

DRAFT DROMORE PLACE PLAN

Discovery Report (Working Document)

UNIQUE IN CHARACTER
BUSTLING WITH CHARM

Armagh Banbridge and
Craigavon Community
Planning Partnership



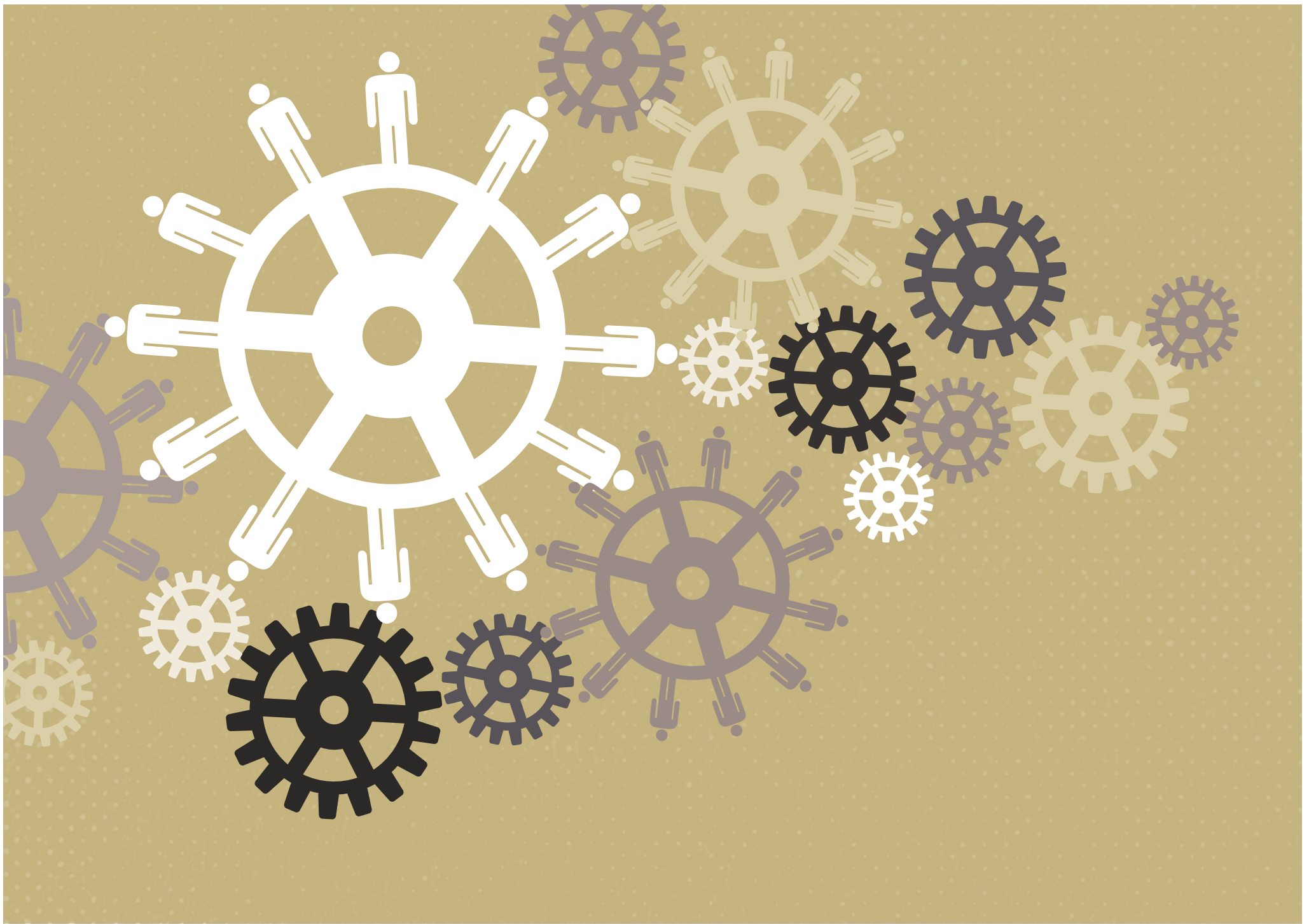




Figure 1- View of Regents Bridge across the River Lagan

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Figure 2- View across agricultural fields from Kilntown Road



Figure 3- Finger post signage within Dromore

1 INTRODUCTION: DISCOVER AND UNCOVER

'Genius loci'

Noun.

Meaning: 1) The guardian spirit of a place;
2) The special atmosphere of a particular place.

1.0 INTRODUCTION: DISCOVER AND UNCOVER

The 'discovery' phase and subsequent report is a crucial stage of the development of the Dromore Place Plan and this document compliments the plan and should also be read in conjunction with the Engagement Report.

The purpose of the discovery phase is to ensure that the project team thoroughly reviews key aspects of the town including its history, development and context as well as carrying out a robust interrogation into the statistical profile of the town, the 'health' of Dromore, review of strategic and policy documents and guidance that have a bearing on the past and future growth and development of this historic market town.

This detailed exercise and the collation of the report serves to create a strong foundation for the Place Plan. This discovery process is supported by an extensive engagement plan, during which the project team will establish current aspirations, issues and challenges from the local community and interested stakeholders.

The discovery phase reviews the Dromore Masterplan 2015, together with other relevant studies and reports. This will establish whether there remains actions and ideas that are still appropriate to current life and work in the town and potential to be re-tested to check if there is a desire to see them implemented.

The town will be 'health' checked to assess aspects against the essential qualities that have been identified by the local Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG) in their Living High Streets craft kit. This will establish areas and assets that could be developed to create a more holistic and balanced place.

This project is being delivered through the Community Planning Partnership for the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough.

Please note that the figures, tables and content of the statistical profile section of this report (chapter 7) are based on the Dromore statistical report from November 2024.



Figure 4- View of the properties on the south side of Market Square



Figure 5- View of new bridge within Dromore Park leading to Banbridge Road



Figure 6- View of the Town Hall within Market Square

2 THE IMPORTANCE OF PLACE PLANNING

Community planning is
'a process led by councils in conjunction with partners
and communities to develop and implement a shared
vision for their area, a long-term vision which relates to
all aspects of community life and which also involves
working together to plan and deliver better services.'

Community Planning Foundation Programme (Department of the Environment)

Extract from 'Connected - A Community Plan for Armagh City, Banbridge, Craigavon Borough 2017-2030'

2.1 THE IMPORTANCE OF PLACE PLANNING

Place Planning helps to identify the strengths and challenges of a place and it helps to identify principles, actions, ideas and initiatives to improve aspects of the town including the built and natural environments, economy, education, retail, commerce and community life.

The Community Planning team at ABC Council together with their strategic partners (identified on page 15) work to the ethos outlined within the 'Connected- A Community Plan.' This identifies three strategic themes at the heart of everything they do: Community, Economy and Place.

In relation to 'Place' the desire is for the borough to be a creative, enhanced and revitalised place. Dromore can play it's part in contributing to these outcomes not only at town level but also at the borough wide scale.

The Place Plan will identify unique and bespoke outcomes for the town and a range of big ideas and actions that will be deliverable at a series of scales and timelines ensuring future tangible growth, prosperity and collaboration.

This Discovery Report has an important role to play in providing well rounded background information to inform, shape and develop the Place Plan.



Figure 7- The three strategic themes at the heart of Community Planning. Source: Connected - A Community Plan for ABC Council 2017-2030



Figure 8- View of 'Fergie' close to Hillsborough Road junction at the A1



Figure 9- Dromore Chamber of Commerce Meeting

3 THE PEOPLE

3.0 THE PEOPLE

A wide variety of people will be responsible for helping to shape and inform the development of the Place Plan. Each person and group have their part to play to ensure that the final Place Plan is representative and responsive to the needs, requirements and issues of Dromore, its community and the people involved in the town.

These people are (but not limited to) the following:

- **The local community**
- **Statutory stakeholders**
- **ABC Community Planning Strategic Partnership and the Place Board sub-committee**
- **The project team including HLM Architects**

COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP



An Roinn
Pobal | Depairtment fur
Commonities



Keeping People Safe





Figure 10- River Lagan with a reflection of the Dromore Cross



Figure 11- Sunrise view from the Motte and Bailey

4 LEARNINGS FROM PREVIOUS PLACE PLANS



Figure 12- View of Bridge Street from Downshire Bridge

4.0 LEARNINGS FROM PREVIOUS PLACE PLANS

The Armagh Place Plan was reviewed by Dr. Gavin Rafferty from the University of Ulster together with the Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG). The initial learning lessons were noted as:

- Partners see merit in a 'place plan' and value the opportunity to work collaboratively to advance social, economic and environmental wellbeing
- Acknowledgement that such working is embryonic, iterative and continues to evolve
- Offers new way of thinking about place and adopting place-based working
- Northern Ireland's governance demands such 'place plans', given the fragmented responsibilities across local and central government, and in a time where localised community planning is progressing and with the lack of adopted 'local policies plan' in the Local Development Plan (LDP) system
- Time available to initiate and engender meaningful engagement is challenging in place plan timeframe (in comparison to community planning and spatial planning)
- Future processes should include the Department for Infrastructure to enrich discussions on strategic infrastructure, preferably through multilateral engagement or, at a minimum, via unilateral engagement

- The immediate 'fit' of a place plan into some partners' operations, e.g. DfC, is a challenge, particularly with it being a departure from traditional documents, e.g. masterplans, and with a place plan being non-statutory

- Further consideration should be given to the reliability of existing quantitative data, and the balance of this alongside qualitative data, particularly for informing future indicators used for measuring progress

- Consideration of the establishment of a separate 'Place Board' structure that includes key representatives from central government departments, particularly those with a remit on influencing land and infrastructure, to act as a strategic reference group to inform place-based working

- A wider discussion is needed to explore and define 'place-shaping' better to inform future 'place plan' work

These points will be reviewed and considered during the development of the Dromore Place Plan and any feedback and initial learning lessons from the Banbridge Place Plan will also assist with informing our process.





Figure 13- View of Dromore Cathedral



Figure 14- View of Dromore Castle (Tower House) on Castle Street

5 HISTORICAL, TRANSPORT AND SPORTS CONTEXT

5.0 HISTORICAL, TRANSPORT AND SPORTS CONTEXT

Historical

Dromore has a rich and varied history that has witnessed early settlements, destruction, industrial revolution, growth and reinvention.

A prominent historical feature is the Norman Motte and Bailey that is perched on a localised high point, east of the town centre. It was constructed by John de Courcy in the early 13th century shortly after the Norman invasion of Ireland. This fort has stunning panoramic views across the town and surrounding countryside and is well located close to the meandering River Lagan. The town remained under Anglo-Norman control until it was captured and destroyed by Edward Bruce during the Irish-Bruce wars of 1315.

Dromore currently has a diversity of churches and places of worship and it has been the seat of a bishopric for centuries, which grew out of an abbey of Canons Regular attributed to St Colman in the 6th century. In 1842 this Diocese of Dromore was combined with local neighbours to create the Diocese of Down, Connor and Dromore, however a split occurred in 1944 leaving them to create the Diocese of Down and Dromore. The Cathedral Church of Christ the Redeemer, on Church Street in Dromore, is one of the Diocese's three cathedrals.

The town and cathedral were destroyed during the rebellion of 1641, and the current church was built by Bishop Jeremy Taylor in 1661, who is buried there. Destruction and battles continued to affect Dromore with the Jacobites and Williamites fighting a battle in Dromore in 1689. The battle took place about a mile out of the town on the Milebush Road and was known as the Break of Dromore.

The 18th Century saw the early development of the linen industry which was to become Dromore's major industry for the next 200 years. The town's proximity alongside the River Lagan would provide favourable conditions for the mills and providing water source also for the industrial units. A Georgian linen market hall was built in Dromore in 1752 and considerable quantities of linen was sold in Dromore and the town's primary function in the late 18th century and early 19th century was as a market centre for linen and agriculture.

Transport

Dromore had its own railway station from 1863 to 1956. The site of the old railway station is located on the brow of Church Street, heading west out of the town, where the Old Station Day Care Nursery is located. The Banbridge, Lisburn and Belfast Junction Railway (BLB) through Dromore opened in 1863 and this branch joined the Ulster Railway main line, proving Dromore with a direct link to Lisburn and Belfast. This

rail connection assisted in the industrial and economic development for those years, however in 1953 the railway was nationalised and the line was subsequently closed in 1956.

In 1992, Dromore was designated a Conservation Area, with an aim to preserve and enhance the character and appearance of the area, which reflects Dromore's rich and varied heritage. This designation has ensured that the built fabric and external environment are protected and new interventions are appropriate for the town. However, the decline of some elements and gap sites within the town are notable.

The Dromore Historical Trail connects 12 of Dromore's heritage assets including the Viaduct, Regents Bridge, Dromore Cathedral Church, High Cross, Market Square with the Market House and Stocks, Dromore Mound, Dromore Flax Scutching Mill and Dromore Castle.

The Engineer Harry Ferguson was born near Dromore and was famous for being the first man in Ireland to fly the Ferguson monoplane which he built with his brother. He went on to design and manufacture the Ferguson TES tractor renowned for its lightweight and manoeuvrable design. This in turn led him to design the Ferguson System or 3 point linkage which is still used in agricultural machinery to this day.

5.0 HISTORICAL, TRANSPORT AND SPORTS CONTEXT

Sporting heroes

Dromore is a town of champions and extraordinary talent across various sports. Home to Olympic medallists, Commonwealth Game medallist, World Champions in their sport and Rugby legends, this town has earned a reputation for its rich sporting heritage and dedication to excellence. Its residents take pride in fostering a sporting culture of discipline, teamwork, and relentless pursuit of greatness. The sports clubs, teams and individuals take on both national and international stages at every opportunity. This sporting heritage has infiltrated the life blood of the community, and this is evident in the wealth of sporting teams and clubs and the positive collaboration between them for a common goal.

In the survey, respondents identified that 60% have no knowledge and only 29% have basic knowledge of their sporting legends. A few sporting heroes are listed below.

1. Samuel Ferris, Athlete, LA Olympics 1932 (Silver)
2. Seamus Downey, Cyclist, LA Olympics 1984
3. Mark Downey, Cyclist, Commonwealth 2018 and World Champion 2019, took part in Tokyo Olympics 2021
4. Sean Downey, Cyclist, Commonwealth 2010

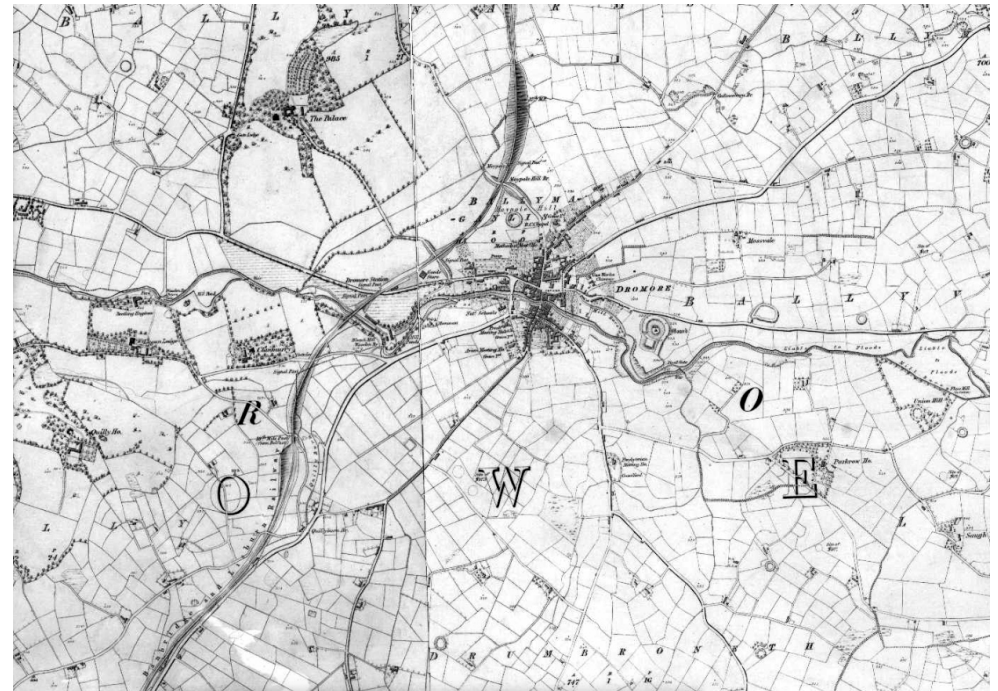
5. Brian Reid, Motorcyclist, Formula Two World Champion 1985 and 1986
6. Susie Berry, Olympian Equestrian – Paris Olympics 2024
7. Kerri McDonald, Hockey, Youth Olympics 2010
8. Numerous Rugby stars

There may be an opportunity for the schools, youth and sports clubs to take part in a localised project to research this story further.

