

# **THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND 2025**

## **5-YEAR REVIEW**

### **STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT**



Department for  
**Regional  
Development**

[www.drdni.gov.uk](http://www.drdni.gov.uk)

**June 2006**

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 European Directive 2001/42/EC “on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment” requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment of a wide range of plans and programmes. The objective of the Directive is “to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and with a view to promoting sustainable development” (Article 1).
- 1.2 The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004 (Statutory Rule 2004 No. 258) came into effect on the 22 July 2004, almost three years after the RDS was formulated (September 2001). These regulations transpose the EC Directive into law in Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland (NI) Regulations require ‘Responsible Authorities’ (Article 3) to carry out an Environmental Assessment of certain plans and programmes where there are determined to be likely significant environmental effects.
- 1.3 The EC Directive and NI Regulations are not retrospective (ie do not apply to plans and programmes adopted prior to 22 July 2004). However, they may apply to ‘modifications’ to them after this date (eg where plans or programmes are the subject of review).

## **2. The Regional Development Strategy**

- 2.1 The Regional Development Strategy (RDS) was prepared under the Strategic Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1999. Under this Order, the Department for Regional Development is responsible for formulating, “in consultation with other Northern Ireland departments”, a regional development strategy for Northern Ireland.
- 2.2 The RDS was subsequently formulated in September 2001 and in line with best practice at that time was subject to a Sustainability Assessment during its preparation.<sup>1</sup> The Government publication *Environmental Appraisal of Development Plans: A Good Practice Guide* was also used as an aid to this process. The Sustainability Appraisal process which was followed, broadly conforms to the general thrust of the recent EC Directive on the Environmental Assessment of plans and programmes.
- 2.3 Not solely limited to land use, the RDS addresses a range of economic, social, environmental and community issues, and reflects national and European thinking on the use of spatial frameworks. At the heart of the Strategy is the principle of ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now, and for generations to come, by seeking to meet the four objectives of sustainable development (RDS, page 22).

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<sup>1</sup> Strategic Environmental Appraisal Report: A Sustainability Assessment of the Draft Regional Strategic Framework for Northern Ireland, DOE, February 1999.

- 2.4 The RDS includes Guiding Principles and sets out forces that are likely to drive change. It also includes a Spatial Development Strategy and 43 supporting Strategic Planning Guidelines that provide long-term policy directions for the public and private sectors and the whole community.
- 2.5 The aim of the Spatial Development Strategy is to provide a strategic focus that will guide future development to promote a balanced and equitable pattern of sustainable development throughout the Region. It is a framework based on urban hubs and clusters, key and link transport corridors and the main regional Gateways of ports and airports.
- 2.6 Chapter 12 of the RDS 'Caring for the Environment' includes Strategic Planning Guidelines which deal with the protection and enhancement of the natural and built environments.

### **3. Monitoring and Review of the RDS**

3.1 Progress on the implementation of the RDS is monitored and published biennially using a number of indicators agreed by an Inter Departmental Steering Group. There are currently 12 Critical Threshold Indicators (Annex A). Relevant to the environment these Critical Threshold Indicators include monitoring of:

- Rate of brownfield development;
- Air Quality; and
- % Landfill sites and the proportion of waste going to landfill.

3.2 As well as the 12 Critical Threshold Indicators used to give early warning of difficulties in implementing the RDS overall, progress is also measured against Strategic Planning Guidelines. The range of targets and indicators have been established in consultation with all other government departments and include data specific to the major themes in the Strategy relating to the environment. These environment themes are:

- Protection of the Environment;
- The Natural Environment including the Coast;
- The Built Environment;
- Wise Use of the Environment; and

- The Environment and Health including Recreation and Cultural Amenities.

A summary of environmental data being collected is set out at Annex B.

3.3 The RDS is a long-term strategy that sets out a challenging agenda to shape the development of Northern Ireland up to 2025. An important part of the RDS implementation is the provision to review the Strategy to ensure that it remains appropriate overtime.

