

**Independent Examination
Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
Local Development Plan 2030
Draft Plan Strategy**

**Examination opening notes
Monday 6th June 2022**

Good morning and welcome to the opening of the public hearing sessions of the Independent Examination of the Mid and East Antrim Local Development Plan 2030 – Draft Plan Strategy.

Can everyone hear me?

By way of introduction, I am Commissioner Rosemary Daly and with me is Commissioner Carrie McDonagh. We are members of the PAC. Our Programme Officer Barry Feagan will be present for the duration of the hearing. He will be available to assist with any queries relating to the examination and provide help with any technical issues.

The purpose of the examination is to determine whether the local development plan is legally compliant and sound in accordance with the twelve tests of soundness identified in the Department for Infrastructure’s Development Plan Practice Note 6: Soundness dated May 2017.

The hearing programme for Weeks 1 and 2, together with the Guidance Notes and Remote Hearings Protocol, were published on 8th April 2022. We are now working from Version 3 of the hearing programme published on the Commission web site on the 27th May 2022. Parties taking part in the public hearing sessions are expected to have read and be familiar with: -

- The Commissioners guidance notes for participants;

- the Commission's Procedures for Independent Examination of Local Development Plans; and
- the Remote Hearings Protocol for Mid and East Antrim LDP Independent Examination Hearing Sessions.

All these documents are available on the Commission's web site.

The initial public hearing sessions will run from today for a 2-week period until Friday 17th June 2022. The hearing programme and associated questions for 3 -5 will be released before the 6 July 2022.

The public hearings will normally comprise of two daily sessions from 10.30 am – 12.30 pm and 2.00 – 4.00 pm. Participants should log on a minimum of 15 minutes prior to the starting time of each hearing session. Advice on joining the hearing sessions is contained within the Commission's Remote Hearings Protocol. If discussion of an issue can be completed with some run over of the indicative finishing time then this may be facilitated. If required, a roll-over day has been set aside on Thursday 16th June at the end of week 2 in order to facilitate any unfinished discussions. A programme for any roll-over days will be published and updated on the Commission's website. **It is your responsibility to ensure that you check this regularly** as the start time, duration and number of sessions may alter in order to address any outstanding issues from the preceding day/s.

The remote hearing sessions will be conducted on the basis of the agenda in a 'round-table' manner. The Council will usually be invited to make an opening comment, followed by any participants who wish to contribute. The Council will then be given the opportunity to make

any follow-up remarks. When discussion on an issue is complete, time permitting, the Commissioner hearing that issue will move onto the next one. If different participants are joining discussion of an issue, there will be a short break between topics and issues to allow them to do so.

Your devices should be on mute at all times until you are invited to speak. If you need to communicate with other members of your team or take instruction, please do so in private using a separate means of communication.

If you wish to respond to a question, please avail of the 'raise hand' facility on Webex to indicate your desire to speak. The Commissioner presiding over that topic will give each of those who have raised their hands an opportunity to have their say. If another speaker has covered the point that you want to make, please lower your hand. Repetition of points already made will be curtailed. When you are invited to speak, you should turn your camera on, unmute your microphone, introduce yourself and, if appropriate, your organisation and/or client. There are a lot of issues to consider so please make your response brief and focused and adhere to the agenda bearing in mind your written submission to the Council and the Council's evidence on the issue have all been read.

There will not be any cross examination, participant interruption or open discussion. Responses should always be directed to the Commissioner. Participants will normally only be asked to speak once on each question. If invited to make a further contribution, please avoid repetition of points that either you or another party has already made. When you have

finished speaking, please say so and at that stage please turn off your camera and mute your microphone.

The Commissioner will terminate the discussion on any particular issue when they have enough information. You are reminded that recording of the proceedings is not authorised.

All information relating to the examination can be accessed at any time on the Commission website at www.pacni.gov.uk by clicking the link Independent Examination of Local Development Plans – Mid and East Antrim. **Please check the website regularly for updates.** If you have any other queries please do not hesitate to contact the Programme Officer.

A copy of these Examination Opening Notes will be published on the Commission's website in the Mid and East Antrim Library.

Before I move onto discuss the first topic I want to check are all participants clear on the protocol or are there any questions that you wish to raise?