

Sustainability Impact Assessment

1 Introduction

A sustainability appraisal can be defined as 'a systematic and iterative process undertaken during the preparation of a plan or strategy, which identifies and reports on the extent to which the implementation of the plan or strategy would achieve the environmental, social and economic objectives by which sustainable development can be defined, in order that the performance of the strategy and policies is improved'¹. It is essential to assess these potential impacts in order to make recommendations that may be taken into account prior to the approval of the Plan. The sustainability appraisal undertaken for the Draft Dundalk and Environs Plan 2002-2008 is based on the latest, sustainability-led best practice, modelled on the guidance produced in the UK and European context.

Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment sets out the broad principles of environmental assessment and outlines in general terms the information to be included in an environmental statement.

The Planning and Development Act 2000 Section 19 (4) (a) requires planning authorities to include in their plans information on 'the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan'. However the aim of the Act is to promote 'proper planning and sustainable development', therefore the assessment has addressed non-environmental issues that are intrinsically linked to sustainable development objectives.

The value and purpose of undertaking sustainability appraisals are as follows:

- To understand the implications of policy or groups of policy.
- To identify the implications of wide ranging and often conflicting aspects of policy to be taken into account and possibly addressed.
- To examine the link between environmental, social and economic policies and their subsequent impacts.

¹ Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions UK: *Good Practice Guide on Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Planning Guidance 2000*

2 Appraisal of Plan Policies and Proposals

The appraisal technique used for the Plan involved:

- Carrying out a **Sustainability Impact Assessment** whereby each Plan policy was tested against each of the sustainability criteria. Completion of the matrices involved determining for each policy:
 - a. the significant impacts of the policy on the sustainability criteria; and,
 - b. in the event of negative impacts, the actions required to reverse, mitigate or reduce the impacts.

The Sustainability Impact Assessment was concerned with identifying 'significant impacts', defined as likely to make more than a negligible effect on the sustainability criteria. 'Significant' also includes impacts which locally may appear relatively unimportant but which cumulatively may impact at the regional, national or global level or may have a major or irreversible impact over time.

Key elements were as follows:

- The use of the appraisal criteria in Appendix 1 as the basis for assessment.
- The grouping of policies to assess the overall impact of the Plan.
- The impact of policy rather than the impact of the activities themselves.
- The appraisal was carried out using the simple method of scoring set out in Appendix 2.

A multi-disciplinary team drawn from the Forward Planning, Planning and Regeneration and Transportation Sections of Colin Buchanan and Partners undertook the appraisal.

3 Conclusion

In summary the appraisal was scored positively as it addressed issues of economic and social concern in a coherent and rational manner addressing the needs of the local community. It also advocated protection of the environment, reduction in the consumption of raw materials and an awareness of the need to protect and conserve designated and non-designated sites. The appraisal output has been produced in Appendix 3.

The sustainability appraisal has provided a useful basis for improving the policy content of the plan so that it becomes more holistic and addresses wider issues which effect the growth and development of local communities overtime.

Appendix 1 - Appraisal Criteria

1. Natural Environment (ENV)

Landscape quality,
Air quality
Ground and surface water quality

2. Biodiversity (BIO)

International designations
National designations
Local designations
Non-designated areas
Habitats
Species

3. Social Needs (SOC)

Access to employment
Access to social, health, education
and amenity facilities
Housing availability and
affordability
Alternative transport modes
Affordable health, education and
social facilities
Access to all facilities/services by
the disabled
Balance between population,
services, employment opportunities
and housing.

4. Economy and Work (ECON)

Business growth and investment
Business and employment
opportunities
Access to education and training
Local employment opportunities
Access to employment without
prejudice

Build on local strengths
Support indigenous industries
Promote co-operation and
communication
Supports existing industries and
long- term commitments

5. Resource Consumption (RES)

Consumption of renewable
resources (wind, solar, hydro,
biomass, forest, animal, water)
Consumption of non-renewable
resources (energy, land, materials,
wildlife, landscapes and seascapes)

6. Heritage and Culture (HER)

Natural heritage (wildlife, geology,
landscapes, seascapes, views and
prospects)
Conservation areas and listed
buildings
Archaeological sites and structures
Local cultural identity (art,
literature, music, dance)

Appendix 2 - Appraisal Scoring

The Policies were assessed against **each of the criteria** set out above. The performance of the policies was determined as being:

+	Positive (in respect to the criteria)
-	Negative (in respect to the criteria)
+/-	Both positive and negative (in respect to the criteria)
0	Neutral (in respect to the criteria)

Appendix 3 – Appraisal Assessment

CHAPTER HEADING:	Development Strategy
GROUP:	1
POLICY/IES:	PPA1, PPA2, PPA3, PPA4, PPA5, PPA6, PPA7, PPA8, PPA9, PPA10, PPA11, PPA12, PPA13
MAIN TRUST:	Policy Priority Areas
RELATIVE TO:	SO1, SO2, SO3, SO4
APPRAISAL CRITERIA	RELATIONSHIP
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	+
BIODIVERSITY	+
SOCIAL NEEDS	+
ECONOMY AND WORK	+
RESOURCE CONSUMPTION	+
HERITAGE AND CULTURE	+
OVERALL APPRAISAL	+
<p>COMMENTARY: The policy is positively scored with respect to all of the criteria as protection and enhancement of the environment is ensured, community and economic development is promoted, resource consumption is minimised and heritage is protected. However a number of policies are focussed on the development of zoned lands for mixed use and residential development which without coherent masterplanning will undermine the quality of the local environment.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: No change.</p>	

