

Local Development Plans Council's taking the lead

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What I will address

- 1 The Reasons for introducing the new plan
- 2 Steps to implement the new system
- 3 The Preparatory Work being undertaken
- 4 What Plans may address.

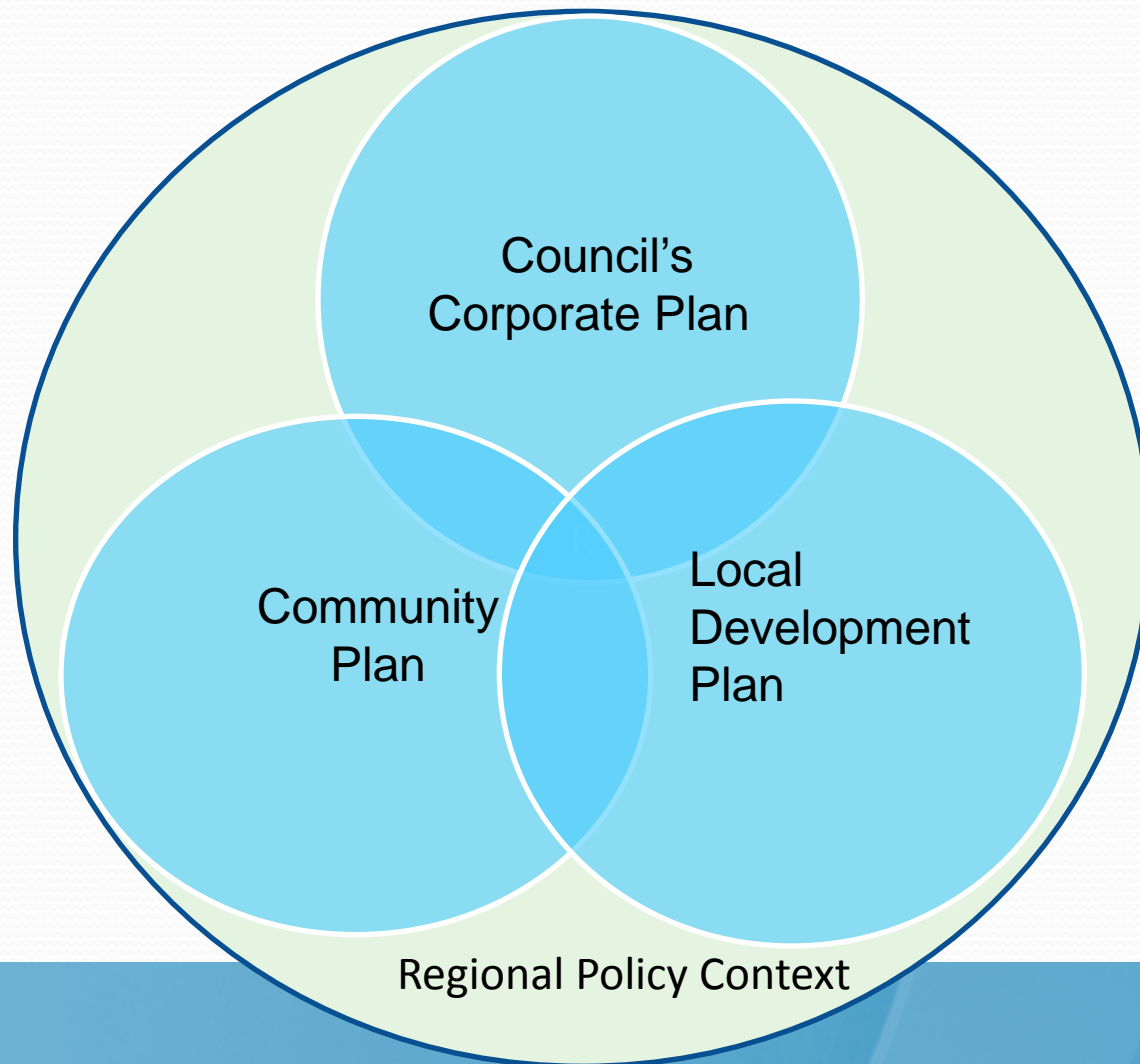
The Existing Plan System



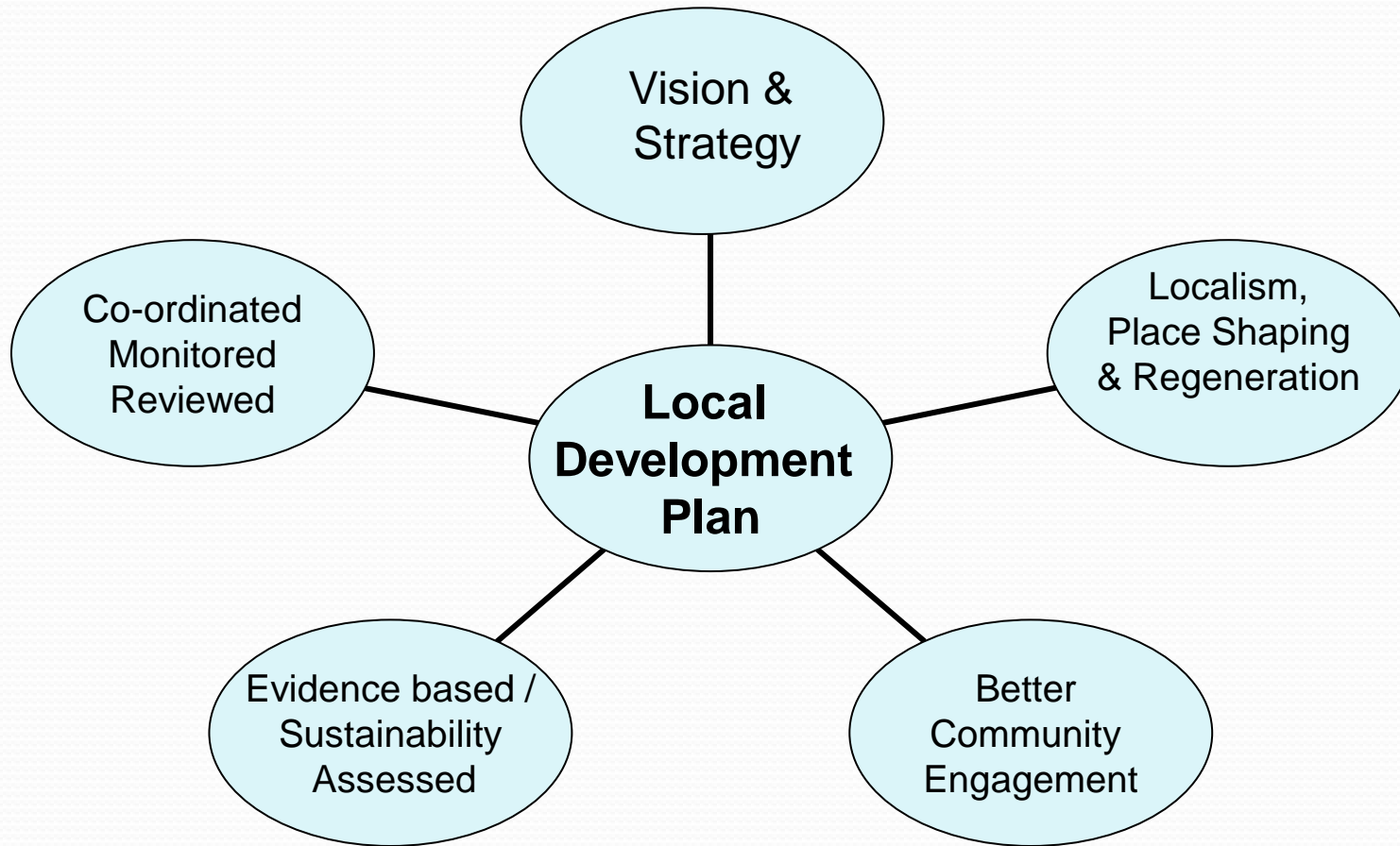
What's wrong with the old system

- Slow / inefficient
- Seen as saying what is “no” to development rather than facilitating sustainable development
- No balance of environment, social and economic factors
- Hard to understand,
- Lack of meaningful public involvement
- Inadequate monitoring and review.
- Not joined up and not delivered

The New Local Development Plan System



Objectives of the new system



Key changes

A Plan Led System – applications determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise

A Two Tier Approach comprising:

Plan Strategy – Sets vision, objectives and growth strategy and general strategic policies having regard to the Regional Policy

Local Policies Plan – Sets local policies & proposals including settlement limits, zonings and designations consistent with Plan Strategy.

Key duties

- **Timetable** - Of key publication dates based on project managed approach.
- **Statement of Community Involvement** – setting out who, how, where and when consultation and policy making is to take place.
- **Preferred Options Paper** – Front loading consultation process

The key test – is it sustainable ?

Councils are required to prepare a Sustainability Appraisal.

