as a City Centre first approach to tourism related development ensures projects are highly accessible to public transport and often within easy walking distance. This reduces reliance on less sustainable modes of transport.
	19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	+	+	Option 1 and Option 2 are both expected to have minor positive effects as they facilitate delivery of tourism related projects within the City Centre, thereby ensuring easy access to sustainable travel modes.

Mitigation or enhancement:

SA Objective 10 – Ensure that all new tourism and leisure developments make a positive contribution to the transition to a low carbon economy, e.g. development of the circular economy, incorporation of renewable technologies, embracing the digital economy, flexible working practices etc.

SA Objective 11 – At site selection stage, prioritise sites to minimise impact on biodiversity. The use of key site requirements should also help direct development on allocated sites to reduce impact on biodiversity.

SA Objective 17 – Effective management of infrastructure in line with development in the longer term should ensure quality and efficiency is maintained.

SA Objective 19 – Ensure that all sites with the Plan area which are potentially at risk of flooding are kept free from non-compatible land uses, and to continually review flood risk data over the Plan period.

Key:

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VE11 - City Centre Living

Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Accommodate Significant Proportion of Residential in City Centre	Option 2: Rely on the SPPS	Justification
Social	1	+	?	Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect as the increased City Centre population will have greater accessibility to jobs, services and facilities, reducing deprivation. Option 2's effects are uncertain as the market cannot be relied upon to deliver the desired proportion of residential development in the City Centre, without a focus within the Plan. Therefore, the effect on deprivation and society is unknown.
	2	+	?	Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect as it will ensure an increased City Centre residential population within easy access services and amenities. Walking and cycling will be encouraged and public transport facilities are highly accessible. Option 2's effects are uncertain as the market cannot be relied upon to deliver the desired proportion of residential development in the City Centre, without a focus within the Plan. Therefore, the effect on health and wellbeing is unknown.
	3	++	?	Option 1 is expected to have a significant positive effect, as it will ensure a greater density and mix of residential accommodation in the City Centre, meeting the housing needs of a wide range of the population. Option 2's effects are uncertain as the market cannot be relied upon to deliver the desired proportion of residential development in the City Centre, without a focus within the Plan. It is likely that some development will proceed but without provisions in the Plan the quality and mix will be uncertain.
	4	+	?	Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive impact by ensuring that there is an increased City Centre resident population. The increased footfall and natural surveillance created will assist with reducing crime and antisocial behaviour. Option 2's effects are uncertain as there is no certainty that an increased resident population will be created along with the natural surveillance that follows. It is difficult to conclude how this option will affect crime and antisocial behaviour.

Key:	++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Accommodate Significant Proportion of Residential in City Centre	Option 2: Rely on the SPPS	Justification
	5 To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities.	O	O	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
Economic	6 Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities.	+	?	Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect. An increased City Centre population will provide the density required to support and retain existing services and facilities, whilst also providing opportunities to enhance existing services. Option 2's effects are uncertain as there is no certainty that an increased resident population will be created. It is unlikely that services can be enhanced without an increase in population.
	7 To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities.	++	?	Option 1 is expected to have a significantly positive impact by increasing the residential population which ensures a greater number of residents are located within easy access of employment opportunities in the City Centre or transport link to Employment Centres. Option 2's effects are uncertain as there is no certainty that an increased resident population will be created. It is therefore difficult to predict the effect on access to employment opportunities.

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++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	O No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Accommodate Significant Proportion of Residential in City Centre	Option 2: Rely on the SPPS	Justification
	8 Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's roles as a regional economic driver.	++	?	Option 1 is expected to have a significant positive effect as an increased City Centre residential population will grow economic activity within the centre, create a highly accessible workforce and further grow the evening economy. Option 2's effects are uncertain as there is no certainty that an increased resident population will be created to support economic development.
Environmental	9 Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel.	++	?	Option 1 is likely to have a significant positive effect by ensuring an increased City Centre residential population. Residents will have easy access to public transport and walking and cycling will be a reasonable alternative to less sustainable modes of transport. It is likely that use of the transport system will increase due to an increased population within close proximity to key connections and transport hubs. Option 2's effects are uncertain as there is no certainty that an increased City Centre resident population will be created to support the transport system and take up more sustainable modes of transport such as walking and cycling.
	10 Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy.	++	?	Option 1 is likely to have a significant positive effect. The principle of having a concentration of population within the City Centre is advantageous when trying to encourage sustainable travel patterns. Walking and cycling become real alternatives and easy access to public transport connections and hubs encourages increased usage. Ultimately supporting the transition to a low carbon economy. Option 2's effects are uncertain as there is no certainty that an increased City Centre resident population will be created to support the transport system and take up more sustainable modes of transport such as walking and cycling
	11 Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species.	+/-	+/-	Option 1 and Option 2 are both expected to have a mixed effect. With the majority of new housing focussed on the City Centre and/ or existing 'brownfield sites' this reduces the requirement for sites in the countryside. However, within the urban footprint, there are green spaces and some 'brownfield' sites that have re-colonised

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++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Accommodate Significant Proportion of Residential in City Centre	Option 2: Rely on the SPPS	Justification
				and may have ecological merit and which could come under pressure for development.
12	Protect and enhance soil quality.	+	+	Option 1 and Option 2 are both expected to have a minor positive effect on soil quality. Redeveloping 'brownfield' sites will include removal of and decontamination of soil linked to previous industrial uses. Over the plan period a percentage of residential development will come forward which will result in soil quality being enhanced through decontamination measures.
13	Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings	+	?	Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect on the built and historic environment as underused and vacant buildings will be brought into residential use. Option 2's effects are uncertain as there is no certainty that development will be focussed on the City Centre and potentially reuse historic buildings.
14	Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.	+	?	Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect by ensuring that residential development is focused within the City Centre, reducing the requirement for sites in the countryside. Option 2's effects are uncertain as relying on the sequential approach could see pressure placed on the countryside to accommodate residential development in the countryside. It is difficult to predict how much residential development will take place within the City Centre.
15	Protect and enhance open space and natural greenspace including Belfast's countryside asset.	+	?	Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect by targeting the City Centre for residential development therefore reducing the development pressure on open space and the countryside asset. Option 2's effect is uncertain as it is more difficult to predict where residential development might occur if left to market forces and therefore it cannot be concluded how much the countryside asset might come under pressure, if there is no focus on the existing urban footprint of the City Centre.
16	Promote the sustainable management of waste.	+	+	Option 1 and Option 2 are both expected to have minor positive effects as accommodating development within the footprint of the City Centre meets the

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++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Accommodate Significant Proportion of Residential in City Centre	Option 2: Rely on the SPPS	Justification
				sustainable waste management objectives.
17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources.	+/-	+/-	Option 1 and Option 2 are both expected to have mixed effects. Belfast has a healthy supply of water, so it is not considered to be a significant issue for these options. However, the 'Living with Water Programme' notes that there are capacity issues with the existing WWT facilities in Belfast that could prove to be a risk in the short term. Effective management of infrastructure throughout the plan period as development progresses should ensure quality and efficiency is maintained in the long term.
18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality.	++	?	Option 1 is expected to have significant positive effects as increasing the City Centre residential population will ensure a greater number of people have access to public transport connections and being located nearby many places of work, services and amenities, are increasingly likely to walk or cycle. The result is less reliance on less sustainable forms of transport, a reduction in emission levels, and enhancement of air quality over the plan period. Option 2's effects is uncertain as it is more difficult to predict where residential development might occur if left to market forces and therefore it cannot be concluded how reliant new residential developments might be on less sustainable modes of transport.
19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	+	?	Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect as it will encourage residential development within the City Centre, ensuring easy access to sustainable travel modes. Option 2's effects are uncertain as it is more difficult to predict where residential development might occur if left to market forces and therefore it cannot be concluded how reliant new residential developments might be on less sustainable modes of transport
Mitigation or enhancement:				
SA Objective 1 – Ensure an appropriate mix of type and tenure to encourage an inclusive and equal society.				

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Accommodate Significant Proportion of Residential in City Centre	Option 2: Rely on the SPPS	Justification
	SA Objective 2 – At site selection stage, ensure residential development is not located adjacent non-compatible uses.			
	SA Objective 11 – At site selection stage, prioritise sites to minimise impact on biodiversity. The use of key site requirements should also help direct development on allocated sites to reduce impact on biodiversity.			
	SA Objective 17 – Effective management of infrastructure in line with development in the longer term should ensure quality and efficiency is maintained.			
	SA Objective 19 – Ensure that all sites with the Plan area which are potentially at risk of flooding are kept free from non-compatible land uses, and to continually review flood risk data over the Plan period.			

VE12 - Shared Space in the City Centre

Theme	SA Objective	Only Option Guidance & Spatial Approach to Promote Principles of a Shared Society	Justification
Social	1 Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society.	++	This option is expected to have a significant positive effect. The option enhances the policy within the RDS and SPPS which promote health and wellbeing and enhanced shared spaces and place making. Taking a spatial approach to promoting a shared society ensures delivery of spaces, streets and open spaces for a wide range of people and offers opportunities to plan for greater accessibility and integration with neighbouring communities. The spatial approach can help encourage mixed-use and mixed tenure neighbourhoods. Ultimately this will help create a more equal society, reduce deprivation and encourage inclusivity.
	2 Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	++	This option is expected to have a significant positive effect.
	3 To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs.	+	This option is expected to have a minor positive effect as promoting the City Centre as a shared space could act a stimulus for housing proposals to come forward as part of mixed-use developments. Such an approach could attract a broad range of the population seeking a shared, safe and accessible place to live.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Only Option Guidance & Spatial Approach to Promote Principles of a Shared Society	Justification
	4	Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour.	++	This option is expected to have a significant positive effect as promoting the principles of a shared society in the City Centre through shared space will help reduce antisocial behaviour and tackle perceptions of safety and crime.
	5	To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities.	0	This option would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities.	+	This option is expected to have a minor positive effect as services and facilities will be attracted to an accessible shared space in which a greater number of service users will feel welcome.
	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities.	++	This option is expected to have a significant positive effect. Promoting the City Centre as a shared space ensures employment opportunities are accessible for all.
	8	Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's roles as a regional economic driver.	++	This option is expected to have a significant positive effect. This option will attract inward investment from a range of business sectors, encouraging new start-up opportunities that support the economic development of Belfast and contribute to its roles as a regional economic driver.
Environmental	9	Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel.	+	This option is expected to have a minor positive effect. Promoting a shared society through spatial planning will help to ensure people feel safe to travel by public transport, cycling and walking and will increase connectivity and opportunities for enhanced transport integration.
	10	Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy.	+	This option is expected to have a minor positive effect. This SA objective is linked to SA9 above and the same principle applies. The promotion of an integrated transport system and encouragement of sustainable travel directly correlates with the transition to a low carbon economy. The ranking of the options is therefore the same as for SA9.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Only Option Guidance & Spatial Approach to Promote Principles of a Shared Society	Justification	
	11	Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species.	O	This option would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	12	Protect and enhance soil quality.	+	This option is expected to have a minor positive effect. Through the promotion of the principles of a shared society, it is likely that it will create an environment that attracts investment and subsequent redevelopment which will see remediation of 'brownfield' sites. By adopting this approach the potential exists to enhance soil quality in the long term.
	13	Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings	+	This option is expected to have a minor positive effect as promoting the principles of a shared society is likely to attract investment and development. This will likely see the adaption and re-use of existing buildings that are located within special designation areas such as the City Centre Conservation Area or are protected by Section 80 of the Planning Act (NI) 2011 due to their historical or architectural interest.
	14	Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.	O	This option would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	15	Protect and enhance open space and natural greenspace including Belfast's countryside asset.	+	This option is expected to have a minor positive effect. Creating an attractive City Centre space in which to live and/or invest there will be less pressure on the countryside asset. Scope will also exist, through mixed use regeneration and the creation of shared spaces, to increase the level of green space within the City Centre and to ensure that it is accessible and connected to neighbouring communities.
	16	Promote the sustainable management of waste.	O	This option would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources.	+/-	This option is expected to have mixed effects. Belfast has a healthy supply of water, so it is not considered to be a significant issue for these options. However, the 'Living with Water Programme' notes that there are capacity issues with the existing WWT facilities in Belfast that could prove to be a risk in the short term. Effective management of infrastructure throughout the plan period as development progresses should ensure quality and efficiency is maintained in the long term.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	O No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Only Option Guidance & Spatial Approach to Promote Principles of a Shared Society	Justification
	18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality.	+	This option is expected to have a minor positive effect as the City Centre is the most accessible part of Belfast, encouraging greater activity through the principles of a shared society and spatial planning will ensure there is a shift towards more sustainable transport modes over the life of the plan; thereby enhancing air quality.
	19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	+	This option is expected to have a minor positive effect. Similar to SA18 above, encouraging a shared society would have positive climate change effects.

