

Appendix A: Review of Other Plans, Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives

Plan or Programme	Main objectives and environmental / socio-economic requirements of the Plan or Programme	How it affects, or is affected by the NI SPPS in terms of environmental issues
Northern Ireland		
DARD (2012) Rural White Paper Action Plan	This document sets out the vision for NI's rural areas and the actions which Departments will take in support of achieving that vision and to help ensure the future sustainability of rural areas. The vision includes vibrant and strong rural communities; improved infrastructure, transport and key services; strong community infrastructure which can avail of economic, social and cultural opportunities; and better linkages between rural and urban areas.	Policies are proposed in relation to sustainable development in the countryside, transport and land use. Planning policy will promote sustainable development, well-being and economic development which are aligned with the vision for rural areas. There does seem to be a focus on town centres and city centre vitality, which could take attention away from rural issues.
DARD (2012) Strategic Plan 2012-2020	Focuses on a number of goals, underlying those actions, which are independent and will address key issues in support of achieving DARD's vision of ' <i>a thriving and sustainable rural economy, community and environment</i> '. Goals include helping the agri-food industry prepare for future market opportunities and economic challenges, improve lives of rural dweller, enhance animal, fish and plant health and animal welfare, help deliver improved sustainable environmental outcomes, and manage the business and deliver services to customers in a cost-effective way.	There is no information specifically available on the agri-food industry, though policy on sustainable development could deliver economic opportunities. Natural heritage policies would benefit businesses using natural resources. As with the above, a focus on urban vitality and economic development may have negative connotations for rural, natural resource-dependent communities and industry.
DARD (2012) Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation	This framework sets out the goals, objectives, priority action areas and outcomes for the Programme for Government commitment to bring forward a package of measures to help target the root causes of social isolation and help those in poverty in rural areas. In addition it aims to provide the necessary tools to identify the needs of vulnerable people/groups in rural areas, develop	The proposed policy statement will deliver sustainable, economic and well-being benefits, all of which would be of value to poor, isolated communities. Subject policies such as open space, sport and outdoor recreation will create social opportunities. Economic development in such communities may override environmental

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	programmes/interventions to help alleviate poverty/social isolation and complement/add value to existing governmental strategies intended to tackle these issues.	protection or enhancement planning objectives.
DARD (2013) Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy and Action Plan	Overall this promotes and encourages adoption of technical efficiency to improve farm business performance and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The strategy and action plan identifies a set of measures and actions that can be progressively implemented on-farm to better manage the climate consequences of agri-food production systems i.e. methane and nitrous oxide.	Indirect benefits from the push on sustainable development i.e. GHG emissions will be prevented by good design and well integrated developments. Good planning decisions in relation to transport and renewable energy will also indirectly support this plan.
DARD (2010) Renewable Energy Action Plan	Aims to provide a framework which enables the land based and rural sectors to realise the potential opportunities in the development of renewable energy. Focus is on assisting meeting targets for renewable energy production at a regional, national and EU level in a balanced and sustainable way. Other key objectives of the development include energy security, emissions reductions and wider economic advantages.	Policy(ies) relating to renewable energy are proposed, helping to meet the objectives of this plan. Design and sustainable development policies should also encourage renewable energy as part of these developments. Planning decisions will have to balance need for renewables with environmental concerns and it may be that the need for renewable developments is outweighed by environmental protection.
DARD (2007) Flood Mapping Strategy for Northern Ireland	Sets out a structured programme of fluvial and coastal flood risk mapping (and associated tool development) that is based on current knowledge of the mapping requirements of the Planning Policy Statement 15 (PPS15) and the proposed EU Floods Directive. Aims to increase public awareness of flood risk areas, differentiate spatial distribution of risk within the floodplain to support planning and asset management processes.	Planning and Flood Risk is one of the Subject Policies proposed for the SPPS, thereby supporting this strategy. Planning decisions should take account of flood risk as part of all development.
DCAL (2009) The	The Strategy's vision is "...a culture of lifelong enjoyment and	This is supported by the inclusion of Open Space,

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Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport & Physical Recreation 2009 - 2019	success in sport...” The Strategy notes that improving the quality, quantity and access to places for sport is a key development input to the two primary development outcomes of increased participation in sport and physical recreation and improved sporting performances. In particular, the Strategy will ensure that every person in Northern Ireland has access to a range of new, improved and shared world-class and locally available sports facilities.	Sport and Outdoor Recreation in the Subject Policies list for the SPPS. As long as delivery of such development does not conflict with environmental policies (flood risk, heritage, archaeology etc), it will most likely be encouraged.
Defra and DOE (2012) A Climate Change Risk Assessment for Northern Ireland	The objective of the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) is to inform adaptation policy by assessing the current and future risks and opportunities posed by the impacts of climate for NI to the year 2100. The main finding is that extreme weather is still predominant among potential risks related to climate change but that other risks, such as water scarcity and species being able to track climate space, are becoming increasingly important. Several sections focussing on socio-economic implications of climate change comprising agriculture & forestry, business, tourism, buildings & infrastructure and health & wellbeing.	Sustainable development and climate change is one of the proposed core principles of the SPPS. Whether this will focus more on socio-economic implications or environmental ones is not yet apparent. As the SPPS as a whole focuses on economic, sustainable development and well being outcomes, environmental considerations may be still be important, but less of a priority.
DETI (2012) Offshore Renewable Energy Strategic Action Plan 2012-2020	The overall aim of the ORESAP is; to optimise the amount of renewable electricity sustainably generated from offshore wind and marine renewable resources in Northern Ireland’s waters in order to enhance diversity and security of supply, reduce carbon emissions, contribute to the 40% renewable electricity target by 2020 and beyond and develop business and employment opportunities for NI companies. The associated development opportunity is for up to 900 MW of offshore wind and 300 MW from tidal resources in Northern Ireland waters	This will need to align with the renewable energy subject policy of the SPPS, though it could conflict with the natural heritage and other environmental policies.