CHAPTER HEADING	Economic Development
GROUP:	2
POLICY/IES:	ED1, ED2, ED3, ED4, ED5, ED6, ED7, ED8
MAIN TRUST:	Promoting Economic Development
RELATIVE TO:	SO1
APPRAISAL CRITERIA	RELATIONSHIP
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	-
BIODIVERSITY	-
SOCIAL NEEDS	+
ECONOMY AND WORK	+
RESOURCE CONSUMPTION	-
HERITAGE AND CULTURE	0
OVERALL APPRAISAL	-
<p>COMMENTARY: The policy has scored negatively with respect to the natural environment, biodiversity and resource consumption. The policy opens up land for economic development therefore promoting greenfield development and the use of resources. However it is positive with respect to social needs and economy and work as it promotes economic investment, educational opportunities and training. Overall however it has scored negatively.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: Ensure that Environmental Impact Statements are required for new developments on sensitive greenfield sites.</p>	

CHAPTER HEADING	Economic Development
GROUP:	3
POLICY/IES:	ED9, ED10, ED11, ED12
MAIN TRUST:	Tourism Development
RELATIVE TO:	SO1
APPRAISAL CRITERIA	RELATIONSHIP
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	+
BIODIVERSITY	0
SOCIAL NEEDS	+
ECONOMY AND WORK	+
RESOURCE CONSUMPTION	+
HERITAGE AND CULTURE	+
OVERALL APPRAISAL	+
<p>COMMENTARY: The policy is positively scored as it supports environmental enhancement, promotes local economic and social development and encourages the reuse and adaptation of rural buildings.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: No change</p>	

CHAPTER HEADING	Economic Development
GROUP:	4
POLICY/IES:	ED13, ED14
MAIN TRUST:	Economic Initiatives
RELATIVE TO:	SO1
APPRAISAL CRITERIA	RELATIONSHIP
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	0
BIODIVERSITY	0
SOCIAL NEEDS	+
ECONOMY AND WORK	+
RESOURCE CONSUMPTION	0
HERITAGE AND CULTURE	0
OVERALL APPRAISAL	+
<p>COMMENTARY: The policy is positively scored as it promotes economic development at a local level and potential employment opportunities.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: No change</p>	

CHAPTER HEADING	Economic Development
GROUP:	5
POLICY/IES:	ED15, ED16, ED17, ED18, ED19
MAIN TRUST:	Mixed-Use Zones
RELATIVE TO:	SO1
APPRAISAL CRITERIA	RELATIONSHIP
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	-
BIODIVERSITY	0
SOCIAL NEEDS	+
ECONOMY AND WORK	+
RESOURCE CONSUMPTION	-
HERITAGE AND CULTURE	-
OVERALL APPRAISAL	-
<p>COMMENTARY:</p> <p>The policy scored negatively in relation to the natural environment, biodiversity and resource consumption as any form of large-scale development may have a negative impact on these criteria. However it scored positively in relation to social needs and the economy as it promotes economic development and growth. Overall the policy scored negatively.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION:</p> <p>Ensure that amenity provision and protection is incorporated into policy ED16.</p>	

CHAPTER HEADING	Economic Development
GROUP:	6
POLICY/IES:	ED20, ED21
MAIN TRUST:	Additional Employment Zones
RELATIVE TO:	SO1
APPRAISAL CRITERIA	RELATIONSHIP
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	-
BIODIVERSITY	-
SOCIAL NEEDS	+
ECONOMY AND WORK	+
RESOURCE CONSUMPTION	-
HERITAGE AND CULTURE	0
OVERALL APPRAISAL	-
<p>COMMENTARY: The policy scored negatively in terms of the environment, biodiversity and resource consumption as it promotes development on greenfield sites. However it scored positively in relation to social needs and the economy as it encourages economic development and job prospects. Policy ED20 also highlights the future need for a transportation interchange in the vicinity. Overall however it scored negatively.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: Recognise the need for an EIS on a case-by case basis and incorporate it into policy ED21.</p>	

CHAPTER HEADING	Retailing, the Town Centre and Urban Renewal
GROUP:	7
POLICY/IES:	RT1, RT2, RT3, RT4, RT5, RT6
MAIN TRUST:	The Retailing Hierarchy
RELATIVE TO:	SO1, SO2 & SO3
APPRAISAL CRITERIA	RELATIONSHIP
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	+
BIODIVERSITY	0
SOCIAL NEEDS	+
ECONOMY AND WORK	+
RESOURCE CONSUMPTION	+
HERITAGE AND CULTURE	+
OVERALL APPRAISAL	+
<p>COMMENTARY: The policy scored positively as it supports localised retail provision thus reducing car transport and air pollution. It also promotes local employment and community self-sufficiency in terms of local retailing needs. The policy also scored positively in terms of heritage as it protects communities and therefore local culture. Overall the policy is positively appraised.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: No change</p>	

CHAPTER HEADING:	Retailing, Town Centre and Urban Renewal
GROUP:	8
POLICY/IES:	RT7, RT8, RT9, RT10
MAIN TRUST:	Other Retail Operations
RELATIVE TO:	SO1
APPRAISAL CRITERIA	RELATIONSHIP
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	+/-
BIODIVERSITY	0
SOCIAL NEEDS	0
ECONOMY AND WORK	+
RESOURCE CONSUMPTION	+/-
HERITAGE AND CULTURE	0
OVERALL APPRAISAL	+/-
<p>COMMENTARY: The policy scored both positively and negatively as it supports warehouse development on Greenfield sites, however it also states that the location of a factory outlet centre should be ideally located on a brownfield site. The policy scores positively in terms of job creation, business opportunity and provision of services. Overall the policy is both positively and negatively appraised.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: The need for an EIS must be addressed in policy RT10.</p>	