Mitigation or enhancement:

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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VE13 - Development Opportunity Sites

Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Policy Framework to Guide Development & Regeneration of Opportunity Sites	Option 2 No Specific Development Briefs or Master Planning for Opportunity Sites	Justification
Social	1 Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society.	++	-	<p>Option 1 is expected to have a significant positive effect by ensuring that opportunity sites have sufficient guidance in place to provide certainty, facilitate economic development and regeneration, and provide the appropriate mix of uses and densities. Such an approach is highly likely to help deliver a reduction in deprivation and encourage a more inclusive and equal society.</p> <p>Option 2 is expected to have a negative effect as there would be insufficient guidance to ensure opportunity sites are integrated and developed in a manner that creates maximum impact in terms of deprivation and social inclusion.</p>
	2 Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	++	+/-	<p>Option 1 is expected to have a significant positive effect by providing greater certainty about the uses and form of development on opportunity sites. By ensuring that appropriate facilities are included within opportunity sites there will be a significant positive effect in the medium to long term as projects are delivered over the life of the plan.</p> <p>Option 2 is expected to have mixed effects as there would be insufficient guidance to ensure opportunity sites are developed in a manner that enhances health and wellbeing and improves quality of life. It is likely that some benefit will be realised but there may also be less cohesive regeneration with ad-hoc development and poor integration with surrounding neighbourhoods.</p>
	3 To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs.	++	-	<p>Option 1 is expected to have a significantly positive effect as policy and guidance for opportunity sites will assist with delivery of quality mixed use regeneration projects, including residential accommodation. Guidance can indicate the expected mix and quality of housing to help meet the housing needs of a range of people.</p> <p>Option 2 is expected to have a negative effect as there would be insufficient guidance to ensure opportunity sites provide an appropriate quality and mix of residential accommodation to meet the housing needs of a range of people. There is also a risk that insufficient guidance will result in under provision of housing over the plan period.</p>

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Policy Framework to Guide Development & Regeneration of Opportunity Sites	Option 2 No Specific Development Briefs or Master Planning for Opportunity Sites	Justification	
	4	Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour.	+	-	<p>Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect by providing frameworks that guide the development of opportunity sites. This will help deliver a vibrant mix of uses and densities that promotes enhanced natural surveillance and an increased sense of safety. It is also possible to suggest principles such as Secure by Design in guidance that will help to reduce instances of crime and antisocial behaviour.</p> <p>Option 2 is expected to have a negative effect as there is insufficient guidance to ensure opportunity sites are developed in a comprehensive manner with appropriate mixes, densities and connections.</p>
	5	To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities.	O	O	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities	+	-	<p>Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect. Development frameworks and master planning will help deliver mixed-use regeneration schemes that support existing services and facilities, whilst also providing new opportunities, enhancing the full provision of local services and facilities.</p> <p>Option 2 is expected to have a negative effect as the market may not provide the full range of services and facilities required or development could be ad-hoc in nature and not comprehensive with accessible services and good connections to local facilities.</p>
	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities	++	+	<p>Option 1 is expected to have a significant positive effect. Providing guidance around opportunity sites ensures that they are comprehensively developed with quality connections and integrated with surrounding neighbourhoods. This will ensure employment opportunities are accessible to local residents.</p> <p>Option 2 is expected to have a minor positive effect by creating some additional employment, based on past trends, but not necessarily ensuring that quality connections exist or that the development schemes on opportunity sites are fully integrated or comprehensively developed.</p>

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	O No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Policy Framework to Guide Development & Regeneration of Opportunity Sites	Option 2 No Specific Development Briefs or Master Planning for Opportunity Sites	Justification
	8 Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's roles as a regional economic driver	+	-	Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect as master plans and development frameworks can ensure comprehensive regeneration of opportunity sites comprising the most appropriate mix of uses and densities to enhance the economic productivity of Belfast, as the regional economic driver. Option 2 is expected to have a negative effect as ad-hoc or disconnected development proceeds without a comprehensive regeneration plan to maximise the opportunities and ensure Belfast's role as the regional economic driver.
Environmental	9 Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel	+	-	Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect. A policy framework and master plan approach to development opportunity sites will help realise enhanced connectivity and movement patterns between areas and sites, which will encourage sustainable modes of transport. Option 2 has the potential to result in a negative effect by delivering development in an ad hoc manner with little regard for sustainable travel.
	10 Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy	+	+	Option 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect because it will support better integration and connectivity through planned comprehensive redevelopment that will promote sustainable modes of transport and therefore support the transition to a low carbon economy. Option 2 is expected to have a minor positive effect as it would see City Centre opportunity sites developed in close proximity to sustainable modes of transport and therefore support the transition to a low carbon economy.
	11 Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species	0	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	12 Protect and enhance soil quality	+	+	Option 1 and Option 2 are both expected to have a minor positive effect on soil quality. Redeveloping 'brownfield' sites will include removal of and decontamination of soil linked to previous industrial uses. Over the plan period a percentage of residential development will come forward which will result in soil quality being enhanced through decontamination measures. The effects are likely to increase in the long term as opportunity sites are developed out during the plan period.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Policy Framework to Guide Development & Regeneration of Opportunity Sites	Option 2 No Specific Development Briefs or Master Planning for Opportunity Sites	Justification
13	Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings	++	+	Option 1 is expected to have a significant positive effect on the built and historic environment as reuse of heritage buildings will be facilitated through site masterplans. Option 2 is expected to have a minor positive effect as some historic buildings will see reuse and refurbishment, but with less guidance, and left to market forces, it is likely that the full potential is not realised.
14	Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.	0	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
15	Protect and enhance open space and natural greenspace including Belfast's countryside asset.	+	+	Option 1 and Option 2 are both expected to have a minor positive effect by ensuring that opportunity sites within the City Centre are developed, reducing the requirement for sites in the countryside.
16	Promote the sustainable management of waste.	+	+	Option 1 and Option 2 are both expected to have minor positive effects as accommodating development within City Centre opportunity sites meets the sustainable waste management objectives.
17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources.	+/-	+/-	Option 1 and Option 2 are both expected to have mixed effects. Belfast has a healthy supply of water, so it is not considered to be a significant issue for these options. However, the 'Living with Water Programme' notes that there are capacity issues with the existing WWT facilities in Belfast that could prove to be a risk in the short term. Effective management of infrastructure throughout the plan period as development progresses should ensure quality and efficiency is maintained in the long term.
18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality.	+	+	Option 1 and Option 2 are both expected to have minor positive effects as developing opportunity sites within the City Centre ensures projects are highly accessible to public transport and often within easy walking distance. This reduces reliance on less sustainable modes of transport.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Policy Framework to Guide Development & Regeneration of Opportunity Sites	Option 2 No Specific Development Briefs or Master Planning for Opportunity Sites	Justification
19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	+	?	Options 1 is expected to have a minor positive effect. It aims to put in place a development framework that will guide regeneration of the City Centre. In doing so, it will encourage more sustainable travel modes of travel through better integration of transport and land use. This would make a positive contribution to climate change goals through a reduction in Co2 emissions. The effects of a market led approach as suggested in Option 2 are unknown.

Mitigation or enhancement:

SA Objective 10 – Ensure that all developments on opportunity sites make a positive contribution to the transition to a low carbon economy, e.g. development of the circular economy, incorporation of renewable technologies, embracing the digital economy, flexible working practices etc.

SA Objective 11 – At site selection stage, prioritise sites to minimise impact on biodiversity. The use of key site requirements should also help direct development on allocated sites to reduce impact on biodiversity.

SA Objective 17 – Effective management of infrastructure in line with development in the longer term should ensure quality and efficiency is maintained.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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SCR1 - Telecommunications Infrastructure

Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Rely on the SPPS	Option 2 Tailor Policy Approach of SPPS by Including Areas of Constraint	Justification
Social	1	Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society.	+	+	Digital participation is deemed to have a positive impact on some of the dimensions of social exclusion. Supporting the development of new telecommunications infrastructure or promoting an upgrade of existing networks will help to improve the public availability of ICT. Options 1 and 2 would, therefore, have a minor positive effect in contributing to reduced levels of deprivation and encouraging a more inclusive and equal society.
	2	Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	+	+	Supporting the development of new telecommunications infrastructure or promoting an upgrade of existing networks will improve public access to telecommunications services. Options 1 and 2 would benefit consumers and households by facilitating more efficient access to primary health care professionals, such as GPs who offer online services, which is likely to have a minor positive effect on improving health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.
	3	To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs.	0	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	4	Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour.	0	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	5	To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities.	+	+	Encouraging a stronger telecommunications infrastructure will contribute to improved telecommunications services throughout the City and facilitate opportunities for residents to engage in short, long or professional online and distance learning courses. Options 1 and 2 would contribute to increased availability and access to telecommunications services which would have a minor positive effect on improving the skills and education of residents by providing access to lifelong learning opportunities that are offered via the internet.
Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities.	+	+	Supporting the development of new telecommunications infrastructure or promoting an upgrade of existing networks will facilitate an increase in broadband connectivity. This will benefit consumers and households in improving access to all sorts of services and information, and in facilitating access to various leisure and recreational activities. Options 1

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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				and 2 would, therefore, have a minor positive effect on retaining and enhancing access to local services and facilities, by facilitating development of a high quality telecommunications infrastructure.	
	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities.	++	++	A high quality telecommunications infrastructure, including broadband connectivity, supports inward investment and can encourage businesses to start-up or locate within the City. Options 1 and 2 would facilitate growth of the telecommunications infrastructure which would have a significant positive effect in supporting the development of employment opportunities to which local residents have access, and in contributing to a reduction in short or long-term unemployment.
	8	Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's role as a regional economic driver.	++	++	Developing a high quality telecommunications infrastructure is essential for sustainable economic growth. Businesses increasingly rely on secure and reliable access to high-quality telecommunications networks. Fast efficient broadband, is recognised as a significant factor in business access to compete successfully in external markets and in promoting NI as an attractive inward investment location. A high-quality telecommunications infrastructure is therefore necessary to improve international and internal connectivity, and is essential to meet the current and future needs of businesses. Strengthening the City's telecommunications infrastructure and facilitating regional and global connectivity, will support local and Foreign Direct Investment into Belfast and offer a significant competitive edge for the benefit of the region. Options 1 and 2 would, therefore, have a significant positive effect in supporting the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and in contributing to the City's role as a regional economic driver.
Environmental	9	Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel.	0	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	10	Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy.	+	+	Digital technologies are an important factor in supporting the transition to a Low Carbon Economy. They can replace goods and services with virtual equivalents, contribute to a reduction in energy consumption, facilitate internet shopping, support teleworking and provide access to online public services. Options 1 and 2 would have a minor positive effect by supporting the development of a high-quality telecommunications infrastructure that is secure and appropriate to facilitate e-business and e-commerce.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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11	Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species.	+	++	Encouraging development of new telecommunications infrastructure and promoting an upgrade of existing networks in appropriate locations will help to conserve and enhance sites of international, regional and local importance, whilst protecting species diversity. Options 1 and 2, in giving due consideration towards criteria for the siting, design and impact upon visual amenity of new telecommunications infrastructure would have a positive effect in maintaining and enhancing biodiversity assets, whilst helping to protect habitats and species. Whilst Option 1 would have a minor positive effect, Option 2 would have a significant positive effect by introducing areas of constraint which have potential to afford greater environmental protection by limiting infrastructure or encouraging mast sharing in the most environmentally sensitive areas.
12	Protect and enhance soil quality.	+	++	Supporting the development of new telecommunications infrastructure or promoting an upgrade of existing networks in appropriate locations will contribute towards the development or redevelopment of existing brownfield sites. Option 1 would have a minor positive effect by minimising development on Greenfield spaces and helping to protect and enhance soil quality. Option 2 would add to this and have a significant positive effect by introducing areas of constraint which have potential to afford greater environmental protection.
13	Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings	+	++	Options 1 and 2, in giving due consideration towards criteria for the siting, design and impact upon visual amenity of new telecommunications infrastructure would have a positive effect by helping to Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings There is potential for the incorporation of telecommunications infrastructure in the design of other forms of development which would respect local distinctiveness and sense of place. Whilst Option 1 would have a minor positive effect, Option 2 would have a significant positive effect by introducing areas of constraint which have potential to afford greater environmental protection to the built and historic environment.
14	Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.	+	++	Supporting the development of new telecommunications infrastructure or promoting an upgrade of existing networks in appropriate locations will help to minimise visual intrusion and protect views. Options 1 and 2 would, therefore, have a positive effect in protecting, maintaining and enhancing the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity. Whilst Option 1 would have a minor positive effect, Option 2 would be of added benefit and have a significant positive effect by introducing areas of constraint which have potential to afford greater environmental protection to Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.
15	Protect and enhance open space and natural green space including Belfast's countryside asset.	+	++	Supporting the development of new telecommunications infrastructure or promoting an upgrade of existing networks in appropriate locations will help to minimise visual intrusion and protect views. Options 1 and 2 would, therefore, have a positive effect in protecting and enhancing open space and natural greenspace, including Belfast's countryside asset. Whilst Option 1 would have a minor positive effect, Option 2 would be of added benefit and have a significant positive effect by introducing areas of constraint which have potential to afford greater environmental protection to Belfast's open green space and Countryside asset.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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16	Promote the sustainable management of waste.	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources.	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality.	+	+	Digital technologies can replace goods and services with virtual equivalents, contribute to a reduction in energy consumption, facilitate internet shopping, support teleworking and provide access to online public services. Therefore, it is important to support the development of a high-quality telecommunications infrastructure that is secure and appropriate to facilitate e-business and e-commerce. It is envisaged that this will reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by reducing energy consumption and the need to travel. Options 1 and 2 would, therefore have a minor positive effect in supporting a decrease in air pollution and helping to ensure continued improvements to air quality.
19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	+	+	Digital technologies can replace goods and services with virtual equivalents, contribute to a reduction in energy consumption, facilitate internet shopping, support teleworking and provide access to online public services. Therefore, it is important to support the development of a high-quality telecommunications infrastructure that is secure and appropriate to facilitate e-business and e-commerce. It is envisaged that this will reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by reducing energy consumption and the need to travel. Options 1 and 2 would, therefore, have a minor positive effect in supporting the adaptation to climate change.

Mitigation or enhancement:

All SA objectives – Employ suitable mitigation measures to ensure telecommunications infrastructure development is appropriately managed throughout the Plan area.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	○ No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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SCR2 – Water and Sewerage Infrastructure

Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Rely on SPPS	Option 2 Tailor Policy Approach of SPPS with Supplementary Approaches	Justification
Social	1	Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society.	+	+	Adequate investment in water and sewerage infrastructure is necessary to support new development and redevelopment opportunities. Facilitating the development of water and sewerage infrastructure can promote regeneration in areas of need. In this respect, Options 1 and 2 would have a minor positive effect in reducing deprivation and helping to address inequality.
	2	Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	+	+	A sufficient and appropriate level of water and sewerage infrastructure will help to sustain and enhance the existing provision of safe and effective drinking water services throughout the City. It will also help to ensure that untreated wastewater is prevented from being released into the environment. It is necessary that these services are being provided to safe and sustainable standards in order to prevent related health risks to the City's residents. Options 1 and 2 would, therefore, have a minor positive effect on improving health & wellbeing for better quality of life.
	3	To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs.	++	++	Adequate investment in water and sewerage infrastructure is necessary to facilitate residential development. In facilitating the development of such infrastructure at appropriate locations, Options 1 and 2 would have a significant positive effect in contributing to the opportunity to provide for good quality housing and in enabling people to meet their housing needs.
	4	Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour.	0	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	5	To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities	+	+	Adequate investment in water and sewerage infrastructure is necessary to facilitate development. In facilitating the development of such infrastructure at appropriate locations, Options 1 and 2 would have a minor positive effect in improving the level of investment in key community services and high-quality education facilities, thereby helping to improve skills and education of residents by providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities.