#### 4. The Focused Assessment

- 4.1 There is a commitment in the RDS that a ‘focused assessment’ would be carried out after 5 years to identify any aspects where ‘in-course adjustments’ may be required to particular strategic planning guidelines of the Strategy (RDS, Page 205). The Focused Assessment uses evidence that has emerged within the first 5 years of the Strategy in order to consider the need for adjustments now.
- 4.2 The need for **major** changes of direction in the Strategy will be considered at the review in 2010 when it is expected that analysis of emerging trends will be more conclusive.
- 4.3 The first 5 year review is therefore more limited in scope than the 2010 review and has a focus on the need for adjustments rather than whether major changes of direction are required.

## **5. Review of the Regional Housing Growth Indicators**

- 5.1 There is also a commitment in the RDS to update the assessment of regional housing need figures after 5 years. This separate review commenced a year early with the publication of a three-month consultation paper in May 2004.
- 5.2 A Public Examination on the Review was held by an Independent Panel from 14 to 17 February 2006 and the Department received the Panel's report on 31 March 2006.
- 5.3 The Panel's report sets out a consideration of the matters, which were addressed at the Public Examination, and makes 27 recommendations.
- 5.4 These recommendations have been considered by the Department and a response has been published.
- 5.5 The Review of the Regional Housing Growth Indicators, which commenced prior to the Focused Assessment, has been subject to a separate environmental consideration.
- 5.6 Further information on this Review including the Panel's Report and the DRD response is available from the Regional Planning and Transportation website at [www.drdni.gov.uk/shapingourfuture](http://www.drdni.gov.uk/shapingourfuture)

## 6. Screening

6.1 The EC Directive acknowledges that many plans are modified and that these modifications should be given the same importance as the plans and programmes to which they link. It follows that any modification of a plan or a programme must be subject to assessment under Article 5 of the Directive if any modification in itself involves significant environmental effects **not yet assessed**.

6.2 In forming a view on whether the Focused Assessment of the RDS requires an SEA, the Department used screening guidance issued by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) (OPDM, 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, 2005, Figure 2, Page 13) and consulted with the Department of the Environment (NI) (the 'Consultation Body'). Having followed the steps set out in Figure 2 the following conclusions have been reached.

- The Focused Assessment (review of the RDS) is subject to preparation and or adoption by the Department for Regional Development for Northern Ireland in accordance with the Strategic Planning (Northern Ireland) 1999 Order. As such it is being prepared by a regional authority through a legislative procedure.

- This Review is required by the administrative provisions agreed by Government and detailed in the RDS (Page 204-205).
- The Focused Assessment must be set in the context of the RDS which provides the spatial planning framework for:
  - strengthening the competitiveness of the regional economy and tackling social and economic disadvantage;
  - protecting and enhancing the physical, natural and man made assets of the Region;
  - housing, transport, air water quality, energy and waste strategies, and for infrastructure providers and public service promoters; and
  - development plans and for guiding public and private investment decisions relating to landuse.
- Whilst the RDS is a material consideration in the regulation of development, the use of land at the local level is determined through operational plans. The outcome of the Focused Assessment may result in ‘adjustments’ to the RDS which would require an environmental assessment only where it is determined

that they are likely to have significant environmental effects which have not already been assessed.

## **7. Determining the Likely Significant Effects of the Focused Assessment Exercise**

- 7.1 Schedule 2, Annex II in the Directive sets out the “Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5). In general, it can be assumed that the greater the degree to which the criteria are met the more likely it is that the effects on the environment will be significant. The Focused Assessment is not a new plan. The purpose of the Focused Assessment is to consider the need for adjustments to the Strategy where there is evidence to suggest these are necessary. Consideration of the likely significant environmental effects is therefore proportionate to the scope and focus of this first 5-year review of the RDS.
- 7.2 Set out in Section 8 are comments in relation to each of the criteria of Schedule 2 Annex II, in the context of the extent of the Focused Assessment. The environmental effects of each proposed modification to the Strategic Planning Guidance are set out in Annex C.

