

**Marie Ward**  
Chief Executive



Comhairle  
an Iúir  
agus Aghaidh  
Newry,  
Mourne  
and Down  
District  
Council

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026

Ref: ANDBC LDP dPS

LDP Team  
Ards and North Down Borough Council  
2 Church Street  
Newtownards  
BT23 4AP

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Ards and North Down Local Development Plan 2032 – Draft Plan Strategy**

**Representation response of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council**

I refer to the publication of your LDP draft Plan Strategy and thank you for the opportunity to comment.

We acknowledge the mutual co-operation and constructive engagement through meetings that have taken place between officers from our respective local Development Plan Teams during the preparation of your dPS to identify cross boundary issues and discuss areas of mutual interest.

In reference to the dPS, and associated documents, the Council notes the development of the Plan objectives to deliver the vision for the LDP and how these are implemented through the spatial strategy, strategic and operational policies.

The Council notes the intention of the spatial strategy to focus growth on Bangor and Newtownards as the principal settlements while consolidating and strengthening the role of lower order settlements and sustaining the Borough's rural communities. The settlement hierarchy entailing 42 settlements across four tiers is also acknowledged.

The Council notes the proposed Strategic Housing Allocation is informed by an employment-led approach and directs the majority of growth (63%) to the principal settlements. In managing the proposed housing supply the Council welcomes the use of phasing which reflects the approach taken in NMDDC.

The Council shares the objective to take a sustainable approach to development in rural areas and ensure that growth does not exceed the capacity of the environment. The Council considers the ANDBC Countryside Strategy reflects the approach taken within the NMDDC dPS Countryside Strategy.

**Oifig an Iúir**  
**Newry Office**  
O'Hagan House  
Monaghan Row  
Newry BT35 8DJ

**Oifig Dhún Pádraig**  
**Downpatrick Office**  
Downshire Civic Centre  
Downshire Estate, Ardglass Road  
Downpatrick BT30 6GQ

0300 013 2233 (Council)  
0300 200 7830 (Planning)  
council@nmandd.org  
www.newrymournedown.org

Ag freagracht  
agus Aghaidh  
Servísí  
and So

The Council notes that while existing designations are carried forward from the existing development plan further work in reviewing existing and future landscape designations will be assessed as part of the Local Policies Plan. Given our shared boundary and transboundary landscape there is a need to ensure that there are no potential issues of adverse impacts arising from landscape designations and the Council would welcome further discussion at the appropriate time.

The dPS brings forward a strategic policy on climate change adaption and mitigation the Council considers that this aligns with the approach set out within the NMDDC dPS both the Strategic Policy SP1 Sustainable Development and Climate Change and GP1 General Policy.

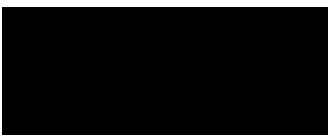
The Council notes the Strategic and Operational Topic Policies and considers that these are not in conflict with those set out in Part two of the NMDDC dPS.

In particular the Council welcomes the approach taken in respect of the undeveloped coast and the identification of the undeveloped coastal zone. The Council considers that this aligns with the approach set out within Policy CO1 of the NMDDC dPS.

The Council notes the accompanying supporting documents, in particular the Technical Supplements, Supplementary Planning Guidance and Sustainability Appraisal.

In conclusion, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council considers that the contents of your draft Plan Strategy documents are not in conflict with the policy approach taken in our own draft Plan Strategy. We look forward to continued consultation and engagement with you on matters of common interest at the appropriate time in our respective work programmes.

Yours faithfully,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Jonathan McGilly.

**Jonathan McGilly**  
**Assistant Director Regeneration**