Key:

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Significant positive effect	Minor positive effect	No effect or relationship	Minor negative effect	Significant negative effect	Mixed Effects	Uncertain /effect unknown

Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities.	+	+	A sufficient and appropriate level of water and sewerage infrastructure will help to improve the level of investment in key community services. Options 1 and 2 would have a minor positive effect in helping to retain and enhance access to local services and facilities.
	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities.	++	++	The provision of a sufficient and appropriate level of water and sewerage infrastructure throughout Belfast can help to encourage businesses to start-up or locate within the City. It can support the development of new industrial units, office accommodation, storage or distribution facilities, financial and professional services, or similar employment uses. In facilitating the development of water and sewerage infrastructure, Options 1 and 2 will have a significant positive effect in supporting the development of employment opportunities to which local residents have access, and in contributing to a reduction in short or long-term unemployment.
	8	Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's role as a regional economic driver.	++	++	Adequate investment in water and sewerage infrastructure can promote tourism and attract inward investment to the region. A sufficient and appropriate level of such infrastructure would contribute positively to making the City a more attractive investment location for new development. Options 1 and 2 would, therefore, have a significant positive effect in supporting the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to its role as an economic driver.
Environmental	9	Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel.	0	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	10	Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy	+	++	The provision of water and sewerage services is energy intensive. Option 1 is likely to have a minor positive effect on this SA Objective. However, Option 2 would have a significant positive effect in supporting the transition to a Low Carbon Economy by encouraging sustainable initiatives and technologies in regard to water, wastewater management and drainage, alongside the alternative management and maintenance of existing water and sewerage assets.
	11	Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species.	+	+	In giving careful consideration to the siting, design and impact upon visual amenity of new water and sewerage infrastructure, Options 1 and 2 will have a minor positive effect in maintaining and enhancing biodiversity assets and protecting habitats and species.
	12	Protect and enhance soil quality.	+	+	Facilitating the development of new infrastructure in an efficient and effective manner, at appropriate locations, will minimise development on Greenfield sites and encourage the development of previously developed land. Options 1 and 2 would, therefore, have a minor positive impact in helping to protect and enhance soil quality.

Key:	++	+	0	-	--	+/-	?
	Significant positive effect	Minor positive effect	No effect or relationship	Minor negative effect	Significant negative effect	Mixed Effects	Uncertain /effect unknown

13	Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings	+	++	In keeping the visual and environmental impact of new water and sewerage infrastructure to a minimum, Options 1 and 2 would have a positive effect on this SA Objective. Whilst Option 1 would have a minor positive effect, Option 2 would have added benefit and offer a significant positive effect in helping to protect and enhance the quality of the built and historic environment. The encouragement of sustainable water management through the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) could help to protect areas that make a distinct contribution to quality of the City's landscape.
14	Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.	+	+	Supporting the development of new water and sewerage infrastructure in appropriate locations will help to minimise visual intrusion and protect views. Options 1 and 2 would, therefore, have a minor positive effect in protecting, maintaining and enhancing the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.
15	Protect and enhance open space and natural green space including Belfast's countryside asset.	+	++	In giving careful consideration to the visual impact of new water and sewerage infrastructure, Options 1 and 2 would have a positive effect on this SA Objective. Whilst Option 1 would have a minor positive effect, Option 2 would have added benefit and an offer significant positive effect in helping to protect and enhance open space and natural greenspace including Belfast's Countryside asset. The encouragement of sustainable water management through the use SuDS could help to protect areas that make a distinct contribution to the City's landscape, including its green infrastructure and ecological networks.
16	Promote the sustainable management of waste.	+	++	A sufficient and appropriate level of water and sewerage infrastructure will help to sustain and enhance the existing provision of drainage throughout the city. Options 1 and 2 would have a positive effect on this SA Objective by helping to ensure that capacity is maintained to adequately deal with wastewater. Whilst Option 1 would have a minor positive effect, Option 2, by encouraging the use of sustainable initiatives such as SuDS, would have a significant positive effect in helping to promote the sustainable management of waste.
17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources.	+	++	Whilst Option 1 would have a minor positive effect on this SA Objective, Option 2 would have a significant positive effect in helping to promote the quality, efficient use of water resources by encouraging sustainable initiatives and technologies in regard to water, wastewater management and drainage, including the use of SuDS. Facilitating the development of water and sewerage infrastructure, alongside appropriate management and maintenance of existing assets could also contribute to reduced leakage, thereby helping to ensure the efficient use and management of water.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality.	+	++	The provision of water and sewerage services is energy intensive. Option 1 is likely to have a minor positive effect on this SA Objective. Option 2, in encouraging the alternative management and maintenance of existing water and sewerage assets, alongside the promotion of appropriate design and layout measures, would contribute to a reduction in energy use and a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The promotion of appropriate design and layout measures would also contribute to a reduction in water consumption. Option 2 would, therefore, have a significant positive effect in helping to reduce air pollution and in contributing to improvements in air quality.
19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	+	++	The SPPS recognises that surface water and pluvial flooding is a particular problem in urban areas and that steady growth of such areas has served to intensify water run-off and to place additional pressures on the piped drainage network. Options 1 and 2, in facilitating the development of water and drainage in an efficient and effective manner will have a positive effect on this SA Objective. Whilst Option 1 would have a minor positive effect, Option 2 in encouraging the use sustainable initiatives and technologies such as grey water recycling, rainwater harvesting and SuDS would have a significant positive effect in supporting the adaption to climate change and effectively managing flood risk. In addition, the alternative management and maintenance of existing water and sewerage assets, alongside the promotion of appropriate design and layout measures, would contribute to a reduction in energy use and a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Mitigation or enhancement:

All SA objectives – Employ suitable mitigation measures to ensure water and sewerage infrastructure development is appropriately managed throughout the Plan area.

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++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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SCR3 – Electricity and Gas Infrastructure

Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Rely on the SPPS	Option 2 Tailor Policy Approach of SPPS by Including Known or Envisaged Infrastructure Proposals	Justification
Social	1	+	++	An appropriate electricity and gas infrastructure is necessary to provide key services to households and businesses throughout the City. Belfast has a high percentage of households in fuel poverty. The development of infrastructure to meet affordable home temperature requirements of consumers could contribute towards a reduction in fuel poverty. Adequate investment in electricity and gas infrastructure is also necessary to support new development and redevelopment opportunities. Facilitating the development of such infrastructure could, therefore, promote regeneration in areas of need. It is envisaged that Options 1 and 2 would have a positive effect in reducing deprivation and helping to address inequality. Whilst Option 1 would have a minor positive effect, Option 2, in introducing an element of greater certainty regarding the location of proposed infrastructure development, would have added benefit, and therefore, a significant positive effect on this SA Objective.
	2	+	+	It is envisaged that a sufficient and appropriate level of new electricity and gas infrastructure and the maintenance of existing infrastructure will help to improve affordability of essential services. In this respect, Options 1 and 2 would have a minor positive effect on improving health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.
	3	+	++	Adequate investment in electricity and gas infrastructure is necessary to facilitate residential development. Facilitating the development of such infrastructure will have a positive effect in contributing to the opportunity to provide for good quality housing and in enabling people to meet their housing needs. Whilst Option 1 would have a minor positive effect, Option 2, in including known or envisaged infrastructure proposals, would have a significant positive effect on his SA Objective.
	4	+	+	Adequate investment in electricity infrastructure is necessary to facilitate good lighting installations that are effective and efficient, and which have appropriate values of illumination, uniformity and maintenance. Sufficient lighting can reduce crime and the fear of crime. Options 1 and 2 would, therefore, have a minor positive effect in contributing to an increase in community safety.

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	5	To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities.	+	++	Adequate investment in electricity and gas infrastructure is necessary to facilitate development. Options 1 and 2, in supporting the development of such infrastructure at appropriate locations will have a positive effect in facilitating investment in key community services and high-quality education facilities, helping to improve skills and education of residents. Whilst Option 1 would have a minor positive effect, Option 2, in introducing an element of greater certainty regarding the location of proposed infrastructure development would have added benefit, and therefore, a significant positive effect on this SA Objective.
Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities.	+	++	A sufficient and appropriate level of electricity and gas infrastructure will help to improve the level of investment in key community services. Options 1 and 2 would have a positive effect in helping to retain and enhance access to local services and facilities. Whilst Option 1 would have a minor positive effect, Option 2, in introducing an element of greater certainty regarding the location of proposed infrastructure development would have added benefit, and therefore, a significant positive effect on this SA Objective.
	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities.	+	++	The provision of a sufficient and appropriate level of electricity and gas infrastructure throughout Belfast can help facilitate business start-ups or support those seeking to locate within the City. Options 1 and 2, in facilitating the development of such infrastructure will have a positive effect in supporting the development of employment opportunities to which local residents have access, and in contributing to a reduction in short or long-term unemployment. Whilst Option 1 would have a minor positive effect, Option 2, in including known or envisaged infrastructure proposals, would have a significant positive effect on his SA Objective.
	8	Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's role as a regional economic driver.	+	++	Adequate investment in electricity and gas infrastructure can attract inward investment to the region. A sufficient and appropriate level of such infrastructure will therefore make a positive contribution to making the City a more attractive investment location for new development. Options 1 and 2 would have a positive effect in supporting the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's role as an economic driver. Whilst Option 1 would have a minor positive effect, Option 2, in introducing an element of greater certainty regarding the location of proposed infrastructure development, would have added benefit, and therefore, a significant positive effect on this SA Objective.
	9	Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel.	+	+	There is an increase in the availability of electric and alternative fuel vehicles. Providing adequate electricity and gas infrastructure can facilitate the development of electric charging points and alternative fuel supply points that will help to facilitate more sustainable forms of transportation. Options 1 and 2 would, therefore, have a minor positive effect on this SA Objective.
Environmenta					

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10	Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy	+	+	The provision of electricity and gas services is energy intensive. The promotion of renewable energy generating facilities at appropriate locations and encouragement towards the use of micro-generation and other technology can have a positive effect in supporting the transition to a Low Carbon Economy. Options 1 and 2 would, therefore, have a minor positive effect on this SA Objective.
11	Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species.	+	+	In giving careful consideration to the siting, design and impact upon visual amenity of new electricity and gas infrastructure, Options 1 and 2 would have a minor positive effect in maintaining and enhancing biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species.
12	Protect and enhance soil quality.	+	+	Facilitating the development of new electricity and gas infrastructure in an efficient and effective manner in appropriate locations will encourage the development of previously developed land and minimise development on Greenfield sites. Options 1 and 2 would, therefore, have a minor positive impact in helping to protect and enhance soil quality.
13	Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings	+	+	In giving careful consideration to the siting, design and impact upon visual amenity of new electricity and infrastructure, Options 1 and 2 would have a minor positive effect in helping to Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings
14	Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.	+	+	Supporting the development of new electricity and gas infrastructure in appropriate locations will help to minimise visual intrusion and protect views. Options 1 and 2 would, therefore, have a minor positive effect in protecting, maintaining and enhancing the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.
15	Protect and enhance open space and natural green space including Belfast's countryside asset.	+	+	Supporting the development of new electricity and gas infrastructure in appropriate locations will help to minimise visual intrusion and protect views. Options 1 and 2 would, therefore, have a positive effect in protecting and enhancing open space and natural greenspace, including Belfast's countryside asset.
16	Promote the sustainable management of waste.	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources.	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.

Key:	++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	○ No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality.	+	+	The provision of electricity and gas services is energy intensive. Encouraging the use of micro-generation and other technology can contribute to a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants. Options 1 and 2 would, therefore, have a minor positive effect in helping to reduce air pollution and in contributing to improvements in air quality.
19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	+	+	Northern Ireland depends largely on fossil fuel combustion for electricity generation. The promotion of renewable energy generation and encouraging the use of micro-generation and other technology could increase the proportion of energy needs being met from renewable sources and contribute to a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants. Options 1 and 2 would, therefore have a positive effect on supporting the adaptation to climate change.

Mitigation or enhancement:

All SA objectives – Employ suitable mitigation measures to ensure electricity and gas infrastructure development is appropriately managed throughout the Plan area.

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SCR4 –Walking, Cycling and Sustainable Modes of Transport

Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Support Walking & Cycling including design guidance	Option 2 Rely on the SPPS	Justification
Social	1	Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society	++	+	With 37% of households in Belfast not having access to a private vehicle, Option 1 can help promote social inclusion by providing an affordable alternative to the private car for short journeys in the City or as part of a longer journey. It is considered that it will have a significant positive effect by promoting accessibility to services and facilities, improving travel choice and reducing the need to travel by car. Option 2 does not include design guidance and therefore could have a minor positive effect on this SA Objective.
	2	Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	++	+	Option 1 could have a significant positive effect, as it will promote active travel networks which could have a significant positive effect by promoting health and wellbeing. It is recognised that increased physical activity can improve physical and mental health. This could also contribute towards minimising vehicle emissions. The RDS states that air pollution from particulate matter is currently estimated to reduce the life expectancy of every person in the UK by an average of 7-8 months. Option 2 does not include design guidance and therefore could have a minor positive effect on this SA Objective by promoting active travel.
	3	To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs	++	+	Option 1 could have a significant positive effect, as it will support design guidance that encourages pedestrian and cycling movement and establishment of safe and attractive routes as part of the built environment. Good quality housing will benefit from good access to pedestrian and cycling networks. Option 2 does not include design guidance and therefore could have a minor positive effect on this SA Objective.
	4	Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour	++	+	Option 1 could have a significant positive effect as it will support design guidance that encourages pedestrian and cyclist movement and establishment of safe and attractive routes as part of the built environment. The RDS recognises the need to improve facilities for walking and cycling which will assist in making streets safer and more user-friendly. Option 2 does not include design guidance and therefore could have a minor positive effect on this SA Objective.