5.0 HISTORICAL CONTEXT



1832-1846



1846-1862

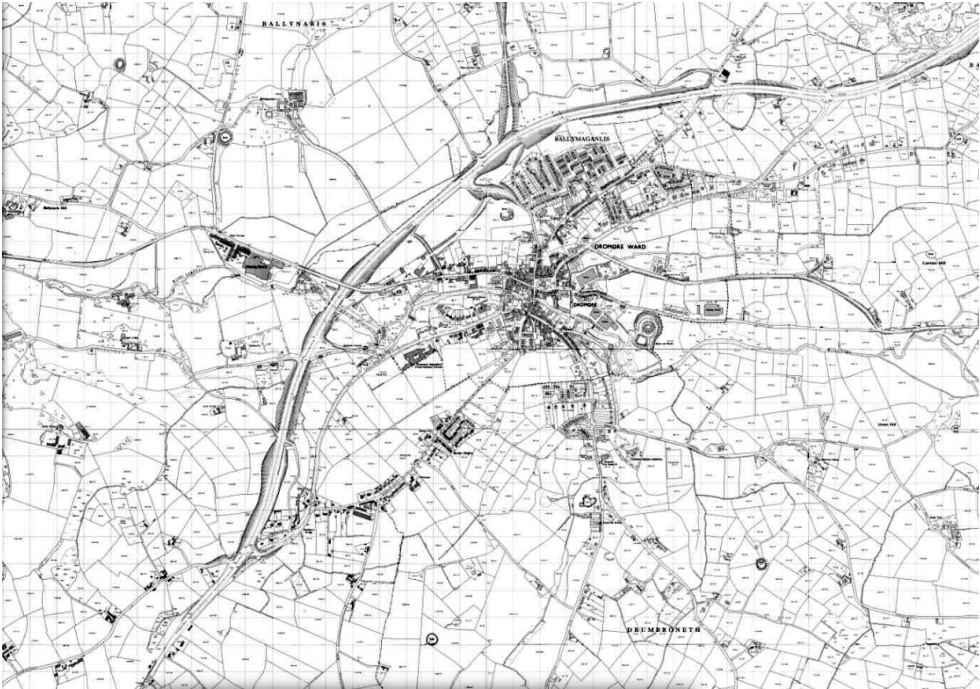


1900-1907

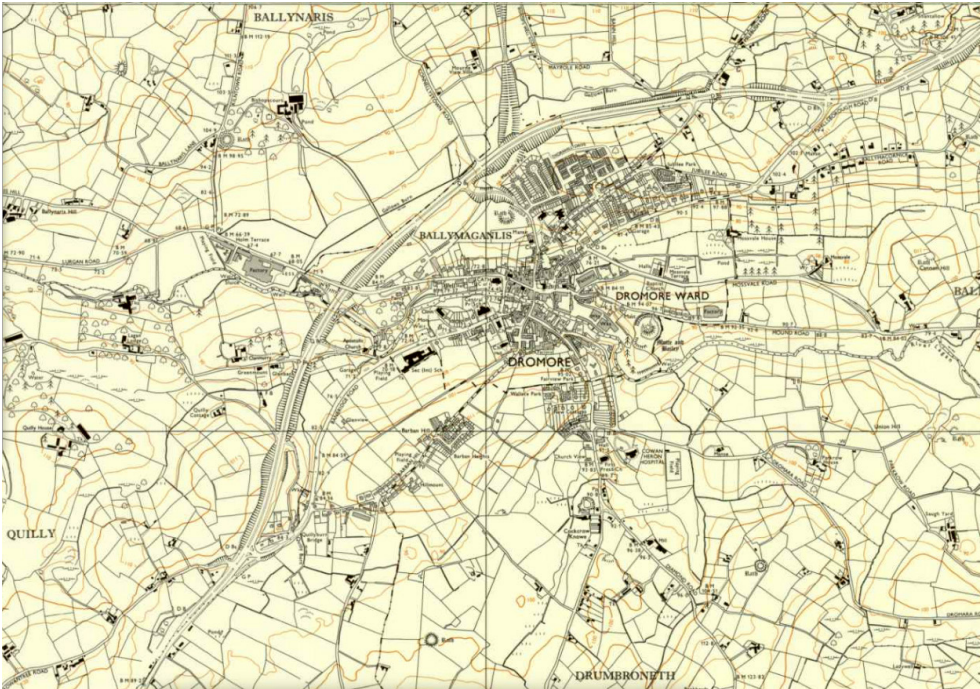


1905-1957

5.0 HISTORICAL CONTEXT



1952-1979



1957-1986



Current day site map

The growth of Dromore is particularly evident in these maps from 1952 to current day. The layout of the A1 dual carriageway is evident from the 1952-1979 map and the development of the residential stock of Dromore can be seen to grow over the years and expanding to the northern and southern areas.

Note: With reference to these maps- This is Crown Copyright and is reproduced with the permission of Land & Property Services under delegated authority from the Keeper of Public Records, © Crown copyright and database right (2022) CS&LA777.



Figure 15- View of Barrel and Bean on Church Street, former bank building.

6 CURRENT DAY DROMORE

6.0 CURRENT DAY DROMORE

Geography and context

Dromore is part of the wider Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council. Dromore is one of the 6 local urban towns in the borough identified within the Local Development Plan (Preferred options paper 2018.)

Dromore (from Irish Droim Mór, meaning 'large ridge') is a small market town and civil parish in County Down and is 19 miles (31 km) southwest of Belfast. Its strategic position off the A1 also serves a key location along the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor. The location also provides important accessibility to the ports at Larne, Belfast, Warrenpoint and Dublin.

This strategic siting offers easy commuting distances to Belfast, Lisburn, Banbridge and Newry with the 238 bus providing frequent service to these locations. The historic railway line in Dromore is disused but it is notable that within the All-Island Strategic Rail Review document (2024) it highlights the potential for a future new line between Lisburn and Newry, providing rail services to Dromore.

Active Travel proposals, for Dromore, are in their emerging stages, with the Department for Infrastructure reviewing the feasibility of potential improvements between the town centre and Dromore Community Centre.

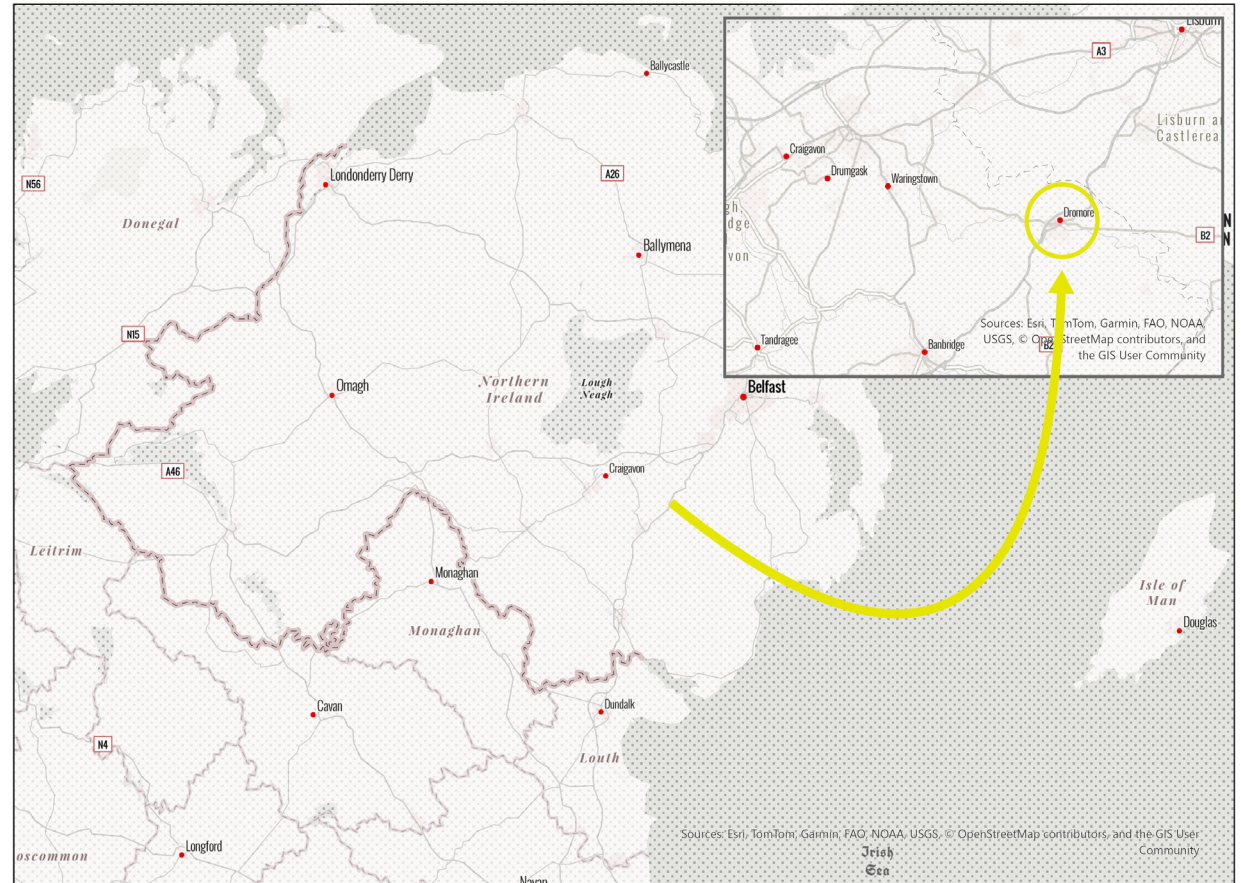
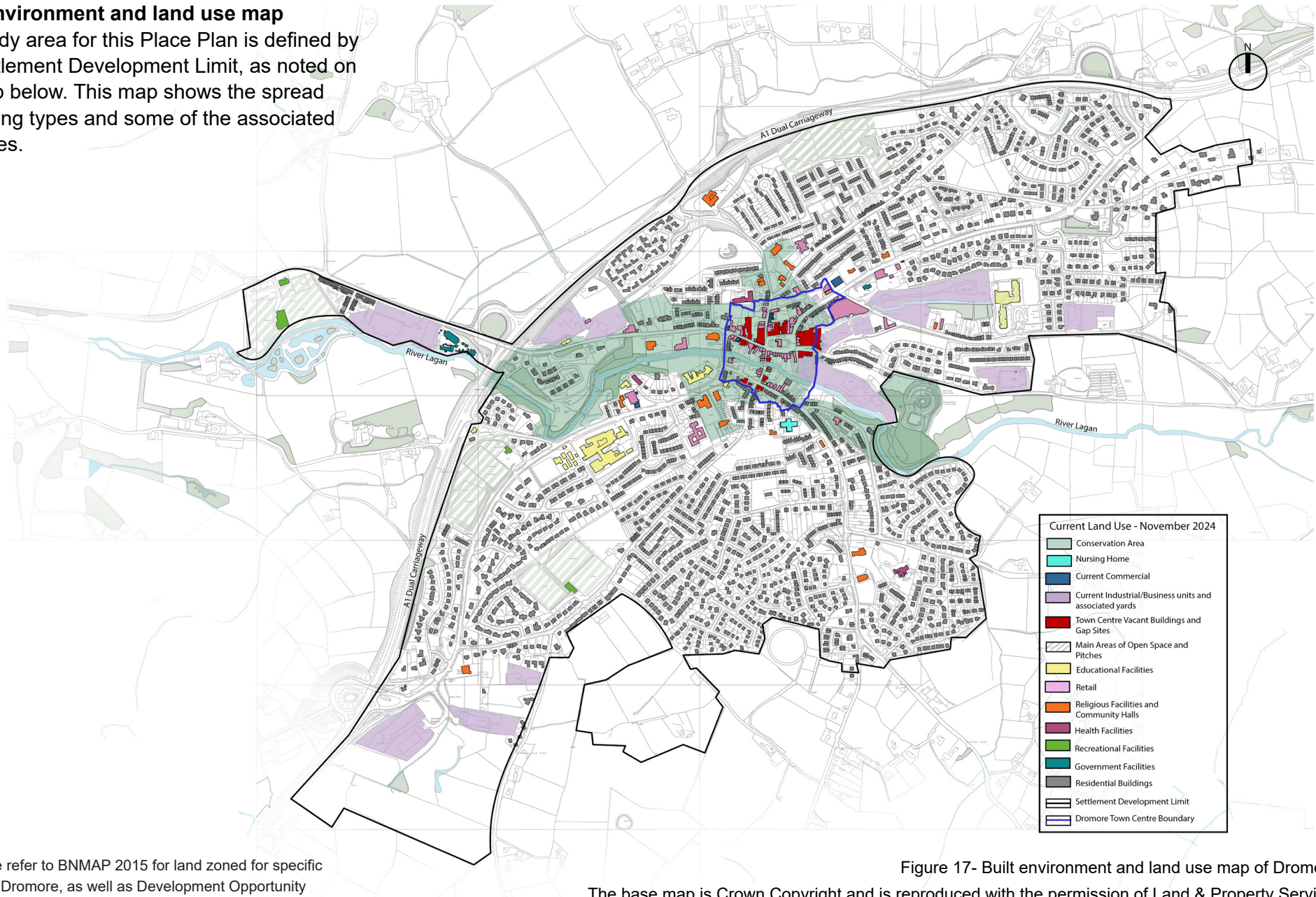


Figure 16- Map showing the regional location of Dromore

6.0 CURRENT DAY DROMORE

Built environment and land use map

The study area for this Place Plan is defined by the Settlement Development Limit, as noted on the map below. This map shows the spread of building types and some of the associated land uses.



Note: Please refer to BNMAP 2015 for land zoned for specific land uses in Dromore, as well as Development Opportunity Sites (DOS) designated by Planning authority, Gap sites referred to in this document do not directly align with DOS.

Figure 17- Built environment and land use map of Dromore.

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6.0 CURRENT DAY DROMORE

Housing

The map below shows the distribution of housing within Dromore.

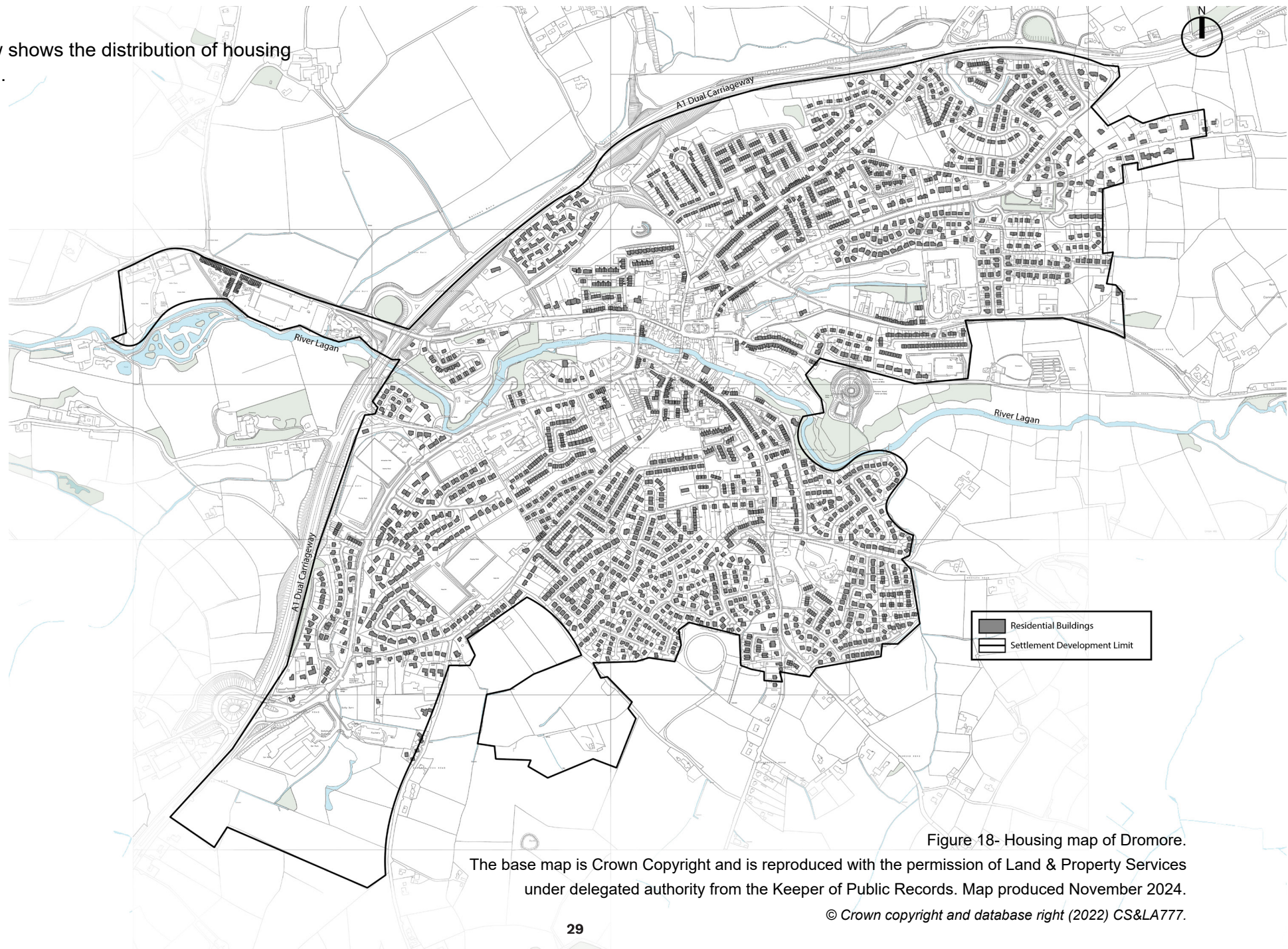


Figure 18- Housing map of Dromore.

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6.0 CURRENT DAY DROMORE

Open spaces

The map below shows the distribution of the main open spaces and pitches within Dromore.

