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**Re: SEA Screening Report for Belfast City Council Community Plan
(Belfast Agenda)**

Dear Dr Quinn

Thank-you for your email and attached SEA Screening report for the Belfast City Council Community Plan. The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland (DAERA) Northern Ireland Environment Agency has considered the document and our opinions are set out below.

Consideration of likely significant effects

DAERA have considered the SEA Screening Report for the Belfast City Council Community Plan. We note that likely significant effects have been identified under a number of the screening assessment criteria and that a number of specific environmental problems, such as poor air quality, and plan desires, such as growing the economy and increasing the population, have been identified. We consider that there is likely to be a number of specific plan ambitions and priorities that would warrant particular attention under SEA.

We understand the difficulties in coming to a conclusion regarding the likelihood of significant impacts but based on the information provided and in the circumstances of the particular case we consider that the conclusions drawn to undertake a SEA can be reasonably and objectively accepted. In the absence of any further information regarding the final content of the Belfast City Council Community Plan we agree with Belfast City Council that the Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects in line with Regulation 9(6) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004 (SEA Regulations). Regulation 10 Publicity of Determinations should be initiated.



Habitats Regulations Considerations

We recommend that the Belfast City Council Community Plan undertakes Habitat Regulation considerations prior to its adoption to ensure the Plan is not likely to have a significant effect on any Natura 2000 site within Northern Ireland. (The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended)).

Please contact the SEA Team at seateam@doeni.gov.uk should you have any queries or require clarification.

Yours sincerely



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