CHAPTER HEADING	Retailing, Town Centre and Urban Renewal
GROUP:	9
POLICY/IES:	TC1, TC2, TC3, TC4, TC5, TC6, TC7, TC8, TC9, TC10
MAIN TRUST:	Specific Town Centre Uses
RELATIVE TO:	SO1, SO2
APPRAISAL CRITERIA	RELATIONSHIP
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	+/-
BIODIVERSITY	0
SOCIAL NEEDS	+
ECONOMY AND WORK	+
RESOURCE CONSUMPTION	+/-
HERITAGE AND CULTURE	+
OVERALL APPRAISAL	+/-
<p>COMMENTARY:</p> <p>The policy is scored both positively and negatively as it supports the town centre's function as a retail and commercial core for the region but also supports the development of a large-scale retail centre at Williamson's Mall. This development may undermine the amenity value of the Ramparts River as well as the commercial viability of smaller retail outlets in the town centre. The policies also allow for the conversion of upper floors of buildings which may encourage residential development thus reducing urban sprawl and trip journeys. In terms of economic development it scored both positively and negatively as it reduces flexibility in relation</p>	

to function. Overall the policy was both positively and negatively appraised.

RECOMMENDATION:

Ensure that a development brief is undertaken prior to the redevelopment and expansion of Williamson's Mall.

CHAPTER HEADING	Retailing, Town Centre and Urban Renewal
GROUP:	10
POLICY/IES:	TC11, TC12, TC13, TC14
MAIN TRUST:	Development Control within the Town Centre
RELATIVE TO:	SO1
APPRAISAL CRITERIA	RELATIONSHIP
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	0
BIODIVERSITY	0
SOCIAL NEEDS	0
ECONOMY AND WORK	+
RESOURCE CONSUMPTION	+
HERITAGE AND CULTURE	+
OVERALL APPRAISAL	+
<p>COMMENTARY: The policy is positively appraised as it promotes environmental improvements to the town centre which may encourage investment and pedestrianisation. It also ensures that historic shop fronts are protected from development that may negatively affect the town's built heritage. Overall the policy is positively appraised.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: No change</p>	

CHAPTER HEADING	Retailing, Town Centre and Urban Renewal
GROUP:	11
POLICY/IES:	TC15, TC16, TC17, TC18, TC19, TC20, TC21, TC22
MAIN TRUST:	SO1
RELATIVE TO:	Town Centre Redevelopment Opportunities
APPRAISAL CRITERIA	RELATIONSHIP
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	-
BIODIVERSITY	-
SOCIAL NEEDS	+
ECONOMY AND WORK	+
RESOURCE CONSUMPTION	+
HERITAGE AND CULTURE	+
OVERALL APPRAISAL	+
<p>COMMENTARY: The policy is positively appraised as it promotes the redevelopment of brownfield sites, the introduction of pedestrian linkages and environmental improvements. The policy also scores positively with respect to the provision of community facilities and employment. The policy also reduces the potential for urban sprawl. Overall the policy is positively scored.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: No change</p>	

CHAPTER HEADING	Retailing, Town Centre and Urban Renewal.
GROUP:	12
POLICY/IES:	UR1, UR2
MAIN TRUST:	Urban Renewal in the Town Centre
RELATIVE TO:	SO2
APPRAISAL CRITERIA	RELATIONSHIP
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	0
BIODIVERSITY	0
SOCIAL NEEDS	+/-
ECONOMY AND WORK	+
RESOURCE CONSUMPTION	+
HERITAGE AND CULTURE	0
OVERALL APPRAISAL	+
<p>COMMENTARY:</p> <p>The policy is positively scored as it encourages the redevelopment of brownfield sites for retail, educational and community facilities. It also seeks to protect listed buildings. However in terms of social needs the policy has been both positively and negatively appraised as it limits access to the town centre by car and states that open space requirements may be reduced to enable development. Overall the policy has been positively appraised.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION:</p> <p>Developer contributions must be stipulated if open space provision is reduced within a development and alternatives should be introduced, for example roof gardens (UR2).</p>	

CHAPTER HEADING	Retailing, Town Centre and Urban Renewal
GROUP:	13
POLICY/IES:	URI, URL, URK, URM, URN, URJ,
MAIN TRUST:	Urban Renewal Outside of the Town Centre
RELATIVE TO:	SO2
APPRAISAL CRITERIA	RELATIONSHIP
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	0
BIODIVERSITY	0
SOCIAL NEEDS	+
ECONOMY AND WORK	+
RESOURCE CONSUMPTION	+/-
HERITAGE AND CULTURE	0
OVERALL APPRAISAL	+
<p>COMMENTARY: This policy is positively appraised as it promotes economic and community development within the urban environment. It offers alternatives to urban sprawl and car dependency by creating a stronger urban form. It is however both positively and negatively scored in relation to resource consumption as although it encourages the redevelopment of brownfield sites, non-renewal resources may be further consumed. Overall however it has been positively appraised.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: Encourage the use of renewable resources during brownfield site redevelopment.</p>	

CHAPTER HEADING	Housing
GROUP:	14
POLICY/IES:	EN1, EN2, EN3, EN4, EN5, EN6, EN7
MAIN TRUST:	Regenerating Existing Communities
RELATIVE TO:	SO3, SO4
APPRAISAL CRITERIA	RELATIONSHIP
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	+
BIODIVERSITY	0
SOCIAL NEEDS	+
ECONOMY AND WORK	+
RESOURCE CONSUMPTION	+
HERITAGE AND CULTURE	+
OVERALL APPRAISAL	+
<p>COMMENTARY: The policy is positively scored as it supports the reuse of buildings, the recycling of materials and waste. It also protects existing open space, recognises the need for community facilities and aims to support the integration of communities and the agencies which represent them. Overall the policy has been positively appraised.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: No change</p>	

