

# **New Planning Framework for Magherafelt**

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## **Attwood launches new planning framework for Magherafelt area**

A new planning framework, designed to boost development and aid economy recovery in the Magherafelt area, has been launched by Environment Minister Alex Attwood.

The main focus of the Plan is to set out a policy framework to guide development in the Magherafelt District Council area, with a commitment to sustainable development and the protection of natural and man-made heritage the driving forces. The Plan specifically:-

- (1) Designates settlement development limits for Magherafelt, Maghera, Bellaghy, Castledawson, Draperstown, Tobermore and 21 small settlements;
- (2) Designates Carntogher and Sixtowns as Dispersed Rural Communities;
- (3) Identifies Town Centre boundaries, Primary Retail Cores and Development Opportunity sites in Magherafelt and Maghera;
- (4) Identifies 150 hectares of land for housing in the towns and villages and also allocates over 60 hectares for industry to cater for the development of the district over the Plan period and beyond; and
- (5) Protects traffic routes for the upgrade of the A6 between Toome and Castledawson and also the A31 Magherafelt bypass. It also contains proposals for additional Park and Ride/Share facilities at Castledawson and Magherafelt.

The Plan also designates Local Landscape Policy Areas within and adjacent to the settlement areas and specifically emphasises the Sperrin Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Areas of High Scenic Value. The Plan also seeks to protect other areas of conservation interest, both natural and man-made, through the designation of Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance and Areas of Townscape Character.

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