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	by 2020.	
DETI (2012) Sustainable Energy Action Plan 2012-2015	<p>The Action Plan aims to assist with the implementation of the Strategic Energy Framework (2010-2020). DETI set out numerous “main actions for the future” regarding renewables and other aspects of sustainable energy. Of particular relevance are the commitments to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contribute to the growth of the NI sustainable energy sector (through Invest NI) to 8.9% of NI GVA by 2015. ▪ Work with DOE, developers, planners and those responsible for environmental consents to ensure that the need for renewable energy to address the environmental impacts of climate change is recognised, that good quality applications are made and that clear, consistent and proportionate procedures are in place for the consenting of renewable installations. ▪ Undertake “capacity studies” (including landscape capacity study, ecological study and bird migration study, with DOE and others) in order to determine with more accuracy how much development could be accommodated in different locations across Northern Ireland before significant cumulative effects start to emerge. ▪ Develop a continuous monitoring framework (with DOE and others) where the key potential cumulative effects identified from the assessment are reviewed on a regular basis in response to growth of the onshore wind industry. <p>There are also a number of socio-economic commitments, such as supporting construction of electricity network or</p>	<p>A number of socio-economic objectives are included in the Action Plan requiring the development of facilities and service infrastructure, as well as proposing funding for additional development such as renewables or farm diversification. This aligns with the sustainable development aspect of the SPPS, but will need to comply with the environmental policies that are drawn up.</p>

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	furbishing schools with renewable technologies for example.	
DETI (2010) Energy: A Strategic Framework for Northern Ireland	Contains goals and targets, but does not include the detail of how targets could be achieved. It does aim to ensure future access to secure, competitively priced and sustainable energy supplies for all of NI. Also it provides a direction for NI energy policy over the next ten years concentrating on key areas of electricity, natural gas and renewable energy sources.	Renewable and sustainable development policies will indirectly accord with this framework, by providing for renewable development. There may be a conflict between this framework and environmental policies (natural heritage, cultural heritage, flood risk etc) when it comes to developing gas facilities and electrical networks.
DETI (2010) Northern Ireland Tourism Strategy	<p>The vision is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ create the new NI experience; ▪ get it on everyone's destination wish list; and ▪ double the income earned from tourism by 2020. 	Tourism is one of the Subject Policies proposed in the SPPS. By encouraging sustainable development, the SPPS may also indirectly support development that enables tourism e.g. visitor centres, attractions, services, transport etc. As with any development, environmental considerations will need to be considered.
DOE (2013) Draft Strategy for Marine Protected Areas in the Northern Ireland Inshore Region	Aims to protect NI's marine environment through these networks of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and the key purpose of the strategy is to set out how MPAs can help to protect and improve ecosystems in NI's inshore region through mainly conservation. The key objectives include establishing an ecologically coherent network of well managed MPAs, ensure NI's MPAs contribute to the wider UK network, involving stakeholders from an early stage of the development of this network and producing appropriate protection and conservation measures for species and habitats designated 'Priority Marine Features'.	The Strategy aims to meet all the obligations under international nature conservation and marine law in relation to the marine environment. This may be affected by policies in the SPPS, especially in relation to coastal or marine development. The sustainable development and economic growth aspects of the SPPS may impact on the marine environment particularly if development relates to marine businesses (port/fisheries etc) or offshore energy or renewables development. Alternatively, developments may be affected by the implementation of natural heritage policy.
DOE (2013) Prioritised	The framework identifies key priorities for managing the	The SPPS will not directly influence or be

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Action Framework for Natura 2000	Natura 2000 network, to achieve the objectives of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2000 and to provide an overview of how to finance them. Priorities focus on improving habitats and species that are currently in bad status depending on general measures such as agri-environmental schemes, stakeholder involvement and monitoring. This enables successful management planning and implementation of conservation management measures throughout Natura 2000.	influenced by this framework. There could be a beneficial indirect influence; positive biodiversity outcomes can be secured through the application of appropriate planning policies and planning decisions. Conversely, planning decisions may favour sustainable or economic development, which may lead to some biodiversity losses, particularly in the short term, though it may be that biodiversity improvements are secured longer term.
DOE (2012) Draft Northern Ireland Marine Position Paper	NI has not yet adopted its Marine Plan; it is currently being drafted and is expected to be consulted on in Summer 2014. The Position Paper sets out the Executive's objectives for the sustainable development of the marine area. These cover the following topics: Energy production and infrastructure development; Undersea Telecommunications Cabling; Sea Fisheries; Wild Salmon Fisheries; Aquaculture; Tourism and Recreation; Protection of the Marine Environment; Port Development; Sewerage Services; Surface Water Management; Flood Risk Management and Drainage; Integrated Coastal Zone Management; Climate change; Coastal Change; and Protection of the historic Environment.	The SPPS is likely to include a subject policy on coast, though this is not confirmed and is a narrower focus than 'marine'. Some proposed SPPS subject policies will directly support natural and cultural heritage aspects of the Marine Plan, whilst others may have an indirect relationship, for example regarding outdoor recreation, access, transportation and sustainable development. Both strategies will facilitate new development and infrastructure.
DOE (2012) Draft Revised Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy: Delivering Resource Efficiency	This Strategy moves the emphasis of waste management in NI from resource management (with landfill diversion as the key driver) to resource efficiency i.e. using resources in the most effective way while minimising the impact of their use on the environment. Therefore, this Strategy has a renewed focus on waste prevention (including re-use),	The proposed focus of the SPPS is likely to support this strategy, namely with development making sustainable use of available resources and having a sustainable approach to waste designed in. Waste management is one of the Subject Policies. The economic considerations of the SPPS