CHAPTER HEADING	Housing
GROUP:	15
POLICY/IES:	N1, N2, N3, N4, N5, N6
MAIN TRUST:	Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods
RELATIVE TO:	SO3, SO4
APPRAISAL CRITERIA	RELATIONSHIP
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	+
BIODIVERSITY	0
SOCIAL NEEDS	+
ECONOMY AND WORK	0
RESOURCE CONSUMPTION	0
HERITAGE AND CULTURE	0
OVERALL APPRAISAL	+
<p>COMMENTARY: The policy is positively scored, as it requires the masterplanning of new neighbourhoods using strong sustainability guidelines. It also seeks to fully integrate community services and facilities into new developments. The policy also supports local agencies and groups that work towards economic and social development.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: No change</p>	

CHAPTER HEADING	Housing
GROUP:	16
POLICY/IES:	HP1, HP2, HP3, HP4, HP5, HP6, HP7
MAIN TRUST:	Protecting and Enhancing the Residential Amenity
RELATIVE TO:	SO2, SO3
APPRAISAL CRITERIA	RELATIONSHIP
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	+
BIODIVERSITY	0
SOCIAL NEEDS	+
ECONOMY AND WORK	0
RESOURCE CONSUMPTION	+
HERITAGE AND CULTURE	0
OVERALL APPRAISAL	+
<p>COMMENTARY: The policy is positively appraised with respect to the natural environment, social needs and resource consumption as it protects residential amenity, existing character areas and supports infill development rather than greenfield development. The policy also supports the retention of existing open space and hedgerows. It has also been positively appraised as it provides for local housing and associated facilities. Overall the policy has been positively appraised.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION Make proper provision for the preparation of an EIS prior to greenfield development.</p>	

CHAPTER HEADING	Housing
GROUP:	17
POLICY/IES:	HP8
MAIN TRUST:	Monitoring
RELATIVE TO:	SO2, SO3
APPRAISAL CRITERIA	RELATIONSHIP
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	0
BIODIVERSITY	0
SOCIAL NEEDS	+
ECONOMY AND WORK	0
RESOURCE CONSUMPTION	0
HERITAGE AND CULTURE	0
OVERALL APPRAISAL	+
<p>COMMENTARY: Monitoring allows for the adequate provision of housing for all sectors of the community. The policy has been positively scored in this regard.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: No change</p>	

CHAPTER HEADING	Housing
GROUP:	18
POLICY/IES:	HP9, HP10, HP11, HP12, HP13, HP14, HP15, HP16
MAIN TRUST:	Good Housing Development and Density and Mix
RELATIVE TO:	SO2, SO3
APPRAISAL CRITERIA	RELATIONSHIP
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	+
BIODIVERSITY	0
SOCIAL NEEDS	+
ECONOMY AND WORK	0
RESOURCE CONSUMPTION	+
HERITAGE AND CULTURE	+
OVERALL APPRAISAL	+
<p>COMMENTARY:</p> <p>The policy is positively appraised with respect to the natural environment as it refers to the adequate provision of open space and alternative modes of transport, which may reduce air pollution. The policy also promotes higher densities that in turn reduces the consumption of land and may reduce car usage. It also protects the built heritage by integrating existing features into new layouts. The policy also addresses the housing need of different groups and promotes integration within housing developments. Overall the policy is positively appraised.</p>	

RECOMMENDATION:

Ensure that policy HP10 addresses the need for developer contributions if open space provision is reduced, or promote alternative types of open space e.g. roof gardens.

CHAPTER HEADING	Housing
GROUP:	19
POLICY/IES:	HP17, HP18, HP19, HP20, HP21, HP22, HP23, HP24
MAIN TRUST:	Development Control
RELATIVE TO:	SO2, SO3
APPRAISAL CRITERIA	RELATIONSHIP
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	0
BIODIVERSITY	0
SOCIAL NEEDS	+
ECONOMY AND WORK	0
RESOURCE CONSUMPTION	0
HERITAGE AND CULTURE	0
OVERALL APPRAISAL	+
<p>COMMENTARY: The policy only has a direct impact on one of the criteria, social needs. It scored positively in terms of social needs as it allows for the renovation and extension of existing homes for different needs. It also ensures that adequate provision of open space in different types of developments is required. Overall the policy scored positively.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: No change</p>	

CHAPTER HEADING	Community Facilities, Sport and Recreation
GROUP:	20
POLICY/IES:	CF1, CF2, CF3, CF4, CF5, CF6, CF7, CF8
MAIN TRUST:	Sport and Recreational Facilities
RELATIVE TO:	SO4
APPRAISAL CRITERIA	RELATIONSHIP
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	+/-
BIODIVERSITY	0
SOCIAL NEEDS	+
ECONOMY AND WORK	+
RESOURCE CONSUMPTION	0
HERITAGE AND CULTURE	0
OVERALL APPRAISAL	+
<p>COMMENTARY: The policy is both positively and negatively scored with respect to the natural environment as development adjacent to educational facilities will be on greenfield sites, however new lands will be zoned for both passive and active recreation. The policy supports the provision of childcare, educational, cultural, health and recreational facilities which strengthens the community and in turn attracts investment. Overall the policy is positively appraised.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: No change.</p>	

CHAPTER HEADING	The Environment
GROUP:	21
POLICY/IES:	NE1, NE2, NE3, NE4, NE5
MAIN TRUST:	Public Open Space Provision
RELATIVE TO:	SO5, SO6
APPRAISAL CRITERIA	RELATIONSHIP
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	+
BIODIVERSITY	+
SOCIAL NEEDS	+
ECONOMY AND WORK	0
RESOURCE CONSUMPTION	+
HERITAGE AND CULTURE	+
OVERALL APPRAISAL	+
<p>COMMENTARY: The policy is positive as it protects existing public open space, increases access to existing amenities and proposes new areas of open space. It also ensures that existing residential open space will be protected and enhanced accordingly. Overall the policy is positive.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: No change</p>	

