



Preferred Options Paper
Consultation Document
March 2017

Local Development Plan

2020-2035



Belfast
City Council



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Introduction

Alongside the Belfast Agenda, Belfast's first community plan, the Local Development Plan (LDP) will help shape the future development of Belfast.

By the time the plan is finished you'll be in your 30s and your generation will be living and working in a better Belfast shaped by our vision. This is why it is important we get your opinions, views and concerns.

This document describes our main aims for Belfast for the period up to 2035. On pages 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15 you'll see questions which we'd like you to answer. Let us know your thoughts by using this document to answer the online consultation.

Imagine yourself in 2035 -
what will Belfast look like?

What is the LDP?

The LDP guides investment in Belfast, setting out policies for how land in the city should be used.

What is the POP?

The POP sets out our approach to some of the key issues for the development of Belfast



About Belfast



Belfast is the capital of Northern Ireland. It drives much of the region's economic growth and - through our airports, sea port, road and rail links - is the main gateway into the country.

Belfast has a young population and we want you to help shape the future development of Belfast.

Our vision



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

A strong local economy will support progressive, healthy, safe and vibrant communities and provide a gateway to opportunities locally, nationally and worldwide.

Our aims

Shaping a liveable place

Creating healthy and connected neighbourhoods.



A green and active place

Protecting our green spaces and natural environment for all to enjoy.



Creating a vibrant economy

A strong Belfast economy that benefits the whole of Northern Ireland.



A smart connected and resilient place

A fast moving modern city, adaptable to environmental change.





How will we grow Belfast?

Belfast is the capital of Northern Ireland and lies at the heart of a wider built-up area in the east of the region. It drives much of the region's economic growth and is the main gateway into the country



Belfast's economy supports nearly 30% of all jobs in NI



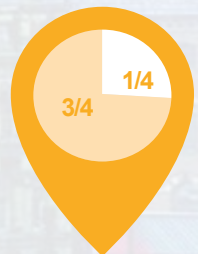
Between 2001-2015 Belfast's population grew by 2.47% whilst the NI population grew by 9.6%



Belfast's population declined over 33% from 1971-2011 while the NI population increased over 18%



Belfast contributes over a quarter (28 per cent) to NI's total productivity





Growing Belfast

Belfast is the capital city of Northern Ireland. It needs to grow in order to compete with other cities. A successful Belfast will benefit the entire region.

We aim to achieve the following:



Identify land to support the creation of up to **46,000** new jobs



Increase the city's population by **66,000** to over 400,000 by 2035



Allocate land for **37,000** new homes

How should Belfast change and grow?

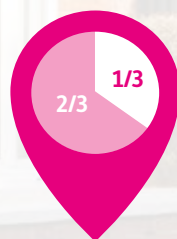


Shaping a liveable place

Creating healthy and connected neighbourhoods



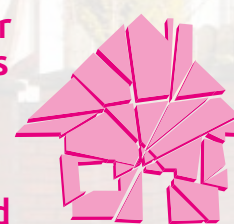
Belfast is the capital of Northern Ireland with a population of **338,907**



We are one of the youngest cities in Europe with nearly a third of our population up to 21 years old



Nearly a quarter (24%) of houses in Belfast are socially rented, while 57% are owner-occupied



In 2015, nearly **7,000** people were in housing stress



Homes and neighbourhoods

Neighbourhoods are important to Belfast. We want to make our existing neighbourhoods better.

Our plan aims to create new neighbourhoods and we have set land aside for 37,000 new homes. These will provide a mix of different types of housing for everyone and ensure that they are close to local services like shops and health centres.

Promote
health and
wellbeing

Good
neighbourhoods

Improve
community
relations

Improve
local
services

Design and heritage

Cities across the world are known for their iconic buildings. We want Belfast to be recognisable by designing our city so that tall buildings are in the right locations and our older buildings are kept and reused.

Good design can change lives, bring communities together, attract business, encourage healthier living and contribute to how safe places are and feel.

We want our buildings to be of high design quality and energy efficient.

How should new homes look
and where should they be?





Creating a vibrant economy



A strong Belfast economy that benefits the whole of Northern Ireland



The Regional Development Strategy seeks to strengthen the role of Belfast city centre as the primary retail location in Northern Ireland

Belfast has been recognised as Europe's most business friendly city of its size for two years running



Visitors contribute £278m to our economy and a growing tourism sector supports **17,000 jobs**



Our city centre is the prime location for large scale retail with a catchment of over **600,000 residents**



Economic growth

We want to protect existing land and provide enough land for the jobs of the future.

By supporting the development of our universities and colleges, we want to encourage opportunities to learn.

Retail

For our city centre to remain successful, it needs to be the focus for major new investment and retail development. We will encourage a mix of different shops and services and decide where these should be located.



City centre

The city centre is the economic heart of the city and indeed the region. We want a busy and successful city centre to be the focus of our plan. In 2035, the city centre will be a place where people are living, working and enjoying what the city has to offer. The plan will:

- encourage city centre living;
- promote shared spaces;
- target regeneration to key places; and
- make sure there is enough space for future city developments.

What sort of city centre do we want?