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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Support Walking & Cycling including design guidance	Option 2 Rely on the SPPS	Justification
	5	To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities	+	+	Options 1 and 2 could have a minor positive effect as both approaches will promote accessibility by improving travel choice.
Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities	+	+	Options 1 and 2 could have a minor positive effect as both approaches will promote accessibility to local services by improving travel choice.
	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities	+	+	Options 1 and 2 could have a minor positive effect as both approaches will promote accessibility by improving travel choice.
	8	Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's roles as a regional economic driver	+	+	It is widely recognised that making cities better for walking and cycling can boost footfall and trading in the local area. It can also have positive benefits to the economy by reducing congestion and improving public health. It is considered that Options 1 and 2 are likely to have a minor positive effect.
	9	Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel	++	+	Walking and cycling are essential parts of an integrated transport system and may form part of a longer public transport journey. Option 1 will have a significant positive effect by encouraging integrated sustainable travel. Option 2 does not include design guidance and therefore will have a minor positive effect on this SA Objective.
Environmental	10	Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy	++	+	Option 1 will likely contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from transport by reducing the need to use the car and therefore could have a significant positive effect. This is in line with the RDS objective RG9: Reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate mitigation and adaption to climate change whilst improving air quality. Option 2 does not include design guidance and therefore will have a minor positive effect on this SA Objective.
	11	Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species	+	+	The RDS states that transportation currently accounts for a quarter of man-made greenhouse gas emissions that are attributed to climate change which has an impact on species and habitats. Options 1 and 2 will contribute to improvement in air quality associated with vehicular emissions and therefore is likely to have a minor positive effect.

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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Support Walking & Cycling including design guidance	Option 2 Rely on the SPPS	Justification
	12	Protect and enhance soil quality	+	+	The RDS states that emissions of sulphur (SO ₂), nitrogen (NO _x) and ammonia (NH ₃) can be deposited on land and water causing either acidification or nutrient enrichment. Options 1 and 2 are geared towards the reduction of use of the private car and associated emissions and therefore could have a minor positive effect.
	13	Protect, enhance and manage the quality of the built and historic environment	++	+	Option 1 will support improvements to the design of the built environment which can play a major role in encouraging pedestrian activity and improving connectivity by creating safe and attractive pedestrian routes. It is also considered that Option 1 could have a significant positive effect on the quality of the built and historic environment by encouraging a modal shift away from the motor vehicle which can detract from the quality of the built environment. Option 2 does not include design guidance and therefore could have a minor positive effect on this SA Objective.
	14	Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.	0	0	Options 1 and 2 will have no effect.
	15	Protect and enhance open space and natural greenspace including Belfast's countryside asset	+	+	Options 1 and 2 could promote the use of open space for active travel and for walking in particular. Both Options are likely to have a minor positive effect.
	16	Promote the sustainable management of waste	0	0	Options 1 and 2 will have no effect.
	17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources	+	+	Option 1 is likely to have a minor positive effect by promoting sustainable travel and a reduction in private car use and associated emissions which impact on water quality. Option 2 does not include design guidance and therefore could have a minor positive effect on this SA Objective.
	18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality	++	+	There are four Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's) in Belfast, where the air has been affected by pollution, principally nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂) from road transport. Option 1 will have a major positive effect by encouraging a modal shift away from the private motor vehicle use. Option 2 does not include design guidance and therefore could have a

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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Support Walking & Cycling including design guidance	Option 2 Rely on the SPPS	Justification
					minor positive effect on this SA Objective.
	19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	++	+	Option 1 could have a significant positive effect by encouraging sustainable travel by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport. Option 2 does not include design guidance and therefore could have a minor positive effect on this SA Objective.
Mitigation or enhancement There are no envisaged negative effects for either option, although suitable enhancement measures should be employed to ensure that design guidance is provided to ensure safe and attractive routes as part of the built and natural environments and to ensure the provision of an integrated active travel network.					

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SCR5 – Public Transport Network

Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Support public transport as part of a balanced approach	Justification
Social	1	Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society	++	Option 1 could have a significant positive effect by increasing travel choice and promoting accessibility to jobs and services. By accommodating an appropriate level of cars this will allow access for people with disabilities and others with restricted mobility.
	2	Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	++	The RDS states that air pollution from particulate matter is currently estimated to reduce the life expectancy of every person in the UK by an average of 7-8 months and that support for public transport modes along with transit orientated development should reduce the reliance on the private car. Option 1 should have a significant positive effect on health and wellbeing by improving air quality and reducing community severance.
	3	To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs	++	Good quality housing will benefit from good access to public transport networks. Option 1 will have a significant positive effect on the provision of good quality housing by increasing accessibility and connectivity to local services. This option supports the SPSS objective to ensure new developments are as accessible as possible by a wide variety of travel modes and to integrate land use and transport planning.
	4	Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour	+	The RDS states that a well maintained high quality public transport system will attract greater use and a feeling of safety and security. Options 1 is considered to have a minor positive effect by improving travel choice and attracting greater use.
	5	To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning	+	Option 1 will have a minor positive effect by increasing travel choice and promoting accessibility for all to life long opportunities.

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		opportunities		
Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities	+	Option 1 could have a minor positive effect by increasing travel choice and promoting accessibility for all to local services and facilities.
	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities	+	Option 1 could have a minor positive effect by increasing travel choice and promoting accessibility for all to employment opportunities.
	8	Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's roles as a regional economic driver	++	A good public transportation service is important as it provides increased mobility, reduces congestion, can generate jobs and enable economic growth. It is considered that Option 1 could have a significant positive effect, by supporting economic development and contributing to Belfast's role as a regional driver.
Environmental	9	Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel	++	Option 1 will promote an integrated transport system and encourage a modal shift towards sustainable travel. It is considered that it could have a significant positive effect.
	10	Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy	+	Option 1 promotes public transport as part of a balanced approach which will allow for an appropriate level of car use. It is considered that Option 1 could have a minor positive effect.
	11	Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species	+	Option 1 could contribute to the reduction of air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions associated with the private vehicle and therefore, have a minor positive effect.
	12	Protect and enhance soil quality	+	Option 1 supports the reduction of use of private vehicles and associated emissions and therefore could have a minor positive effect. This could reduce emissions that can be deposited on land causing acidification or nutrient enrichment.
	13	Protect, enhance and manage the quality of the built and historic environment	+	It is considered that Options 1 could have a minor positive effect on the quality of the built and historic environment as both approaches will facilitate the reduction of private vehicle use which can detract from the built environment.

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++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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	14	Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.	0	Option 1 could have no effect.
	15	Protect and enhance open space and natural greenspace including Belfast's countryside asset	0	Option 1 could have no effect.
	16	Promote the sustainable management of waste	0	Option 1 could have no effect.
	17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources and effective management against flood risk	+	Emissions from transport can be deposited on water causing either acidification or nutrient enrichment. Option 1 supports the reduction of use of the private vehicle and associated emissions, and therefore could have a minor positive effect.
	18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality	++	Options 1 could have a significant positive effect by encouraging a modal shift away from the use of private vehicles.
	19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	++	Options 1 could have a significant positive effect by encouraging a modal shift away from the private vehicle and could facilitate mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

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++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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SCR6 – Road Network

Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Support new road and road network improvements with design guidance	Option 2 Rely on the SPPS	Justification
Social	1	Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society	+	-	By specifying design guidance for new road or road improvements it can provide benefits for bus movements, cyclists, and pedestrians as well as cars and goods vehicles. Therefore, it is considered that Option 1 could have a minor positive effect by increasing accessibility. Option 2 is likely to have a minor negative effect as it would encourage wider community benefits in the absence of specific design guidance.
	2	Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	+	-	Option 1 is considered to have a minor positive effect as it can alleviate bottlenecks which may lead to an improvement in air quality. It could also support design guidance to promote benefits to the surrounding areas through improved connectivity and reduced community severance. Option 2 may have a minor negative effect on health and wellbeing by facilitating the use of the private car which is likely to discourage active travel.
	3	To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs	+	-	Option 1 will support design guidance to promote benefits to the surrounding areas through improved connectivity and could have a minor positive effect for good quality housing. Option 2 could facilitate a slight increase in the use of the private car and is likely to have a minor negative effect on the provision of good quality housing as a car dominant environment can detract from the amenity of the residential area.
	4	Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour	+	-	Option 1 will support design guidance to promote road safety and therefore could have a minor positive effect. Without design guidance, Option 2 could have a minor negative effect.
	5	To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities	++	+	By specifying design guidance for new road or road improvements it can provide benefits for bus movements, cyclists and pedestrians as well as cars and goods vehicles. Therefore, it is considered that Option 1 could have a significant positive effect by increasing accessibility for all. Option 2 can provide improvements to the road network to increase accessibility but to a lesser degree without specific design guidance. It could therefore have a minor positive effect.

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++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	O No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Support new road and road network improvements with design guidance	Option 2 Rely on the SPPS	Justification
Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities	++	+	Option 1 could improve access by the private car whilst also providing benefits for bus movements, cyclists and pedestrians. It is considered that Option 1 could have a significant positive effect in enhancing access. Option 2 can provide improvements to the road network to increase accessibility but to a lesser degree without specific design guidance. It could therefore have a minor positive effect.
	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities	++	+	Option 1 could have a significant positive effect by improving access by the private car but also for public transport, cyclists and pedestrians. It is considered that Option 2 can provide improvements to the road network to increase accessibility but to a lesser degree in the absence of specific measures. It could therefore have a minor positive effect.
	8	Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's roles as a regional economic driver	++	+	Option 1 will support new road and road improvement schemes which are identified as essential. A number of improvements are considered necessary to remove bottlenecks from the strategic road network and improve traffic management within the city. It is considered that the essential improvements could have a significant positive effect to the economy by improving accessibility. Option 2 does not include design guidance and therefore could have a minor positive effect on this SA Objective.
Environmental	9	Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel	++	+	Option 1 will support new road and road improvement schemes that can provide improvements for public transport, cyclists and pedestrians as well as the private car. This is considered part of a balanced approach to the transport infrastructure which aims to promote public transport along with the appropriate level of movement of cars. It is considered that it could have a significant positive impact. Option 2 can provide improvements to increase accessibility but to a lesser degree without specific design guidelines. It could therefore have a minor positive effect.
	10	Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy	+	-	Option 1 could contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from transport by removing bottlenecks from the road network and facilitating more efficient use of the road network by supporting bus, cyclist and pedestrian movements. It is considered that Option 1 could facilitate better access by sustainable modes as well as the car. It would therefore have a minor positive impact. Option 2 may have a minor negative effect if it is not accompanied by further design guidance.

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++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Support new road and road network improvements with design guidance	Option 2 Rely on the SPPS	Justification
	11	Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species	?	?	The effect of Options 1 and 2 is uncertain as new road and road improvements schemes could impact on biodiversity and habitats. This will be reviewed further at local polices stage.
	12	Protect and enhance soil quality	?	?	The effect of Options 1 and 2 is uncertain as new road and road improvements schemes could impact on soil quality. This will be reviewed further at local polices stage.
	13	Protect, enhance and manage the quality of the built and historic environment	0	-	It considered that Option 1, accompanied with design guidance to reduce severance and improve connectivity, could balance any negative impacts from new road infrastructure. Therefore, it is considered that option 1 could have a no effect on the built and historic environment. Option 2 could have a negative effect if it is not accompanied by design guidelines.
	14	Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.	?	?	The effect of Options 1 and 2 is uncertain as new road and road improvements schemes could impact on landscape and geodiversity. This will be reviewed further at local polices stage.
	15	Protect and enhance open space and natural greenspace including Belfast's countryside asset	?	?	The effect of Options 1 and 2 is uncertain as new road and road improvements schemes could impact on open space and natural green space if it is considered an essential infrastructure improvement scheme. This will be reviewed further at local polices stage.
	16	Promote the sustainable management of waste	0	0	It is considered that Options 1 and 2 have no effect or relationship with this SA Objective.
	17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources and effective management against flood risk	?	?	The effect of Options 1 and 2 is uncertain as new road and road improvements schemes could impact on water quality. This will be reviewed further at local polices stage.