CHAPTER HEADING	The Environment
GROUP:	22
POLICY/IES:	NE6, NE7, NE8, N9, NE10, NE11
MAIN TRUST:	River and Coastal Resources
RELATIVE TO:	SO5, SO6
APPRAISAL CRITERIA	RELATIONSHIP
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	+
BIODIVERSITY	+
SOCIAL NEEDS	+
ECONOMY AND WORK	-
RESOURCE CONSUMPTION	+
HERITAGE AND CULTURE	+
OVERALL APPRAISAL	+
<p>COMMENTARY: The policy is positively appraised as it protects the Castletown River and coast from adverse development by introducing 20metre buffer zones which can be used for recreational purposes. This 'zone' will also support wildlife habitats and may act as an ecological corridor. The policy is also positive as it recognises the importance of the river and coast as amenity resources and heritage sites. The policy is both positive and negative with respect to the economy as development is controlled but a quality environment may also attract investors. Overall the policy scored positively.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: No change</p>	

CHAPTER HEADING	The Environment
GROUP:	23
POLICY/IES:	NE12, NE13, NE14, NE15, NE16, N17
MAIN TRUST:	Nature Conservation
RELATIVE TO:	SO5, SO6
APPRAISAL CRITERIA	RELATIONSHIP
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	+
BIODIVERSITY	+
SOCIAL NEEDS	0
ECONOMY AND WORK	0
RESOURCE CONSUMPTION	0
HERITAGE AND CULTURE	+
OVERALL APPRAISAL	+
<p>COMMENTARY:</p> <p>The policy is positively appraised as it supports the protection of EU and Nationally designated sites of ecological importance. It also seeks to protect non-designated sites, which are of local importance, as well as ensuring that the natural landscape is protected from visual intrusion. The policy also addresses the need to protect existing trees and encourages further planting of native species.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION:</p> <p>No change</p>	

CHAPTER HEADING	Environment
GROUP:	24
POLICY/IES:	NE18, NE19, N20, N21, N22
MAIN TRUST:	Water Resources
RELATIVE TO:	SO5, SO6
APPRAISAL CRITERIA	RELATIONSHIP
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	+
BIODIVERSITY	+
SOCIAL NEEDS	0
ECONOMY AND WORK	-
RESOURCE CONSUMPTION	+
HERITAGE AND CULTURE	+
OVERALL APPRAISAL	+
<p>COMMENTARY: The policy is negatively appraised in relation to economy and work as it restricts certain types of development within flood plains. It has scored positively otherwise, as it protects existing water resources and potable groundwater sources from adverse development. The policy also ensures that floodplains are maintained to function as a natural flood control. The policy also recommends the adoption of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems to reduce the likelihood of floodrisk in an environmentally sensitive manner. The policy has been positively scored.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: No change</p>	

CHAPTER HEADING	The Environment
GROUP:	25
POLICY/IES:	BE1, BE2, BE3
MAIN TRUST:	Protected Structures and Conservation Areas
RELATIVE TO:	SO5, SO6
APPRAISAL CRITERIA	RELATIONSHIP
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	0
BIODIVERSITY	0
SOCIAL NEEDS	0
ECONOMY AND WORK	0
RESOURCE CONSUMPTION	+
HERITAGE AND CULTURE	+
OVERALL APPRAISAL	+
<p>COMMENTARY: The policy scored positively with respect to resource consumption and heritage and culture. The need to protect buildings of architectural interest is a fundamental requisite to sustaining the built environment. The policy promotes the reuse of existing buildings potentially reducing the development of greenfield sites. Overall the policy is positively appraised.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: No change</p>	

CHAPTER HEADING	The Environment
GROUP:	26
POLICY/IES:	BE5, BE6, BE7
MAIN TRUST:	Archaeological Conservation
RELATIVE TO:	SO5, SO6
APPRAISAL CRITERIA	RELATIONSHIP
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	0
BIODIVERSITY	0
SOCIAL NEEDS	0
ECONOMY AND WORK	0
RESOURCE CONSUMPTION	0
HERITAGE AND CULTURE	+
OVERALL APPRAISAL	+
<p>COMMENTARY: The policy is neutral with respect to all criteria apart from heritage and culture where it is positively appraised. The policy seeks to protect structures and features of archaeological interest for the benefit of present and future generations. It also proposes a 'Local Archaeological Heritage Area,' which seeks to protect Castletown Motte and Bailey and associated lands from adverse development. Overall the policy is positively appraised.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: No change</p>	

CHAPTER HEADING	Transportation and Infrastructure
GROUP:	27
POLICY/IES:	TR1, TR2
MAIN TRUST:	Sustainable Transport
RELATIVE TO:	SO2
APPRAISAL CRITERIA	RELATIONSHIP
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	+
BIODIVERSITY	0
SOCIAL NEEDS	+
ECONOMY AND WORK	+
RESOURCE CONSUMPTION	+
HERITAGE AND CULTURE	0
OVERALL APPRAISAL	+
<p>COMMENTARY: The policy is positively appraised as it reduces the demand for travel and offers alternative modes of transportation thus reducing air pollution and congestion. It also introduces the concept of a sustainable and integrated transportation strategy, which would incorporate public transport provision. The policy was appraised positively as it supports public transport, social inclusion and reduces the demand to travel.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: No change</p>	