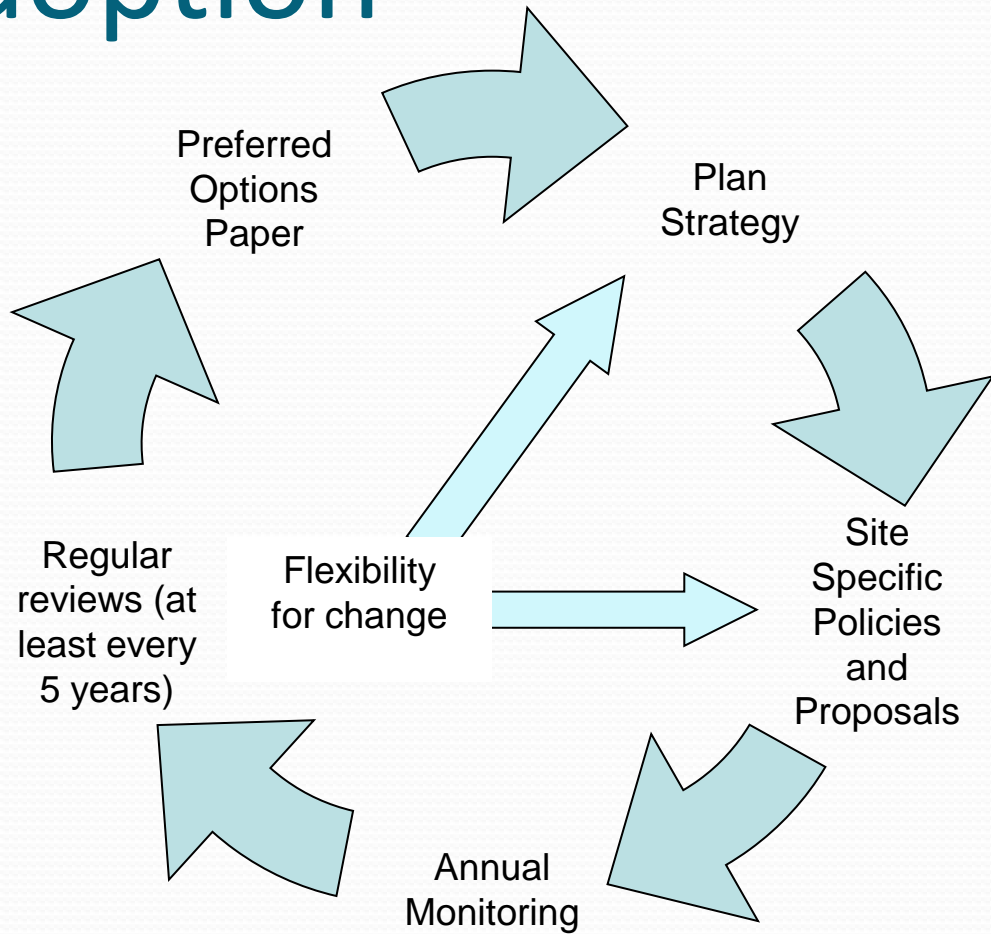
This is a Holistic, multi-disciplined, ongoing approach