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	<p>preparing for re-use and recycling in accordance with the waste hierarchy. Making more efficient use of natural resources and facilitating increased re-use and recycling is expected to have a favourable impact on the NI economy and help to promote and support 'green jobs'.</p>	<p>will support 'green jobs' and ensure that the economy will benefit from planning decisions. Improved waste management will be good for the environment.</p>
<p>DOE (2012) Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Action Plan</p>	<p>This document sets out a Cross-Departmental Action Plan to tackle the established strategies together, including how Northern Ireland is and will continue to reduce its carbon footprint. Specifically how the Programme for Government target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25% below 1990 levels by 2025 will be delivered.</p>	<p>Implementation of the proposed SPPS will indirectly support the Action Plan through encouraging sustainable development, good standards of design, renewable energy and overall sustainability. Though a push on economic development could inhibit a reduction in greenhouse gases, the application of sustainability principles in development will lead to more efficient infrastructure.</p>
<p>DOE (2006) An Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for Northern Ireland 2006 – 2026</p>	<p>Strategy aims for the coast include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ establish and maintain a sustainable quality of life ▪ maintain, enhance, and develop coastal infrastructure ▪ maintain the distinct cultural identities, traditions and skills ▪ maintain and enhance natural resources and the condition of designated nature conservation sites ▪ conserve, protect and where possible enhance the estuarine and coastal environment and terrestrial ecosystems ▪ secure a vibrant economic future through the sustainable use of the natural resources of the coastal zone ▪ maintain the visual appeal and environmental quality of 	<p>The SPPS is likely to include a subject policy on coast, though this is not confirmed. Some proposed SPPS subject policies will directly support natural and cultural heritage aspects of the ICZM Strategy, whilst others may have an indirect relationship, for example regarding outdoor recreation, access, transportation and sustainable development. Both strategies will facilitate new development and infrastructure.</p>

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	<p>Northern Ireland's coastal landscapes and seascapes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ maintain and enhance safe passage to ports and harbours for commercial shipping, fishing and recreational navigation ▪ provide statutory mechanisms to develop and implement integrated planning for the coastal zone ▪ establish a lead agency and structures to assist the delivery of ICZM, co-ordinate efforts and to facilitate participation ▪ provide co-ordinated services to support ICZM including research, databases and mapping 	
DOE (2006) Water Framework Directive Monitoring Plans	<p>Document aims to provide an overarching framework and outline the general approach that will be adopted to monitoring Northern Ireland's aquatic environment for the years 2006 to 2007 and beyond, highlighting the drivers for the work. The main one is the obligation to meet the monitoring requirements of the EC Water Framework Directive (WFD) (2000/06/EC), covering surface water, groundwater and hydrological monitoring proposals.</p>	<p>The aquatic environment or water management is not mentioned explicitly in the SPPS overview, though natural heritage is part of the Subject Policies listed. It is likely that the implementation of these monitoring plans will not be directly affected by the SPPS, but rather indirectly by the implementation of local planning policy and consented developments.</p>
DOE (2002) Biodiversity Strategy	<p>Aims to protect and enhance biodiversity in Northern Ireland over the period to 2016, identifying 40 habitat types as priorities for conservation action. These will be protected from development and proposals that could harm their integrity, continuity, links or ecological relationships. Proposal of a Sustainable Development Strategy will target effective protection of the environment through setting exemplary standards in the area and integrating conservation of biological diversity into policy making.</p>	<p>The Strategy will protect certain sites from development, which will need to be taken into account by the SPPS and its policies. The focus on sustainable development would be at variance with the aims of the Biodiversity Strategy if the proposal or development in question was put forward for a protected site. Changes would likely be required for the proposal or development to be acceptable.</p>

