

Mid & East Antrim Borough Council Local Development Plan

Draft Plan Strategy 2030

INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION PUBLIC HEARING SESSIONS

CLOSING NOTES

11 August 2022

That brings us to the end of the topics and issues that we wanted to raise with participants and the public hearing sessions of the Independent Examination (IE).

The IE process is on-going whilst we are writing our report. If, upon review of the evidence already before us, we consider that a fundamental soundness issue has not been resolved, we reserve the right to correspond with any of the parties. If this were the case, details would be provided in the Examination Library on the Commission's web-site. We would only request additional information or seek further clarification that is essential to enable a decision regarding soundness to be made. Any unsolicited material that we have not requested will be returned to the sender by the Programme Officer without being passed to the Commissioners.

In writing the report, we will aim for brevity and concentrate on:

- Reaching clear, reasoned conclusions on the plan's compliance with the statutory requirements and its soundness; and
- Presenting recommendations on any necessary modifications to the plan which are required to overcome any correctable shortcomings in regard to statutory requirements or soundness.

We will also address the issue of minor beneficial changes or corrections to the Plan suggested by the Council and/or raised as matters arising during the hearings.

For further information you are referred to the Commission's "Procedures for Independent Examination of Local Development Plans" Version 2, December 2019, which is available on the Commission's web-site, and specifically paragraphs 37 – 41.

When complete, the report will be forwarded to the Department for Infrastructure who will be required to consider its recommendations but is not obliged to accept them. If this were the case, it would set out its reasoning for so doing.

We are mindful that delivery of the report has resource implications for both the Department and Mid and East Antrim Council so our planned date for doing so aims to provide as much certainty as possible for both organisations whilst enabling us to effectively discharge my responsibilities. There are many matters to be considered. With this in mind, we hope to deliver the report to the Department by the end of February 2023.

If it is ready before that, it will be promptly forwarded. When forwarded the Commission's Examination Library will be updated accordingly and a news item published on its home page.

Release of the report will be a matter for the Department.

Our Programme Officer, Barry Fegan assisted by Jemma Lynas, will remain available to deal with any queries arising. We want to take this opportunity to thank them for their diligence, and thoroughness in administering this IE.

We would like to thank the Council team and all participants for their contributions to the discussion and also for their co-operation and patience in getting through the hearing programme.

Before we close is there anything that the parties want to add or clarify?

A copy of these notes will be placed in the Examination Library on the Commission's website.

The public hearing sessions are now closed.

Commissioner Rosemarie Daly BSc MSc MRTPI

Commissioner Carrie McDonagh BSc Dip T&CP, MRTPI

11th August 2022