

Independent Examination
Derry City and Strabane District Council
Local Development Plan 2032
Draft Plan Strategy
Closing Notes

This concludes the topics and issues which I wanted to raise with participants.

The Independent Examination process is however on-going whilst I write up my report. If, having reviewed the submitted evidence, I consider that there is a fundamental soundness issue that has not been resolved, I reserve the right to correspond with any of the parties. This will only occur if I consider it to be absolutely necessary. Should this arise, details will be provided in the Examination Library section of the Commission's website. I will not have sight of any unsolicited material submitted to the Commission which I have not requested and the Programme Officer will return it to the sender.

Once completed, my report will be sent to the Department for Infrastructure. It will concentrate on reaching clear and reasoned conclusions on the plan's compliance with the statutory requirements and its soundness as well as presenting recommendations on any amendments to the plan which are required to overcome any correctable shortcomings in relation to these matters. Paragraphs 37-41 within the Commission's 'Procedures for Independent Examination of Local Development Plans' document (December 2019) provides further information on the report and is available on the Commission's website.

The Department will be required to consider the Commission's recommendations but will not be obliged to accept them. In terms of the delivery of my report, due to the request to delay the opening of the Examination I have also been assigned appeal casework. I will however endeavour to issue the report during April 2024. If the report is completed before that time it will be forwarded earlier. The Commission's Examination Library will be updated accordingly and a news item will be posted on the website's homepage. Release of the report will be a matter for the Department.

The Programme Officer, Mr Barry Fegan, will remain available to deal with any queries that may arise.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all participants for their valued contribution to the discussions. Their contributions are very much appreciated, and it has made my job conducting this examination so much easier. As always, I am indebted to Mr Barry Fegan for his invaluable assistance in preparing for and carrying out the various hearing sessions. He has helped the whole process run very smoothly.

A copy of this note will be placed within the Examination Library section of the Commission's website.

The public hearing sessions are now closed.

Commissioner Diane O'Neill BSc DipTP PhD MRTPI