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	A new strategy is currently being drafted.	
DRD (2012) Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future: A New Approach to Regional Transportation	<p>The new approach to regional transportation complements the Regional Development Strategy and aims to achieve the transportation vision:</p> <p><i>“to have a modern, sustainable, safe transportation system which benefits society, the economy and the environment and which actively contributes to social inclusion and everyone’s quality of life”</i></p> <p>The new approach starts with the assumption that the decision to travel has been made. It seeks to provide the infrastructure and services that will ensure that travel and transport are as sustainable as possible.</p>	<p>Transportation is included in the list of Subject Policies proposed in the SPPS. Some of the proposed core principles also include topics that will indirectly support this approach. The need for new or improved infrastructure will need to be assessed against environmental policies, though following good design and sustainable development should achieve the best possible solutions to the need.</p>
DRD (2010) Regional Development Strategy 2035	<p>This document provides an overarching strategic planning framework influencing spatial development for the Region up to 2035, facilitating and guiding the public and private sectors. Taken into account are key drivers such as population growth and movement, demographic change, increasing number of households, transportation needs etc. It addresses economic, social and environmental issues aimed at achieving sustainable development and social cohesion.</p>	<p>The SPPS will support the RDS as part of the wider Government policy framework and should therefore be closely aligned with its objectives.</p>
DSD (2013) Urban Regeneration and Community Development Policy Framework	<p>The Framework sets out four Policy Objectives that will form the basis of any future policy or programme development in urban regeneration and community development:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To tackle area-based deprivation. 2. To strengthen the competitiveness of our towns and cities. 3. To improve linkages between areas of need and areas 	<p>Like the SPPS, this Policy Framework is wide-reaching in terms of the subjects it covers, for example Policy Objective 3 contains key actions relating to environmental improvement, protection and improvement of (historic) buildings and open spaces and developing an integrated transport network, whilst other Objective actions include development of commercial sites. The two</p>

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	<p>of opportunity.</p> <p>4. To develop more cohesive and engaged communities.</p> <p>It also contains a set of four Supporting Actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We will maximise the potential of regeneration and community development by supporting an evidence-based policy environment. 2. We will maximise the resources available to regeneration and community development by supporting an innovative financial environment. 3. We will support the development of skilled and knowledgeable practitioners in regeneration and community development. 4. We will promote an effective and efficient voluntary and community sector. 	<p>documents are thus aligned in many areas even though the SPPS does not specifically refer to regeneration.</p>
<p>DSD (2012) Facing the Future: Housing Strategy for Northern Ireland</p>	<p>Government has three main roles in relation to housing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Helping to create the right conditions for a stable and sustainable housing market that supports economic growth and prosperity; ▪ Providing support for individuals and families to access housing, particularly the most vulnerable in society; and ▪ Setting minimum standards for the quality of new and existing homes and for how rented housing is managed. <p>This strategy sets out how we intend to fulfil these roles over the next five years. The strategy also envisages housing playing a fourth role in driving regeneration within communities, particularly those suffering from blight and population decline.</p>	<p>This strategy aligns with a number of aspects of the proposed SPPS, namely sustainable development, economic development, quality residential environments, etc. The strategy may put pressure on the environmental aspects of the SPPS, such as natural heritage, archaeology, flood risk, etc. Similarly, the SPPS may inhibit house building due to environmental or design constraints. A balance will need to be found through considered planning decisions.</p>
<p>NIEA (2012) Strategic</p>	<p>The plan outlines the strategic direction over the next ten</p>	<p>The Strategic Priorities align with aspects of the</p>

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Priorities 2012-2022	years to bring together diverse roles and guide corporate business planning, describing the context of the work and how it is delivered, how success will be measured and monitored, and strategic goals and actions under four priority areas: healthy natural environment, people and places, sustainable economic growth and using resources well.	proposed SPPS, particularly across the four priority areas. The SPPS will generally support this document, though individual developments will need to be considered on a case by case basis.
NIEA (2009) Neagh Bann International River Basin Management Plan	<p>The Upper Bann is one of six major rivers that flow into Lough Neagh in the centre of NI, while the lake drains through the Lower Bann River from the north end of the Lough at Toome to the sea on the north coast of NI. The rivers flowing into Lough Neagh drain about 43% of NI, plus part of County Monaghan in the Republic of Ireland.</p> <p>The plan outlines the objectives for improving the current condition of the water environment for the Neagh Bann River Basin District. These include achieving good status, or better, in 117 out of 270 of their surface water bodies (43%), and good ecological potential or better in 9 of their heavily modified water bodies (3%). 13 out of 14 of their groundwater bodies (93%) will be maintained at good status. These improvements in managing and protecting waterways will be achieved by 2015.</p>	Water management is not covered specifically in the current SPPS documents; however natural heritage is included as a Subject Policy and is likely to incorporate aquatic resources. Flood risk is also a Subject Policy, which also influences water quality. The focus on sustainable and economic development may outweigh environmental concerns to a degree, but any planning decision will weigh each aspect as part of the decision process. Good quality aquatic habitats also enable outdoor recreation and well-being, which would support two more aspects of the SPPS.
NIEA (2009) North Eastern River Basin Management Plan	<p>The North Eastern River Basin District has a land area of just over 3000km², with a further 1000km² of marine waters. It takes in large parts of Counties Antrim and Down and a small portion of County Londonderry.</p> <p>The plan outlines the objectives for improving the current condition of the water environment for the North Eastern River Basin District. These include achieving good status, or better,</p>	Water management is not covered specifically in the current SPPS documents; however natural heritage is included as a Subject Policy and is likely to incorporate aquatic resources. Flood risk is also a Subject Policy, which also influences water quality. The focus on sustainable and economic development may outweigh environmental