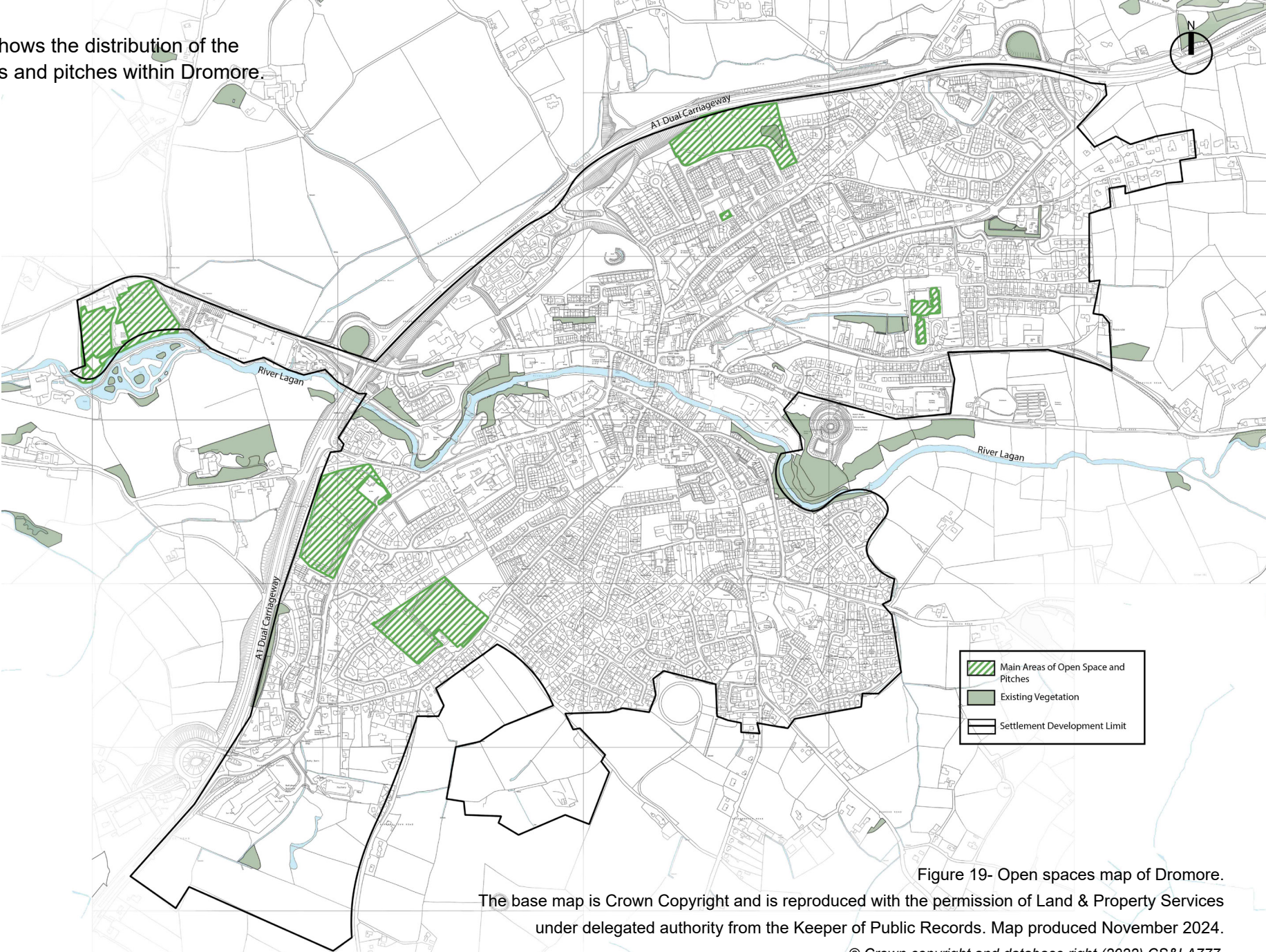


Figure 19- Open spaces map of Dromore.

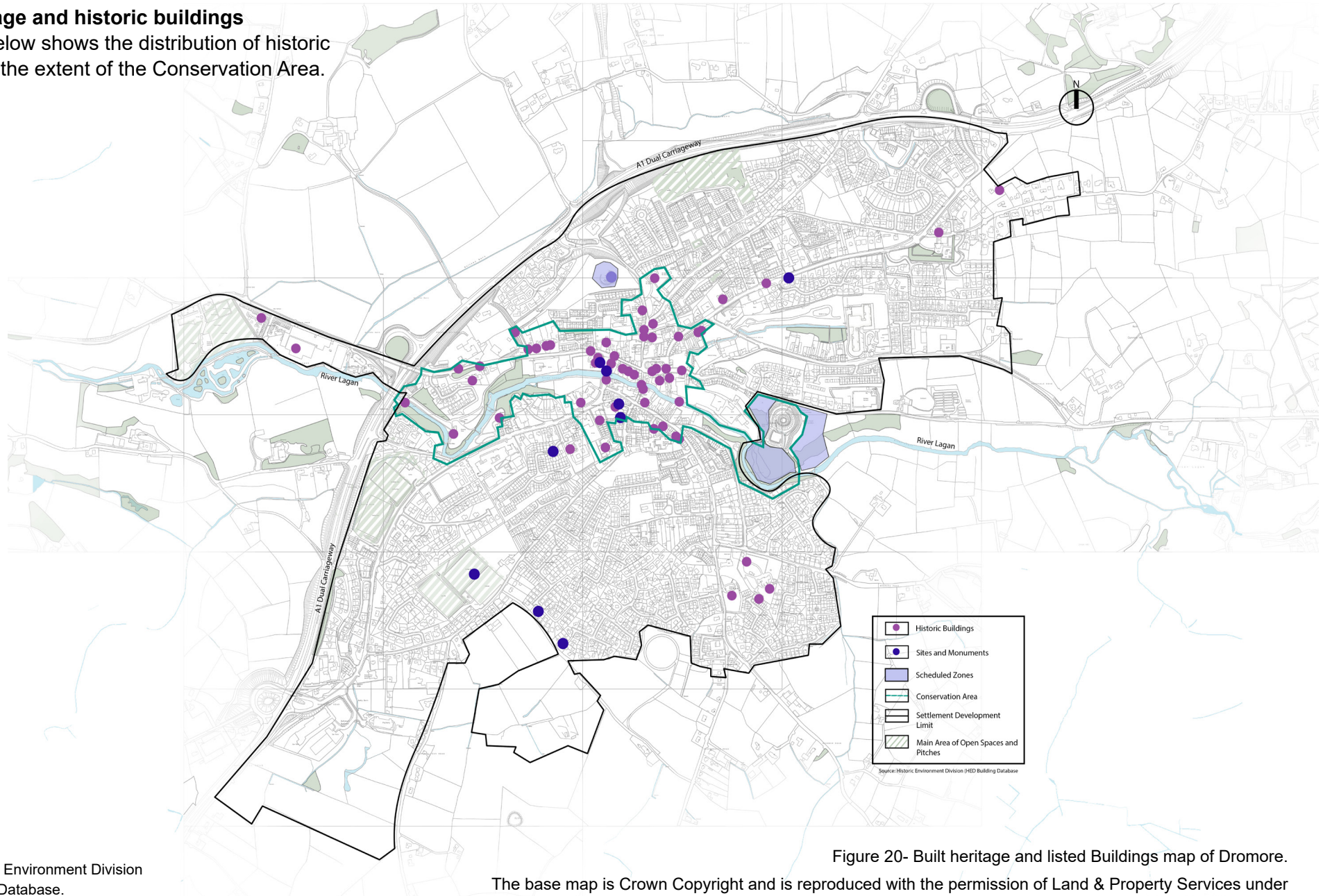
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6.0 CURRENT DAY DROMORE

Built heritage and historic buildings

The map below shows the distribution of historic assets and the extent of the Conservation Area.



Source: Historic Environment Division (HED) Building Database.

Figure 20- Built heritage and listed Buildings map of Dromore.
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6.0 CURRENT DAY DROMORE

Local Landscape Policy Area (LLPA) Map

The map below shows local protected areas of Dromore. The specification of these LLPA's are catalogued in the following page.

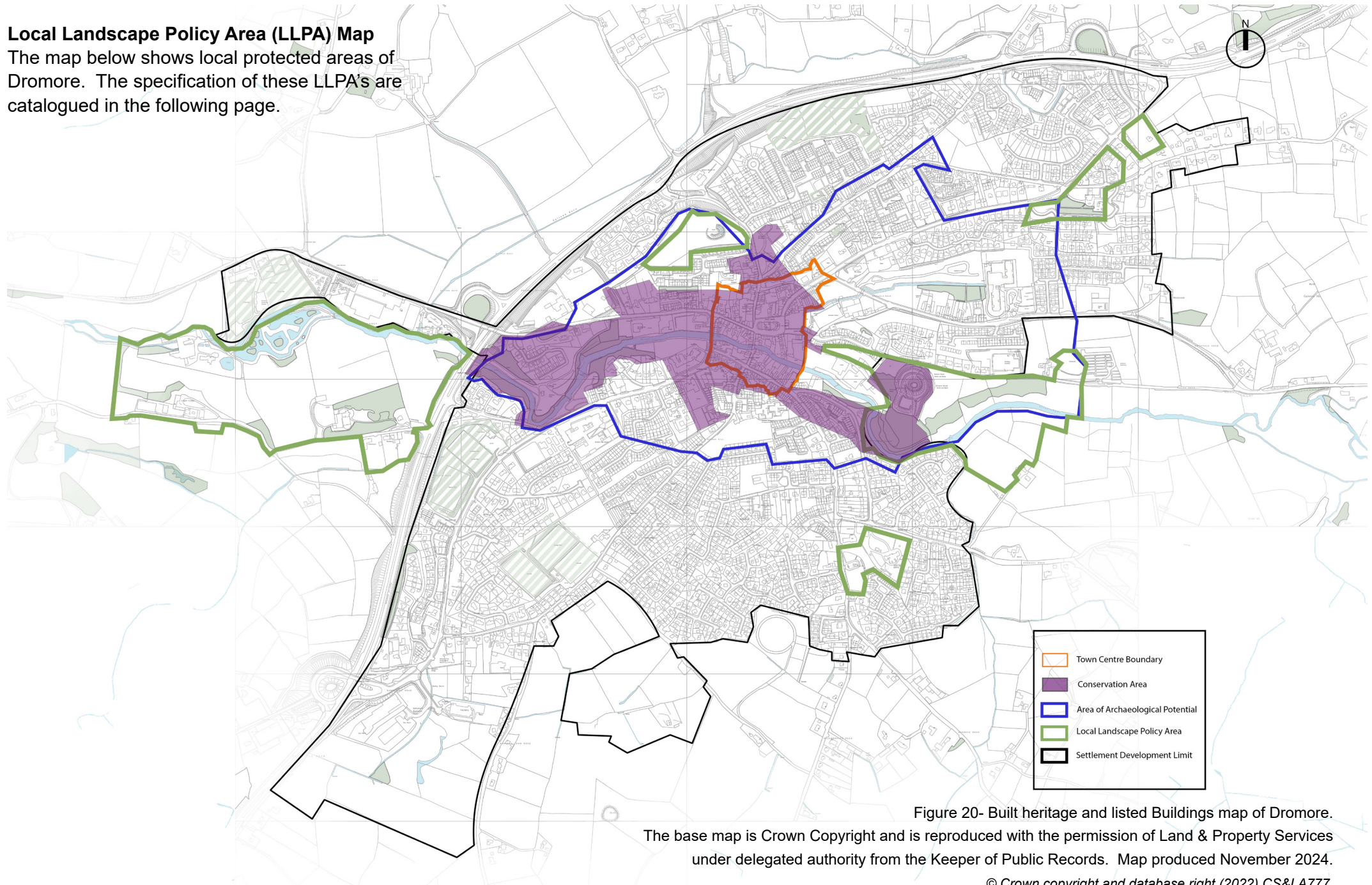


Figure 20- Built heritage and listed Buildings map of Dromore.

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6.0 CURRENT DAY DROMORE

Local Landscape Policy Areas

The local landscape of Dromore is protected by a total of 7no Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs) as designated in the Banbridge/Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015. Policy for the control of development in LLPAs as contained in Policy CVN3 Vol. 2 of the Plan. These LLPAs are:

DE46 Maypole Hill

DE47 Hillsborough Road/Ballymacormick Road

DE48 Hillsborough Road

DE49 Hillborough Mound

DE50 Lagan Lodge and Clanmurry

DE51 Old Railway line Embankment/Quilly Burn

DE52 Cowan Heron Hospital and Church

There is also one Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCI) located within Dromore at 'Ballymagenlis Wood' adjacent to the A1. The site is owned and managed by the Woodland Trust. This SLNCI, which is also a Local Wildlife Site, should also be referenced in the text of the DPP. The site is designated in the Banbridge/Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015, Designation BC 02, and policy for the protection of the site is contained in Policy CVN 1 in Vol. 1 of the Plan.

There is an Area of Archaeological Potential (AAP) identified 'for information only' in the Banbridge/Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015 for consideration.

6.0 CURRENT DAY DROMORE

Listed buildings

As at March 2024, there are 67 listed buildings within the Dromore Settlement Development Limit. Table 1a presents the number of buildings by their current use. Only three quarters of the buildings have a current use listed and of those, there are 13 houses, 6 churches and 4 shops.

	Number of Listed Buildings
Bank	2
Bridge	3
Church	6
Demolished	1
Hall	1
House	13
House - Terrace	3
Mausoleum	1
Memorial	2
Railway Station Structures	1
Residential Home	1
School	1
Shop	4
Shop - Terrace	1
Stocks	1
Store	1
Sundial	1
Town Hall	1
Viaduct	1
Current use not listed	22
	67

Table 1a: Listed buildings within Dromore Settlement Development

HISTORIC SITES AND MONUMENTS	
NISMR Ref: DOW021:049	COUNTERSCARP RATH
NISMR Ref: DOW021:079	BATTLE SITE, 1689: THE BREAK OF DROMORE
NISMR Ref: DOW021:058	DROMOE HIGH CROSS
NISMR Ref: DOW021:051	TOWER-HOUSE: DROMORE CASTLE
NISMR Ref: DOW021:048	MOTTE AND BAILEY- DROMORE MOUND
NISMR Ref: DOW021:075	HISTORIC SETTLEMENT: DROMORE
NISMR Ref: DOW021:080	BATTLE SITE, 1649
NISMR Ref: DOW020:058	SQUARE ENCLOSURE
NISMR Ref: DOW021:052	RATH (destroyed)
NISMR Ref: DOW021:053	RATH

Table 1c: List of historic sites and monuments in Dromore. Source: Northern Ireland Environment Agency database

HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES						
Current Grade	Address	Date Constructed	Current Use	Former Use	Townland	
B2	Rath House 40-42 Prince's Street Dromore Co Down BT25 1AY	1820 - 1839	House	House	Ballyny	
B2	Banbridge Road Presbyterian Church Banbridge Road Dromore Co Down BT25 1AA	1840 - 1859	Church	Church	Ballyny	
B1	Percy Lodge 55 Church Street Dromore Co Down BT25 1AA	1860 - 1879	House	House	Ballyny	
B1	Cathedral Church of Christ the Redeemer 30 Church Street Dromore Co Down BT25 1AA	1650 - 1699	Church	Church	Ballyny	
B2	30 Market Square Dromore Banbridge Co Down BT25 1AW	1820 - 1839	Shop - Terrace	Shop - Terrace	Ballyny	
B2	10 Bridge Street Dromore Co Down BT25 1AN	1820 - 1839	Shop	House	Ballyny	
B2	12 Bridge Street Dromore Co Down BT25 1AN	1820 - 1839	Shop	House	Ballyny	
B+	First Presbyterian Church Rampart Street Dromore Co Down BT25 1AG	1800 - 1819	Church	Church	Ballyny	
B2	Northern Bank 22 Church Street Dromore County Down BT25 1AA	1860 - 1879	Bank	Bank	Ballyny	
B2	80 Church Street Dromore Banbridge Co Down BT25 1AA	1860 - 1879	House	House	Ballyny	
B2	82 Church Street Dromore Banbridge Co Down BT25 1AA	1860 - 1879	House	House	Ballyny	
B2	24 Meeting Street Dromore Banbridge Co Down BT25 1AQ	1820 - 1839	House - Terrace	House - Terrace	Ballyny	
B2	26 Meeting Street Dromore Banbridge County Down BT25 1AQ	1820 - 1839	House - Terrace	House - Terrace	Ballyny	
B2	The Manse 84 Church Street Dromore Banbridge Co Down BT25 1AA	1860 - 1879	House	House	Ballyny	
B2	40 Meeting Street Dromore Banbridge Co Down BT25 1AA	1820 - 1839	House - Terrace	House - Terrace	Ballyny	
B1	Ulster Bank 11 Church Street Dromore Banbridge Co Down BT25 1AA	1920 - 1939	Bank	Bank	Ballyny	
Delisted	Sundial at Skeagh House 15 Banbridge Road Dromore County Down BT25 1NB	1900 - 1919	Sundial	Sundial	Ballyny	
B	Town Stocks Market Square Dromore Co. Down	1800 - 1819	Stocks	Stocks	Ballyny	
Record Only	Dromore Central Primary School 2 Banbridge Road Dromore County Down BT25 1AD	1920 - 1939	School	School	Ballyny	
Record Only	36 Church Street Dromore Co Down BT25 1AA	1860 - 1879		Hall	Ballyny	
B1	St Colmans Church Gallows Street Dromore Co Down BT32 1BG	1860 - 1879	Church	Church	Ballyny	
B2	The Manse 44 Hillsborough Road Ballymacormick Dromore Co Down BT25 1QN	1860 - 1879	House	House	Ballymacormick	
Record Only	Memorial Masonic Hall Hillsborough Road Banbridge Dromore Co Down BT25 1AZ	1940 - 1959	Hall	Hall	Ballymacormick	
B1	Bridge at 94 Church Street Dromore BT25 1AA	1860 - 1879	Bridge	Bridge	Ballymaganlis	
B1	Former stationmaster's house 102 Church Street Dromore BT25 1AA	1860 - 1879		Railway Station Structures	Ballymaganlis	
B1	Methodist Church Maypole Hill Dromore Co Down BT25 1BQ	1860 - 1879	Church	Church	Ballymaganlis	
B2	War Memorial Market Square Dromore Co Down BT25 1AW	1920 - 1939	Memorial	Memorial	Ballymaganlis	
B2	5 Church Street Dromore Banbridge Co Down BT25 1AA	1900 - 1919	Shop	Shop	Ballymaganlis	
Record Only	31 Banbridge Road Dromore Co Down BT25 1ND	1880 - 1899	Shop	House	Ballymaganlis	
B2	Downshire Bridge Bridge Street Dromore Co Down BT25	1880 - 1899	Bridge	Bridge	Ballymaganlis Drumbroneth	
B1	Regent Bridge Banbridge Road Dromore Co Down BT25	1800 - 1819	Bridge	Bridge	Ballymaganlis Drumbroneth	
B+	Dromore Viaduct off Church Street Dromore Co Down BT25	1860 - 1879	Viaduct	Viaduct	Ballymaganlis Quilly	
Record Only	Pump at Holm Terrace Junction of Lurgan and Kiltown Roads Dromore Co Down	1900 - 1919	Pump	Pump	Ballynaris	
B1	95 Ballynahinch Road Dromore BT25 2AL	1840 - 1859	House	House	Ballyvicknacally	
B1	First Dromore Presbyterian Church 3 Diamond Road Dromore Co Down BT25 1PQ	1900 - 1919	Church	Church	Drumbroneth	
B2	42 Meeting Street Dromore Co Down BT25 1AJ	1880 - 1899	House		Drumbroneth	
B2	44 Meeting Street Dromore Co Down BT25 1AJ	1880 - 1899	House		Drumbroneth	
B2	46 Meeting Street Dromore Co Down BT25 1AJ	1880 - 1899	House		Drumbroneth	
Record Only	Large shed at builders' yard ('John Graham Construction') Lagan Mills off Lower Mount Street Dromore Co Down BT25 1AS	1920 - 1939	Store	Store	Drumbroneth	
B1	Quilly House 43 Lower Quilly Road Dromore Banbridge Co Down BT25 1NL	1800 - 1819	House	House	Quilly	
B2	23 Gallows St. Dromore Co Down		House	House		
B1	15 Church St. Dromore Co Down		House	House		
B	Percy Monument (within park) Banbridge Road Dromore Co Down		Memorial	Memorial		
B1	Town Hall, Market Square, Dromore, Banbridge, Co Down, BT25 1AW	1880 - 1899	Town Hall	Market		
Record Only	Weirs Row 1-24 Hillsborough Road Dromore Co Down BT25 1DE					
Record Only	17 Prince's Street Dromore Co Down BT25 1AY					
Record Only	36-40 Gallows Street Dromore Co Down BT25 1BG					
Record Only	25 Gallows Street Dromore Co Down BT25 1BG					
Record Only	24 Gallows Street Dromore Co Down BT25 1BG					
Record Only	24 Dicksons Court Market Square Dromore Co Down BT25 1AW					
Record Only	17 Bridge Street Dromore Co Down BT25 1AN					
Record Only	Joseph Gibson and Son Brewery Lane Dromore Co Down BT25 1AH					
Record Only	38 Prince's Street Dromore Co Down BT25 1AY					
Record Only	Railway Station Complex Church St. Dromore Co Down			Railway Station Structure		
Record Only	3-5 Prince's Street Dromore Banbridge BT25 1AY					
Record Only	Dromore Presbyterian Church Hall Banbridge Road Dromore Co Down BT25 1AD				Quilly	

Table 1b: List of historic buildings and structures in Dromore.