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++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Support new road and road network improvements with design guidance	Option 2 Rely on the SPPS	Justification
	18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality	+	-	Option 1 is considered necessary to remove bottlenecks in the road network which in the short term should have a minor positive effect on air quality by improving the flow of traffic. However, in the long term it may facilitate an increase in travel by the private car unless it is accompanied with demand management measures. It is considered that Option 2 could have a minor negative effect if design guidance is not included to tackle congestion or improve traffic management.
	19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	+	-	It is considered that Option 1 should reduce emissions associated with road transport. It would therefore have a minor positive effect. It is considered that Option 2 could have a minor negative effect in the absence of further design guidance.
<p>Mitigation or enhancement</p> <p>The support for new road or road improvement schemes must be supported by mitigation measures outlined in design guidance. Increasing road capacity without mitigation measures could facilitate the increase of the private car use and have adverse impacts on the surrounding areas. Design guidance should ensure benefits to the wider community in terms of improved connectivity and reduced severance along with improvements for bus movements, cyclists and pedestrians, particularly in local road schemes.</p>					

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SCR7 – Parking Demand Management

Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Rely on the SPPS	Option 2: Retain existing parking standards and areas of parking restraint	Justification
Social	1	Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society	0	0	Option 1 seeks to influence choice of travel mode through initiatives such as parking supply and pricing policies. This may increase the parking tariff levels and make it less affordable. However, there are 37% of households in Belfast who do not have access to a private vehicle and therefore supply and price of car parking will have no effect. Blue badge parking for the disabled will remain unchanged. It is considered that on balance Option 1 could have no effect. Option 2 could have no effect as current pricing and supply will be retained.
	2	Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	+	-	Option 1 could facilitate the reduction in use of the private car and is likely to encourage more active travel. This should have a minor positive effect on health and wellbeing and improve air quality. Option 2 will not revise the existing demand management measures and therefore could have a minor negative effect.
	3	To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs	+	0	Option 1 will support adequate provision of parking in new developments including housing and is likely to have a minor positive effect. Option 2 will retain the existing standards and therefore could have no effect.
	4	Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour	0	0	Options 1 and 2 could have no effect.
	5	To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities	0	0	Option 1 seeks to influence choice of travel mode through initiatives such as revising parking supply and pricing policies and this should be accompanied by measures to improve public transport access. This is likely to have a negative effect on accessibility for those who wish to travel by car. However, there are 37% of households in Belfast who do not have access to a private vehicle and therefore supply and price of car parking will have no effect. Option 2 will also have a no effect in retaining the current situation.
Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities	0	0	Option 1 is likely to have a negative effect on accessibility for those who wish to travel by car, however, there are 37% of households in Belfast who do not have access to a private vehicle and therefore supply and price of car parking will have no effect. Option 2 will also have no effect retaining the current situation.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Rely on the SPPS	Option 2: Retain existing parking standards and areas of parking restraint	Justification
	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities	O	O	Option 1 seeks to influence choice of travel mode is likely to have no effect. Option 2 will also have no effect, in retaining the current situation.
	8	Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's roles as a regional economic driver	+	-	An appropriate supply of car parking is vital for the economic growth of the city however unrestricted car use can have negative effects by increasing congestion. Option 1 will encourage a modal shift to sustainable travel as part of a balanced approach. It is considered that it could have a minor positive effect. Option 2 will have a minor negative effect by retaining the current situation.
Environmental	9	Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel	++	-	Option 1 seeks to influence choice of travel mode through initiatives such as parking supply and pricing policies. This could encourage sustainable travel and have a significant positive effect. Option 2 could have a minor negative effect as it will not encourage sustainable travel.
	10	Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy	+	-	It is likely that Option 1 could have a positive effect as it will contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from transport by reducing the reliance on the private car. Option 2 could have a negative effect by not revising parking demand management measures to promote a modal shift to sustainable transport modes.
	11	Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species	+	-	Option 1 could have a minor positive effect on biodiversity and habitats by encouraging the use of public transport and contribute to the reduction of air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions associated with the private car. It is considered that Option 2 could have a minor negative effect by continuing to facilitate car use.
	12	Protect and enhance soil quality	+	-	Option 1 can influence travel choice and facilitate the reduction of use of the private car and associated emissions. It could therefore have a minor positive effect. Option 2 could have a minor negative effect by continuing to facilitate car use.
	13	Protect, enhance and manage the quality of the built and historic environment	+	-	Uncontrolled and excess parking can detract from the urban environment. Therefore, revised policy could have a minor positive effect on the built environment. Option 2 is likely to have a minor negative effect as it will not encourage a modal shift, particularly in urban areas.
	14	Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and	O	O	Options 1 and 2 will have no effect.

Key:	++	+	O	-	--	+/-	?
	Significant positive effect	Minor positive effect	No effect or relationship	Minor negative effect	Significant negative effect	Mixed Effects	Uncertain /effect unknown

Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Rely on the SPPS	Option 2: Retain existing parking standards and areas of parking restraint	Justification
		geodiversity.			
	15	Protect and enhance open space and natural greenspace including Belfast's countryside asset	○	○	Options 1 and 2 will have no effect.
	16	Promote the sustainable management of waste	○	○	Options 1 and 2 will have no effect.
	17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources and effective management against flood risk	○	○	Options 1 and 2 will have no effect.
	18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality	++	-	Option 1 could have a significant positive effect by encouraging a modal shift away from private motor vehicle use. Option 2 will keep the existing situation and may resulting in the continuing high level of private car use in the city. It is likely to have a minor negative effect.
	19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	++	-	Option 1 could have a significant positive effect by encouraging a modal shift away from the private motor vehicle use, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport. Option 2 will keep the existing situation and may resulting in the continuing high level of private car use in the city. It is likely to have a minor negative effect.

Mitigation or enhancement: The options seek to influence the choice of travel mode through initiatives such as parking supply and pricing policies. This may increase the parking tariff levels and make it less affordable. Therefore, the promotion of enhanced public transport services which are convenient and affordable is essential to provide an alternative travel choice. The retention of blue badge parking for the disabled should remain or be enhanced to ensure accessibility for all.

SCR8 - Environmental Quality

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	○ No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Enhance Environmental Quality	Option 2 Facilitate Economic Growth Regardless of Adjacent Land Use & Brownfield Sites	Justification
Social	1	Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society.	++	-	Option 1 would have a significant positive effect in helping to reduce environmental inequality as inner city areas of deprivation tend to be affected from air, noise and light pollution. Option 2 would deliver a negative impact because responding to development pressure to promote the growth of the city may cause incompatible land use zonings and create an unacceptable environmental amenity that potentially could be harmful to residents.
	2	Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	++	-	Option 1 is expected to have a significant positive effect in helping to reduce health inequality caused by air and noise pollution, and to minimise incompatible uses being co-located when zoning land uses in the LDP. Option 2 would deliver a negative impact because responding to development pressure to promote the growth of the city may cause incompatible land use zonings and create an unacceptable environmental amenity that potentially could be harmful to residents and businesses.
	3	To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs.	++	-	Option1 is expected to have a significant positive effect to ensure that suitable brownfield sites can be identified for Housing, and providing guidance to advise on remediation of contaminated sites will help to improve the land quality. Option 2 would have a negative impact because the city has a legacy of contaminated sites that require remediation prior to development, there are issues concerning the delays to securing planning due to the lack of information concerning the existence of contamination and proposed remediation strategy. This would affect the timescales for bringing forward development.
	4	Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour.	++	-	Option 1 is expected to have a significant positive effect as it should ensure that noise levels are minimised, and promote appropriately designed lighting to deter crime and antisocial behaviour. Option 2 would deliver a negative impact because responding to development pressure to promote the growth of the city may cause incompatible land use zonings and create an unacceptable environmental amenity that potentially could be harmful to residents.
	5	To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities	0	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.

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++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Enhance Environmental Quality	Option 2 Facilitate Economic Growth Regardless of Adjacent Land Use & Brownfield Sites	Justification
Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities	O	O	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities	O	O	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	8	Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's roles as a regional economic driver	+	-	Option 1 is expected to have a positive effect to ensure that brownfield sites are appropriately remediated to minimise the environmental constraints for development and facilitate economic growth. Option 2 would deliver a negative impact because responding to development pressure to promote the growth of the city may cause incompatible land use zonings and create an unacceptable environmental amenity that potentially could be damaging for potential development and economic growth. This option would not consider providing supplementary guidance to Developers outlining the information required for their planning application. This potentially would cause protracted delays when assessing the planning application and constrain economic growth.
Environmental	9	Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel	+	-	Option 1 is expected to have a positive effect to ensure a reduction in air and noise pollution. It would contribute to the Air Quality Management Area action plan to help reduce NO2. Option 2 would deliver a negative impact because responding to development pressure to promote the growth of the city may cause increased pollution due to additional vehicles creating an unacceptable environmental amenity and increase in GHG emissions.
	10	Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy	+	-	Option 1 is expected to have a positive effect that should help to ensure a reduction in Green House Gas Emissions and help the City contribute to the Executives GHG Emission Targets. Option 2 would deliver a negative impact because responding to development pressure to promote the growth of the city may cause incompatible land use zonings and create an unacceptable environmental amenity that potentially could increase GHG emissions.
	11	Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species	+	-	Option 1 is expected to have a positive effect that should help to ensure a reduction in air, noise, and light pollution, to minimise adverse impacts on biodiversity. In remediating contaminated sites, would help to improve habitats. Option 2 has a negative impact because it would have an adverse impact on environmental quality that would cause potential harm to biodiversity, habitats. Improving air quality is a pressing issue and the RDS and the SPPS guidance is clear that planning should

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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Enhance Environmental Quality	Option 2 Facilitate Economic Growth Regardless of Adjacent Land Use & Brownfield Sites	Justification
				support improving air quality in the city.
12	Protect and enhance soil quality	+	-	Option 1 is expected to have a positive effect to ensure a reduction in air pollution, to minimise further acidification of soils. In remediating contaminated sites, would help to improve soil quality. Option 2 has a negative impact because it would have an adverse impact on soil quality that would cause potential harm to humans' and biodiversity, improving air quality and reducing GHG emissions is a pressing issue and the RDS and the SPPS guidance is clear that planning should support improving air quality in the city.
13	Protect, enhance and manage the quality of the built and historic environment	+	-	Option 1 is expected to have a positive effect that should help to ensure a reduction in air and light pollution, minimise adverse effect on the building fabric. To ensure appropriate lighting scheme to enhance the built environment. Option 2 has a negative impact because it would have an adverse impact on the built heritage; particularly light pollution due poor quality lighting would reduce the attractiveness of the built environment.
14	Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.	+	-	Option1 is expected to have a positive effect that should help to ensure a reduction in air, noise, and light pollution, to minimise adverse impacts on the landscape and geodiversity. Option 2 would deliver a negative impact because responding to development pressure to promote the growth of the city may cause incompatible land use zonings, increase pollution and create an unacceptable environmental amenity
15	Protect and enhance open space and natural green space including Belfast's countryside asset	+	-	Option 1 is expected to have a positive effect that should help to ensure a reduction in air, noise, and light pollution, to minimise adverse impacts on the open space and natural green space including the countryside asset. Option 2 would deliver a negative impact because responding to development pressure to promote the growth of the city may cause, increase pollution and create an unacceptable environmental amenity
16	Promote the sustainable management of waste	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources.	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued	+	-	Option 2 is expected to have a positive effect that should help to ensure a reduction in air pollution. It would contribute to the Air Quality Management Area action plan

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++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	○ No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Enhance Environmental Quality	Option 2 Facilitate Economic Growth Regardless of Adjacent Land Use & Brownfield Sites	Justification
		improvements to air quality			to reduce NO2. Option 2 would deliver a negative impact because responding to development pressure to promote the growth of the city may cause increased pollution creating an unacceptable environmental amenity and increase in GHG emissions.
	19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	+	-	Option 1 is expected to have a positive effect that should help to ensure a reduction in Green House Gas Emissions to mitigate environmental change. Option 2 would deliver a negative impact because responding to development pressure to promote the growth of the city may cause increased pollution creating an unacceptable environmental amenity and increase in GHG emissions.
Mitigation or enhancement:					

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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SCR9 – Mitigating Environmental Change

Theme		SA Objective	Only Option Mitigating Environmental Change	Justification
Social	1	Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society	+	The option is expected to have a positive effect that should help to help reduce environmental inequality as areas of deprivation tend to be affected by poor air quality due to their location in the inner city.
	2	Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	+	The option is expected to have a positive effect that should help to reduce health inequality due to poor air quality caused by greenhouse gas emissions. This would also help to minimise households living in fuel poverty, which can impact on health and wellbeing.
	3	To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs	+	The option is expected to have a positive effect that should help to reduce GHG emissions, requires improvement in house design and energy efficiency. This would also help to minimise households living in fuel poverty.
	4	Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	5	To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities	+	The option is expected to have a positive effect that should help to improve sustainable transport links to provide better access to services and facilities that should reduce dependency on car use, reduce congestion, and minimise GHG emissions, to contribute to government targets.
	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities	+	The option is expected to have a positive effect that should help to Improve sustainable transport links to provide better access between neighbourhoods and employment areas that should reduce dependency on car use, reduce congestion, and minimise GHG emissions, to secure government targets.
	8	Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's roles as a regional economic driver	+	The option is expected to have a positive effect in mitigating environmental change will strengthen the city's economic resilience and competitiveness, by adopting clean technology to deliver energy efficiency, and a sustainable transport infrastructure to reduce GHG
Environmental	9	Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel	+	The option is expected to have a positive effect in reducing car journeys and promoting public transport walking and cycling will help to reduce GHG emissions.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Only Option Mitigating Environmental Change	Justification
	10	Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy	+	The option is expected to have a positive effect in mitigating environmental change will involve adopting clean technology to deliver renewable energy and energy efficiency, and a sustainable transport infrastructure to reduce GHG emissions
	11	Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species	+	The option is expected to have a positive effect mitigating environmental change to reduce GHG emissions and improve air quality should benefit biodiversity.
	12	Protect and enhance soil quality	+	The option is expected to have a positive effect mitigating environmental change to reduce GHG emissions should help to reduce the acidification of soils due to airborne pollutants.
	13	Protect, enhance and manage the quality of the built and historic environment	+	The option is expected to have a positive effect mitigating environmental change to reduce GHG emissions should help to reduce damage to the exterior fabric of buildings due to acidification of rain water.
	14	Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.	+	The option is expected to have a positive effect mitigating environmental change to reduce GHG emissions should help to minimise temperature changes and intense rainfall that would cause erosion of geological features and impact on native plant species.
	15	Protect and enhance open space and natural green space including Belfast's countryside asset	+	The option is expected to have a positive effect mitigating environmental change to reduce GHG emissions should ensure that open and green spaces have improved air quality. As well as minimise temperature changes and intense rainfall that would impact on native plant species.
	16	Promote the sustainable management of waste	+	The option is expected to have a positive effect mitigating environmental change to reduce GHG emissions from methane gas caused by decomposing waste in landfill sites, the LDP will facilitate recycling and the development of the circular economy.
	17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources	+	The option is expected to have a positive effect mitigating environmental change to reduce GHG emissions should help to reduce the acidification of water due to airborne pollutants in rain water.
	18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality	+	The option is expected to have a positive effect mitigating environmental change to reduce GHG emissions should help to improve air quality.
	19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	+	The option is expected to have a positive effect mitigating environmental change to reduce GHG emissions should help to minimise temperature changes and intense rainfall that would cause flash floods.