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	<p>in 61 out of 133 of their surface water bodies (46%), and good ecological potential or better in 4 of their heavily modified water bodies (3%). 7 out of 8 of their groundwater bodies (88%) will be maintained at good status. These improvements in managing and protecting waterways will be achieved by 2015.</p>	<p>concerns to a degree, but any planning decision will weigh each aspect as part of the decision process. Good quality aquatic habitats also enable outdoor recreation and well-being, which would support two more aspects of the SPPS.</p>
<p>NIEA (2009) North Western International River Basin Management Plan</p>	<p>The North Western river basin district covers the north west corner of the island of Ireland, but stretches across in a south easterly direction to a large extent also taking in much of the drumlin belt that stretches through many of the border counties - from south Donegal, through Leitrim, Fermanagh, Longford, Cavan, Monaghan, and onwards.</p> <p>The plan outlines the objectives for improving the current condition of the water environment for the North Western River Basin District. These include achieving good status, or better, in 147 out of 221 of their surface water bodies (67%), and good ecological potential or better in 5 of their heavily modified water bodies (2%). 100% of their groundwater bodies will be maintained at good status. These improvements in managing and protecting waterways will be achieved by 2015.</p>	<p>Water management is not covered specifically in the current SPPS documents; however natural heritage is included as a Subject Policy and is likely to incorporate aquatic resources. Flood risk is also a Subject Policy, which also influences water quality. The focus on sustainable and economic development may outweigh environmental concerns to a degree, but any planning decision will weigh each aspect as part of the decision process. Good quality aquatic habitats also enable outdoor recreation and well-being, which would support two more aspects of the SPPS.</p>
<p>Northern Ireland Executive (2012) Economy and Jobs Initiative</p>	<p>Ensures that the economic challenges are maximised to sustain the people, businesses and regional investment. It focuses on supporting the local jobs market and accelerating new measures to create and retain jobs. Other key points include completing tourism projects, ensuring higher levels of support to employers for jobs filled by disadvantaged workers and encouraging small businesses (up to 50 employees) by providing skills grants to invest in new skills development etc.</p>	<p>This initiative will be supported indirectly by the SPPS' focus on economic development. Development will create jobs, both short term and long term. Policy is proposed for industry and commerce as well. Environmental considerations will be a factor in any development and it may be that the balance is in favour of the environment at times, or economic considerations at others.</p>

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Northern Ireland Executive (2012) Northern Ireland Economic Strategy	Developed by local politicians to meet the particular needs of the NI economy it sets out vision and priorities for sustainable economic growth and prosperity. However the overarching goal is to improve the economic competitiveness of the NI economy, through focusing on export led economic growth to deepen and diversify the export base in order to increase employment and wealth across NI. Key drivers identified are innovation, research and development and the skills the workforce.	This strategy aligns with the economic development focus of the SPPS. Sustainability is a key theme in each document. It could be that Strategy may end up being at odds with the SPPS if environmental or social impacts of a development are thought to be too significant.
Northern Ireland Executive (2011) Programme for Government 2011-15	<p>The document sets out five priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Growing a Sustainable Economy and Investing in the Future ▪ Creating Opportunities, Tackling Disadvantage and Improving Health and Well-Being ▪ Protecting Our People, the Environment and Creating Safer Communities ▪ Building a Strong and Shared Community ▪ Delivering High Quality and Efficient Public Services <p>It also sets out 82 commitments, the key ones being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contribute to rising levels of employment by supporting the promotion of over 25,000 new jobs; ▪ Achieve £1 billion of investment in the Northern Ireland economy which includes £375 million as a result of Foreign Direct Investment; £400 million from indigenous businesses supported by Invest NI and £225 million as a result of the Jobs Fund; ▪ Increase visitor numbers to 4.2 million and tourist revenue to £676 million by December 2014; ▪ Support young people into employment by providing 	The five priorities of this programme are reflected in the SPPS, both in terms of the general focus on a sustainable economy, development and well being, as well as in specific policy areas. As with many of the plans, strategies and policies, sustainable and economic development objectives will need to be balanced and well designed to ensure positive environmental outcomes. Where new development takes place, there will inevitably be some impacts on the environment.

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	skills and training; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reform and modernise the delivery of Health and Social care. 	
Northern Ireland Executive (2008) Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2008-2018	Setting out the framework it will help create a sustainable 21 st century infrastructure. It identifies priority areas for investment in the years ahead and is intended to assist government and partners in the private sector plan ahead for the challenge of delivering the largest investment programme.	The SPPS will likely affect the implementation of this strategy, particularly if development is required to secure or realise infrastructure investment. Developments will be required to comply with the SPPS which may influence their location, design and scale.
Northern Ireland Executive (2010) Sustainable Development Strategy	Document enables structures and policies to be put in place to help move NI towards sustainability. Helps to align the priorities within the Programme for Government and integrate sustainable development thinking throughout their operations.	This Strategy will align with the sustainable development focus of the SPPS. Development and planning required in pursuit of the Strategy will be required to address any environmental impacts that may occur.
SNIFFER (2007) Preparing for a Changing Climate in Northern Ireland	The report was produced to inform policy experts of potential climate change impacts and recommends that “adaptation is given a higher priority across all sectors and within each of the public bodies identified as being responsible for adaptation”. Potential adaptation strategies have been identified; those of most relevance are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Education and awareness: particularly focused on the human impact on species and habitats and the scale of the likely impacts of a changing climate”; ▪ “Location and urban design actions: adaptation of infrastructure at risk, reduction of flood risk, use of green spaces and sustainable urban drainage systems”; ▪ “Historic buildings: Improved management and maintenance of current buildings, development of 	Climate change is included in the proposed SPPS scope. This report could inform possible approaches to planning that would produce developments that are adapted to climate change, thereby increasing the resilience of NI infrastructure to climate change impacts. Application of planning policy to existing developed resources may be negatively impacted as climate change measures may not necessarily align with objectives for natural heritage, cultural heritage or landscape outcomes.