6.0 CURRENT DAY DROMORE

Heritage at risk

Unfortunately, some of the historical assets in Dromore have been noted in the Heritage at Risk (NI) Register due to their state of disrepair and dereliction. The development of the Place Plan will need to carefully assess these assets and to make recommendations so that these buildings will still form a part of the future built environment and heritage.

HERITAGE AT RISK (NI) BUILDINGS IN DROMORE
9 Church Street
15 Church Street
32 Church Street
36 Church Street
17 Bridge Street
34 Meeting Street
40 Meeting Street

Table 1d: Historic asset on the Heritage at Risk (NI) Register
Source: Historic Environment Division (HED)

Investment to date

Council and other stakeholders (EA, DFI, DfC and Sport NI) have worked closely to deliver a range of investment projects since 2016, to improve the social, environmental, economic and wellbeing of Dromore for its residents. This list includes but is not limited to the following:

Dromore Projects

Ferris Park - 2G Pitch and Tennis courts
Dromore Park - Toilets, Pump Track investment, Play Park upgrade, 2 x Bridges
Public Realm (Market Sq, Bridge St & Church Street)
Shop Front Scheme 2016/2019
Shop Front Grant Scheme 2021/2024
Fit for Future (work to be completed by 2026)
Dromore Community Centre Extension
Thornhill Playpark
Dromore Revitalise 2016/2017

Borough Wide Projects

Covid Revitalisation Business Grants and Projects
Brand Identity Creation and Merchandise
ABC Revitalisation 2018/2020
Christmas Light Switch ons over 8 years

Other projects supported by Council

SIF Funding Dromore Orange Hall Refurb
DFI Resurfacing Market Sq, Bridge St, Church St - 2021
DFI Resurfacing Meeting St - 2024

Halls and community facilities

There are a good range of halls and community facilities across Dromore that host a wide variety of activities, groups and events. These facilities include:

- 1st Dromore Presbyterian Church Hall
- Dromore Baptist Church Hall
- Dromore Cathedral Hall
- Dromore Community Centre
- Dromore Gospel Hall
- Dromore Masonic Hall
- Dromore Methodist Church Hall
- Dromore Orange Hall
- Dromore Presbyterian Church Hall
- Dromore Reformed Presbyterian Church Hall
- Dromore Rugby Club
- Dromore Scout Hall
- Dromore Town Hall
- Elim Church Hall
- St.Colmans Hall

6.0 CURRENT DAY DROMORE

Vacancy rates

Vacancy rates for non-domestic properties are available for the five main city/town centres in the borough (Armagh, Banbridge, Craigavon, Lurgan and Portadown) and Dromore from the Town Centre Database (using data from Land and Property Services) produced by the Department for Communities.

As at 30th April 2024, vacancy rates in town and city centre in the borough varied from 7.9% in Craigavon to 24.4% in Dromore. This compared to a Northern Ireland vacancy rate of 22.4%.

30th April 2024			
Town Centre	No. of Properties	No. of Vacant Properties	% of Vacant Properties
Armagh	731	120	16.4%
Banbridge	434	71	16.4%
Craigavon	101	8	7.9%
Dromore	127	31	24.4%
Lurgan	502	106	21.1%
Portadown	685	144	21.0%
Northern Ireland	21,366	4,782	22.4%

Table 1e: City/town centre non-domestic property vacancy rates as at 30th April 2024. Source: Land and Property Services via Town Centre Database, Department for Communities.

Table 1f presents vacancy rates for each of the main cities/towns in the borough over time. The vacancy rates in Dromore Town Centre have fallen between 2017 and 2023 by 5.1% points to 24.4% on 30th April 2024. Dromore has consistently had the highest vacancy rates of any settlement over 5000 population and has been above the average rate for Northern Ireland each year. The DfC Town Centre Database NI Average Vacancy is based on statistics relating to 41 of the largest towns and cities in Northern Ireland.

Town Centre	7th May 2017	30th April 2018	30th April 2019	17th May 2020	30th April 2021	30th April 2022	30th April 2023	30th April 2024
Armagh	22.0%	22.8%	22.9%	21.7%	22.6%	21.2%	17.5%	16.4%
Banbridge	22.1%	20.8%	20.1%	18.0%	15.9%	16.0%	16.5%	16.4%
Craigavon	10.5%	5.4%	5.9%	8.7%	10.0%	8.9%	10.8%	7.9%
Dromore	29.5%	29.1%	28.0%	27.4%	27.1%	25.4%	25.5%	24.4%
Lurgan	24.2%	25.3%	26.0%	23.0%	22.5%	22.1%	20.1%	21.1%
Portadown	25.6%	25.7%	25.7%	22.3%	21.7%	21.1%	20.6%	21.0%
Northern Ireland	24.2%	25.3%	25.0%	24.1%	24.3%	23.7%	22.4%	22.4%

Table 1f: City/town centre non-domestic property vacancy rates from 7th May 2017 to 30th April 2024. Source: Land and Property Services via Town Centre Database, Department for Communities.

Town Centre Vacancy Audit

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council commissioned Ove Arup and Partners (Arup) to undertake a town centre vacancy audit of five town centres in the borough (Armagh City, Banbridge, Dromore, Lurgan and Portadown) and the findings were issued in 2019.

Vacant properties were assessed during site visits against a set of criteria which covered external condition, prominence and overall visual impact on the surrounding environment. A building or site could only score a maximum score of 15 and a minimum score of 3. In general, the lower the score, the better condition / prominence / visual impact. For example, if a building was given a score of 1 for condition this meant it was newly built or recently maintained with no signs of deterioration. A score of 5 on visual impact meant it had a high visual impact with a significantly negative impact on the streetscape.

In Dromore town centre, the audit identified a total of 48 vacant properties, 14 with a low score (3-7), 12 with a medium score (8-11) and 22 with a high score (12-15). This is illustrated in the following map.

Of the 48 properties identified, 42 were vacant buildings and 6 were vacant sites. A planning application search showed that only 7 of these properties had planning applications submitted with 5 being approved and 2 still under consideration.

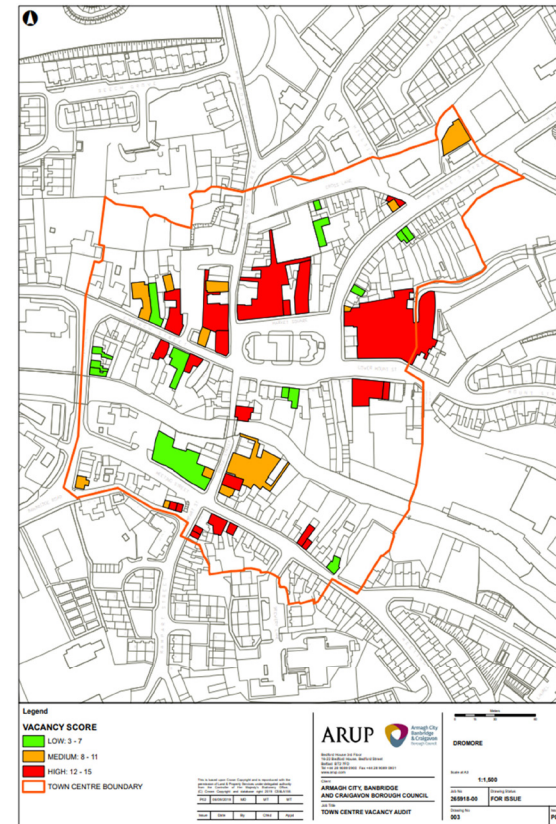


Figure 21- Map of Dromore town centre vacant properties. Source: Town centre vacancy audit, Arup 2019.

6.0 CURRENT DAY DROMORE

Business demography

Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing is by far the largest industry group in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough accounting for 26.7% of all VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses. The second largest industry group is construction (14.3%), followed by Retail Trades (8.1%). The business profile in Lagan River DEA is much the same as the borough with Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing again the largest, accounting for 30.6%, followed by Construction at 15.3%. Unlike the borough however, professional, scientific and technical activities is the third largest industry in Lagan River DEA accounting for 7.7% of the total businesses while production accounts for 7.2% with Wholesale Trades and Retail Trades both at 5.9%. In Lagan River DEA, the top three industries account for 53.6% of all VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses in 2024. Education businesses and Financial and Insurance activities are the smallest industry groupings and together account for just 2.8% of businesses in Lagan River DEA and 4.4% of businesses in the borough overall.

	Armagh	Banbridge	Craigavon	Cusher	Lagan River	Lurgan	Portadown	ABC Borough
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	30.2%	27.7%	11.5%	41.3%	30.6%	10.1%	22.0%	26.7%
Production	6.4%	5.3%	12.1%	8.1%	7.2%	9.0%	7.0%	7.4%
Construction	14.9%	15.1%	17.8%	12.9%	15.3%	16.1%	10.3%	14.3%
Motor trades	4.6%	4.1%	4.5%	4.2%	5.0%	3.5%	4.8%	4.4%
Wholesale trades	4.1%	4.1%	4.5%	3.9%	5.9%	4.5%	5.5%	4.6%
Retail trades	8.2%	8.5%	7.6%	5.5%	5.9%	11.6%	10.3%	8.1%
Transport and storage	4.9%	5.0%	5.7%	5.2%	3.6%	5.0%	7.7%	5.4%
Accommodation and food service activities	3.6%	4.4%	4.5%	2.6%	2.7%	8.0%	5.5%	4.3%
Information and communication	1.3%	1.9%	3.2%	1.3%	1.8%	2.5%	1.5%	1.8%
Financial and insurance activities	0.8%	0.9%	1.9%	1.0%	1.4%	1.0%	2.2%	1.2%
Property	2.8%	3.5%	4.5%	1.6%	2.3%	2.0%	3.3%	2.8%
Professional, scientific and technical activities	6.2%	7.5%	6.4%	4.8%	7.7%	8.0%	7.0%	6.7%
Business administration and support services	3.1%	3.1%	5.1%	2.3%	4.1%	5.0%	4.0%	3.6%
Education	0.8%	0.6%	1.3%	0.3%	0.5%	1.0%	0.7%	0.8%
Human health and social work activities	2.6%	2.5%	2.5%	1.9%	2.3%	4.5%	2.9%	2.7%
Arts, entertainment, recreation and other services	4.9%	6.0%	6.4%	3.2%	3.6%	8.5%	5.9%	5.3%
Total number of VAT and/or PAYE Registered Businesses	1,940	1,590	785	1,550	1,110	995	1,365	9,330

Table 2a: Broad industry group of VAT and / or PAYE registered businesses in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, March 2024. Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register, NISRA.

Industry Section	2015		2019		2021		2023	
	No. of Businesses	% of All Businesses	No. of Businesses	% of All Businesses	No. of Businesses	% of All Businesses	No. of Businesses	% of All Businesses
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mining and quarrying	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Manufacturing	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Electricity, gas, steam and air-conditioning supply	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Construction	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	20	27%	20	44%	20	40%	15	38%
Transportation and storage	*	*	*	*	*	*	N/A	N/A
Accommodation and food service activities	10	13%	10	22%	10	20%	10	25%
Information and communication	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	*	*	*	*
Financial and insurance activities	*	*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Real estate activities	*	*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Professional, scientific and technical activities	5	7%	5	11%	5	10%	5	13%
Administrative and support service activities	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	*	*	*	*
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	*	*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Education	*	*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Human health and social work activities	5	7%	*	*	*	*	*	*
Arts, entertainment and recreation	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Other service activities	15	20%	5	11%	*	*	*	*
Total	75		45		50		40	

Table 2b: Business Demography in Dromore Town Centre 2015 – 2023. Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register, NISRA Economic and Labour Market Statistics Branch via Town Centre Database, Department for Communities. Please note, IDBR figures are rounded to the nearest 5 and counts of businesses one to four have been suppressed (*).

6.0 CURRENT DAY DROMORE

Business turnover and size

In 2024, in Lagan River DEA, 26.6% of businesses had a turnover of less than £50,000 while just 9.1% of businesses had a turnover of £1m or more. Almost three-quarters (70.7%) of businesses in Lagan River DEA had a turnover of £249,000 or less which is slightly higher than the borough overall at just under 65.9%.

	Turnover Size Band (£ Thousands)							Total
	0-49	50-99	100-249	250-499	500-999	1,000-4,999	5,000+	
Armagh	23.7%	18.0%	23.7%	12.4%	8.5%	10.1%	3.6%	1,940
Banbridge	24.2%	18.2%	25.2%	13.2%	9.1%	8.8%	1.3%	1,590
Craigavon	17.2%	15.3%	26.1%	12.7%	8.3%	11.5%	8.9%	785
Cusher	29.4%	18.1%	23.2%	11.9%	8.7%	7.4%	1.9%	1,550
Lagan River	26.6%	18.9%	25.2%	12.2%	8.6%	6.8%	2.3%	1,110
Lurgan	15.6%	18.1%	28.1%	16.1%	10.6%	8.5%	3.0%	995
Portadown	20.9%	14.7%	27.1%	14.7%	9.5%	10.3%	2.9%	1,365
ABC Total	23.3%	17.4%	25.2%	13.2%	8.9%	8.9%	3.1%	9,330

Table 2c: Number of Businesses in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Area by District Electoral Area and Turnover Size Band (£000), March 2024. Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register, NISRA.

In the Lagan River DEA, the majority of businesses (94.1%) are micro-businesses (employing fewer than 10 people) with just 0.9% of businesses employing 50 or more staff. In the borough overall, there is a slightly higher percentage of larger businesses with approximately 1.8% of businesses in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough employing 50 or more staff.

District Electoral Area	Employee Size Band				Total
	0-9	10-49	50-249	250+	
Armagh	89.9%	8.2%	1.5%	*	1,940
Banbridge	91.8%	7.2%	0.9%	*	1,590
Craigavon	81.5%	12.1%	3.8%	1.9%	785
Cusher	93.9%	5.2%	1.0%	*	1,550
Lagan River	94.1%	5.0%	0.9%	*	1,110
Lurgan	88.9%	9.0%	1.0%	0.5%	995
Portadown	89.0%	9.2%	1.8%	*	1,365
ABC Total	90.5%	7.7%	1.4%	0.4%	9,330

Table 2d: Number of Businesses in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Area by District Electoral Area and Employee Size Band, March 2024. Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register, NISRA. Please note, IDBR figures are rounded to the nearest 5 and counts of businesses one to four have been suppressed (*). Please note disclosure controls have been applied and figures may not sum to totals.

The Town Centre Database also provides data on business turnover in the town centres, however this information for Dromore is considered disclosive and thus cannot be presented.

Employee jobs

In Dromore Town Centre, the number of employee jobs has decreased by 23.5% between 2021 and 2022 from 238 to 182 but has increased by 10.3% from 165 in 2015. The Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles industry has remained the biggest employer accounting for 3 in every 10 jobs and the total number of employees has increased from 43 in 2015 to 55 in 2022. In 2021, accommodation and food service activities accounted for 33% of all jobs in Dromore town centre however, by 2022 this must have fallen significantly as 2022 data has been suppressed to prevent disclosure. There is a total of 32 people employed in professional, scientific and technical activities in Dromore town centre which accounts for 18% of all jobs.

Industry Section	2015		2019		2021		2022	
	Employee Jobs	% of Total Employees	Employee Jobs	% of Total Employees	Employee Jobs	% of Total Employees	Employee Jobs	% of Total Employees
Agriculture, Forestry And Fishing	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mining And Quarrying	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Manufacturing	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Electricity, Gas, Steam And Air Conditioning Supply	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management And Remediation Activities	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Construction	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Wholesale And Retail Trade; Repair Of Motor Vehicles And Motorcycles	43	26%	66	36%	83	35%	55	30%
Transportation And Storage	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Accommodation And Food Service Activities	50	30%	43	24%	79	33%	*	*
Information And Communication	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	*	*	*	*
Financial And Insurance Activities	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Real Estate Activities	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Professional, Scientific And Technical Activities	24	15%	*	*	32	13%	32	18%
Administrative And Support Service Activities	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	*	*	N/A	N/A
Public Administration And Defence; Compulsory Social Security	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Education	*	*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Human Health And Social Work Activities	*	*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	*	*
Arts, Entertainment And Recreation	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Other Service Activities	16	10%	*	*	*	*	*	*
	165		182		238		182	

Table 2e: Employee Jobs in Dromore Town Centre, 2015, 2019, 2021 & 2022. Source: Business Register and Employment Survey, NISRA Economic and Labour Market Statistics Branch via Town Centre Database, Department for Communities.

6.0 CURRENT DAY DROMORE

There are seven development opportunity sites within the town centre that offer great potential for regeneration and revitalisation within the heart of Dromore.