CHAPTER HEADING	Transportation and Infrastructure
GROUP:	28
POLICY/IES:	TR3, TR4, TR5, TR7, TR8
MAIN TRUST:	Pedestrians and Cyclists
RELATIVE TO:	SO2
APPRAISAL CRITERIA	RELATIONSHIP
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	+
BIODIVERSITY	0
SOCIAL NEEDS	+
ECONOMY AND WORK	+
RESOURCE CONSUMPTION	+
HERITAGE AND CULTURE	+
OVERALL APPRAISAL	+
<p>COMMENTARY: The policy is positive as it supports pedestrianisation and cycling as alternative modes of transport to the private car. Therefore air pollution is minimised and the urban environment becomes a more attractive place to live and work. The consumption of non-renewables is also reduced due to a decline in car usage. The built environment is also protected as streets are maintained and enhanced. Overall the policy is positively appraised.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: No change</p>	

CHAPTER HEADING	Transportation and Infrastructure
GROUP:	29
POLICY/IES:	TR9, TR10, TR11
MAIN TRUST:	Public Transport
RELATIVE TO:	SO2
APPRAISAL CRITERIA	RELATIONSHIP
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	+
BIODIVERSITY	0
SOCIAL NEEDS	+
ECONOMY AND WORK	+
RESOURCE CONSUMPTION	+
HERITAGE AND CULTURE	0
OVERALL APPRAISAL	+
<p>COMMENTARY: The policy is positively appraised as it supports public transport, which reduces air pollution and promotes social inclusion. The policy also supports the safeguarding of the existing rail network again reducing air pollution and limiting the impact of the private car on the urban environment. The reduction in the use of the private car also reduces the use of non-renewable resources. Overall the policy is positively appraised.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: No change</p>	

CHAPTER HEADING	Transportation and Infrastructure
GROUP:	30
POLICY/IES:	TR12, TR13, TR14
MAIN TRUST:	Private Transport
RELATIVE TO:	SO2
APPRAISAL CRITERIA	RELATIONSHIP
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	+
BIODIVERSITY	0
SOCIAL NEEDS	-
ECONOMY AND WORK	-
RESOURCE CONSUMPTION	+
HERITAGE AND CULTURE	0
OVERALL APPRAISAL	+/-
<p>COMMENTARY:</p> <p>The policy is positive in respect to the natural environment and resource consumption as it reduces the availability for long-term parking therefore making private car use unattractive. However it has scored negatively in terms of social needs and economy and work. The policy limits parking thus reducing the choices available to the disabled and other sectors of the community. Overall the policy scored both positively and negatively.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION:</p> <p>Ensure that the needs of the disabled are addressed with respect to parking standards.</p>	

CHAPTER HEADING	Transportation and Infrastructure
GROUP:	31
POLICY/IES:	TR15
MAIN TRUST:	Local Transport Strategy
RELATIVE TO:	SO2
APPRAISAL CRITERIA	RELATIONSHIP
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	0
BIODIVERSITY	0
SOCIAL NEEDS	0
ECONOMY AND WORK	0
RESOURCE CONSUMPTION	0
HERITAGE AND CULTURE	0
OVERALL APPRAISAL	+
<p>COMMENTARY: This policy when implemented will have a positive affect on all criteria, however at present it is hard to determine its results.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: No change</p>	

CHAPTER HEADING	Transportation and Infrastructure
GROUP:	32
POLICY/IES:	IN1, IN2, IN3, IN4
MAIN TRUST:	Transport Infrastructure
RELATIVE TO:	SO2
APPRAISAL CRITERIA	RELATIONSHIP
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	-
BIODIVERSITY	-
SOCIAL NEEDS	+
ECONOMY AND WORK	+
RESOURCE CONSUMPTION	-
HERITAGE AND CULTURE	-
OVERALL APPRAISAL	-
<p>COMMENTARY:</p> <p>The policy scored negatively in terms of the natural environment, biodiversity, resource consumption and heritage and culture. Any major road development will require large-scale development of greenfield sites therefore undermining flora and fauna. The construction of roads also promotes the continued use of the private car thus increasing air pollution and non-renewable energy use. The policy was positively appraised in terms of social needs and economy and work. Road development promotes investment and allows increased accessibility to facilities, jobs and services. Overall however the policy was negatively appraised.</p>	

RECOMMENDATION:

Ensure that all environmental concerns are addressed fully in the Local Transport Strategy.

CHAPTER HEADING	Transportation and Infrastructure
GROUP:	33
POLICY/IES:	IN5, IN6, IN7, IN8, IN9, IN10, IN11, IN12, IN13, IN14, IN15
MAIN TRUST:	Water Resources
RELATIVE TO:	SO2
APPRAISAL CRITERIA	RELATIONSHIP
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	+
BIODIVERSITY	0
SOCIAL NEEDS	+
ECONOMY AND WORK	+
RESOURCE CONSUMPTION	+
HERITAGE AND CULTURE	+
OVERALL APPRAISAL	+
<p>COMMENTARY: The policy is positive with respect to a number of criteria. It addresses the issue of water use and management and supports the efficient use of water. The policy also promotes SUDS which mitigates the impacts of surface water runoff and pollution. The policy also advocates Public Private Partnerships to provide services within new development areas. Overall however it has been positively appraised.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: No change.</p>	

CHAPTER HEADING	Transportation and Infrastructure
GROUP:	34
POLICY/IES:	IN16, IN17, IN18, IN 19, IN20, IN21
MAIN TRUST:	Infrastructure
RELATIVE TO:	SO6
APPRAISAL CRITERIA	RELATIONSHIP
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	+
BIODIVERSITY	+
SOCIAL NEEDS	+/-
ECONOMY AND WORK	+
RESOURCE CONSUMPTION	+
HERITAGE AND CULTURE	+/-
OVERALL APPRAISAL	+
<p>COMMENTARY: The policies have been positively appraised with respect to a number of criteria due to the promotion of renewable energy production and coherent waste management strategies. However it has been both positively and negatively appraised due with respect to social needs and heritage as there is a general presumption against the granting of houses reliant on individual effluent treatment systems. The promotion of wind energy production must also be sensitively approached as turbines may undermine the heritage value of the local landscape.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: Ensure that a Landscape Assessment is undertaken prior to the development of wind energy infrastructure.</p>	