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	<p>strategies to adapt to changing climatic conditions".</p> <p>A new NI Climate Change Adaptation Programme is currently being drafted.</p>	
Republic of Ireland		
<p>Border Regional Authority (2010) Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022</p>	<p>The key aim of the Guidelines is to provide a good quality of life for the Region's population, through ensuring high quality residential, recreational and working environments, and improving water quality.</p>	<p>The benefits to the Border Region of Ireland would be indirect. It is envisaged that positive cross-border outcomes will be sought through the implementation of the SPPS. It is therefore anticipated that there will be some synergy between these two documents. However, where there may be differing priorities between the two regions, policies may be conflicted.</p>
<p>DAFM (2012) Our Ocean Wealth: An Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland</p>	<p>The Plan aims to support an integrated system of policy and programme planning for marine affairs in Ireland. Its vision is provide a healthy ecosystem by that protecting/conserving rich marine biodiversity and ecosystems, managing the living and non-living resources in harmony with the ecosystem and implementing/complying with environmental legislation.</p>	<p>There is potential for the SPPS to support the objectives of this plan through its own coastal, marine or natural heritage policies. However, due to the interconnectivity of marine habitats, it is possible for developments or proposals arising under the SPPS to have negative impacts on Ireland's marine resource, its species and dependent businesses or individuals.</p>
<p>DAHG (2011) A National Landscape Strategy for Ireland</p>	<p>The Strategy sets out six high level objectives, of most relevance being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To increase public awareness about landscapes, including the links between the land's resources, the layout of the landscape and the physical, economic and psychological health of its people. ▪ To facilitate the development of Landscape planning 	<p>Landscape is not specifically stated in the SPPS documents currently. Cross-border outcomes may be sought through the SPPS, in which case it will support this Strategy indirectly. Any development will have environmental impacts and it is feasible that a consented project in NI may have an impact across the border.</p>

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	<p>and landscape management guidance and facilitatory tools for use with Strategic Environmental Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment to improve land-use policies, and forward planning and development management practices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To accommodate landscape considerations in cultural, environmental, agricultural, social, health, education, recreation, tourism, economic and transport policies and all relevant sectors of public administration. 	
DCENR (2013) Ireland's second National Energy Efficiency Action Plan to 2020)	Provides a progress report on delivery of the national energy saving targets implemented under current EU requirements as well as energy efficiency policy priorities up to 2020. It reaffirms Ireland's commitment to a 20% energy savings target in 2020 identifying actions across six areas: public sector, residential, business, transport, energy supply and cross-sectoral – contains 97 actions.	Delivery of renewable energy in NI may benefit Ireland if energy generated was supplied across the border. However, it may be at variance with the well-being aspect of the SPPS for impacts from renewable energy and other energy development to be borne in NI with the benefits exported elsewhere. However, there would certainly be an economic benefit to this.
DCENR (2012) Strategy for Renewable Energy: 2012-2020	The strategy outlines how it is planned that sustainable power, when developed, is maximised as it is returned to the State. Five strategic goals are set out in the document, these include increasing on and offshore wind, building a sustainable bioenergy sector, fostering R&D in renewables, growing sustainable transport and building out robust and efficient networks.	Renewable energy is a part of the proposed SPPS. There is little information on whether renewable energy generation and networks will focus on use within NI or whether cross-border outcomes will also be sought. With any renewable development, environmental considerations will be part of the planning process and this would apply to renewable developments in Ireland that may have cross-border impacts. The SPPS could therefore indirectly benefit or be a constraint to this Strategy.
DCENR (2010) Draft	The aim of the OREDP is to set out scenarios for the	This plan will not affect or be affected by the SPPS

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Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (ORED) for Ireland	development of up to 4,500MW from offshore wind energy and 1,500MW from wave and tidal energy in Irish waters up to 2030. Objectives include describing policy, providing information on initiatives, set out development scenarios for 2030 and set out long term vision for offshore renewable energy.	directly. However, developments arising under the SPPS could have an impact on the capacity available in Ireland. Developments in Ireland could also affect NI resources, particularly marine or coastal environments.
DECLG (2012) National Climate Change Adaptation Framework: Building Resilience to Climate Change	<p>This framework is a first step in a longer-term process which will evolve and strengthen over time as the knowledge base evolves and as the policy response matures. The objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ providing the policy context for a strategic national adaptation response to climate change; ▪ promoting dialogue and understanding of adaptation issues; ▪ identifying and promoting adaptation solutions; and ▪ committing to actions to support the adaptation process. 	Climate change will have cross-border impacts, so it is likely there will be some influence of the two policies on each other. This is considered to be beneficial in that they will support each other in achieving climate change adaptation and providing solutions. However, any development will have environmental or social impacts and these effects may be experienced cross-borders.
DECLG and Marine Institute (2012) Ireland's Marine Strategy Framework Directive Implementation	<p>The MSFD establishes a framework within which EU member states are required to take the necessary measures to achieve or maintain good environmental status in the marine environment by 2020. The main objectives of the Directive are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect and preserve the marine environment; ▪ Prevent its deterioration; ▪ Where practicable, restore marine ecosystems in areas where they have been adversely affected; ▪ Prevent and reduce inputs in the marine environment, with a view to phasing out pollution; and ▪ Ensure that there are no significant impacts on or risks 	There is potential for the SPPS to support the objectives of this plan through its own coastal, marine or natural heritage policies. However, due to the interconnectivity of marine habitats, it is possible for developments or proposals arising under the SPPS to have negative impacts on Ireland's marine resource, its species and dependent businesses or individuals.