There is potential for these sites to provide a range of uses and to encourage investment. It will be imperative that these sites are developed in keeping with the context, scale and character of the conservation area.

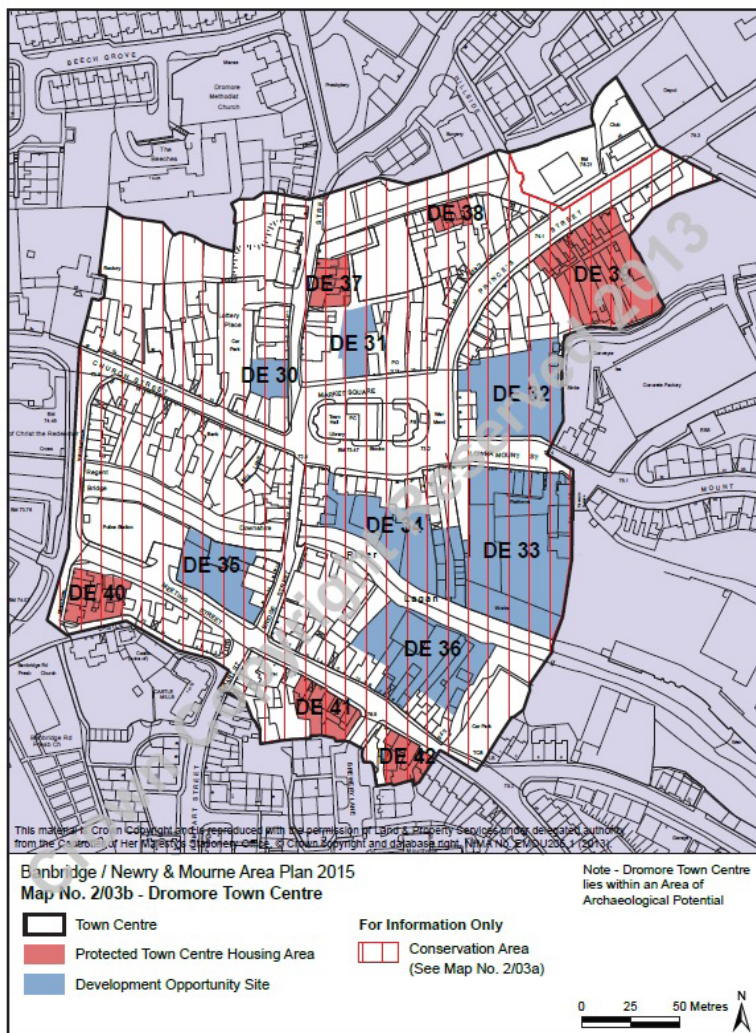


Figure 22- Map of development opportunity sites within Dromore.

Source: Banbridge / Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015

Planning Applications

In the five years from 2018-2023, there were a total of 20 planning applications decided for Dromore Town Centre, 50% of which were decided in 2019/20. All applications were approved. The majority of applications (approximately 45%) were categorised as 'other' while change of use accounted for 35% of the total. There was just one residential application and 3 commercial applications over the period.

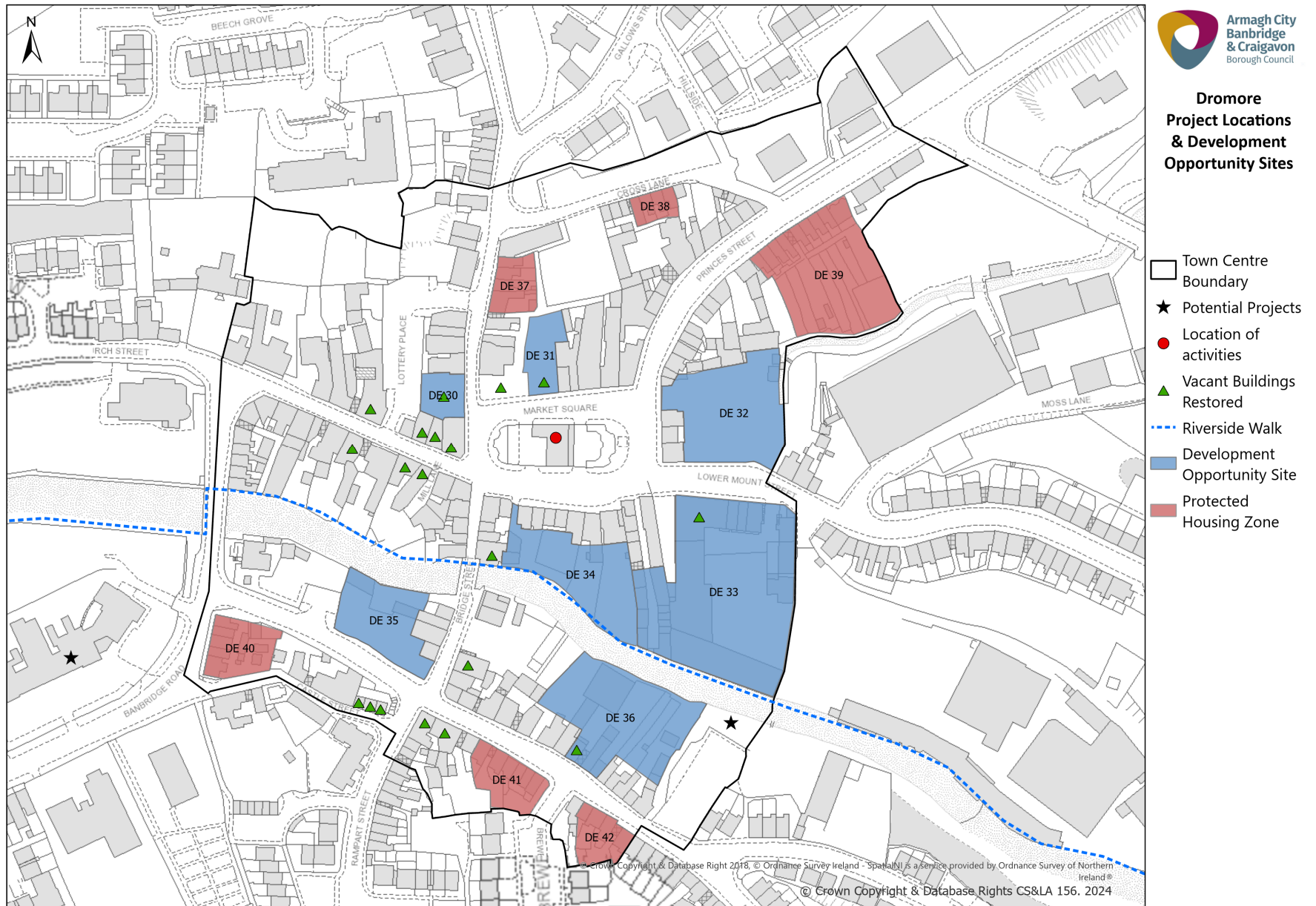
Decision Type	Category	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Approved	Commercial	0	2	0	0	1
	Civic	0	0	0	0	0
	Mixed Use	0	0	0	0	0
	Other	0	5	1	0	3
	Residential	0	0	0	1	0
	Industrial	0	0	0	0	0
	Agricultural	0	0	0	0	0
	Change of Use	1	3	1	1	1
Total Applications		1	10	2	2	5
Approval Rate		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 3: Planning applications decided in Dromore Town Centre. Source: Department for Infrastructure via Town Centre Database, Department for Communities.

6.0 CURRENT DAY DROMORE

Project locations and development opportunity sites

This map provides an overview of potential project locations together with development opportunity sites



6.0 CURRENT DAY DROMORE

Potential project opportunities

This map provides an overview of potential project opportunities in Dromore



Dromore Opportunity Projects

- ★ Potential Projects
- Location of activities
- ▲ Vacant Buildings Restored
- Riverside Walk
- Settlement Development Limit
- Town Centre Boundary

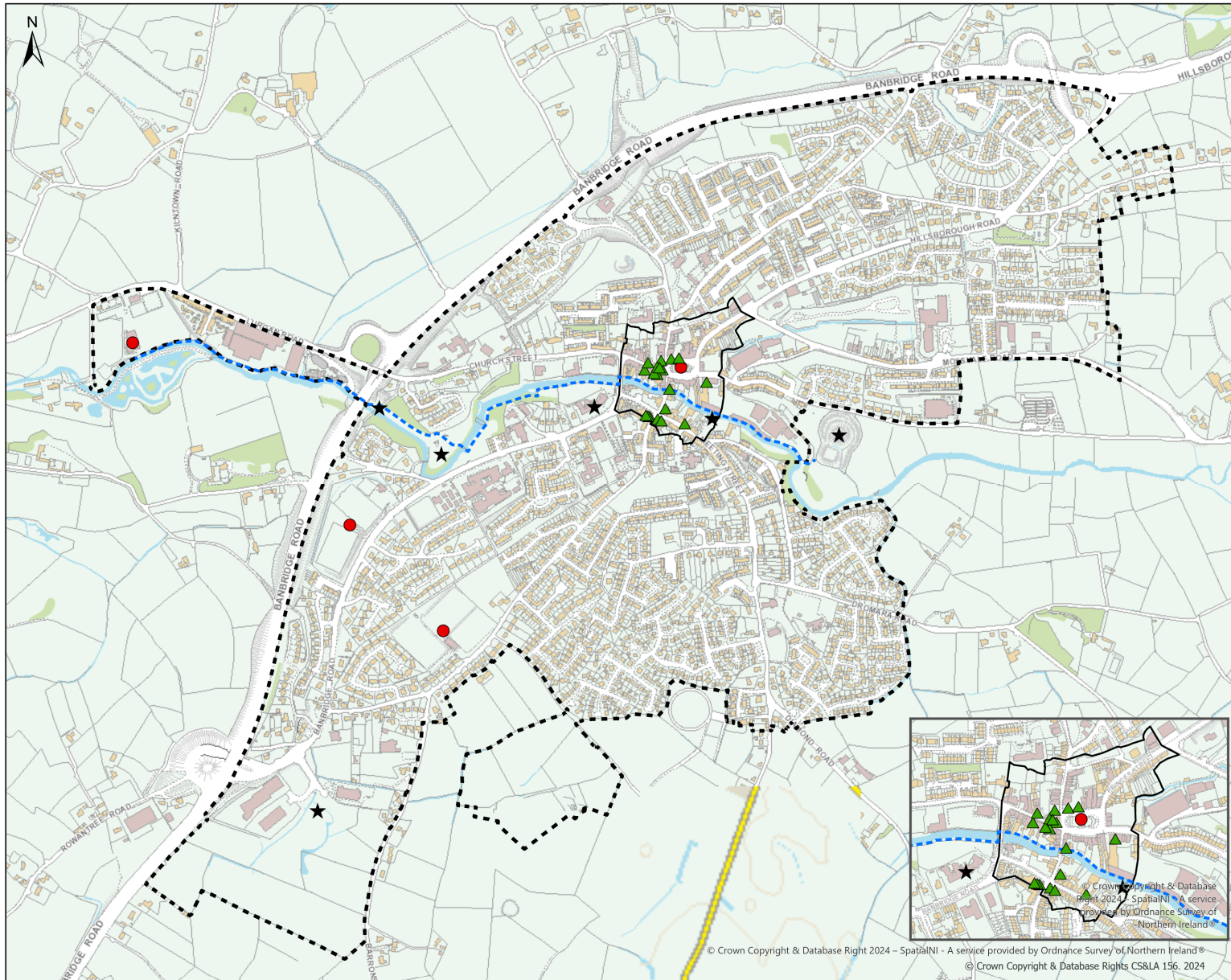


Figure 22b- Map showing potential project opportunities



Figure 23- View of the junction of Bridge Street and Meeting Street.



Figure 24- View of the 238 bus arriving at Market Square



Figure 25- View of one of the buildings on Church Street

7 STATISTICAL PROFILE

7.0 STATISTICAL PROFILE

Community

Population

Age and Gender

On Census Day 2021, Dromore Settlement Area had an estimated population of 6,395 which accounted for approximately 3% of the population of the Borough in 2021 and just 0.3% of the Northern Ireland total. In terms of gender, females make up a slightly higher percentage, accounting for approximately 52% of the total. Table 2 presents the population breakdown in the Dromore Settlement area and the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough in 2011 and 2021. In the Dromore settlement area, the 16-64 age group has seen the greatest increase in population, increasing by 10.1% in the ten-year period. This is in contrast to the borough overall where this age group experienced the smallest percentage increase and increased by only 5.9%. Again, in contrast to the borough overall where the 0-15 population increased by 9.1%, this age group experienced a 5.4% decrease in Dromore settlement area between 2011 and 2021.

	Dromore Settlement Area			Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough		
	2011	2021	% Change	2011	2021	% Change
All Persons	6,003	6,395	6.5%	199,693	218,656	9.5%
Males	2,871	3,044	6.0%	98,713	108,268	9.7%
Females	3,132	3,348	6.9%	100,980	110,388	9.3%
0-15 Years	1,403	1,327	-5.4%	44,206	48,246	9.1%
16-64 Years	3,767	4,146	10.1%	127,860	135,421	5.9%
65+ Years	833	915	9.8%	27,627	34,993	26.7%

Table 5: Gender and age profile of Dromore Settlement Area and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough at Census 2011 and 2021. Source: Census 2011 & Census 2021, NISRA.

The next figure presents a more detailed breakdown of the age structure in Dromore Settlement area in 2011 and 2021. As we can see, the proportion of the population aged from 0-14 has fallen from 22.1% in 2011 to 19.3% in 2021 while the biggest increase has been in the percentage of the population aged between 45-59 which has increased by 5.5 percentage points to 22.4% in 2021.

Overall, the percentage of the population aged 45+ has increased in Dromore from 35% in 2011 to 41% in 2021 and in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough from 38% in 2011 to 42% in 2021. A similar shift has occurred in Northern Ireland overall so Dromore, like the rest of Northern Ireland and indeed the rest of the world, is experiencing a demographic shift which comes with its own opportunities and challenges.

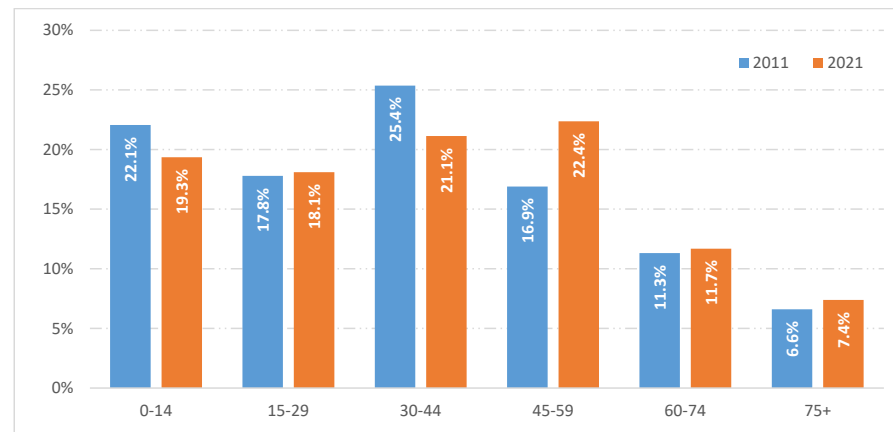


Figure 26- Age Structure of the population of Dromore Settlement Area in 2011 and 2021. Source: Census 2011 & Census 2021, NISRA.

Population estimates for DEAs are also available from Census 2021. Of the seven DEA's that make up Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council area, Lagan River is the smallest accounting for approximately 11% of the total population of the borough in 2021. The Dromore Settlement Area accounts for roughly one quarter of the total population of Lagan River DEA.

	Census 2011	Census 2021	Change 2011 - 2021	% Change 2011 - 2021
Armagh	30,286	32,401	2,115	7.0%
Banbridge	33,419	34,943	1,524	4.6%
Craigavon	25,287	29,196	3,909	15.5%
Cusher	23,278	26,205	2,927	12.6%
Lagan River	22,991	24,805	1,814	7.9%
Lurgan	34,939	38,202	3,263	9.3%
Portadown	29,493	32,933	3,440	11.7%

Table 6: Population of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough District Electoral Areas in 2011 and 2021. Source: Table KS102NI Census 2011, NISRA and Table MS-A09 Census 2021, NISRA.

Religion

The 2021 Census shows that the majority of the Dromore settlement belonged to or were brought up in the Protestant religion (69%) compared to 17% who belonged to or were brought up in the Catholic religion. Since 2011, there has been just a 1 percentage point increase in the proportion of the population belonging to or brought up in the Catholic religion while the most notable change has been the decrease in the percentage of the population who belonged to or were brought up in the Protestant religion which has fallen from 76% in 2011 to 69% in 2021. Those belonging to or brought up with no religion has increased from 7% to 14% in the Dromore Settlement area. Similar changes have been observed in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough overall where the majority still belong to or were brought up in the Protestant religion, but the percentage has fallen by 5 percentage points from 52% in 2011 to 47% in 2021.

7.0 STATISTICAL PROFILE

Religion

Religion or Religion Brought Up In	Dromore Settlement		Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough	
	2011	2021	2011	2021
Catholic	16%	17%	43%	44%
Protestant	76%	69%	52%	47%
Other	1%	1%	1%	1%
None	7%	14%	5%	8%
Total	6,003	6,395	199,693	218,656

Table 7: Religion or Religion brought up in of residents in Dromore Settlement Area and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough at Census 2011 and Census 2021. Source: Census 2011 and Census 2021 NISRA. Please note percentages may not sum due to rounding.

Ethnicity

On Census Day 2021, approximately 98.6% of residents in the Dromore Settlement Area were white. Mixed race is the next biggest ethnic group in the Dromore Settlement area even though it accounts for just 0.7% of the total population. Filipino which is included in 'other ethnicities' the next biggest ethnic group after mixed race, and it accounts for just 0.2% of the total population in Dromore Settlement area. In the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough mixed race and Black African are now the next biggest ethnic groups in the borough accounting for approximately 1.3% of the population.

In the ten-year period since Census 2011, the population of the borough overall has become slightly more ethnically diverse than Dromore settlement area with the proportion of the white population in the borough falling by approximately 1.85 percentage points compared to just 0. percentage points in Dromore.