## **8. Criteria for Determining the Likely Significance of the Effects referred to in Article 3(5) – The Focused Assessment**

*1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular to:*

*(i) The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources*

### **Comment**

- 8.1 The RDS provides long-term policy directions, from a strategic spatial perspective for the whole of Northern Ireland. Not solely limited to land use, the RDS addresses a range of economic, social, environmental and community issues, and reflects national and European thinking on the use of spatial frameworks.
- 8.2 Central to implementation of the RDS is the Spatial Development Strategy that is designed to provide a strategic focus to future development to promote a balanced and equitable pattern of sustainable development throughout the Region. It is a framework based on urban Hubs and Clusters, key and link transport corridors and the main regional Gateways of ports and airports.

8.3 The Focused Assessment is set in the context of this existing framework, which will be the subject of a major review in 2010. This first 5-year review is therefore more limited in scope than the 2010 review and has a focus on adjustments rather than whether major changes of direction are required. The RDS and Focused Assessment do not allocate any resources. Nothing contained in either the RDS or the review document should be read as a commitment that public resources would be provided for any specific project.

(ii) *The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy.*

#### **Comment**

8.4 The RDS provides the overarching strategic context for the development of the Region. However, *“It is not the role of the RDS to redefine the strategies of other Departments for their specific areas of responsibility, which have been developed within their own statutory remit and through specific consultation exercises. Rather, the RDS seeks to provide an over-arching strategic planning framework to facilitate and guide the public sector in respect of those elements of their strategies, which have a spatial development perspective.”* (RDS, Page 3)

8.5 Nevertheless, under the Strategic Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 Northern Ireland Departments are required to “have regard to the RDS” in exercising any

functions in relation to development. In particular, planning policy, development plans and development schemes are required to be ‘in general conformity with the RDS’. The RDS is also material to decisions on individual planning applications and planning appeals. The Focused Assessment does not alter the strategic context of the RDS.

(iii) *The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.*

### **Comment**

8.6 At the heart of the Strategy is the principle of ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now, and for generations to come, by seeking to meet the four objectives of sustainable development (RDS, page 22). These are:

- social progress which recognises the needs of everyone;
- effective protection of the environment;
- prudent use of natural resources; and
- maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

8.7 In addition, Chapter 12 of the RDS ‘Caring for the Environment’ includes SPGs that are directed towards the protection and enhancement of the natural and built environments through an approach to development and policy formulation which has the condition of the environment as a central deciding factor.

- (iv) *Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme*

### **Comment**

8.8 The RDS seeks to contribute to solving, reducing and avoiding known environmental problems. No new environmental problems have emerged as part of the Focused Assessment.

- (v) *The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (eg plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection)*

8.9 Preparation of the RDS has been influenced by local, national and international legislative and policy considerations. The RDS makes a positive contribution to the implementation of community legislation on the environment and for example provides strategic guidance relevant to waste management and water protection.

2. *Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:*

- (i) *The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;*
- (ii) *The cumulative nature of the effects;*
- (iii) *The trans-boundary nature of the effects;*
- (iv) *The risks to human health or the environment;*

- (v) *The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);*
- (vi) *The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to;*
  - i. *Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage*
  - ii. *Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values,*
  - iii. *Intensive land-use*
- (vii) *The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.*

### **Comment**

8.10 Overall, the RDS makes a positive contribution by seeking to solve, reduce and avoid known environmental problems in Northern Ireland for the period up to 2025. The RDS is the overarching strategic spatial framework for the future development of Northern Ireland. Consideration of the environmental effects of the RDS at the sub regional level is currently carried out at the lower level of the policy hierarchy including the preparation of Area Plans.

## **9. Determining the likely significant effects of the proposed or adjustments**

- 9.1 The overriding consideration in the determination as to whether there is need to carry out environmental assessment with the Focused Assessment is whether the adjustments proposed have likely significant environmental effects.
- 9.2 The Department has screened each of the proposed adjustments to determine whether there are likely to be significant environmental effects. The screening exercise is set out at Annex C.
- 9.3 The adjustments being proposed are not significant. In addition, the Strategic Planning Guidance to which they relate have already been the subject of a Sustainability Appraisal and it is for these reasons that the conclusion of the screening exercise is that there are not likely to be significant environmental effects as a result of this first review of the Strategy.
- 9.4 It is therefore the Department's determination that no Environmental Assessment is required on the Focused Assessment adjustments and in accordance with Article 3 (7) the EC Directive will make this determination available to the public.

**CRITICAL THRESHOLD INDICATORS**

- Rate of brownfield development
- Levels of housing stress
- Average earnings (% with GB/ROI/Europe)
- Levels of basic skills (cf with GB/ROI/Europe)
- Expenditure on infrastructure as % GVA
- Air quality
- Birth/failure/survival rate of companies
- % labour force with NVQ 3 or above (cf with GB/ROI/Europe)
- % landfill sites and the proportion of waste going to landfill
- Health indicators (cancer/coronary heart disease/mortality)
- Journey times on the Key Transport Corridor highway routes
- Average % of trips by mode per person

**ANNEX B**

**Environmental Data Collected as part of existing RDS Annual Monitoring and Reporting Arrangements**

| <b>Strategic Policy Guidance</b> | <b>Sampled Supporting Action</b>   | <b>Overall Indicators and Measured Outcomes</b>   | <b>Data Source</b>  |
|----------------------------------|--|---|---|
| <b>SPG- ENV 1:</b>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustain and enhance biodiversity</li> <li>• Protect and manage areas designated for their scientific interests</li> <li>• Protect, manage and enhance the resources of woodland and hedgerows as features of environmental and historic significance</li> <li>• Protect, enhance and encourage appreciation of the Region’s landscapes</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The cumulative number and area of statutory sites designated for their landscape or wildlife importance</li> <li>• The cumulative number of habitat and species Action Plans prepared</li> <li>• Cumulative % of baseline survey of Areas of Special Scientific Interest completed</li> <li>• Area of woodland shown to be managed sustainably (ie certified against an agreed standard)</li> <li>• The number and area of Areas of High Scenic Value designations; Local Landscape Policy Area designations development plan adoptions</li> </ul> | <p><i>DOE (Environment and Heritage Service)</i></p> <p><i>DOE (Environment and Heritage Service)</i></p> <p><i>DOE (Environment and Heritage Service)</i></p> <p><i>DARD</i></p> <p><i>DOE (Planning Service)</i></p> <p><i>DOE (Planning Service)</i></p> |

|                    |  |  |  |
|--------------------|--|--|--|
|                    |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The cumulative number of Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCI) adopted or proposed in Area Plans pre 2000-2003</li> </ul>   |  |
| <b>SPG-ENV 2:</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conserve distinctive coastal habitats</li> <li>Seek to reconcile development and management pressures</li> <li>Improve sewerage infrastructure and effluent treatment systems for coastal settlements to meet European water quality standards and international agreements</li> <li>Protect and improve the quality of coastal waters to meet obligations under European Directives</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The cumulative number and area of statutory designated sites to protect coastal habitats and features</li> <li>The quality of coastal bathing waters</li> <li>The annual number of Food and Environment Protection Act (FEPA) licenses issued</li> <li>Compliance with registered discharge standards for wastewater treatment works serving more than 250 population equivalent</li> </ul> | <p><i>DOE (Environment and Heritage Service)</i></p> <p><i>DOE (Environment and Heritage Service)</i></p> <p><i>DOE (Environment and Heritage Service)</i></p> <p><i>DRD (Water Service)</i></p> |
| <b>SPG- ENV 3:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safeguard the archaeological resource</li> <li>Safeguard buildings of special architectural or historic interest</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The total number of listed buildings</li> <li>The total number of sites and monuments scheduled under</li> </ul>  | <p><i>DOE (Environment and Heritage Service)</i></p> <p><i>DOE (Environment and Heritage Service)</i></p>  |

|                   |   |   |   |
|-------------------|---|---|---|
|                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve the character of cities, towns and villages</li> <li>• Conserve parks, gardens and demesnes which are of historic interest</li> </ul>   | <p>the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order because of their archaeological significance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The total number and area of Areas of Townscape Character</li> <li>• The total number of Conservation Areas</li> <li>• The number of visitors to National Trust Properties</li> </ul> | <p><i>DOE (Planning Service)</i><br/> <i>DOE (Environment and Heritage Service)</i><br/> <i>National Trust</i></p>  |
| <b>SPG-ENV 4:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-use older buildings and previously developed land</li> <li>• Develop multi-modal systems of urban and rural transport to enhance accessibility</li> <li>• Provide community greenways</li> </ul>  | Indicators not yet identified   |   |
| <b>SPG-ENV 5:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make prudent use of non-renewable resources</li> <li>• Promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in Northern Ireland</li> <li>• Promote the Waste Management Strategy for Northern Ireland</li> <li>• Manage and conserve water resources</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The total controlled waste collected per household</li> <li>• The proportion of household waste recovered</li> <li>• The total amount of industrial and commercial waste disposed of by landfilling</li> </ul>   | <p><i>DOE (Environment and Heritage Service)</i><br/> <i>DOE (Environment and Heritage Service)</i><br/> <i>DOE (Environment and Heritage Service)</i><br/> <i>DOE (Environment and Heritage Service)</i></p> |

|                  |   |   |   |
|------------------|---|---|---|
|                  |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The annual amount of the 'basket of 6' greenhouse gases emitted in Northern Ireland</li> </ul>   | <i>Heritage Service)</i>  |
| <b>SPG-ENV 6</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure everyone has access to clean water in line with European Drinking Water Quality Standards</li> <li>Improve the quality of discharges to meet appropriate water quality targets, including the requirements of the relevant European Directives</li> <li>Upgrade sewerage infrastructure and sewage treatment facilities to meet required European Quality standards</li> <li>Ensure that arrangements for treatment of sewage from all forms of new development meet environmentally acceptable standards</li> <li>Improve air quality</li> <li>Promote a regional clean-up campaign</li> <li>Promote an approach to building development and the use of land which is supportive to the well-being and safety of people</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compliance in drinking water standards set in the NI Water Quality Regulations</li> <li>Compliance with registered discharge standards for wastewater treatment works serving more than 250 population equivalent</li> <li>The quality of inland waters</li> <li>The number of days where air quality objectives and EU limit values are exceeded</li> <li>Age standardized death rates for males/females under age 75 (all causes)</li> <li>The proportion of adults and 11-16 year old children who do not smoke</li> <li>Percentage of men/women reporting a long-standing</li> </ul> | <i>DRD (Water Service)</i><br><br><i>DRD (Water Service)</i><br><br><i>DOE (Environment and Heritage Service)</i><br><i>DOE (Environment and Heritage Service)</i><br><br><i>DHSSPS</i><br><br><i>DHSSPS</i><br><br><i>DHSSPS</i> |

|                   |   |  |   |
|-------------------|---|--|---|
|                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote development of the gas industry</li> <li>• Create healthier living environments and support healthy lifestyles</li> <li>• Develop River Basin Management Plans for major regional and cross-border water catchments in line with the European Water Framework Directive</li> </ul>   | <p>illness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of those who drink above the recommended levels of alcohol</li> </ul>   |   |
| <b>SPG-ENV 7:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote recreation as a basis for good health for all and to especially contribute to meeting the needs of children and young people for healthy physical activities</li> <li>• Facilitate access to cultural amenities contributing to the quality of life for all</li> <li>• Strengthen the network of cultural amenities</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proportion of the people above 16 years of age who are physically active</li> <li>• Proportion of men and women classified as obese (<i>DHSSPS</i>)</li> <li>• The proportion of the population that has participated in sports/arts during the previous 12 months</li> <li>• The proportion of the population that has visited MAGNI (Museums and Galleries Northern Ireland) sites during the previous 12 months</li> </ul> | <p><i>DHSSPS</i></p> <p><i>DHSSPS</i></p> <p><i>DCAL</i></p> <p><i>DCAL</i></p> |

## Assessment of likely significant environmental effects

## ANNEX C

| Adjustments                    |  | Environmental Effects |                     |         |                           |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------|---------------------|---------|---------------------------|
|                                |  | Negative              | Positive or Neutral | Unclear | Depends on implementation |
| SPG RNI 1.2<br>(Page 96)       | Facilitate the development of rural industries, businesses and enterprises in appropriate locations, and ensure they are satisfactorily integrated with the settlement or rural landscape.   |                       |                     |         |                           |
| <i>Clarify and Re-order</i>    | <i>In order to better clarify SPG RNI 1.2 we propose that bullet points 1, 2, 3 7 and 8 will relate to “settlements” and bullet points 4, 5 and 6 to the “open countryside”</i>  |                       | ✓                   |         |                           |
| Supporting Action<br>(Page 96) | Support environmentally sensitive proposals, of an appropriate scale and nature, for the creation of new enterprises in farm building complexes no longer required for agriculture. Also to facilitate the provision of business premises in small towns and villages; |                       |                     |         |                           |
| <i>Change to</i>               | <i>Support environmentally sensitive proposals, of an appropriate scale and nature, for the creation of new enterprises in farm building complexes no longer required for agriculture;</i>   |                       | ✓                   |         |                           |
| Supporting Action<br>(Page 96) | Encourage the use of information technology, telecommunications and tele-working in rural areas;   |                       |                     |         |                           |
| <i>Move to</i><br>(Page 99)    | <i>SPG RNI 2.1</i>   |                       | ✓                   |         |                           |
| Supporting Action<br>(Page 96) | Build the capacity of the rural community to develop and avail itself of new economic opportunities by facilitating development for appropriate high quality training in skills for the future.  |                       |                     |         |                           |

|                                      |  |  |   |  |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|--|--|
| <i>Change to</i>                     | <i>Build the capacity of the rural community to develop and avail itself of new economic opportunities by facilitating high quality training in skills for the future.</i> |  | ✓ |  |  |
| <b>Section Heading<br/>(Page 98)</b> | <b>A vibrant, living and working countryside</b>   |  |   |  |  |
| <b><i>Change to</i></b>              | <b><i>A vibrant, living and working rural community</i></b>  |  | ✓ |  |  |
| SPG: RNI 2<br>(Page 98)              | To create and sustain a living countryside with a high quality of life for all its residents.  |  |   |  |  |
| <i>Change to</i>                     | <i>To create and sustain a rural community with a high quality of life for its residents</i>   |  | ✓ |  |  |
| SPG RNI 2.1<br>(Page 99)             | Help maintain a vibrant and self-generating rural community.   |  |   |  |  |
| Supporting Action<br>(Page 99)       | Encourage the development of balanced rural communities by promoting housing choice and affordable housing in rural areas;   |  |   |  |  |
| <i>Change to</i>                     | <i>Encourage the development of balanced rural communities by promoting housing choice and affordable housing;</i>   |  | ✓ |  |  |
| SPG: ECON 4<br>(Page 141)            | To create and maintain a regional portfolio of Strategic Employment Locations (SELs)   |  |   |  |  |
| <i>Change to</i>                     | <i>To be removed</i>   |  | ✓ |  |  |
| ECON 4.1<br>(Page 142)               | Identify Strategic Employment Locations  |  |   |  |  |
| <i>Change to</i>                     | <i>To be removed</i>   |  | ✓ |  |  |

|                                    |   |  |   |  |  |
|------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|
| SPG ECON<br>4.2<br>(Page 142)      | Identify SELs in development plans and protect such key locations where loss to other uses would be hard to recover   |  |   |  |  |
| <i>Change to</i>                   | <i>To be removed</i>  |  | ✓ |  |  |
| SPG ENV 2.2<br>(Page 183)          | Raise the quality of coastal waters   |  |   |  |  |
| Supporting<br>Action<br>(Page 183) | Improve sewerage infrastructure and effluent treatment systems for coastal settlements to meet the European water quality standards and international agreements;                 |  |   |  |  |
| <i>Change to</i>                   | <i>Improve sewerage infrastructure and effluent treatment systems for coastal settlements to meet European water quality standards and international agreements;</i>              |  | ✓ |  |  |
| Supporting<br>Action<br>(Page 183) | Protect and improve the quality of coastal waters to meet obligations under European Directives; and  |  |   |  |  |
| <i>Change to</i>                   | <i>Protect and enhance the quality of coastal waters to meet the obligations under the European Water Framework and other Directives;</i>   |  | ✓ |  |  |
| SPG ENV 5.1<br>(Page 191)          | Consider the implications of climate change:  |  |   |  |  |
| Supporting<br>Action<br>(Page 191) | Assess the results of the preliminary scoping study on climate change initiated by the Department of the Environment and take forward further detailed research as necessary; and |  |   |  |  |
| <i>Change to</i>                   | <i>Carry out updated research on the implications of climate change for Northern Ireland and identify key impacts; and</i>  |  | ✓ |  |  |
| Supporting<br>Action<br>(Page 191) | Identify key issues for action.   |  |   |  |  |

|                                 |  |  |   |  |  |
|---------------------------------|--|--|---|--|--|
| <i>Change to</i>                | <i>Prepare adaptation strategies for the key impacts identified or assist organisations in preparing for climate change.</i>   |  | ✓ |  |  |
| SPG ENV 5.3                     | Help to restrain emissions of greenhouse gases   |  |   |  |  |
| <i>Change to</i>                | <i>Take actions to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases</i>  |  | ✓ |  |  |
| Supporting Action<br>(Page 191) | Promote energy saving and energy efficiency measures in public and private premises and by commercial and domestic users; and  |  |   |  |  |
| <i>Change to</i>                | <i>Promote energy saving and energy efficiency measures in households, businesses and the public sector;</i>   |  | ✓ |  |  |
| New Supporting Action to read   | Participate in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme; and  |  | ✓ |  |  |
| SPG ENV 5.4<br>(Page 192)       | Promote the Waste Management Strategy for Northern Ireland:  |  |   |  |  |
| Supporting Action<br>(Page 192) | Work in partnership with industry to create an economy based on sustainable waste management practices, supporting and influencing opportunities for reducing the amount of waste generated;   |  |   |  |  |
| <i>Change to</i>                | <i>Work in partnership with industry and other stakeholders to create an economy based on sustainable waste management practices, supporting and influencing opportunities for reducing the amount of waste generated;</i>   |  | ✓ |  |  |
| Supporting Action<br>(Page 192) | Provide an extensive network of recycling, recovery and secondary materials manufacturing facilities, and develop an integrated regional network of a limited number of landfill sites, closely related to the key transport corridors to minimise environmental impacts on residential neighbourhoods and |  |   |  |  |