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	to marine biodiversity, marine ecosystems, human health or legitimate uses of the sea.	
EPA (2009) Shannon International River Basin Management Plan	<p>The Shannon International River Basin District is the largest in Ireland at more than 18,000 km² in area. It is an international RBD as a small portion of County Fermanagh in Northern Ireland drains underground to the Shannon Pot. It covers the natural drainage basin of the Shannon river itself, stretching from the source of the River Shannon in the Cuilcagh mountains in Counties Cavan and Fermanagh to the tip of the Dingle peninsula in north Kerry.</p> <p>The plan establishes four core environmental objectives to be achieved by 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - prevent deterioration in waterbodies currently in good ecological status; - restore good status in the 57% of rivers, 55% of lakes, 35% of estuaries and 25% of groundwater bodies that are currently below this standard; - reduce chemical pollution; - achieve water related protected areas objectives. 	As part of the catchment of this river basin is located within NI, there is the possibility that the SPPS will indirectly influence this plan. Implementation of the SPPS at a local level on proposals and developments in the catchment area will have impacts on the river basin. These may be positive or negative depending on the nature of the proposals. Any communities or businesses dependent on the river for income, recreation or well-being will also be affected.
NPWS (2011) Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016 - Ireland's National Biodiversity Action Plan	This plan outlines the measures Ireland will take in preparing for pressures and losses in the level of biodiversity, and they are presented as 102 actions under a series of 7 strategic objectives. The objectives cover the conservation of biodiversity in the wider countryside and in the marine environment (within and outside protected areas), mainstreaming of biodiversity across the decision making process, the strengthening of the knowledge base on biodiversity, and increasing public awareness and	Biodiversity is a cross-border objective. Developments either side of the border will have cross-border impacts. In addition, nature conservation species, in particular, will not necessarily respect this border. Therefore, the SPPS will have an impact on the implementation of this plan. This may be positive or negative depending on how the SPPS is implemented locally and the nature of any developments

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	participation.	consented under this policy.
UK		
Defra, Scottish Government, Welsh Assembly Government and DOE (2010) Air Pollution: Action in a Changing Climate	<p>Further action needed to meet current air quality limits for PM10 and NO2 includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accelerating clean technologies – including retrofit, low emission vehicles, buildings efficiency, euro emission standards etc.; ▪ Encouraging further behavioural changes – including modal shift, traffic management, safer driving, cycling, walking; ▪ Local measures and delivery including parking controls, bus management arrangements, strengthening local air quality delivery; ▪ Strategic options such as Low Emission Zones, local transport planning and very low carbon vehicles. <p>Beyond this, we will be working across the UK Government and with the devolved administrations to ensure that agreed methodologies for assessing the costs and benefits to air quality are built into the evaluation of climate change impacts of policies.</p>	<p>Air quality is not mentioned specifically at this stage of the SPPS preparation, though it could feasibly be included under natural heritage. The compliance of NI with air quality objectives will have an impact on the UK Government, particularly at a European level. Poor emissions in NI come from road traffic and the burning of solid fuels for domestic use. Sustainable development could address these issues through integrated transport systems and provision of renewable energy, so there is potential for a positive impact from the SPPS. Meeting air quality targets will improve health and well-being for the public and also have environmental benefits as well.</p>
Defra, Scottish Executive, Welsh Assembly Government and DOE (2007) The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland	<p>The strategy sets out a way forward for work and planning on air quality issues; sets out the air quality standards and objectives to be achieved; introduces a new policy framework for tackling fine particles; and identifies potential new national policy measures which modelling indicates could give further health benefits and move closer towards meeting the Strategy's objectives.</p>	<p>Air quality is not mentioned specifically at this stage of the SPPS preparation, though it could feasibly be included under natural heritage. The compliance of NI with air quality objectives will have an impact on the UK Government, particularly at a European level. Poor emissions in NI come from road traffic and the burning of solid fuels for domestic use. Sustainable development could address these issues through integrated transport</p>

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		systems and provision of renewable energy, so there is potential for a positive impact from the SPPS. Meeting air quality targets will improve health and well-being for the public and also have environmental benefits as well.
HM Government, Northern Ireland Executive, Scottish Government and Welsh Assembly Government (2011) UK Marine Policy Statement	<p>The MPS will facilitate and support the formulation of Marine Plans, ensuring that marine resources are used in a sustainable way in line with the high level marine objectives and thereby:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote sustainable economic development; ▪ Enable the UK's move towards a low-carbon economy, in order to mitigate the causes of climate change and ocean acidification and adapt to their effects; ▪ Ensure a sustainable marine environment which promotes healthy, functioning marine ecosystems and protects marine habitats, species and our heritage assets; and ▪ Contribute to the societal benefits of the marine area, including the sustainable use of marine resources to address local social and economic issues. 	The marine environment is not mentioned specifically at this stage of the SPPS preparation, though it could feasibly be merged with a possible new subject policy on the coast, whilst it could also be incorporated into natural heritage. Any development arising from the SPPS will need to be in conformity with the MPS and NI Marine Plan once the latter is adopted in order to protect the marine environment.
HMSO (2005) Sustainable Development Strategy	The strategy for sustainable development aims to enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations. This can be done through producing new priorities in sustainable development for the UK to meet, help others make better informed choices, ensure sustainable consumption and production, confront climate change and energy, protect natural resources and enhance	The SPPS has a strong sustainable development theme, which aligns with the priorities of this Strategy, most notably in terms of climate change, renewable energy, sustainable consumption, waste management etc.