Mitigation or enhancement

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	O No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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SCR10 – Renewable Energy

Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Renewable Energy	Option 2 Maintain Existing Policies for Renewable Energy	Justification
Social	1	Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society	++	+	Option1 has a significant positive effect because it provides opportunities for community renewable energy schemes to build resilience and cohesion. Option 2 has a positive effect, though there would potentially be a lack of a planned and integrated network appropriate for the urban area, which may not maximise the potential benefits for community renewable energy schemes.
	2	Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	++	+	Option1 has a significant positive effect because it provides opportunities for reducing fuel poverty in Belfast and help to improve health outcomes in the reduction of GHG emissions. Option 2 would deliver a positive effect however there would potentially be a lack of a planned and integrated network appropriate for the urban area, which would not maximise the potential benefits of a planned district heating system to reduce the use of fossil fuels for space heating.
	3	To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs	++	+	Option1 has a significant positive effect because it provides opportunities for reducing fuel poverty through the adoption of renewable energy i.e. solar panels and energy efficiency measures. Option 2 would deliver a positive effect however there would potentially be a lack of a planned and integrated network appropriate for the urban area, which would not maximise the potential benefits of a planned district heating system to reduce the use of fossil fuels for space heating or help to reduce fuel poverty.
	4	Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour	o	o	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	5	To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities	o	o	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities	o	o	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	o No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Renewable Energy	Option 2 Maintain Existing Policies for Renewable Energy	Justification
	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities	O	O	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	8	Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's roles as a regional economic driver	++	+	Option1 has a significant positive effect because it promotes the development of decentralised renewable energy generation and district heating schemes will build a resilient city economy, offer energy security, and provide a competitive advantage for businesses requiring renewable energy power source. Option 2 would have a positive effect in delivering renewable energy schemes, though more effort is required for a planned and integrated renewable energy and district heating network within the city. This would potential lead to piece meal development of district heating systems and economy of scale may not be achieved top be able to minimise energy cost.
Environmental	9	Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel	O	O	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	10	Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy	++	+	Option 1 would deliver a strongly positive effect because it is focussed on developing a planned and integrated renewable energy supply appropriate for the urban environment; The adoption of clean renewable energy technology will reduce GHG emissions and provide energy security that should help in the transition to a low carbon economy. Option 2 would have a positive effect in delivering renewable energy schemes, though this option would potential lead to piece meal development of district heating systems and economy of scale may not be achieved to be able to minimise GHG emission to enable the transition to a low carbon city.
	11	Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species	+	-	Option 1 has a positive effect because it will enable the adoption of clean renewable energy technology within the urban environment which should reduce GHG emissions and improve air quality for biodiversity. Option 2 has a negative effect in delivering renewable energy schemes within the urban environment, because more effort is required to facilitate a planned and integrated renewable energy and district heating network within the city to be able to deliver the environmental benefits of reducing GHG emissions and improving air quality.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	O No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Renewable Energy	Option 2 Maintain Existing Policies for Renewable Energy	Justification
	12	Protect and enhance soil quality	+	-	Option 1 has a positive effect because the adoption of clean renewable energy technology should reduce GHG emissions and improve air quality to mitigate the acidification of soils due to airborne pollutants. Option 2 has a negative effect in delivering renewable energy schemes within the urban environment, because more effort is required to facilitate a planned and integrated renewable energy and district heating network within the city to be able to deliver the environmental benefits of reducing GHG emissions and improving air quality.
	13	Protect, enhance and manage the quality of the built and historic environment	+/-	-	Option 1 has a mixed effect because the adoption of clean renewable energy technology should reduce GHG emissions and improve air quality to mitigate the acidification of the exterior fabric of buildings. Though certain renewable technologies may not be appropriate for historic buildings, a renewable district heating scheme may have a positive effect. Option 2 has a negative effect in delivering renewable energy schemes within the urban environment, may not facilitate a planned and integrated renewable energy and district heating network within the city to deliver the environmental benefits of reducing GHG emissions improving air quality and providing a potential renewable heat solutions for historic buildings.
	14	Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.	+	-	Option 1 has a positive effect because the adoption of clean renewable energy technology in the urban area should reduce GHG emissions that would help to minimise temperature changes and intense rainfall that would cause erosion of geological features and impact on native plant species. Option 2 has a negative effect because it would not facilitate the delivery of a planned and integrated renewable energy and district heating network within the city thereby GHG emissions would not be reduced to contribute towards the Climate Change Act targets to mitigate environmental change.
	15	Protect and enhance open space and natural green space including Belfast's countryside asset	+	-	Option 1 has a positive effect because the adoption of clean renewable energy technology should reduce GHG emissions should ensure that open and green spaces have improved air quality. As well as minimise temperature changes and intense rainfall that would impact on native plant species. Option 2 has a negative effect because it would not facilitate the delivery of a planned and integrated renewable energy and district heating network within the city thereby GHG emissions would not be reduced to contribute towards the Climate Change Act targets to mitigate

Key:	++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Renewable Energy	Option 2 Maintain Existing Policies for Renewable Energy	Justification
				environmental change.
16	Promote the sustainable management of waste	++	-	Option 1 has a significant positive effect because the adoption of clean renewable energy technology should reduce GHG emissions from methane gas caused by decomposing waste in landfill sites, the LDP will facilitate recycling and the development of the circular economy whereby energy can be produced from waste. Option 2 has a negative effect because it would not facilitate the delivery of a planned and integrated renewable energy and district heating network within the city thereby GHG emissions would not be reduced to contribute towards the Climate Change Act targets to mitigate environmental change.
17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources.	0	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality	+	-	Option 1 has a positive effect because the adoption of clean renewable energy technology should reduce GHG emissions should help to improve air quality. Option 2 has a negative effect because it would not facilitate the delivery of a planned and integrated renewable energy and district heating network within the city thereby GHG emissions would not be reduced to contribute towards the Climate Change Act targets to mitigate environmental change.
19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	+	-	Option 1 has a positive effect because renewable energy schemes in the urban area should help to reduce GHG emissions and mitigate environmental change that contributes to increase flood risks. Option 2 has a negative effect because it would not facilitate the delivery of a planned and integrated renewable energy and district heating network within the city thereby GHG emissions would not be reduced to contribute towards the Climate Change Act targets to mitigate environmental change and increased flood risks.
Mitigation or Enhancement				

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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SCR11 – Adapting to Environmental Change

Theme		SA Objective	Only Option Adapting to Environmental Change	Justification
Social	1	Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society	+	The adapting to environmental change option has a positive effect because it would help to build community resilience and cohesion.
	2	Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	+	The option has a positive effect because adapting to environmental change through the delivery of a green and blue infrastructure network, should help minimise the impact of high temperature on the health of young and older people. Also, there should be a reduction in ill health due to a decrease in fuel poverty with improved energy efficiency measures.
	3	To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs	+	The option has a positive effect because adapting to environmental change involves promoting passive solar housing and ensuring housing is not built on flood plains. Potential to reduce household fuel poverty with improved energy efficiency measures.
	4	Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	5	To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	8	Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's roles as a regional economic driver	+	The option has a positive effect because adapting to environmental change would facilitate the delivery of the green and blue infrastructure to minimise the impact of higher temperature and intense rainfall, it should also help to build the City's economic resilience making it attractive for investment.
Environmental	9	Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel	+	The option has a positive effect because adapting to environmental change would facilitate the implementation of an integrated green and blue infrastructure which should provide safe routes for walking and cycling.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Only Option Adapting to Environmental Change	Justification
	10	Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy	+	The option has a positive effect because adapting to environmental change would involve the development of sustainable clean technology and the green and blue infrastructure to support the transition to a low carbon economy.
	11	Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species	+	The option has a positive effect because adapting to environmental change involves the development of an integrated green and blue infrastructure which should provide ecological corridors for wildlife
	12	Protect and enhance soil quality	+	The option has a positive effect because adapting to environmental change involves the development of an integrated green and blue infrastructure with increasing vegetation cover and trees would help to improve soil quality. It would also help to prevent loss of top soils due to flash floods.
	13	Protect, enhance and manage the quality of the built and historic environment	+	The option has a positive effect because adapting to environmental change to develop an integrated green and blue infrastructure within the urban environment to provide shade and sustainable urban drainage to minimise the impact of changing weather would enhance the historic environment.
	14	Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.	+	The option has a positive effect because adapting to environmental change to develop an integrated green and blue infrastructure sustainable urban drainage to minimise the impact of intense rainfall and erosion of the landscape and geodiversity.
	15	Protect and enhance open space and natural green space including Belfast's countryside asset	++	The option has a significant positive effect because adapting to environmental change to develop an integrated green and blue infrastructure within the urban environment to provide a multi-functional network of accessible open spaces for recreation and nature.
	16	Promote the sustainable management of waste	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources	+	The option has a positive effect because adapting to environmental change to develop an integrated green and blue infrastructure within the urban environment to provide a sustainable urban drainage network and to promote grey water recycling.
	18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Only Option Adapting to Environmental Change	Justification
	19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	+	The option has a significant positive effect because adapting to environmental change to develop an integrated green and blue infrastructure within the urban environment to provide shade to mitigate the effects of the urban heat island. The sustainable urban drainage would help to minimise the impact of flooding. by reducing the speed of storm water flows after heavy rainfall.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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SCR12 – Flood Risk

Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Review Existing Policy to Manage & Mitigate Potential Flood Risk	Option 2 Adopt Sequential Approach for Zoning Land Use to Minimise Flood Risk	Justification
Social	1	Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society	+	-/+	Option one has a positive effect because Belfast is vulnerable to the potential flood risk from coastal, rivers combined sewers, and surface runoff. Added protection to manage flood risk is important to existing communities and infrastructure to build community resilience and cohesion. Option two would have a mixed effect because sequential land use zoning based on flood probability, would be beneficial in mitigating the flood risk for vulnerable uses; however, this would have a potential impact in restricting population and economic growth.
	2	Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	+	+	Option one has a positive effect because managing flood risk is important to build community resilience because it can impact on health due to water borne disease. Option two has a positive effect because sequential land use zoning based on flood probability, would be beneficial in mitigating the flood risk for vulnerable lands uses and protect health from water borne disease.
	3	To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs	+	-/+	Option one has a positive effect because managing flood risk is important to ensure that land use zoning for residential sites are not located in high risk flood areas. But it will ensure that the projected housing needs can be developed in Belfast Option two has a mixed effect because sequential land use zoning based on flood probability, would be beneficial in mitigating the flood risk for vulnerable lands uses particularly housing, though it potentially could restrict the supply of land for developing the projected housing need in the City.
	4	Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour	o	o	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	5	To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities	o	o	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	o No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Review Existing Policy to Manage & Mitigate Potential Flood Risk	Option 2 Adopt Sequential Approach for Zoning Land Use to Minimise Flood Risk	Justification
Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	8	Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's roles as a regional economic driver	+	-/+	Option one would have a positive effect because in managing flood risk through the incorporation sustainable urban drainage solutions and green and blue infrastructure network could help to minimise potential damage from flooding. It would help to build the City's resilience to ensure that it is attractive for investment. Option two would have a mixed effect because sequential land use zoning based on flood probability, would be beneficial in mitigating the flood risk for vulnerable uses; however, this would have a potential impact in restricting population and economic growth.
Environmental	9	Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	10	Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	11	Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species	+	-	Option one would have a positive effect because managing flood risk through the development of a green and blue infrastructure network incorporating a sustainable urban drainage system would provide an ecological corridor and help to protect habitats. Option 2 has a negative effect as it is focussed on a sequential approach to land zoning to mitigate flood risk.
	12	Protect and enhance soil quality	+	-	Option one would have a positive effect because managing flood risk through the development of a green and blue infrastructure network would help to protect soil quality from the impact of flash flooding which could cause erosion. Option 2 has a negative effect as it is focussed on a sequential approach to land zoning to mitigate flood risk and would not be a potential flood risk solution to protecting existing buildings.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	○ No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Review Existing Policy to Manage & Mitigate Potential Flood Risk	Option 2 Adopt Sequential Approach for Zoning Land Use to Minimise Flood Risk	Justification
	13	Protect, enhance and manage the quality of the built and historic environment	+	-	Option one would have a positive effect because managing flood risk through sustainable urban drainage system and land use zoning to minimise potential damage to property. Option 2 has a negative effect as it is focussed on a sequential approach to land zoning to mitigate flood risk.
	14	Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.	+	-	Option one would have a positive effect because managing flood risk through the development of a green and blue infrastructure network incorporating a sustainable urban drainage system which could provide an ecological corridor and help to protect habitats. Option 2 has a negative effect as it is focussed on a sequential approach to land zoning to mitigate flood risk.
	15	Protect and enhance open space and natural green space including Belfast's countryside asset	+	-	Option one would have a positive effect because managing flood risk through the development of a green and blue infrastructure network incorporating a sustainable urban drainage system which could provide a valuable recreational resource for the City. Option 2 has a negative effect as it is focussed on a sequential approach to land zoning to mitigate flood risk.
	16	Promote the sustainable management of waste	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources	+	○	Option one would have a positive effect because managing flood risk through a sustainable urban drainage network mimics the natural water cycle and reduces the volume of storm water in the waste water pipe network which has to be treated. Option 2 has the options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	+	-/+	Option one would have a positive effect because managing flood risk through the development of a green and blue infrastructure network incorporating a sustainable urban drainage system, trees, green roofs and walls to help absorb storm water and slow the potential for flash flood events. Option 2 has a mixed effect as it is focussed on a sequential approach to land zoning to mitigate flood risk but would not enhance the protection of the built environment.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	○ No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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SCR13 – Waste Infrastructure