CHAPTER HEADING	Agriculture
GROUP:	35
POLICY/IES:	AG1, AG2, AG3, AG4, AG5, AG6
MAIN TRUST:	Land-Use Management and Development
RELATIVE TO:	SO6
APPRAISAL CRITERIA	RELATIONSHIP
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	+
BIODIVERSITY	0
SOCIAL NEEDS	+/-
ECONOMY AND WORK	+/-
RESOURCE CONSUMPTION	+
HERITAGE AND CULTURE	+
OVERALL APPRAISAL	+
<p>COMMENTARY: The policy is positively appraised as it supports traditional agricultural practises. However it restricts the development of non-agricultural activities which may limit the availability of employment in the countryside. The policy restricts dispersed development in the countryside, but allows those associated with agriculture to build houses. It also protects the surrounding environment from pollution associated with agricultural activities and promotes the use of traditional materials which are environmental sensitive. Overall the policy has been positively appraised.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: It may be necessary to address the needs of other members of the community with respect to rural housing provision, i.e. doctors, teachers.</p>	

Appendix 4 - Individual Policy Appraisal

Group	Natural Environment	Biodiversity	Social Needs	Economy and Work	Resource Consumption	Heritage and Culture
Group 1						
PPA1	0	0	+	+	0	0
PPA2	0	0	+	+	0	0
PPA3	0	0	+	+	0	0
PPA4	+	+	+	+	+	+
PPA5	+	+	+	0	+	+
PPA6	+	+	+	0	+	0
PPA7	0	0	+	0	0	0
PPA8	0	0	0	0	0	0
PPA9	+	+	+	0	+	+
PPA10	+	+	0	0	0	+
PPA11	+	0	+	+	0	0
PPA12	0	0	0	0	0	0
PPA13	+	+	+	0	+	+
Overall	+	+	+	+	+	+
Group 2						
ED1	0	0	+	+	0	0
ED2	-	-	+	+	-	0
ED3	0	0	+	+	0	0
ED4	0	0	+	+	0	0
ED5	-	-	+	+	-	0
ED6	0	0	+	+	0	0
ED7	0	0	+	+	0	0
ED8	0	0	+	+	0	0
Overall	-	-	+	+	-	0
Group 3						
ED9	+	0	+	+	0	+
ED10	0	0	+	+	0	+
ED11	0	0	+	+	+	+
ED12	0	0	+	+	+	0
Overall	+	0	+	+	+	+
Group 4						
ED13	0	0	+	+	0	0
ED14	0	0	0	+	0	0
Overall	0	0	+	+	0	0
Group 5						
ED15	-	0	+	+	-	-

ED16	-	-	+	+	-	-
ED17	0	0	+	+	0	0
ED18	0	0	0	+	+	0
ED19	-	0	+	+	-	-
Overall	-	-	+	+	-	-

Group 6

ED20	0	0	+	+	0	0
ED21	-	-	+	+	-	0
Overall	-	-	+	+	-	0

Group 7

RT1	0	0	+	+	0	+
RT2	0	0	+	+	0	+
RT3	+	0	+	+	+	0
RT4	+	0	+	+	+	0
RT5	+	0	+	+	+	0
RT6	-	0	+	+	-	0
RT7	-	0	+	+	-	-
Overall	+	0	+	+	+	+

Group 8

RT7	0	0	0	+	0	0
RT8	0	0	0	-	0	0
RT9	+/-	0	0	+	+/-	0
RT10	-	0	0	+	-	0
Overall	+/-	0	0	+	+/-	0

Group 9

TC1	0	0	+	+	0	+
TC2	0	0	+	+	0	+
TC3	+	0	+	+	+	0
TC4	+	0	+	+	+/-	+
TC5	0	0	+	+	+	0
TC6	-	0	+	+	-	0
TC7	0	0	0	+	0	0
TC8	0	0	0	-	0	0
TC9	+/-	0	+	+/-	0	0
TC10	-	0	0	+	-	
Overall	+/-	0	+	+	+/-	+

Group 10

TC11	0	0	0	+	+	+
TC12	0	0	0	0	0	+
TC13	0	0	0	0	0	+
TC14	0	0	0	0	0	+
Overall	0	0	0	+	+	+

Group 11

TC15	0	0	0	+	0	0
TC16	0	0	+	+	0	0
TC17	0	0	+	+	0	0
TC18	0	0	+	+	0	+
TC19	0	0	+	+	0	0
TC20	0	0	+	+	+	0
TC21	-	0	+	+	-	0
TC22	0	0	+	+	0	0
Overall	-	-	+	+	+	+

Group 12

UR1	0	0	+	+	+	0
UR2	0	0	-	+	0	0
Overall	0	0	+/-	+	+	0

Group 13

URI	0	0	0	+	+/-	0
URL	0	0	0	+	+/-	0
URK	0	0	+	0	+/-	0
URM	0	0	+	+	+/-	0
URN	0	0	0	+	+/-	0
URJ	0	0	0	+	+/-	0
Overall	0	0	+	+	+/-	0

Group 14

EN1	0	0	+	0	+	+
EN2	+	0	+	0	+	+
EN3	0	0	+	0	-	0
EN4	0	0	+	0	0	0
EN5	0	0	+	+	0	0
EN6	0	0	+	+	0	0
EN7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overall	+	-	+	+	+	+

