

Submitted to **Belfast LDP 2035 - Plan Strategy**
Submitted on **2018-11-09 17:13:12**

Overview

1. Data Protection

Q1. Please tick to confirm that you have read and understood the privacy notice above.

I confirm that I have read and understood the privacy notice above and give my consent for Belfast City Council to hold my personal data for the purposes outlined.

Q2. Do you consent for us to publish your response?

Yes, but without any identifying information

2. Your details

Q3. Are you responding as an individual, as an organisation, or as an agent acting on behalf of an individual, group or organisation?

Individual, Organisation or Agent:

Individual

Q4. What is your name?

Title:

[REDACTED]

Full Name:

[REDACTED]

Q5. What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

Q6. What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

Q7. Did you respond to the previous Preferred Options Paper consultation phase?

Yes

If yes, and you have your previous response ID (beginning ANON) please enter it here::

3. Individual

Q8. What is your address?

Address Line 1:

[REDACTED]

Line 2:

Line 3:

City:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

6. Before you submit your comments

7. Is the plan sound?

Your comments should be set out in full. This will help the independent examiner understand the issues you raise. You will only be able to submit further additional information to the Independent Examination if the Independent Examiner invites you to do so.

Q12. Do you consider the Plan Strategy to be sound or unsound?

I believe it to be unsound

8b. Unsound

Q14a. To which part of the Plan Strategy does your representation relate?

Relevant Section or Paragraph::

7.2

Policy (if relevant):

DES1 Principles of Urban Design

Q15a. If you consider the Plan Strategy to be unsound, please identify which test(s) of soundness your representation relates, having regard to Development Plan Practice Note 6:

CE4 - It is reasonably flexible to enable it to deal with changing circumstances

Q16a. Please give details of why you consider the Plan Strategy to be unsound having regard to the test(s) you have identified above. Please be as precise as possible.

Please give your reasons:

Policy DES1 describes the principles of urban design. One aspect that is not considered is if development makes a positive contribution through the removal of a problematic piece of land.

Q17a. If you consider the Plan Strategy to be unsound, please provide details of what change(s) you consider necessary to make the Plan Strategy sound.

What would make it sound?:

Policy DES1 describes the principles of urban design. One aspect that is not considered is if development makes a positive contribution through the removal of a problematic piece of land.

For example, the LDP discusses planning issues, but doesn't appear to address issues surrounding bonfires. Bonfires are a significant aspect of life in the city for many residents before and during the the summer months. While many areas support their local bonfire as a celebration of culture, other bonfires are more contentious. Several bonfires across the city are built on unsuitable sites, and are not wanted by the local residents. In 2016, significant damage to houses occurred as a result of a bonfire at Hopewell Square. Developing avenues in the LDP for unwanted and/ or dangerous bonfires to be removed or relocated would improve the quality of life for many, while continuing to promote & encourage cultural celebrations where they are appropriate.

Planning legislation could be reviewed to allow unsuitable bonfire sites to be developed to benefit communities affected by unwanted bonfires. For example, PPS08, OS1 (protection of open space) states 'An exception will be permitted where it is clearly shown that redevelopment will bring substantial community benefits that decisively outweigh the loss of the open space.' If it can be shown that the removal/ relocation of a bonfire would be supported by the local community (residents' groups, etc.), perhaps this could be formally seen to satisfy the exception to PPS08, OS1. Many residents feel intimidated and are afraid to speak out against bonfires, and such legislation could be a significant help. Such sites could also be suitable for housing development to help increase new stock in suitable areas of the city.

In summary, I would suggest that consideration of the bonfire issue is included in the LDP, both for its positive cultural aspects on suitable sites in areas supported by the community, and on other 'problem sites' where residents feel powerless to tackle the issue.

Files should be no more than 10MB and in either PDF or Microsoft Word format:

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Q18a. Would you like to highlight another part of the draft Plan Strategy that you consider to be unsound?

No

9. Type of Procedure

Q18. Please indicate if you would like your representation to be dealt with by:

Written representations