Theme		SA Objective	Only Option Facilitate New Infrastructure or Upgrade Existing Facilities	Justification
Social	1	Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society	O	The option would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	2	Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	++	Sustainable waste management is essential for health and wellbeing, and our quality of life. In enabling a shift towards a circular economy, the Option would have a significant positive effect on this SA Objective by contributing towards a reduction in the adverse effects of waste.
	3	To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs	+/-	The Option would have mixed effects on this SA Objective. It has potential to bring some localised positive effects by helping to ensure that appropriate provision is made for the storage of waste recycling containers in all new development schemes to maintain a high quality environment. The upgrade of existing facilities also has potential to improve the management of wastewater. Conversely, facilitating an upgrade of existing facilities that exist in close proximity to residential development, and the development of new facilities and infrastructure, depending on location, have potential to have a negative impact on this SA Objective.
	4	Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour	O	The option would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	5	To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities	O	The option would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities	++	By having regard to the proximity principle, the Option would have a significant positive effect on this SA Objective in that it would help to ensure that new waste facilities and infrastructure are conveniently located, to both residents of the city and its waste collection operators.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	O No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities	++	The waste management industry is an important provider of jobs and investment. The Option would enable a shift towards a circular economy, and thereby, contribute to the development of employment opportunities arising from the reuse, remanufacture and refurbishment of goods. This Option would, therefore, have a significant positive effect on this SA Objective.
	8	Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's roles as a regional economic driver	++	The waste management industry is an important provider of jobs and investment. The Option would have a significant positive effect on this SA Objective by facilitating inward investment from businesses associated with the waste management sector and in encouraging new start-ups, which recognise the business opportunities to be found within the circular economy.
Environmental	9	Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel	+	By having regard to the proximity principle, the Option would have a minor positive effect on this SA Objective in that it would help to ensure that new waste facilities and infrastructure are conveniently located. This would have consequential benefits in facilitating a reduction in the travel distances of residents when disposing of products and materials at waste management and recycling centres, and also in helping to reduce the mileage intensity of heavy goods vehicles used by waste collection operators.
	10	Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy	++	By facilitating the development of new infrastructure or an upgrade of existing facilities to contribute towards an increase in resource efficiency, and which enables a shift towards a circular economy, the Option would have a significant positive effect on this SA Objective.
	11	Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species	+	The Option would have a minor positive effect on this SA Objective. Whilst any potential impact of new waste facilities or infrastructure would depend on the location of the proposed development, the Option, in facilitating the development of new infrastructure in appropriate locations could help direct new waste facilities and infrastructure away from areas that are deemed to be of significant importance.
	12	Protect and enhance soil quality	+	In enabling a shift towards a circular economy, the Option would encourage a lesser focus on landfill operations. This would help to prevent a need for new landfill sites. The Option would, therefore, have a minor positive effect on this SA Objective.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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13	Protect, enhance and manage the quality of the built and historic environment	+	The Option would have a minor positive effect on this SA Objective. Whilst any potential impact of new waste facilities or infrastructure would depend on the location of the proposed development, the Option, in facilitating the development of new infrastructure in appropriate locations could help direct new waste facilities and infrastructure away from important areas of the built and historic environment. In addition, the Option would ensure that appropriate provision is made for the storage of waste recycling containers in all new development schemes, which would help to maintain the quality of the built environment.
14	Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.	+	Any potential new infrastructure or upgrade of existing facilities, have potential to generate some level of visual intrusion. Whilst any potential impact of new waste facilities or infrastructure would depend on the location of the proposed development, the Option, in facilitating the development of new infrastructure in appropriate locations could help direct new waste facilities and infrastructure away from specific areas in a way which helps to protect the quality of the City's distinctive landscape and diversity. Enabling a shift towards a circular economy would also help to prevent a need for new landfill sites.
15	Protect and enhance open space and natural greenspace including Belfast's countryside asset	+	The Option would have a minor positive effect on this SA Objective. Whilst any potential impact of new waste facilities or infrastructure would depend on the location of the proposed development, the Option, in facilitating the development of new infrastructure in appropriate locations could help direct new waste facilities and infrastructure away from areas of open space and natural greenspace, including Belfast's countryside asset.
16	Promote the sustainable management of waste	++	The option would have a significant positive effect on this SA Objective by facilitating development to contribute towards an increase in resource efficiency, and which enables a shift towards a circular economy. This would help to reduce the consumption of materials and resources, and to promote a more sustainable management of waste, by encouraging an environment in which materials are reused and remanufactured as standard.
17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources	+	The option would have a minor positive effect on this SA Objective. There is potential for the discharge of wastewater from facilities, including recycling plants. Enabling a shift towards a circular economy and facilitating an upgrade of existing facilities could help to encourage more effective management of wastewater.
18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality	+	The Option would have a minor positive effect on this SA Objective by enabling a shift towards a circular economy which would contribute towards improving air quality, by helping to prevent the need for landfill operations which result in harmful emissions to air.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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	19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk	+	The Option would have a minor positive effect on this SA Objective by enabling a shift towards a circular economy which would contribute towards improving air quality, by helping to prevent the need for landfill operations which result in harmful emissions to air.
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Mitigation or enhancement:

SA Objectives 3, 11, 13 & 15 – A precautionary approach and the use of locational criteria could help to further direct new waste facilities and infrastructure away from important areas of the City.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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GA1 – Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation

Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Open Space, Sport, & Outdoor Recreation	Option 2 Retain Existing Public & Private Open Spaces in Plan Area	Justification
Social	1	Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society	++	-	Option one has a significant positive effect because an integrated and connected network would provide safe access to open spaces that could help to reduce inequality and build community cohesion. Option two has a negative effect as it would not provide the opportunity to encourage the connections between the open spaces and neighbourhoods to provide safe access to bring communities together.
	2	Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	++	-	Option one has a significant positive effect because it would ensure that there is safe access to open spaces through a connected network of walkways and cycleways, to encourage activity and exercise to improve health outcomes. Option two has a negative effect as it would not provide the opportunity to encourage the connections between the open spaces and neighbourhoods to provide safe access which would encourage increased physical activity and mental wellbeing.
	3	To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs	++	-	Option one has a significant positive effect because it would ensure that there is quality open space or easy access to an open space network from residential areas. Opportunities to enhance the residential environment that is attractive. Option two has a negative effect as it retains the existing open spaces designated in the plan. It does not provide the opportunity to link residential areas to a network of open spaces.
	4	Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour	++	-/+	Option one has a significant positive effect because quality accessible open space would be designed as defensible spaces to encourage more active uses of the spaces to deter crime and anti social behaviour. Option 2 has a mixed effect because the existing open spaces designated in the plan are not integrated into a green infrastructure network. It does not provide the opportunity to link residential areas to a network of open spaces that would encourage increased public use of the recreational spaces for walking and cycling.
	5	To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities	0	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Open Space, Sport, & Outdoor Recreation	Option 2 Retain Existing Public & Private Open Spaces in Plan Area	Justification
Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities	+	-/+	Option one has a positive effect because a green and blue infrastructure network for walking and cycling through linear open spaces could provide attractive accessible routes between residential areas and local services that would encourage an active lifestyle. Option 2 has a mixed effect because there is limited proposal for greenways, but option one scores higher because it proactively integrates potential linear pathways and cycleways.
	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities	+	-/+	Option one has a positive effect because a green and blue infrastructure network for walking and cycling through linear open spaces could provide attractive accessible routes between residential areas and local services that would encourage an active lifestyle. Option 2 has a mixed effect because there is limited proposal for greenways, but option one scores higher because it proactively integrates potential linear pathways and cycleways.
	8	Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's roles as a regional economic driver	++	-	Option one has a significant positive effect because it recognises that there is a unique relationship between a vibrant city and its green spaces that helps to make the city an attractive place to live, work and visit. The city's green and blue infrastructure could create a positive visual impression that could have a beneficial impact on the local economy through increased tourism, enhanced appeal for inward investment, and direct job creation and employment. Option 2 has a negative impact because it could provide more brownfield sites for development uses. However, with the predicted growth of the city there is a need to provide open space which will add to attractiveness of the city, and provide recreational areas for residents and visitors.
Environmental	9	Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel	++	-/+	Option one has a significant positive effect because a green and blue infrastructure network for walking and cycling through linear open spaces could provide attractive accessible routes between residential areas and local services that would encourage an active lifestyle. Option 2 has a mixed effect because there is limited proposal for greenways, but option one scores higher because it proactively integrates potential linear pathways and cycleways.
	10	Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy	++	-/+	Option 1 has a significant positive effect because an integrated green and blue infrastructure network for walking and cycling would reduce the number of car journeys and reduce GHG emissions. Option 2 has a mixed effect because there is limited proposal for greenways, but option one scores higher because it proactively integrates potential linear pathways and cycleways, which will attract more users because greater continuous dedicated routes in Belfast.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Open Space, Sport, & Outdoor Recreation	Option 2 Retain Existing Public & Private Open Spaces in Plan Area	Justification
11	Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species	+	-/+	Option one has a positive effect because an integrated and connected green and blue infrastructure would have the potential to provide ecological corridors between the city centre and the countryside for wildlife and green spaces for wildlife habitats. Option two would have a mixed effect impact because of the lack of potential interconnectivity of green and blue open spaces to create potential ecological corridors.
12	Protect and enhance soil quality	+	-/+	Option one would have a positive effect because the development of a green and blue infrastructure network with more SuD's, vegetation and tree cover would help to protect soil quality from the impact of flash flooding which could cause erosion. Option 2 has a mixed effect as it does not proactively promote the integrated green and blue infrastructure, though open spaces are protected.
13	Protect, enhance and manage the quality of the built and historic environment	++	+	Option one would have a significant positive effect because the development of a green and blue infrastructure network of good quality open spaces and boulevards would protect and enhance the quality of the built environment. Option 2 has a positive effect because it would visually enhance the quality of the built and historic environment, though option one would provide additional protection through the incorporation of attractive sustainable drainage solutions.
14	Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.	+	-/+	Option one would have a positive effect because the development of a green and blue infrastructure network of good quality open spaces and natural heritage spaces would be zoned to protect valuable spaces for biodiversity and enhance the setting of the City. It would also protect the features from environmental change. Option 2 has a mixed effect because it would visually enhance the features of the natural environment, though option one would provide additional protection through the incorporation of attractive sustainable drainage solutions that would mitigate the impact of environmental change.
15	Protect and enhance open space and natural green space including Belfast's countryside asset	+	-/+	Option one would have a positive effect because the development of a green and blue infrastructure network of good quality network of connected open and green spaces could provide access from the city to the countryside for recreational activities. Option 2 has a mixed effect because it would protect existing open spaces for recreation and links to the countryside option one would provide additional protection through the incorporation of attractive sustainable drainage solutions that would mitigate the impact of environmental change.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Open Space, Sport, & Outdoor Recreation	Option 2 Retain Existing Public & Private Open Spaces in Plan Area	Justification
	16	Promote the sustainable management of waste	O	O	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources	+	-	Option one has a positive effect because an integrated green and blue infrastructure network of connected open and green spaces incorporating a sustainable urban drainage network to mimic the natural water cycle would help to improve water quality and encourage grey water recycling. Option two does not consider the integration of the green and blue infrastructure to provide a network of SUD's that would encourage better use of the water resources.
	18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality	+	+	Both options would have a positive effect green open spaces should be protected as trees and vegetation help to absorb GHG emissions and improve air quality.
	19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	++	-/+	Option one has a significant positive effect because an integrated green and blue infrastructure network of connected open and green spaces incorporating a sustainable urban drainage network to mimic the natural water cycle would help to mitigate potential flood risk. Option two does not consider the integration of the green and blue infrastructure to provide a network of SUD's. that would mitigate flood risk. Both options would provide green spaces containing vegetation and trees that would provide natural cooling and shade to protect the public from higher temperatures.
Mitigation and Enhancement					

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	O No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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GA2 – Provision of New Open Space and Green Corridors

Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Integrated Plan for Provision of New Open Space & Provision of Green & Blue Infrastructure	Option 2 Provision of New Open Space & Green Corridors	Justification	
Social	1	Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society	++	-/+	Parts of Belfast have poor access to open spaces. Option one has a significant positive effect because the potential to use a master plan to seek section 76 Developer contributions would help to create a planned accessible integrated network of open spaces in the City. This would help to build cohesive communities with new linkages between open spaces that are accessible and attractive Option two has a mix of positive and negative effects because it proposes a case by case approach is likely to be piecemeal delivery of open spaces and linkages.
	2	Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	++	+	Parts of Belfast have poor access to open spaces and contribute to the health inequalities. Option one has a significant positive effect because the potential to use a master plan to seek section 76 Developer contributions would help to create an accessible integrated network of open spaces in the City that would encourage a healthier lifestyle with more activity to improve health outcomes. Option two has a positive effect because it proposes a case by case approach is likely to be piecemeal delivery of open spaces and linkages, it would take longer to secure the potential health benefits secure through increase physical activity of walking and cycling.
	3	To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs	++	+	Option one has a significant positive effect because the potential to seek section 76 Developer contributions would help to create a planned accessible integrated network of open spaces within and without the housing areas that could improve environmental quality and create attractive green routes to nearby open spaces. Option two has a positive effect because it proposes a case by case approach is likely to be piecemeal delivery of open spaces and linkages that may result in left over space that has little value or benefit to the community or the wider city.
	4	Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour	++	-	Option one has a significant positive effect because the provision of new quality spaces and linkages that are accessible and attractive to the community will generate higher usage would deter crime and anti-social behaviour. Option two, has a negative effect because it proposes a case by case approach is likely to be piecemeal delivery of open spaces and linkages that may result in left over space that has little value to the community that become gathering spaces for anti-social behaviour.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Integrated Plan for Provision of New Open Space & Provision of Green & Blue Infrastructure	Option 2 Provision of New Open Space & Green Corridors	Justification
	5 To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities	O	O	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
Economic	6 Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities	+	-	Option one has a positive effect because the potential to seek section 76 Developer contributions would help to create a planned accessible integrated network of open spaces in the City that would encourage connected walking and cycling routes between residential areas and local services. This would promote an active lifestyle. Option two has a negative effect because it proposes a case by case approach is likely to be piecemeal delivery of open spaces and linkages that may not result in creating attractive integrated links between residential and local services
	7 To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities	+	-	Option one has a positive effect because the potential to seek section 76 Developer contributions would help to create a planned accessible integrated network of open spaces in the City that would encourage connected walking and cycling routes between residential areas and employment areas. This would promote an active lifestyle. Option two has a negative effect because it proposes a case by case approach is likely to be piecemeal delivery of open spaces and linkages that may not result in creating attractive sustainable integrated links between residential and employment areas.
	8 Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's roles as a regional economic driver	++	-/+	Option one has a positive effect because the potential to seek section 76 Developer contributions would help to create a planned accessible integrated network of open spaces in the City that would encourage connected walking and cycling routes between residential areas and City Centre. It would also enhance the quality of the City's image and make it attractive for potential investors and growing the population. Option two has a mixed effect because there would be no overall plan and guidance to determine which components of the network should be funded. This option is a piecemeal approach that lacks an overall coherent plan to deliver a green and blue infrastructure network in the City.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	O No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Integrated Plan for Provision of New Open Space & Provision of Green & Blue Infrastructure	Option 2 Provision of New Open Space & Green Corridors	Justification
Environmental	9	Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel	++	-	Option one has a significant effect because the potential to seek section 76 Developer contributions based on a planned accessible integrated network of open spaces in the City would encourage the delivery of a connected safe walking and cycling routes within an integrated green and blue infrastructure network. Option two has a negative effect because there would be no overall plan and guidance to determine which components of the network should be funded. This option is a piecemeal approach that lacks an overall coherent plan to deliver a green and blue infrastructure network that could incorporate cycling and walking routes in the City.
	10	Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy	++	-	Option one has a significant positive effect because the potential to seek section 76 Developer contributions would help to create an integrated green and blue infrastructure network for walking and cycling would reduce the number of car journeys and reduce GHG emissions. Option two has a negative effect because there would be no overall plan and guidance to determine which components of the network should be funded. This option is a piecemeal approach that lacks an overall coherent plan to deliver a green and blue infrastructure network that could incorporate cycling and walking routes in the City.
	11	Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species	+	-	Option one has a positive effect because the potential to seek section 76 Developer contributions would help to create an integrated green and blue infrastructure network of open and green spaces that could provide an ecological corridor for wildlife. It could mitigate the potential impact of the development on biodiversity. Option two has a negative effect because there would be no overall plan and guidance to determine which components of the network should be funded. This option is a piecemeal approach that lacks an overall coherent plan to deliver a green and blue infrastructure network that could incorporate wildlife corridors.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Integrated Plan for Provision of New Open Space & Provision of Green & Blue Infrastructure	Option 2 Provision of New Open Space & Green Corridors	Justification
	12 Protect and enhance soil quality	+	-	Option one has a positive effect because the potential to seek section 76 Developer contributions would help to create a planned integrated green and blue infrastructure, encouraging more vegetation and trees could help to protect soil quality. The blue infrastructure of an integrated SUD's would help to protect soils from flash floods. Option two has a negative effect because there would be no overall plan and guidance to determine which components of the network should be funded. This option is a piecemeal approach that lacks an overall coherent plan to deliver a green and blue infrastructure network that could incorporate SUD's leading to a higher incidence of soil quality erosion.
	13 Protect, enhance and manage the quality of the built and historic environment	+	-	Option one has a positive effect because the potential to seek section 76 Developer contributions would help to create a planned green and blue infrastructure network of good quality open spaces and boulevards that could enhance the quality of the built environment. Option two has a negative effect because there would be no overall plan and guidance to determine which components of the network should be funded delivering a piecemeal approach to design and spatial layouts.
	14 Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.	+	-	Option one has a positive effect because the potential to seek section 76 Developer contributions would help to create a green and blue infrastructure network of good quality open spaces and natural heritage spaces should be zoned to protect valuable spaces for biodiversity and enhance the setting of the City. Option two has a negative effect because there would be no overall plan and guidance to determine which components of the network should be funded delivering a piecemeal approach to design and spatial layouts that would not protect or enhance the features and natural heritage.
	15 Protect and enhance open space and natural green space including Belfast's countryside asset	+	-	Option one has a positive effect because the potential to seek section 76 Developer contributions would help to create planned integrated green and blue infrastructure network of connected open and green spaces that could provide access from the city to the countryside for recreational activities. Option two has a negative effect because there would be no overall plan and guidance to determine which components of the network should be funded delivering a piecemeal approach to design and spatial layouts that would not provide the enhancement of open spaces and connectivity to the countryside.

Key:	++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme		SA Objective	Option 1 Integrated Plan for Provision of New Open Space & Provision of Green & Blue Infrastructure	Option 2 Provision of New Open Space & Green Corridors	Justification
	16	Promote the sustainable management of waste	O	O	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources	+	-	Option one has a positive effect because the potential to seek section 76 Developer contributions would help to create an integrated green and blue infrastructure network of connected open and green spaces incorporating a sustainable urban drainage network to mimic the natural water cycle to mitigate potential flood risk and have opportunities to recycle water. Option two has a negative effect because there would be no overall plan and guidance to determine which components of the network should be funded delivering a piecemeal approach to design and spatial layouts of a network of SUD's which are an integral part of the blue and green infrastructure.
	18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality	+	+	The options have a neutral effect because the potential to seek section 76 Developer contributions would help to create a green open should be protected as trees and vegetation help to absorb GHG emissions and improve air quality.
	19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	++	-/+	Option one has a significant positive effect because the potential to seek section 76 Developer contributions would help to create an integrated green and blue infrastructure network of connected open and green spaces incorporating a sustainable urban drainage network to mitigate potential flood risk. Trees provide shade for the natural cooling the urban environment. Option 2 has a mixed effect

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	O No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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GA3 – Natural Heritage

Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Natural Heritage	Justification	
Social	1	Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society	+	The option has a minor positive effect because it would protect the natural heritage and ensure that there is appropriate access through a connected green and blue infrastructure network, to reduce inequality and build community cohesion.
	2	Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	+	The option has a minor positive effect because it would protect the natural heritage in a compact city to ensure that the communities have appropriate access to nature that should benefit health and wellbeing.
	3	To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs	+	The option has a minor positive effect because it would protect the natural heritage in a compact city and facilitate the development of a green and blue infrastructure network that could enhance environmental quality and benefit biodiversity.
	4	Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	5	To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities	+	The option has a minor positive effect because it would protect the natural heritage in a compact city and facilitate the development of a green and blue infrastructure network that could enhance appropriate access and benefit biodiversity.
	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities	+	The option has a minor positive effect because it would protect the natural heritage in a compact city and facilitate the development of a green and blue infrastructure network that could enhance appropriate access and benefit biodiversity.
	8	Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's roles as a regional economic driver	+	The option has a minor positive effect because it would protect the natural heritage would enhance the environmental quality of the City's image and make it attractive for potential investors and growing the population.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Natural Heritage	Justification	
Environmental	9	Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel	+	The option has a minor positive effect because it would protect and enhance the natural heritage through the provision of an integrated green and blue infrastructure network for walking and cycling could provide attractive accessible routes within the city.
	10	Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy	+	The option has a minor positive effect because it would integrate green and blue infrastructure network for walking and cycling would reduce the number of car journeys and reduce GHG emissions. Trees and vegetation would help to absorb CO2 and mitigate air pollution.
	11	Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species	+	The option has a minor positive effect because it would protect and enhance the natural heritage through the provision of an integrated green and blue infrastructure network that connects open and green spaces between the city and countryside which could provide habitats and an ecological corridor for wildlife
	12	Protect and enhance soil quality	+	The option has a minor positive effect because it would protect and enhance the natural heritage through the provision of an integrated green and blue infrastructure; encouraging more vegetation and trees will help to protect soil quality
	13	Protect, enhance and manage the quality of the built and historic environment	+	The option has a minor positive effect because it would protect and enhance the natural heritage through the provision of a green and blue infrastructure network of good quality open spaces and boulevards would enhance the quality of the built environment as well as providing habitats for wildlife in the urban area.
	14	Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.	+	The option has a minor positive effect because it would protect and enhance the natural heritage through the provision of a green and blue infrastructure network of good quality open spaces and natural heritage spaces should be zoned to protect valuable spaces for biodiversity and enhance the setting of the City.
	15	Protect and enhance open space and natural green space including Belfast's countryside asset	+	The option has a minor positive effect because it would protect and enhance the natural heritage through the provision of an integrated green and blue infrastructure network of connected open and green spaces could provide appropriate access from the city to the countryside for recreational activities with appropriate management to protect designated habitats.
	16	Promote the sustainable management of waste	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Natural Heritage	Justification	
	17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources	+	The option has a minor positive effect because it would protect and enhance the natural heritage through the provision of an integrated green and blue infrastructure network incorporating a sustainable urban drainage network to mimic the natural water cycle to mitigate potential flood risk and potentially protect and enhance biodiversity.
	18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality	+	The option has a minor positive effect because it would protect and enhance the natural heritage through the provision of an integrated green and blue infrastructure network could help to absorb air borne pollutants and improve air quality.
	19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	+	The option has a minor positive effect because it would protect and enhance the natural heritage through the provision of an integrated green and blue infrastructure network of connected open and green spaces incorporating a sustainable urban drainage network to mitigate potential flood risk that could impact on habitats. Trees provide shade for cooling the urban environment that could help protect biodiversity from higher temperatures.

Mitigation or Enhancement

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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GA4 – Trees

Theme	SA Objective	Option 1 Protect Existing Trees & Encourage Further Provision	Option 2 Protect Existing Trees Only	Justification
Social	1 Reduce deprivation and encourage an inclusive and equal society	+	-/+	Option 1 would have a minor positive effect because more trees would be encouraged that would help improve environmental amenity and reduce the community's vulnerability to environmental change and build their resilience. It provides opportunities for community woodlands and growing biocrops. Option 2 has a mixed effect because it would protect existing trees that contribute to the environmental amenity and would help to offset effects of environmental change. However, option 2 would not encourage more trees to be planted in areas that have few trees, creating vulnerabilities that would not build community cohesion and resilience.
	2 Improve health and wellbeing for an improved quality of life.	++	-/+	Option 1 has a significant positive effect as it would protect existing trees and encourage more tree planting. Trees can help to improve air quality in the urban area by absorbing pollution and dust that can impact on health. Option 2 has a mixed effect because, whilst existing protected trees will continue to assist in improving air quality, the opportunity to enhance this affect through additional planting is not taken and more needs to be done in this regard to take account of air quality in a growing city.
	3 To provide opportunity for good quality housing and enable people to meet their housing needs	++	-/+	Option 1 would have a significant positive effect because more trees would be encouraged that would help improve the quality of housing developments. Trees in city centre residential schemes can be planted as street trees outside of the development plots, which will help to facilitate population growth. Option 2 has a mixed effect because it would protect existing trees that contribute to the environmental amenity. However, option 2 would not encourage more trees to be planted in areas that have few trees limiting the opportunity to enhance the environmental amenity
	4 Increase community safety by supporting the reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour	0	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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	5	To improve skills and education of residents through providing high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
Economic	6	Retain and enhance access to local services and facilities	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	7	To ensure local residents have access to employment opportunities	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	8	Support the economic development of Belfast as a competitive place and contribute to Belfast's roles as a regional economic driver	++	+	Option one has a significant positive effect has this would enhance the environmental quality of the City's image, build the City's resilience to environmental change to mitigate flood risk and provide cooling. This would help to make the City attractive to potential investors and growing the population. Option two has a minor positive effect because protecting trees help to enhance the environment though it is not as strong as option one in helping to build city resilience.
Environmental	9	Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel	○	○	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	10	Support the transition to a Low Carbon Economy	++	○	Option one has a significant positive effect has this would encourage the development of community woodlands and biocrops for bio mass used for renewable energy generation. Option two would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
	11	Maintain and enhance biodiversity assets and protect habitats and species	++	+	Option 1 has a significant positive effect as additional trees incorporated into an integrated green and blue infrastructure network that connects open and green spaces between the city and countryside would provide habitats and an ecological corridor for wildlife. Option 2 has a positive effect as trees provide habitats; however it may not facilitate additional trees that cover help to provide improved canopy cover.
	12	Protect and enhance soil quality	++	+	Option 1 has a significant positive effect because additional trees would help to absorb pollutants that contaminate soils. Option 2 has a minor positive affect because it would not have a strong effect in helping to absorb pollutants that adversely affect soil quality.
	13	Protect, enhance and manage the quality of the built and historic environment	++	+	Option 1 has a significant positive effect as additional trees to create boulevards would enhance the quality of the built environment as well as providing habitats for wildlife in the urban area. Option 2 has a minor positive effect as trees can enhance the built environment it would not encourage additional trees.

Key:

++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	○ No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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14	Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of Belfast's distinctive landscape and geodiversity.	+	+	Both options have a minor positive effect as trees can enhance the landscape and natural heritage of the city.
15	Protect and enhance open space and natural green space including Belfast's countryside asset	++	+	Option 1 has a significant positive effect to enhance and incorporate trees into an integrated green and blue infrastructure network of connected open and green spaces could provide appropriate access from the city to the countryside for recreational activities. Option two has a minor positive effect as they enhance open spaces and the countryside.
16	Promote the sustainable management of waste	0	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
17	Promote the quality, efficient use of water resources	0	0	The options would not be considered to have any effect on or relationship with this SA Objective.
18	Reduce air pollution and ensure continued improvements to air quality	++	-/+	Option one has a significant positive effect because trees can absorb air pollutants and dust, to help improve air quality. Option 2 has a mixed effect because, whilst existing protected trees will continue to assist in improving air quality, the opportunity to enhance this affect through additional planting is not taken. Belfast has four air quality management areas and more trees are required to improve air quality in a growing city.
19	Support the adaptation to Climate Change and effectively manage flood risk.	++	+	Option one has a significant positive effect because trees can help with the adaptation to climate change. Trees can absorb water and slow storm water flows, to mitigate potential flash flooding events. Trees provide shade for natural cooling the urban environment that could help protect humans and biodiversity from higher temperatures, particularly the effects of the urban heat island. Option 2 has a minor positive effect as it would support the adaptation to climate change; Belfast requires additional trees to build the City's environmental resilience.

Mitigation or Enhancement

Key:	++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No effect or relationship	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	+/- Mixed Effects	? Uncertain /effect unknown
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