# Belfast Local Development Plan Plan Strategy 2035 Plan Adoption Statement May 2023

Belfast

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**Belfast** City Council

## Belfast City Council Local Development Plan Plan Strategy 2035 Adoption Statement

#### Background

- The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011
- The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015
- The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004

In accordance with the above regulations, notice is hereby given that the Belfast Local Development Plan, Plan Strategy 2035 was adopted by Belfast City Council on 02 May 2023.

The Plan Strategy became operative on its adoption.

#### **Subject matter**

The Plan Strategy is the first of two development plan documents that make up the Local Development Plan (LDP) and sets out the strategic policy framework for the plan area up to 2035. It also provides the necessary framework for the preparation of the second LDP document, the Local Policies Plan.

#### **Examination**

The Plan Strategy has been subject to an independent examination conducted by the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC). Examination hearing sessions were held over two sessions between November 2020 and March 2021.

#### **Modifications**

The PAC made its recommendations under section 10(8) of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (hereafter "the Act") and presented these as recommended amendments as part of its report to the Department for Infrastructure (Dfl) in September 2021. The report concluded the draft Plan Strategy was, subject to modifications, "sound".

In February 2022 Dfl in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 12(1)(b) of the Act, issued a Direction to the council which directed it to address the requirements set out in Schedule 1 of the Direction, along with any necessary engagement and consultation, prior to formal adoption of the Plan Strategy. The council subsequently made modifications to the plan to address the requirements of the Direction and resubmitted the draft Plan Strategy to Dfl.

In March 2023 Dfl issued a final Direction to the council under section 12(1)(b) of the Act, which directed the council to formally adopt the draft Plan Strategy with the modifications as specified in the final direction.

#### Adoption

The adopted Plan Strategy addresses the requirements of the final Direction, together with additional (minor) modifications made by the council that do not materially affect the policies in the Plan Strategy.

#### **Availability**

Paper copies of the adopted Plan Strategy, this Adoption Statement, the PAC Report, the Dfl Direction and all supporting documentation including the Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment) Reports, Habitat Regulations Assessment, Rural Needs Impact Assessment and draft Equality Impact Assessment, can be inspected free of charge between 9am – 5pm, Monday to Friday, at:

Belfast Planning Service Belfast City Council Cecil Ward Building 4-10 Linenhall Street Belfast BT2 BBP

Telephone: 028 9032 0202, ext. 2255 Email: <u>planning@belfastcity.gov.uk</u>

Electronic copies of the adopted Plan Strategy and above documents, together with all other LDP documents can also be viewed at <u>https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning/local-development-plan-(1)/local-development-plan</u>

### **Belfast Planning Service**

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