Ethnicity	Dromore Settlement		Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough	
	2011	2021	2011	2021
White	99.00%	98.56%	98.54%	96.69%
Mixed	0.30%	0.70%	0.30%	0.76%
Chinese	0.02%	0.06%	0.26%	0.31%
Irish Traveller	0.00%	0.06%	0.07%	0.24%
Other Asian	0.43%	0.05%	0.23%	0.27%
Black African	0.02%	0.16%	0.10%	0.52%
Pakistani	0.00%	0.02%	0.10%	0.13%
Indian	0.15%	0.11%	0.19%	0.28%
Black Other	0.00%	0.02%	0.05%	0.24%
Other ethnicities	0.09%	0.27%	0.15%	0.56%
Total	6,003	6,395	199,693	218,656

Table 8: Ethnicity of residents in Dromore Settlement Area and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough at Census 2011 and Census 2021. Source: Census 2011 and Census 2021, NISRA. Please note percentages may not sum due to rounding.

Country of Birth

With regards country of birth, data from the Census 2021 shows that approximately 88% of the population in Dromore settlement area were born in Northern Ireland compared to 85.5% in the borough overall. The data does support a slightly more diverse population as the population born in Northern Ireland has fallen between 2011 and 2021 by 1.5 percentage points in Dromore and 3.5 percentage points in the borough overall.

With regards to those residents born outside of the UK and Ireland, this has increased from 4.3% to 5.0% in Dromore settlement area and from 5.5% to 8.6% in the borough overall. Approximately 3.9% of residents in the Dromore Settlement area were born in England while 1.6% of residents were born in the Republic of Ireland.

Country of Birth	Dromore Settlement		Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough	
	2011	2021	2011	2021
Northern Ireland	89.7%	88.2%	89.0%	85.5%
England	3.5%	3.9%	3.1%	3.2%
Scotland	1.1%	1.1%	0.7%	0.7%
Wales	0.2%	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%
Republic of Ireland	1.3%	1.6%	1.8%	1.9%
Other	4.3%	5.0%	5.5%	8.6%
Total	6,003	6,395	199,693	218,656

Table 9: Country of birth of residents in Dromore Settlement Area and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough at Census 2011 and Census 2021. Source: Census 2011 and Census 2021, NISRA. Please note percentages may not sum due to rounding.

7.0 STATISTICAL PROFILE

Main Language

Given that previous indicators have pointed to a slightly more diverse population, it is no surprise that the percentage of the population whose main language is English has fallen from 97.1% in 2011 to 93.8% in 2021 in Dromore Settlement area and from 95.7% to 93.2% in the borough overall.

Polish was the second most common main language for residents of the Dromore settlement area and the borough overall and this is unchanged from the 2011 Census although the percentage of the population for which Polish is their main language has fallen in the Dromore settlement area. Persons with Lithuanian as a main language account for 0.75% of residents in the Dromore settlement area while those with 'other languages' account for 0.31% of the total population.

Main Language	Dromore Settlement		Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough	
	2011	2021	2011	2021
English	97.11%	93.78%	95.72%	93.17%
Polish	1.16%	0.88%	1.53%	1.69%
Romanian	-	0.22%	-	0.37%
Chinese	0.02%	0.00%	0.07%	0.09%
Bulgarian	-	0.03%	-	0.70%
Arabic	-	0.02%	-	0.11%
Hungarian	0.07%	0.02%	0.05%	0.17%
Russian	0.00%	0.00%	0.09%	0.15%
Irish	0.02%	0.08%	0.13%	0.20%
Lithuanian	0.77%	0.75%	0.91%	1.24%
Portuguese	0.02%	0.13%	0.44%	0.84%
Spanish	-	0.09%	-	0.06%
Latvian	0.00%	0.08%	0.18%	0.22%
Cantonese	-	0.00%	-	0.05%
Tagalog/Filipino	0.19%	0.08%	0.09%	0.06%
Slovak	0.00%	0.06%	0.10%	0.18%
Other languages	0.65%	0.31%	0.68%	0.71%
Total (Aged 3+)	5,700	6,172	190,526	210,402

Table 10: Main Language of residents aged 3+ in Dromore Settlement Area and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough at Census 2011 and Census 2021. Source: Census 2011 and Census 2021, NISRA. Note: The breakdown of languages has been taken from the 2021 Census. Those with no data for 2011 were likely included in the 'other languages' category. Percentages may not sum due to rounding.

Households

At Census Day 2021, there were a total of 2,662 households in the Dromore settlement area which represents an increase of 223 households (9%) since the 2011 Census. In the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough there were an estimated 84,642 households, an increase of 12.1% since 2011. Similar to the population share, just 3% of all households in the borough were in the Dromore settlement area.

The following figure presents the percentage of households by household size in Dromore and in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough at Census 2011 and 2021. In 2021, Dromore had a higher percentage of one, two and three person households than the borough overall (61% compared to 57%) while households with 5 or more people accounted for approximately 7% of total households in Dromore compared almost 11% in the borough overall. In Dromore Settlement area, approximately one in every five houses have four or more persons compared to Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough where approximately one in every four households have four or more persons.

Since 2011, the percentage of one person households in Dromore has increased while the number of two person households has fallen slightly. Surprisingly, the percentage of households with 4 or 5 people has fallen in Dromore but the percentage of households with 6 or more people has increased from 2% to 2.2% in Dromore.

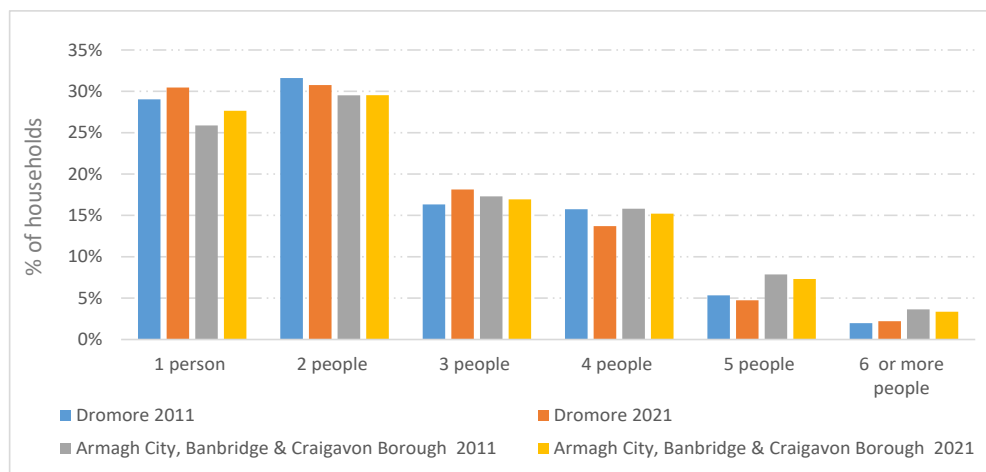


Figure 27- Household size – Dromore Settlement Area and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, 2011 and 2021. Source: Census 2011 & Census 2021, NISRA.

7.0 STATISTICAL PROFILE

Health

In Dromore Settlement at Census Day 2021, almost 81% of residents stated that they were in good or very good health. This is a fall of 1.7 percentage points since 2011. In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough, 80.4% of the residents stated they were in good or very good health which is an increase of 0.2 percentage points since 2011.

With regards the percentage of residents reporting that they were in bad or very bad health, this has increased by more than 3 percentage points between 2011 and 2021 in Dromore and 1.7 percentage points in the borough overall. A higher percentage of residents in Dromore settlement area (7.4%) are reported to be in bad or very bad health compared with the borough overall (7%) but the percentage is less than the Northern Ireland average of 7.7%.

	Dromore Settlement		Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough	
	2011	2021	2011	2021
General health: Very good health	50.0%	51.2%	48.7%	52.0%
General health: Good health	32.6%	29.7%	31.5%	28.4%
General health: Fair health	13.1%	11.7%	14.6%	12.8%
General health: Bad health	3.5%	5.9%	4.2%	5.3%
General health: Very bad health	0.8%	1.5%	1.1%	1.7%

Table 11: Health in general in Dromore Settlement Area and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough at Census 2011 and Census 2021. Source: Table KS301NI Census 2011, NISRA, Table MS-D01 Census 2021 and Settlement level information drawn from NISRA Flexible Table Builder. Please note percentages may not sum due to rounding.

The Census also includes information on long-term health conditions and how they limit day to day activities. In Dromore settlement area in 2021, almost 34% of the population had at least one long-term health condition. Of the 2,143 people who stated they had at least one long-term health condition, almost 32% had long-term pain or discomfort and 30% had shortness of breath or difficulty breathing. Almost 29% had a mobility or dexterity difficulty that limited basic physical activities and almost 4% had a mobility or dexterity difficulty that requires a wheelchair. Almost one quarter of those who stated they had a long-term health condition listed an emotional, psychological or mental health condition.

	Dromore Settlement	
	No.	%
Autism or Asperger Syndrome	102	4.8%
Deafness or partial hearing loss	337	15.7%
Blindness or partial sight loss	104	4.9%
A mobility or dexterity difficulty that limits basic physical activities	612	28.6%
A mobility or dexterity difficulty that requires a wheelchair	79	3.7%
An intellectual or learning disability	55	2.6%
A learning difficulty	191	8.9%
An emotional, psychological or mental health condition	492	23.0%
Long-term pain or discomfort	681	31.8%
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing	641	29.9%
Frequent periods of confusion or memory loss	114	5.3%
Other condition	567	26.5%
At least one long-term health condition	2,143	33.5%
No condition	4,252	66.5%
Total population	6,395	

Table 12: Type of long-term health condition, Dromore Settlement Area, Census 2021. Source: Settlement level information drawn from NISRA Flexible Table Builder. Please note percentages may not sum due to rounding.

7.0 STATISTICAL PROFILE

Deprivation

Multiple Deprivation Measure and Health Deprivation and Disability Domain

The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2017 is a set of spatial deprivation measures which provides information for seven distinct types of deprivation, known as domains, along with an overall multiple deprivation measure (MDM). The NIMDM 2017 provides a mechanism for ranking areas within Northern Ireland in the order of the most deprived to the least deprived. However, they do not quantify the extent to which one area is more or less deprived than the other.

Northern Ireland is split into 890 spatial areas known as Super Output Areas (SOAs). Each SOA is ranked, giving a relative measure of deprivation, with a rank of 1 being the most deprived while the SOA ranked 890 is the least deprived.

The overall Multiple Deprivation Measure Ranks for the three SOAs within Dromore Proxy Area are shown in the following figure.

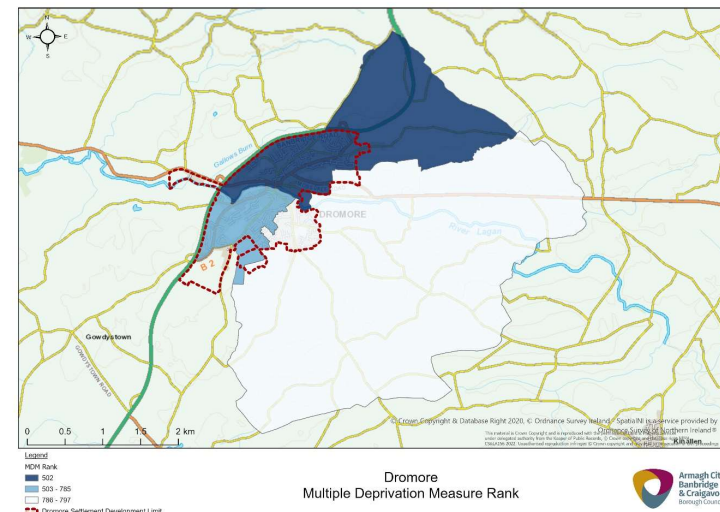


Figure 28- Overall Multiple Deprivation Measure Rank in Dromore Proxy Area. Source: Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017, NISRA. Key: Darker shaded areas are the most deprived, least deprived are shaded

As part of this section, the overall Multiple Deprivation Measure and Health Deprivation and Disability Domain are relevant. We have three SOA's included in our proxy area for Dromore and in terms of the overall MDM and Health Deprivation and Disability Domain, no one of these SOA's could be considered deprived in any way. Dromore North ranks lower than Dromore South_1 and Dromore South_2 however it is still in the top 50% of all SOA's for these two measures. Dromore South_1 and Dromore South_2 are in the top 11-20% least deprived SOA's in Northern Ireland for the overall MDM and Dromore South_2 is also in the top 11-20% least deprived SOA's for the Health Deprivation and Disability Domain.

Rank of 1 is the most deprived, 890 is the least deprived	Multiple Deprivation Measure Rank	Income Domain Rank	Employment Domain Rank	Health Deprivation and Disability Domain Rank	Education, Skills and Training Domain Rank	Access to Services Domain Rank	Living Environment Domain Rank	Crime and Disorder Domain Rank
Dromore North	502	359	458	446	351	543	779	509
Dromore South_1	785	686	712	619	687	596	742	617
Dromore South_2	797	729	794	792	736	250	834	846

Table 13: Overall Multiple Deprivation Measure Rank and individual domain ranks for SOAs in Dromore Proxy Area. Source: Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017, NISRA. Key: Shaded dark blue are ranked in the 10% most deprived and those in light blue are in the top 11-20% most deprived areas in Northern Ireland. Shaded yellow are ranked among the 10% least deprived in Northern Ireland and orange are in the top 11-20% least deprived in Northern Ireland within that specific domain.



Figure 29- View of St.Colman's Church on Maypole Hill

8 DROMORE HEALTH CHECK

8.0 DROMORE HEALTH CHECK

A 'Health check' of a town is a suitable way to review some of its key aspects and to identify opportunities for improvement. The Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG) for Architecture and the Built Environment for Northern Ireland have identified the 'Essential qualities for our Living High Streets.'

Please find a table on page 45 that reviews these topics in relation to Dromore and its opportunities.

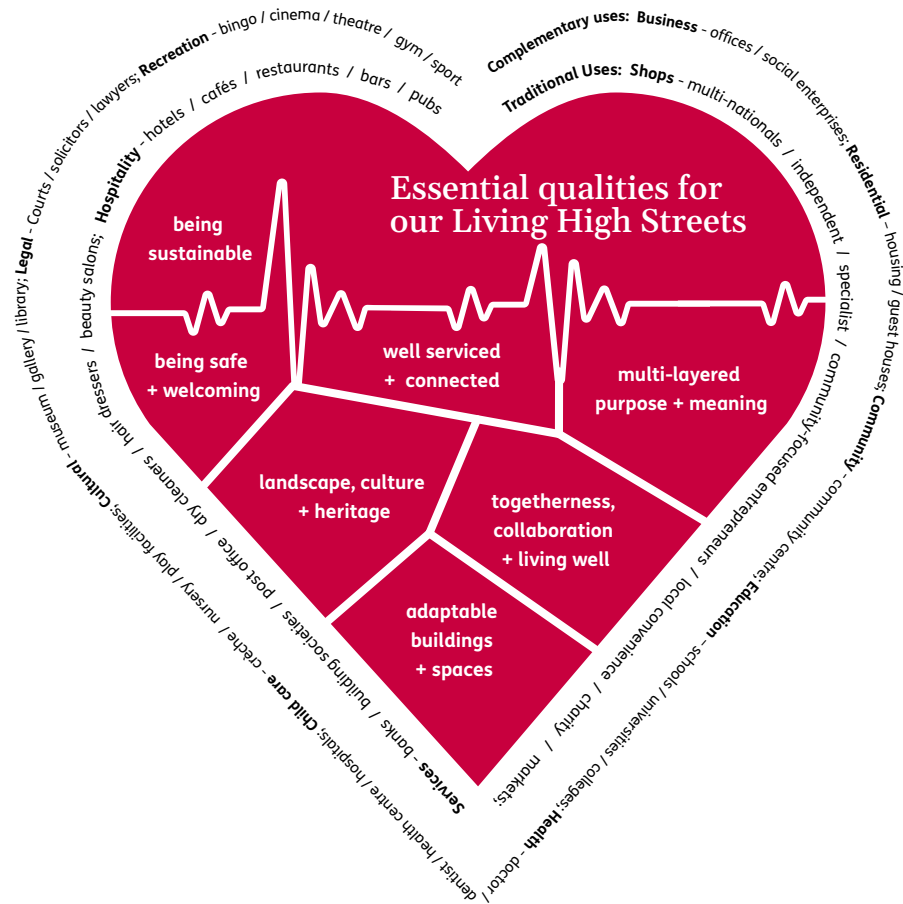


Figure 30- Image source: Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG) for Architecture and Built Environment NI

Copyright: Justine Daly, MAG Expert Advisor for the Living High Streets Initiative

8.0 DROMORE HEALTH CHECK

MAG ESSENTIAL QUALITIES OF LIVING HIGH STREETS		
ESSENTIAL QUALITY	HEALTH CHECK	OPPORTUNITIES
The local landscape, culture and heritage	A diversity of heritage designations in Dromore including 67 listed buildings and monuments. Seven heritage at risk assets have also been identified which are predominantly buildings in a poor state of repair. 3 historic battle sites have also been identified within Dromore. A heritage trails also links key aspects and assets across the town. Dromore was designated a Conservation Area in 1992.	There are a range of opportunities to ensure that heritage assets continue to be protected and enhanced and that elements that are 'at risk' are priority opportunities to ensure they do not fall into further disrepair. Opportunities are available to enhance aspects such as the heritage trail and to raise awareness of the heritage offering across the town. Improvements and reinvigoration to historic buildings should carefully review their embodied carbon to realise the benefits of re-use and regeneration in their future development.
	There are two Areas of Townscape Character (ATC's) located around Meeting Street and Mount Street.	These areas should remain to be protected and appropriately enhanced.
	Dromore has a series of industrial heritage sites, including the Viaduct, mainly located in areas surrounding the River Lagan and to areas in southern Dromore alongside the A1	These areas should remain to be protected and appropriately enhanced and the industrial heritage assets should become a showcase for the town with artefacts and photographs to be documented.
	Almost half of the settlement of Dromore has been identified as an area of archaeological potential. Refer to the map in Figure 20.	These areas should remain to be protected and appropriately enhanced. Work can be carried out with the Historic Environment Division (HED) to ensure archaeological study information is available to the community. There remains a wide array of opportunities to explore archaeology in Dromore, to celebrate and interpret the findings, to use archaeology as an education tool and to review the sites of archaeological interest to see how they can better serve the people of Dromore and host events to attract people to the area.
	The River Lagan meanders through Dromore toward its outlet in Belfast. The river has a rich corridor that is interspersed with open space, vegetation, wildlife and leisure facilities. This corridor is also subject to flooding and this flood area also extends into areas immediately north of Mossvale Road. The surface water flood zone also covers many of the areas within the heart of the town. Some drainage improvement measures have taken place in recent years, but the town still remains as a flooding risk area.	Water quality testing should be carried out. Potential for interventions and actions to utilise the river corridor and enhance the biodiversity aspects. Further park improvements could be implemented together with reopening of the Viaduct for public use. A feasibility study on a potential river walk should assist with progressing this action from the Dromore Town Centre Masterplan 2015
	In terms of priority habitats, the Motte and Bailey site features grassland inventory and the Ballymaganlis Wood, in the northern area of Dromore is a site identified for local wildlife. Ballymaganlis Wood is also identified as a SLNCI (Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance)	Continue to protect and enhance sensitively. Biodiversity and ecological studies could be carried out to inform future enhancements.
	There are seven Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPA) within Dromore including lands around the Motte and Bailey and the Rath located on lands off Maypole Hill.	Continue to protect and enhance sensitively. These LLPAs are crucial to maintain the context in Dromore.
	There are an array of open spaces, recreational areas, pitches and play areas across the town. Dromore Park is the green lung of the town and features around the River Lagan. The park has been improved in recent years with play developments and bridge installations.	An open space and pitch strategy should be considered together with future interventions in the park to improve its setting and provide more play and amenity facilities.
	Dromore has a diversity of past and present day important people that span aspects of heritage and sport together with many stories, photographs and artefacts that represent past and present heritage.	Various opportunities are available to celebrate these important people of Dromore and to document, interpret and display stories, artefacts and photographs. Local artwork projects could also be considered to assist with this celebration.
	Dromore has a vibrant community life with a series of active groups and clubs and many town wide events. A market takes place once a month adjacent to the former Ulster Bank building.	This vibrancy should be supported and nurtured to ensure that it continues to grow collaboratively for the benefit of the town. Further town events should be considered together with projects to assist with promotion of these events and information on clubs and groups.