A smart connected and resilient place

A fast moving modern city, adaptable to environmental change



Belfast has the highest density of fibre network in Europe and nearly 100% of households have access to optical fibre broadband



Over **100,000** people travel into Belfast from other areas to work every day



The Belfast Bikes scheme has 40 docking stations in the city with over **4,000** annual subscribers



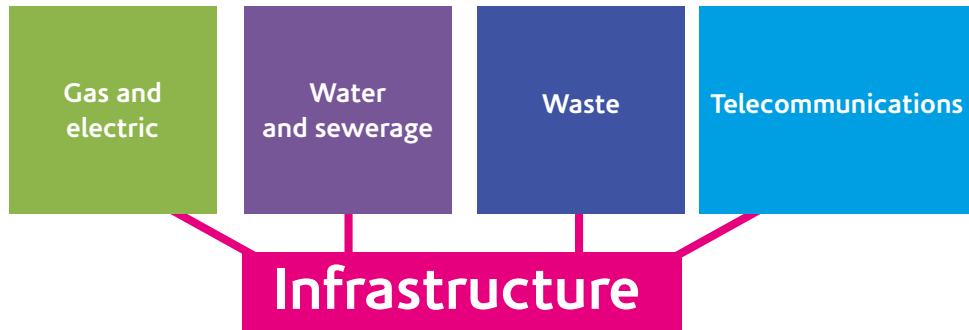
The Connswater Greenway Project is bringing benefits to local communities, including recreation, regeneration and flood alleviation





Infrastructure

Infrastructure includes:



Our aim is to make sure our infrastructure meets our needs while protecting the environment.

Transportation

Good transport networks help people get where they need to go and make cities better places to live. Moving people and goods around the city is essential to support a growing economy. We will:

- support walking and cycling alongside sustainable transport;
- support improvements to public transport and facilities; and
- review parking to encourage more sustainable travel.

Environmental quality and building resilience

Improving the quality of the environment is important for our health and for wildlife and plants. New development must consider the natural environment and its value to us. We will improve the quality of our environment where possible, and protect green space and living creatures from harm.

Ensuring we can adapt to environmental change is one of our most important challenges. This is often called building 'resilience'. We will:

- help others develop clean technologies and promote resilient design;
- support renewable energy;
- manage flood risk in built up areas; and
- manage our waste efficiently.

How can Belfast be a more sustainable city?





A green and active place

Protecting our green spaces and natural environment for all to enjoy



Belfast has over **14,000** street trees



The Lagan Valley Regional Park covers 2,116 hectares and stretches over 12 kilometres



The Belfast Hills extend over 18 kilometres and have 16 Belfast access points



There are more than 40 public parks in the city and 15 of these have Green Flag status





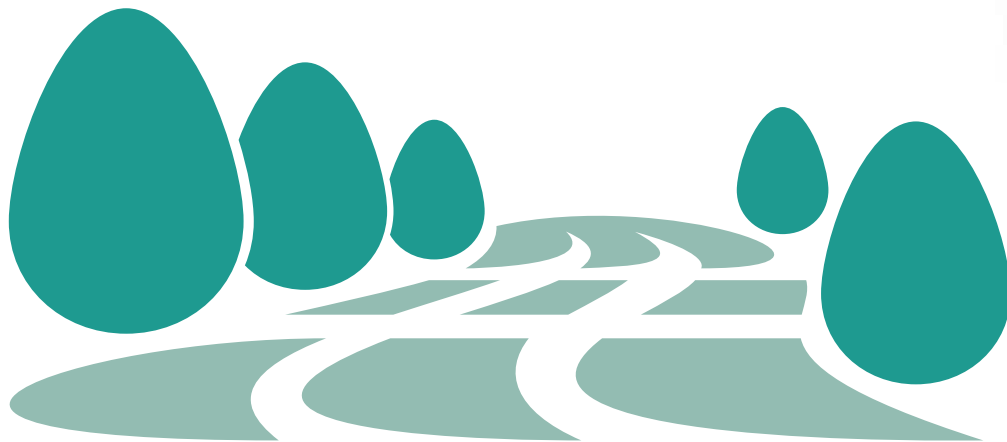
Open space, sport and outdoor recreation

Our city has a mixture of open spaces, playing fields, and green spaces. We want to connect these to create a network of green spaces such as parks and woodlands with blue spaces such as rivers and ponds.

This network of green and blue spaces could provide benefits for Belfast such as:

- **giving us places to visit, relax and play sports;**
- **a mixture of wildlife and plants;**
- **safer routes for walking and cycling;**
- **helping to prevent flooding; and**
- **improving health and wellbeing.**

We would like developers to contribute to achieving these benefits for everyone in our city.



Natural heritage and trees

Our natural heritage surrounds us. Belfast is framed by the hills with the countryside on our urban doorstep. It is one of Belfast's most valuable features and helps make the city distinctive and attractive.

We want to balance developing Belfast while protecting the environment so our natural heritage won't be lost forever. The plan will protect and enhance our landscapes and important wildlife sites.

Trees make an important contribution to our streets and our landscape. We want to protect existing trees and encourage new trees across Belfast.

How can Belfast be a more sustainable city?

How can I share my views?

In early 2017, there will be a 12 week consultation on the Preferred Options Paper. It's available, alongside a number of supporting documents, on our website

www.belfastcity.gov.uk/LDP

In addition to responding through our online consultation, you can also tell us what you think about our proposals by emailing

planning@belfastcity.gov.uk

Hard copies are available to view from 9am - 5pm at:
Belfast Planning Service
Cecil Ward Building
4-10 Linenhall Street
Belfast
BT2 8BP

You can send us your comments until 5pm on 20 April 2017.
We will consider providing this document in other formats if requested. Please call 9032 0202 ext 2255.