Group 15

N1	+	0	+	0	0	0
N2	0	0	+	0	0	0
N3	0	0	+	0	0	0
N4	+	0	+	0	0	0
N5	0	0	0	0	0	0
N6	0	0	+	0	0	0
Overall	+	0	+	0	0	0

Group 16

HP1	+	0	+	0	0	0
HP2	0	0	+	0	0	0
HP3	0	0	+	0	0	0
HP4	0	0	+	0	0	0
HP5	+/-	0	+	0	0	0

HP6	+	0	+	0	+	0
HP7	+	0	0	0	+	0
Overall	+	0	+	0	+	0

Group 17

HP8	0	0	+	0	0	0
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Group 18

HP9	+	0	+	0	0	0
HP10	+	0	+/-	0	+	0
HP11	0	0	+	0	0	0
HP12	0	0	+	0	0	0
HP13	0	0	+	0	0	0
HP14	0	0	+	0	0	+
HP15	0	+	+	0	0	0
HP16	0	0	+	0	0	0
Overall	+	0	+	0	+	+

Group 19

HO17	0	0	+	0	0	0
HP18	0	0	+	0	0	0
HP19	0	0	0	0	0	0
HP20	0	0	+	0	0	0
HP21	0	0	+	0	0	0
HP22	0	0	+	0	0	0
HP23	0	0	+	0	0	0
HP24	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overall	0	0	+	0	0	0

Group 20

CF1	0	0	+	0	0	0
CF2	0	0	+	0	0	0
CF3	-	0	+	+	0	0
CF4	0	0	+	+	0	0
CF5	0	0	+	0	0	0
CF6	0	0	+	0	0	0
CF7	+	0	+	0	0	0
CF8	0	0	+	0	0	0
Overall	+/-	0	+	+	0	0

Group 21

NE1	+	+	+	0	0	+
NE2	0	0	+	0	0	0
NE3	+	+	+	0	0	+
NE4	+	+	+	0	0	0
NE5	+	0	+	0	+	0
Overall	+	+	+	0	+	+

Group 22

NE6	+	+	+	0	0	+
NE7	+	+	+	0	0	+
NE8	+	+	+	0	0	+
NE9	+	+	+	0	0	+
NE10	0	0	+	0	0	0
NE11	+	+	+	-	+	+
Overall	+	+	+	-	+	+

GROUP 23

NE12	+	+	0	0	0	+
NE13	+	+	0	0	0	+
NE14	+	0	0	0	0	+
NE15	+	+	0	0	0	+
NE16	+	+	0	0	0	+
NE17	+	+	0	-	+	+
Overall	+	+	0	0	0	+

GROUP 24

NE18	+	+	0	-	+	0
NE19	+	+	0	-	0	0
NE20	+	0	0	0	+	0
NE21	+	0	0	0	0	0
NE22	+	+	0	0	+	+
Overall	+	+	0	-	+	+

GROUP 25

BE1	0	0	0	0	0	+
BE2	0	0	0	0	+	+
BE3	0	0	0	0	0	+
Overall	0	0	0	0	+	+

GROUP 26

BE5	0	0	0	0	0	+
BE6	0	0	0	0	0	+
BE7	0	0	0	0	0	+
Overall	0	0	0	0	0	+

GROUP 27

TR1	+	0	+	+	+	0
TR2	0	0	+	+	0	0
Overall	+	0	+	+	+	0

GROUP 28

TR3	+	0	+	0	+	0
TR4	+	0	+	+	+	0
TR5	+	0	+	+	+	+
TR6	0	0	+	0	0	0
TR7	+	0	+	0	0	0
TR8	+	0	+	+	0	0

Overall	+	0	+	+	+	+
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GROUP 29

TR9	+	0	+	+	+	0
TR10	+	0	+	+	+	0
TR11	+	0	+	+	+	0
Overall	+	0	+	+	+	0

GROUP 30

TR12	+	0	-	-	+	0
TR13	+	0	-	-	+	0
TR14	+	0	+	+	+	0
Overall	+	0	-	-	+	0

GROUP 31

TR15	0	0	0	0	0	0
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GROUP 32

IN1	0	0	0	+	0	0
IN2	0	0	+	+	0	0
IN3	-	-	+	+	-	-
IN4	0	0	+	+	0	0
Overall	-	-	+	+	-	-

GROUP 33

IN5	+	0	+	+	0	0
IN6	-	0	+/-	+	0	0
IN7	+	0	0	0	+	+/-
IN8	0	0	+	-	0	0
IN9	+	0	0	0	+	0
IN10	+	0	0	0	+	+
IN11	0	0	0	0	0	0
IN12	0	0	0	0	0	0
IN13	+	0	0	0	+	+
IN14	0	0	0	0	0	0
IN15	+	0	0	0	0	+
Overall	+	0	+	+	+	+

GROUP 34

IN16	+	0	+	0	+	0
IN17	0	0	0	0	0	0
IN18	+	+	-	0	+	0
IN19	+	0	0	+	0	-
IN20	+	0	0	+	0	+
IN21	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overall	+	+	+/-	+	+	+/-

GROUP 35

AG1	+	0	-	-	+	+
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AG2	+	0	+/-	-	+	-
AG3	0	0	0	+	0	0
AG4	0	0	+	+	0	0
AG5	+	0	0	0	0	0
AG6	+	0	0	0	0	+
Overall	+	0	+/-	+/-	+	+

Appendix 5 - References

1. Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment
2. *Guidance on Preparing Regional Sustainable Development Frameworks*, DETR 2000
3. *Craigavon Area Plan 2010 (Technical Supplement: Strategic Environmental Assessment)*, The Planning Service DoENI 2000
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5. *Moray Development Plan*, Moray Council 2000
6. www.defra.gov.uk/environment
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9.