Table 14a: Dromore Health Check in relation to the MAG essential qualities of living high streets

8.0 DROMORE HEALTH CHECK

ESSENTIAL QUALITY	HEALTH CHECK	OPPORTUNITIES
<p>Having adaptable buildings and spaces</p>	<p>Vacancy rates in the town</p>	<p>The town centre vacancy rate at 24.4% is higher than the borough average and many opportunities could be addressed to bring these vacant units back to life, to consider 'living over the shop' options and to look at development opportunities for gap sites.</p>
	<p>Housing capacity within the town</p>	<p>There remain opportunities to review housing capacity in town and to strategically address what the housing need is and where it is best placed for development. Collaboration between government departments and local developers is essential to ensure this works for the greater good of Dromore.</p>
	<p>Enterprise and industry units within Dromore</p>	<p>Dromore is lacking in enterprise hub space and flexible working opportunities and this should be considered, in a similar model to the successful Banbridge Enterprise Centre. Planning permission has been granted for 8 storage and 16 industrial units on Mossvale Road.</p>
<p>Togetherness, collaboration and living well</p>	<p>The leisure offering includes Dromore Community Centre and facilities at Ferris Park. These facilities have received considerable investment in recent years. Other local sporting facilities include the pitches and club house at Dromore Rugby Club.</p>	<p>The Dromore Community Centre is a great asset and there is an opportunity to enhance the offering at the centre to continue to meet the needs of society. Options should be considered for the establishment of all weather and multi-sport pitch facilities in the area.</p>
	<p>There are a series of walking routes through the town and Dromore has a weekly walking club.</p>	<p>There is an opportunity to address the 'broken' walking links and to also consider mental health walking routes in Dromore. Walkers have established their own routes. There is a Heritage Trail, but little is known about it.</p>
	<p>Dromore Library is located in the Town Hall on Market Square</p>	<p>The Library is an excellent facility and should be supported and improved as needed. The Library offers a wide variety of programmes and events for the community including: Rhythm and Rhyme, Knit and Natter, Lego, Literacy Club, Storytime, Book and craft clubs and an array of seasonal activities.</p>
	<p>Dromore Park has a series of recreational assets and natural environments</p>	<p>Opportunities exist for a collaborative approach to improvements for recreation in tandem with natural environment improvements including a variety of outdoor play interventions and projects including a pollinator plan, nature trails and habitat diversity projects.</p>
	<p>There are a variety of clubs, organisations, groups and charities within the town that focus on togetherness, collaboration and living well</p>	<p>These clubs and organisations should continue to be supported and also made aware of funding opportunities and grants for development.</p>
	<p>Dromore has a good educational offering with the high school, primary schools and nursery units.</p>	<p>The Dromore High School proposed relocation to their lands at Quillyburn is an important opportunity for the town. EA may wish to undertake an internal assessment for future reuses of vacant educational sites.</p>

Table 14b: Dromore Health Check in relation to the MAG essential qualities of living high streets

8.0 DROMORE HEALTH CHECK

ESSENTIAL QUALITY	HEALTH CHECK	OPPORTUNITIES
Being well serviced and connected	The main bus route in the town is the 238 bus to Belfast and Newry.	There could be opportunity to explore a park and ride scheme to alleviate congestion which would require needs identified by DFI and would be subject to planning consent.
	Cars are the main mode of transport in Dromore and there is congestion in the town together with car parks regularly being at capacity	A parking and traffic study should take place to review current conditions and to make recommendations.
	Employment	There are 182 employee jobs provided in Dromore and opportunities are available to provide more skills, training and business growth to retain and develop the employment base.
	Quillyburn Business Park and Enterprise within Dromore	Quillyburn Business Park is a good facility with strategic connections to the A1. Opportunities are available to grow this site and to afford potential for enterprise hub development.
	Digital infrastructure	The digital infrastructure offering in Dromore is emerging but should be developed to attract further business growth.
	Retail offering	Dromore has a varied retail offering with many new independent traders, artisan and entrepreneurs. However, a lack of dwell time in the town is affecting growth and there are opportunities to look at initiatives to increase dwell time and to also reinvigorate vacant properties for new retail businesses.
Being sustainable	Sustainable opportunities	There are a wide variety of opportunities for sustainable improvements in the town particularly with regard to the restoration of existing buildings and the development of gap sites. This is very important in relation to the embodied carbon of existing buildings, net zero carbon approaches for new developments and the use of sustainable construction methods for the new and existing built environment.
	Allotment provision in the town	There currently is no allotment provision in Dromore and this should be considered at an appropriate location.
	Local groups such as Higher Grounds and The Repair Café	These groups should be supported and promoted. These groups currently offer various activities including litter picking, community garden maintenance and planting, Eco Club and repair of goods and they collaboratively build social connections. There are many opportunities for external funding to assist in supporting these groups.
	Biodiversity an ecological elements in the park and across the town	A biodiversity audit will help to establish critical assets for improvement.
	Sustainable interventions for businesses	Opportunities for grants to be offered for local businesses to improve their sustainability through green energy schemes and EV charging points.
	Active Travel interventions in Dromore has included the installation of 2 new bridges in the park	Emerging Active Travel projects from DFI should be supported and encouraged throughout Dromore.
Multi-layered purpose and meaning	Daytime and evening economy has been rated quite poorly	Whilst Dromore has a reasonable day time economy, the night time economy is lacking and interventions should be considered to encourage businesses to open later in the evenings and for further town events to be considered to encourage people to enjoy activities in the evenings. Extended opening hours would assist in promoting the evening economy and the ABC Evening and Night Time Economy Strategy identified five key actions that should be implemented including 1) Dromore Festival 2) Environment improvements including feature lighting 3) Market Square activity 4) Activity in vacant units 5) Conservation and Heritage opportunities.
	The Dromore 'offering' and encouraging dwell time	A series of interventions, actions and initiatives to promote Dromore's unique aspects and to ensure that people spend longer than one hour within the town centre.
	Public art within the town	There is minimal public art in Dromore and opportunities are available to consider mural art on blank gables, sculpture and other art works involving local community groups and the youth.

Table 14c: Dromore Health Check in relation to the MAG essential qualities of living high streets



Figure 31- View across agricultural fields, taken from Lurgan Road



Figure 32- View of commercial properties around Market Square

9

DROMORE MASTERPLAN 2015

9.0 DROMORE MASTERPLAN 2015- REVIEW

The last masterplan for Dromore was completed in 2015. Whilst some of the themes/actions have been achieved, some of them are remaining. Society changes, different ways of living and the growth of Dromore are some factors which may have influenced why some of these are yet to be actioned. Highlighted in the points below are some key themes/actions that are still relevant to the Dromore of today and could still be achieved at some stage in the future:

Theme 1: Development opportunity sites

Whilst some of these sites have been developed and many of them have been subject to planning applications. There remains many sites within the town centre that are suitable for development. Some of the properties within the town have also had facade improvements through a DfC grant scheme.

Theme 2: Proposed riverside walk and environmental improvements

There have been some environmental improvements adjacent to the River Lagan, however the riverside walk has not progressed mainly due to lack of funding appropriate to such a scheme. The local community are still supportive of riverside opportunities.

Theme 3: Creating a pedestrian / cycle friendly town

The recently completed Dromore public realm works achieved wider footpaths and pedestrian comfort zones, safer crossing points and new footpaths in Bridge Street as per engagement with the Section 75 groups.

The project also introduced new LED lighting columns within the town centre to enhance pedestrian safety.

DfI have also invested in new footpaths on Meeting Street and resurfacing schemes.

Cycle infrastructure was also improved through the provision of cycle stands at key locations within the town.

There remains further scope for active travel improvements and interventions within Dromore and for safer routes to schools to be established.

Theme 4: Creating active streets

Whilst the public realm projects have helped to boost the activity on the streets, there is much work that can still be done to review traffic congestion and parking within the town and to also review potential for temporary pedestrianisation in parts of the town.

Theme 5: Reconnecting local communities with the town centre

Over the last few years community life in the town has been reinvigorated and there are now several groups within the town that are working together collaboratively for the greater good of the town.

This work can be further enhanced with support and initiatives to build on this good work and ensure great linkages across the town. Elements such as festive lighting, town events, promotion and publicity will all help to further develop this collaboration and connectivity.

9.0 DROMORE MASTERPLAN 2015 - REVIEW

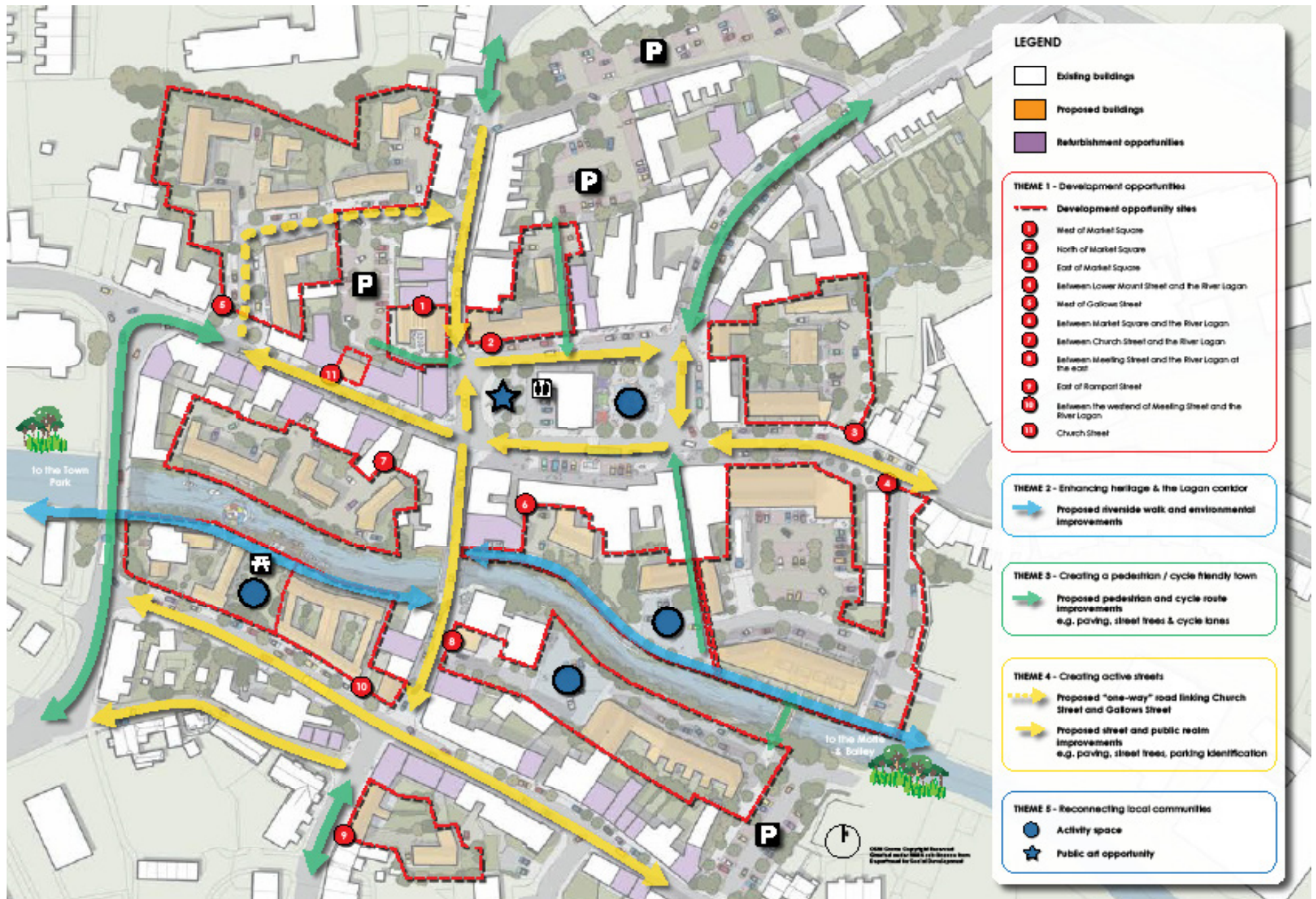


Figure 33- Overview plan of development themes from the Dromore Town Centre Masterplan 2015



Figure 35- View of the Via Wings entrance on Princes Street

10

**STRATEGY AND
POLICY RELEVANCE**

10.0 STRATEGY AND POLICY RELEVANCE

The following policy and strategy documents are relevant for review during the development of the Dromore Place Plan:

POLICY OR STRATEGY DOCUMENT		OVERVIEW
DROMORE	Dromore Conservation Area Guide, 1992	<p>The design guide generally provides information on the planning context, historical development, description or character appraisal of the area, the designation and guidelines for development proposals.</p> <p>The Place Plan will need to take into account this town centre guidance in respect of the built and public realm environments.</p>
	Banbridge / Newry and Mourne Area Plan, 2015	The purpose of the Plan is to inform the general public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested bodies of the policy framework and land use proposals that will be used to guide development decisions within the Plan Area over the period of the Plan.
	Dromore Town Centre Masterplan 2015	<p>This Masterplan defines a vision of how the town centre could be transformed including a range of complementary measures to be delivered over a 15 year period.</p> <p>The Dromore Town Centre Masterplan will be superseded by the Dromore Place Plan.</p>
	Dromore Transport Study (DRD) 2016	<p>The overall aim of this traffic study was to compliment the vision for Dromore town centre as outlined in the 2015 Masterplan.</p> <p>This is the latest and most current transport study for the town and its findings should be considered within the Place Plan.</p>

Table 15: Strategy and policy document review related to Dromore

10.0 STRATEGY AND POLICY RELEVANCE

POLICY OR STRATEGY DOCUMENT	OVERVIEW
COUNCIL WIDE	<p>Connected Community Plan, 2017-2030</p> <p>The community plan covers a 13 year period and is a first for ABC Council. The vision that 'We have a happy, healthy and connected community, a vibrant and sustainable economy and appealing places for living, working and learning.'</p> <p>The strategic aims of this documents will assist in forming a strong foundation for the Place Plan.</p>
	<p>ABC Corporate Plan, Our People Our Place Our Future, 2023-2027</p> <p>The Plan outlines the Council's identity and how they will make a positive impact within the Borough in the years ahead. It demonstrates the commitment to upholding the highest standards for the betterment of 'Our People, Our Place and Our Future'.</p> <p>3 out of 5 of the key priorities are 'Environment and Place', 'Community wellbeing' and 'Economic growth' and the Place Plan will assist in helping to focus on these.</p>
	<p>ABC Recovery and Growth Framework 2021</p> <p>The Framework recently focuses on how Council can create the right social and economic conditions to help the borough recover from the pandemic, and drive sustainable long-term growth for the region.</p> <p>This roadmap is still relevant today and key aspects will be considered when developing the Place Plan.</p>
	<p>Arts, Culture and Heritage: A Framework for the Future 2021-2031 (CPSP)</p> <p>This framework is crucially important for Dromore and the key topics of arts, culture and particularly heritage are vital aspects that have shaped the development of the town in the past and should help to inform the Place Plan for the town into the future.</p>
	<p>Evening economy development strategy and action plans (ABC Council) 2018</p> <p>This five year strategy document and action plans contain key recommendations that need to be factored into the Place Plan as the town currently is lacking in an evening economy.</p>
	<p>ABC Councils Place Plans: Armagh Place Plan (2022) and Banbridge Place Plan (2024)</p> <p>The Dromore Place Plan is the 3rd of this 'family' of documents and should take cognisance of the approach, process and lessons learnt of these previous plans.</p>
	<p>ABC Car Parking Strategy, 2023 (Draft)</p> <p>Car parking in Dromore is a key aspect of attention for the local community and business owners. This recent strategy document should be considered and reviewed during the development of the Place Plan.</p>
	<p>ABC Play Strategy 2018-2026</p> <p>Dromore has a variety of play areas across the town and this document recognises the importance of ensuring that our children and young people are able to play in a way that supports their developmental needs, no matter their age, ability or the community in which they live. The findings and recommendations will play an important role in defining the future of play provision within Dromore. Engagement with the Council's Play Officer will be important.</p>