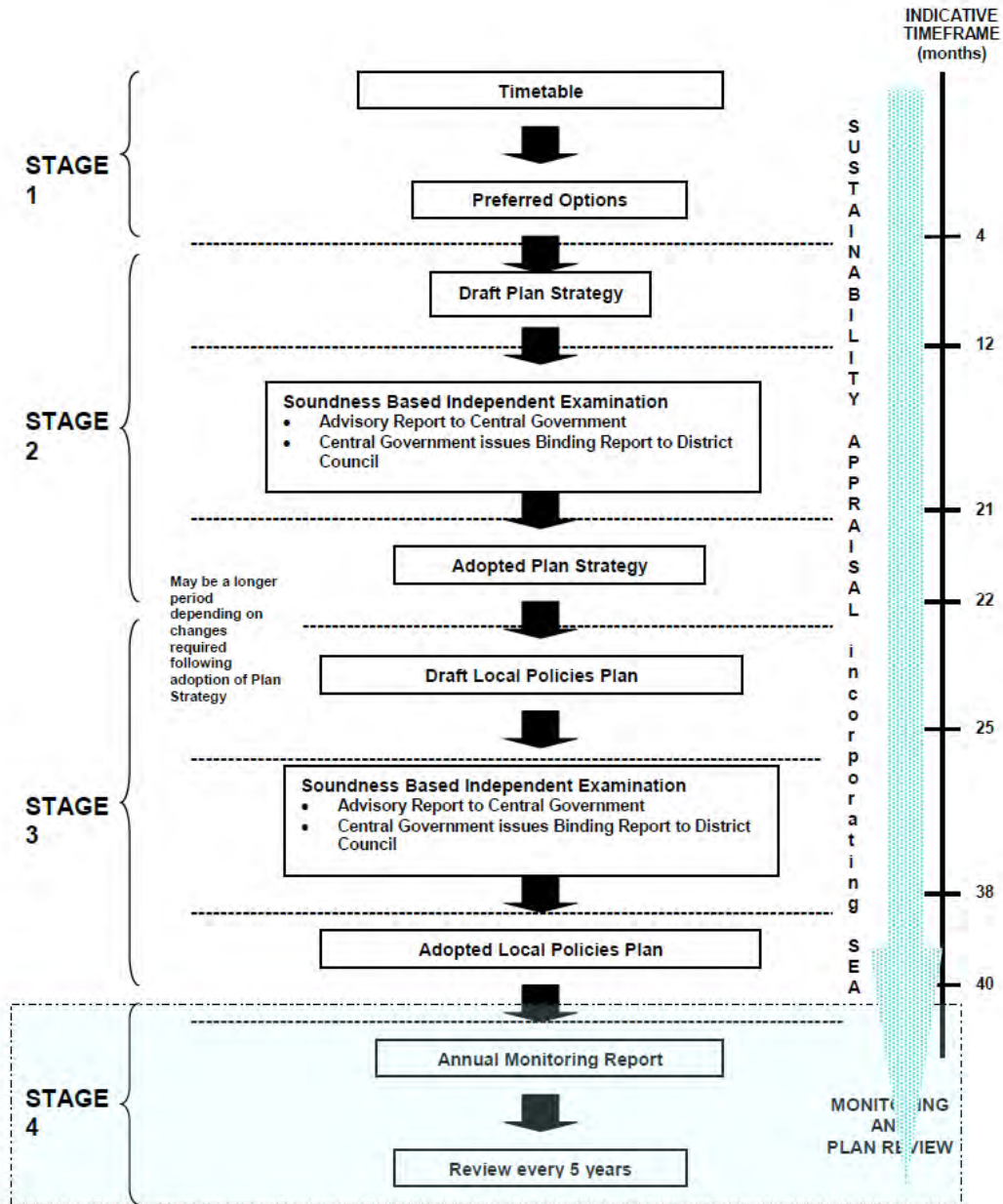
- incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment and Equality Impact Assessment
- Based on Economic, Social and Environmental Objectives
- Assessment of Options, outcomes and mitigation

Public Examinations and adoption

- Public Examinations to focus on soundness
 - Are policies and proposals evidence based ?
 - Has adequate account been taken of regional policies?
 - Representations to provide robust solutions
- Departmental Direction
 - Public Examination to report to the Department
 - Adopt, modify or withdraw

Post adoption





Steps for successful change

STEP 1 –Introduce legislative change

- Planning Act NI 2011
- Draft Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (NI) 2015
- Draft Planning (Statement of Community involvement) Regulations 2015

STEP 2 – Revise a policy framework -

- Regional development Strategy 2035
- Draft Single Planning Policy Statement 2014
- Regional Draft Planning (Statement of Community involvement) Regulations 2015

STEP 2 Provide the resources

- Build, train, transfer and continue to fund Plan teams

STEP 3 Prepare Key Players –

- Build Capacity with members and ,
- Create multi-disciplined teams
- Undertake preparatory studies

The Preparatory Studies

Aimed at exploring:

- the **needs of the population** including disadvantaged/under-represented groups
- **growth strategies** and settlement hierarchies
- **development land availability** for housing and job creation.
- the role of the development plan in creating **vital and vibrant city/town centres**.

Linking land use to Infrastructure

Using the :

- Regional and Sub Regional Transportation Plans (DRD)
- Other infrastructural plans by other Departments

Supported by transparent government

- Identify issues such as adequacy of infrastructure and any investment to address (NIW)
- The state of the environment (NIEA)

But more importantly

An emerging **Community Plan** identifying:

- A Community vision
- People orientated goals
- A programme of public investment to meet those goals, in terms of;
 - Health, education, and other public services
 - Leisure recreation and tourism
 - Local economic development

Dr Boomer's members tips

- (i) **Observe** and survey the situation before setting your timetable
- (ii) **Diagnose** the problem before determining the cure
- (iii) **Administration** of the treatment is as important as the dose.
- (iv) **Get a second opinion** – make decisions based on the community consultation and responses to the Options Paper.