

Your Ref LDP2020/FO/PS
Our Ref FODC/LDP/PS
Date 19 October 2021
Email planning@fermanaghomagh.com



Fermanagh & Omagh
District Council
Comhairle Ceantair
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

Alison McCullagh
Chief Executive

Planning Department

Barry Fegan
Programme Officer
Planning Appeals Commission
Park House
87/91 Great Victoria Street
Belfast
BT2 7AG

Dear Mr Fegan

Re: Independent Examination - Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Local Development Plan (LDP): Draft Plan Strategy (DPS)

I write in response to your letter of 4 October 2021.

The Council is pleased that the initial assessment of the DPS is “*well progressed*” and would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the Commissioner for the work undertaken since March 2021 in connection with the independent examination of the DPS.

As the first rural Council to reach this stage of the examination process, this is a significant milestone not only for Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, but also for plan-making in Northern Ireland. The LDP represents an opportunity to promote sustainable development in the Fermanagh and Omagh district over the plan period, with a view to improving the quality of life of those who live, work and visit the Council area, for the benefit of both existing and future generations.

As you will appreciate, reaching this stage of the process has taken a significant amount of time and effort by Council staff, elected members, the wider community, and consultees. The Council would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who have engaged positively and proactively in the process to date; and it looks forward to further engagement throughout the independent examination process.

Your letter of 4 October 2021 sets out under three broad headings and a series of requests for further information which the Commissioner has made in order to

“assist with the independent examination”. In the interests of clarity, and in order to ensure that the Commissioner has before her all of the relevant information in response to her requests, the Council has set out its response to each request in an attached, technical appendix. That appendix also has a number of documents enclosed, which are necessary in light of the substantive response given by the Council.

As was the case during the independent examination of the Belfast City Council Local Development Plan: Plan Strategy, it is envisaged that this letter and the attached, technical appendix will be made available by the Commission on its examination library. If the Commission requires these documents to be provided in a certain format, please let the Council know and it can arrange for this to be done.

If the Commissioner has further questions about any of this information, then the Council would welcome further engagement with the Commissioner either in writing or orally, in an exploratory meeting. The Council is, however, hopeful that its detailed response to the requests for information will avoid the need for an exploratory meeting, although this, of course, is ultimately a matter for the Commissioner.

The Council would be grateful if the Commission could indicate anticipated timelines for next stages in the process, so that suitable arrangements can be made and the public be kept informed of progress.

If you require anything further, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Mr Paul Mc Dermott.

Yours sincerely



Kim McLaughlin
Director of Regeneration and Planning
Fermanagh and Omagh District Council