Table 16-1: Council wide strategy and policy document review related to Dromore

10.0 STRATEGY AND POLICY RELEVANCE

	POLICY OR STRATEGY DOCUMENT	OVERVIEW
COUNCIL WIDE	ABC Local Development Plan Preferred Options Paper, 2018	The development of the Local Development Plan is ongoing and the findings of the Preferred Options Paper are crucial for consideration within the Place Plan. The spatial growth strategy together with the themes around social, economic and environment contain specific and guiding principles which will inform and shape the Place Plan.
	ABC Vacancy Study 2019	Vacancy rates within the town are higher than the Council average and this aspect has been an issue for Dromore over the years. The findings in this study will serve to guide the outcomes, themes and actions within the Place Plan.
	Mid South West Regional Economic Strategy, 2020	This strategy sets out the 'direction of travel' in relation to the vision and ambition for the region; it identifies the opportunities and challenges it faces; and sets out the priority 'pillars' around which future investment and actions to realise the ambitions. This overarching document will help to inform any economic growth aspects of the Place Plan.
	ABC Environmental Policy Statement, 2018	The key aims of this statement are to enhance and safeguard the local environment, improve the health and well-being of the local community and reduce the negative impact Council has on our environment.
	ABC Open Spaces Strategy	There are a diversity of open spaces in Dromore from parks to play areas and pitches. These spaces are well used within the town and bring together a wide variety of clubs, groups and individuals with benefits for physical and mental well being. This strategy will form an important basis for analysis and recommendations for open spaces in Dromore.
	ABC Air Quality Action Plan, 2022-2024	A key action within this plan is the integration of measures to reduce pollution and / or improve local air quality into all of the community development, neighbourhood renewal, biodiversity, resilience and sustainability work undertaken by the Council. All of these aspects are relevant and pertinent for consideration within the Place Plan.
	ABC Allotment Survey	The benefits of allotments are wide ranging and there are a variety of active groups in Dromore that would have interest in the provision of allotments in the town.
	Get Moving ABC Framework 2020 - 2030	<p>The Get Moving ABC Partnership's target is to get more of the population moving and become the most physically active Borough in Northern Ireland. The Get Moving ABC challenge aims to reduce inactivity and develop more positive attitudes towards being physically active to support health and wellbeing across communities in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council area.</p> <p>A wide variety of town wide aspects will need to be reviewed in tandem with this framework including walking routes and trails, play and amenity spaces, recreational facilities and active travel proposals.</p>

Table 16-2: Council wide strategy and policy document review related to Dromore

10.0 STRATEGY AND POLICY RELEVANCE

	POLICY OR STRATEGY DOCUMENT	OVERVIEW
NI AND REGIONAL	Draft Programme for Government 2024 - 2027 'Our Plan: Doing What Matters Most' (Northern Ireland Executive)	This plan is a very recent and ambitious agenda of change for Northern Ireland. The document outlines three missions related to people, planet and prosperity and has a cross-cutting commitment to peace. Key areas of focus within the document that will assist in informing the development and potential actions of the Place Plan are related to sustainable economies, supporting children and youth with special educational needs, provision of more social, affordable and sustainable housing and safer communities.
	Regional Development Strategy 2035	The strategy aims to take account of the economic ambitions and needs of the Region, and put in place spatial planning, transport and housing priorities that will support and enable the aspirations of the Region to be met. The overarching strategy approaches in this document are crucial to the localised focus for Dromore to ensure that future transport, infrastructure and transport recommendations within the Place Plan are future proofed to dovetail with the recommendations within this development document.
	Draft Tourism Strategy for NI: 10 Year Plan, (DfE) 2023	The tourism offering of Dromore is an untapped resource and asset that can afford great opportunities for development, growth and discovery. This strategy document notes ' <i>...development of the tourism sector has the capacity to cultivate and showcase local history, culture and natural and built heritage, making Northern Ireland not only a great place to visit but also a great place to live.</i> ' This ethos is vitally important and very relevant for Dromore and the Place Plan should seek to identify actions that will build and develop the assets related to history, culture and heritage not only for the people of Dromore but encouraging visitors to discover and uncover these unique elements.
	MAG Living High Streets Craft Kit (2022) and Starter Pack (2024)	This kit and starter pack provide useful and informative sources that can be utilised to review Dromore, carry out a health check on the town and test it's elements, characteristics and 'stock' to identify how the town can improve, reinvigorate and thrive into the future years ahead.
	Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ACNI) Strategic Plan 2024-2034	The vision of this Plan is to create ' <i>A society where all people can experience a thriving arts sector that is recognised as essential to creativity, well-being and social and economic prosperity.</i> ' Arts within Dromore is an emerging and developing aspect that can have multiple benefits for the community including education, mental wellbeing, self-discovery and development, social inclusion, economic development, entertainment and visual improvement of the built and natural environments.
	Heritage 2033- Our 10 year strategy. The National Lottery Heritage Fund, 2023	This strategy document notes that ' <i>Over the next decade we will take a longer-term view, investing in heritage for the future as well as for the present. We will invest in places, not just individual projects, to bring about benefits for people, places and our natural environment.</i> ' Dromore is a historic market town, with a conservation area and a diverse array of built and natural features together with a wealth of personalities, stories and aspects of community life that together represent the 'heritage' assets of the town. Many of these assets are undiscovered, untapped and not documented or interpreted and they should be carefully reviewed and addressed to ensure within the Place Plan to ensure that they are fully intertwined in community and visitor experiences of the future.
	Planning for the future of transport- Time for change (DfI) 2021	Transport aspects of Dromore have long since been a topic of much interest within the town. The town currently has several issues related to congestion, car parking capacity and interrupted connectivity in relation to cycle routes through the town. This document, together with other related documents including the Car Parking Strategy will help shape the Place Plan development and aspects such as Active Travel should provide a focus for future interventions.
	Active Living- Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Northern Ireland (DfC) 2022	This document sets out the vision and associated key themes and goals, which seek to create a vibrant, welcoming, enjoyable, inclusive and successful sector for everyone, contributing significantly to a healthier and more resilient society. Dromore is a very active town and this strategy is crucially important to ensure sport and physical activity continue to be promoted and developed.

Table 17-1: Northern Ireland and regional strategy and policy document review related to Dromore

10.0 STRATEGY AND POLICY RELEVANCE

	POLICY OR STRATEGY DOCUMENT	OVERVIEW
NI AND REGIONAL	<p>10X Economy 2023</p> <p>High Street Task Force Delivering a 21st Century High Street, 2022</p>	<p>The vision of this document is to provide '<i>Sustainable city, town and village centres which are thriving places for people to do business, socialise, shop, be creative and use public services as well as being great places to live.</i>' Dromore has many thriving aspects, but in contrast with this there are elements of the town that are neglected and in disrepair and will serve as a focus for concerted and collaborative regeneration within the Place Plan.</p>
	<p>Housing Supply Strategy 2022 - 2037</p>	<p>This strategy explains: '• <i>why there is a need for more housing here</i> • <i>how we plan to provide the affordable homes that people want</i> • <i>how to stop people becoming homeless</i> • <i>how we plan to improve the quality of homes.</i> • <i>how we will build good communities that include everyone</i> • <i>how we will build houses in a way that is good for the planet</i> • <i>how we will make sure this work is done</i>' It is imperative that housing capacity, supply, quality and distribution within Dromore are carefully studied and accounted for within any of the outcomes and actions of the Place Plan.</p>
	<p>Draft Green Growth Strategy for Northern Ireland (DAERA)</p>	<p>The aim of this strategy is '<i>to ensure future government policy making here has climate and environmental action at its core, embracing and enabling science and innovation to drive solutions.</i>' Green Growth within Dromore has a diversity of elements and aspects including, but not limited to, open spaces, green infrastructure and vegetation, biodiversity and micro-climate. Dromore benefits from its 'green lung' of Dromore Park and the array of surrounding green spaces and these will be reviewed within the Place Plan to ensure climate and environmental actions and innovation together with an aim to increase the town's positive contribution to biodiversity for its people and the place.</p>
	<p>Sustainability for the Future - DAERA's Plan to 2050</p>	<p>This document notes that 'DAERA's vision is underpinned by our purpose of '<i>Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone</i>' Sustainability has many aspects and is an emerging and growing area of focus for the community and businesses within Dromore and one that is already being harnessed for initiatives, community collaboration and growth. This development of this foundation will be interwoven through many of the outcomes, ideas and actions within the Place Plan.</p>
	<p>Delivering the Economic Vision- a three year forward look and 2024/25 Action Plan (DfE)</p>	<p>Some of the key aspects of this vision that are relevant to Dromore and will be reviewed within the development of the Place Plan are related to regional economic development, improved support for people with special educational needs (SEN) after they leave school, and a circular economy strategy.</p>
	<p>Living Places: An urban stewardship and design guide for NI (2019)</p>	<p>This Urban Stewardship and Design Guide aims to clearly establish the key principles behind good place making. It seeks to inform and inspire all those involved in the process of managing (stewardship) and making (design) urban places, with a view to raising standards across Northern Ireland. This guide is an excellent reference source and will help to shape the approach to ensuring Dromore is a 'living' and 'thriving' place to reside, work, enjoy and visit.</p>
	<p>Creating Places: Achieving quality in residential environments (2000)</p>	<p>This document, albeit slightly dated, still provides a good reference point that provide guiding principles for future residential developments within Dromore.</p>

Table 17-2: Northern Ireland and regional strategy and policy document review related to Dromore



Figure 36- View of the Dromore Methodist Church on Maypole Hill

11

**GUIDANCE
INFORMATION**

11.0 GUIDANCE INFORMATION

The following documents and information sources are suitable for reference and supporting theory in relation to the development of the Dromore Place Plan and for the local community and stakeholder:

DOCUMENT/REFERENCE TITLE	OVERVIEW
Department for Communities - Historic Environment Toolkit	This website link provides a great source for a wide variety of information points and sources of further reading on historic environment principles, approaches and innovations: https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/historic-environment-toolkit
National Design Guide- Planning practice guidance for beautiful, enduring and successful places (Ministry of Housing, Community and Local Government 2019)	This overarching guidance document provides a good reference source and further reading and notes 'Places affect us all – they are where we live, work and spend our leisure time. Well-designed places influence the quality of our experience as we spend time in them and move around them.' https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/602cef1d8fa8f5038595091b/National_design_guide.pdf
Environmental sustainability good practice guidance (National Lottery Heritage Fund 2024)	This website is a great source for guidance, further reading documents and recommended principles related to sustainability and heritage assets. https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/funding/good-practice-guidance/environmental-sustainability
A proposal for regenerating Ireland's historic towns and villages (The Heritage Council 2015)	This document addresses how to make historic towns and villages better places in which to live, work, and visit and provides guidance on aspects of town regeneration, tourism, festivals and events and conservation and enhancement of historic monuments and buildings. https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/regenerating_Irelands_historic_towns_2015_1mb.pdf
Downpatrick Living High Streets Framework (Newry, Mourne and Down District Council 2023)	A recent framework, for a local town of with similar attributes to Dromore which serves as a good reference point and learning document. https://www.newrymournedown.org/media/uploads/downpatrick_living_high_streets_framework_-_12_sept_2023.pdf
Living Places: An urban stewardship and design guide for NI (2019)	This Urban Stewardship and Design Guide aims to clearly establish the key principles behind good place making. https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/living-places-urban-stewardship-and-design-guide-northern-ireland
Creating places for people: The RIAI town and village toolkit (Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland 2019)	This 'toolkit' provides a starting point. It draws upon ways that the RIAI consider are the most effective in helping to improve the quality of our towns and villages as attractive places to live. https://www.riai.ie/whats-on/news/creating_places_for_people_riai_town_and_village_toolkit
Enniskillen Place Shaping Plan 2035 (Fermanagh and Omagh District Council 2023)	A recent place shaping plan, for a local town of with similar attributes to Dromore which serves as a good reference point and learning document. https://www.fermanaghmagh.com/services/communityplanning/place-shaping-in-fermanagh-and-omagh/enniskillen-place-shaping-plan/
MAG Living High Streets Craft Kit (2022) and Starter Pack (2024)	MAG has co-produced a fresh community-led approach to placemaking aiming to support successful neighbourhoods, villages, towns and cities. This approach brings people together to consider their local high streets, tackle common issues and enable places and communities to thrive. https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/mag-living-high-streets-initiative
A new approach to travel, our streets and our places (July 2022) The Inclusive Mobility and Transport Advisory Committee (IMTAC)	IMTAC is a committee of disabled people and older people as well as others including key transport professionals. The role of the Committee is to advise the Government and others in Northern Ireland on issues that affect the mobility of Deaf people, disabled people and older people. This is a paper developed by IMTAC setting out its vision and priorities for developing a new approach to how we design and operate travel, our streets and places in the future. https://www.imtac.org.uk/new-approach-travel-our-streets-and-our-places
Key Principles of Inclusive Street Design (Royal National Institute for the Blind)	An important document detailing the approach for inclusive street design for blind and visually impaired people. https://media.nrib.org.uk/documents/Key_Principles_of_Inclusive_Street_Design_1.0.pdf
Nature volunteering in Northern Ireland (The Conservation Volunteers)	A good source of information for local nature volunteering in Northern Ireland https://www.tcv.org.uk/volunteering-campaign-ni/?gad_source=1&gclid=EAlaIqobChMI4Z65jZCDiQMVzYBQ8h1LGCvUEAAYASAAEgJVePD_BwE
Via Wings	A vibrant local charity, established in 2009. The website provides information on services provided and how to get involved: https://viawings.co.uk/
Sustainable Northern Ireland guidance	A reference point website for a diversity of sustainability topics and case studies in Northern Ireland https://www.sustainableni.org/
Making the built environment inclusive (Guide dogs 2023)	A document providing information on guidance on ensuring regeneration schemes are accessible for people with sight loss. https://gd-prod.azureedge.net/-/media/project/guidedogs/guidedogsdotorg/files/about-us/what-we-do/research/making-the-built-environment-inclusive-2023.pdf

Table 18: Document and reference information overview for guidance related to the Dromore Place Plan



Figure 37- Sunrise view from Mound Road

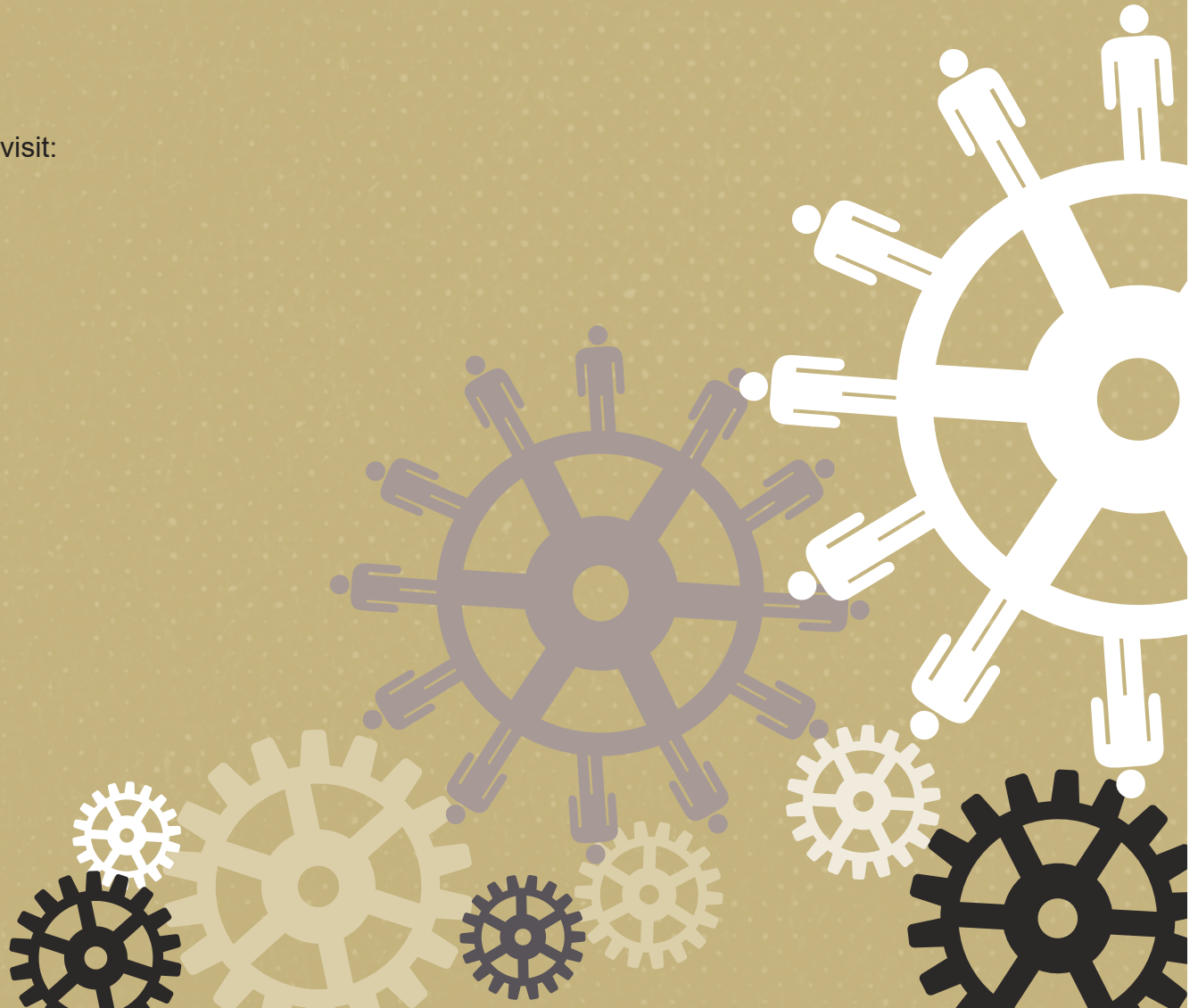
12 APPENDICES

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Council as lead partner on behalf of the ABC Community Planning Partnership appointed HLM Architects to develop the Dromore Place Plan. The Partnership would like to thank HLM Architects for their commitment, innovation and expertise.

To find out more about HLM Architects please visit:

www.hlmarchitects.com







INTERESTED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF DROMORE,

for further information or
to get involved with the
delivery of an action?

We want to hear from you.

Please contact the Community
Planning Department at
Armagh City, Banbridge and
Craigavon Borough Council

 0300 0300 900

 communityplanning@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

 armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk