

The Planning System and Climate Change

Kathryn McFerran

Director, DFI Regional Planning Policy & Casework



Climate Change Act

- Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 enacted on 6 June 2022
- Target of 100% reduction in net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 and interim targets including an at least 48% reduction in net emissions by 2030.
- Legal requirement on all Departments to exercise their functions (as far as possible), in a manner consistent with the Act and carbon budgets set under it.

CLIMATE CHANGE ACT (NI) 2022



Legislation

- Review of permitted development rights e.g. heat pumps, EV charging, geothermal exploration, reverse vending machines
- Review of the Planning (Development Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015
- Objective is to ensure the Regulations remain fit for purpose, are robust, and reflect advancing technologies, climate change considerations, and future development needs.

CLIMATE CHANGE ACT (NI) 2022



Planning Policy

- Two-tier planning system
- Mitigating and adapting to climate change at the heart of the planning system
- Furthering sustainable development and promoting and improving well-being are embedded into the Planning Act.
- Regional Development Strategy 2035 (RDS)
- Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS)



**Regional
Development
Strategy**

**RDS
2035**

Building a Better Future



Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS)

**Planning for Sustainable
Development**

Review of Regional Strategic Policy on Renewable & Low Carbon Energy

- To ensure that policy remains fit for purpose and up to date to inform plan-making and decision-taking
- Reflects our commitment to the Energy Strategy and the Climate Change Act 2022
- When published, the revised policy must be taken into account in the determination of planning applications
- Revised policy will be published as soon as possible.



Potential Review of the SPPS in relation to Climate Change

- Call for Evidence in the context of DfI's priorities regarding transport, water, and planning
- Looking at the purpose of planning, furthering sustainable development and the core planning principles
- Responses will inform options for potential review of the SPPS in relation to climate change for the Minister's consideration in due course.

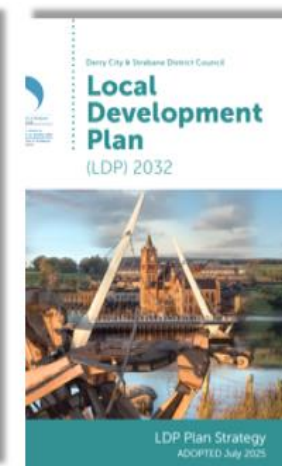
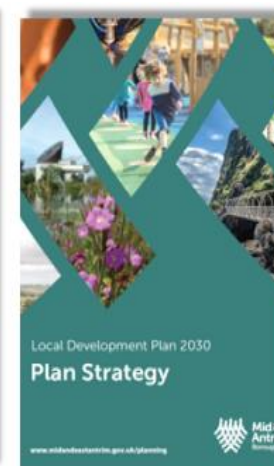
**Strategic Planning Policy
Statement for Northern
Ireland (SPPS)**

**Planning for Sustainable
Development**



Adopted Plans

-

[illegible]

st City
ncil

Lisburn &
Castlereagh
City Council

Mid & East
Antrim Borough
Council

Antrim &
Newtownabbey
Borough
Council

Derry City &
Strabane
District Council

Thank you

Kathryn McFerran

Director, DFI Regional Planning Policy & Casework