|  |  |  |   |  |  |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|
|  | tranquil rural areas; and  |  |   |  |  |
| <i>Change to</i>   | <i>Provide an integrated network of recycling and composting, recovery, treatment and landfill facilities to meet identified waste management needs; and</i>   |  | ✓ |  |  |
| Supporting Action<br>(Page 192)  | Locate waste treatment facilities on a limited number of key sites conveniently related to the major centres of urban waste production.  |  |   |  |  |
| <i>Change to</i>   | <i>Locate waste management facilities convenient to major centres of waste production and key transport corridors, to minimise environmental impacts on residential neighbourhoods and tranquil rural areas.</i> |  | ✓ |  |  |
| SPG ENV 6.2<br>(Page 193)  | Combat and Reduce Water Pollution  |  |   |  |  |
| Rename SPG ENV 6.2 and move to a new SPG ENV 1.5   | <i>ENV 1.5 'Protecting and Enhance the Water Environment' (under the theme 'Protecting the Environment')</i>   |  | ✓ |  |  |
| Move Supporting Actions 2-6 under the existing SPG ENV 6.2 to the new SPG ENV 1.5 and change each as set out below |  |  | ✓ |  |  |

|                                 |   |  |   |  |  |
|---------------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|
| Supporting Action<br>(Page 193) | Improve the quality of discharges to meet appropriate water quality targets, including the requirements of the relevant European Directives;  |  |   |  |  |
| Change to                       | <i>Ensure that the quality of discharges is appropriate to meet the targets of the Water Framework Directive and other Directives;</i>  |  | ✓ |  |  |
| Supporting Action<br>(Page 193) | Upgrade sewerage infrastructure and sewage treatment facilities to meet required European quality standards;  |  |   |  |  |
| Change to                       | <i>Upgrade sewerage infrastructure and sewage treatment facilities to meet the required European quality standards;</i>   |  | ✓ |  |  |
| Supporting Action<br>(Page 194) | Ensure that arrangements for treatment of sewage from all forms of new development meet environmentally acceptable standards;   |  |   |  |  |
| Change to                       | <i>Ensure that arrangement for treatment of sewage from all forms of new development meet the required European quality standards;</i>  |  | ✓ |  |  |
| Supporting Action<br>(Page 194) | Develop a strategy to control eutrophication in lakes and rivers; and   |  |   |  |  |
| Change to                       | <i>Develop a strategy to control diffuse pollution. This will include a strategy to control eutrophication, and will form part of a programme of measures developed under the European Water Framework Directive;</i>                             |  | ✓ |  |  |
| Supporting Action<br>(Page 194) | Develop River Basin Management Plans for major regional and cross-border water catchments in line with the European Water Framework Directive. Such strategies will provide the basis for managing the river systems and improving water quality. |  |   |  |  |
| Change to                       | <i>Develop River Basin Management Plans for major regional and cross-border water</i>   |  | ✓ |  |  |

|                                     |  |  |   |  |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|---|--|--|
|                                     | <i>catchments in line with European Water Framework Directive. These plans will provide the basis for managing water catchment areas from source to sea. The plans will prevent further deterioration, protect and enhance all waters including groundwaters, rivers, lakes, estuaries, coastal waters and terrestrial ecosystems directly dependant on water, like wetlands.</i>                                  |  |   |  |  |
| <i>Insert New ENV 1.6</i>           | <i>ENV 1.6 – ‘Manage and conserve Water Resources’</i>   |  | ✓ |  |  |
| <i>Insert New ENV 6.5</i>           | <i>The Protection of Drinking Water Supplies</i>   |  | ✓ |  |  |
| <i>Insert New Supporting Action</i> | <i>Ensure everyone has access to clean water by conserving quality drinking sources, controlling development that may impact upon drinking water sources, and upgrading and developing the drinking water treatment and distribution infrastructure in line with Drinking Water Quality Standards. Drinking water catchment areas will be protected by the measures taken under the Water Framework Directive.</i> |  | ✓ |  |  |