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	environment etc.	
IHPC (2010) Review of Local Air Quality Management: A report to Defra and the devolved administrations	<p>The report suggests there is scope to enhance action plan delivery by improving the links between air quality and other policy areas, and by communicating clearer messages about what needs to be done and why. In the absence of clarity about what is expected of LAQM, the report suggests a 'proactive' model where local authorities additionally have a decisive part to play alongside central government in driving through measures to secure compliance with national and EU target levels.</p> <p>Most urban centres in the UK contain a number of locations experiencing levels of pollution which are above objective levels, and many of the 'local' solutions lie in land-use and transport planning measures which need to be applied not just in a small area around the 'hotspot' but across the district/ borough area and beyond. Links with other policy areas also need to be improved, such as health and climate change.</p>	Air quality is not mentioned specifically at this stage of the SPPS preparation, though it could feasibly be included under natural heritage. The compliance of NI with air quality objectives will have an impact on the UK Government, particularly at a European level. Poor emissions in NI come from road traffic and the burning of solid fuels for domestic use. Sustainable development could address these issues through integrated transport systems and provision of renewable energy, so there is potential for a positive impact from the SPPS. Meeting air quality targets will improve health and well-being for the public and also have environmental benefits as well.
Europe		
EC (2013) Action Plan for a Maritime Strategy in the Atlantic Area	<p>The strategy for the Atlantic covers coastal, territorial and jurisdictional waters of five EU Member States and focuses on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Managing human activities that must deliver a healthy and productive ecosystem, through developing fisheries and aquaculture but also forecasting future change in oceanic circulation and climate; ▪ Reducing Europe's carbon footprint through climate change mitigation, for example expansion of offshore 	There is potential for the SPPS to support the objectives of this plan through its own coastal, marine, industrial or natural heritage policies. However, due to the interconnectivity of marine habitats, it is possible for developments or proposals arising under the SPPS to have negative impacts on the wider European marine resource, its species and dependent businesses or individuals. Likewise, proposals made at a

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	<p>wind farms and tidal technology in the Atlantic, but also changes in maritime transport will contribute to carbon reduction;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Developing the sustainable exploitation of the Atlantic's seafloor natural resources; and ▪ Prepare for threats and emergencies in the Atlantic whether caused by accidents, natural disasters or criminal activity such as oil spills. 	<p>European level may have an impact if located in NI waters. The implementation of climate change mitigation is supported by both documents and both seek economic and social progress in conjunction with a healthy environment.</p>
<p>EC (2013) Adaptation Strategy</p>	<p>The overall aim is to enhance the preparedness and capacity to respond to the impacts of climate change at local, regional, national and EU levels, developing a coherent approach and improving coordination e.g. between national adaptation strategies and national risk management plans. Priority will be given to adaptation flagship projects that address key cross-sectoral, trans-regional and/or cross-border issues. Projects with demonstration and transferability potential will be encouraged, as will green infrastructure and ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation, and projects aiming to promote innovative adaptation technologies.</p>	<p>This Strategy aligns with the climate change focus of the SPPS. In addition, it seeks to address cross-border issues, which is likely to be a factor in the SPPS. These two documents are expected to support each other, though there will be a need to balance objectives at a local level upon implementation of individual developments or projects.</p>
<p>EC (2011) Biodiversity Strategy</p>	<p>Strategy is designed to halt the loss of biodiversity, restore ecosystems so far as feasible, and step up efforts to avert global degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020. It also aims to speed up the EU's transition towards a resource efficient and green economy. These targets can be achieved through a number of strategic objectives including ecosystem based approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation, conserving and enhancing natural resources using them in a sustainable way, and nature based innovation restoring ecosystems and conserving biodiversity.</p>	<p>Natural heritage is proposed as one of the Subject Policies in the SPPS. This will afford some policy protection to the habitats and species from inappropriate development. Climate change, flood risk and sustainable development policies will also contribute to environmental and subsequently social well-being. However, there is a focus on economic development, which were occurring at 'greenfield' locations, will have an impact on local biodiversity. Depending on the sensitivity of the</p>

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		site, this could have impacts at a European level.
EC (2010) Europe 2020 Economic Strategy	Outlines the European Union's ten-year growth strategy and is about addressing the shortcomings of our growth model whilst creating the conditions for a different type of growth that is smarter, more sustainable and more inclusive. Five key targets have been set for the EU to achieve covering employment, education, research and innovation, social inclusion and poverty reduction, and climate/energy. Also it includes seven flagship initiatives providing a framework through which the EU and national authorities mutually reinforce their efforts in areas supporting the Europe 2020 priorities such as innovation, industrial policy and resource efficiency.	The proposed SPPS will align with this Strategy due to its focus on economic growth and sustainability.
EC (2009) Sustainable Development Strategy	A framework for a long-term vision of sustainability in which economic growth, social cohesion and environmental protection go hand in hand and are mutually supporting. Particular environmental protection objectives include increasing the use of clean energy and natural resources to combat climate change, reducing noise and air pollution through promotion of sustainable transport, and conserving and managing the overall use of water and air.	This Strategy aligns with many areas of the SPPS, generally included under sustainable development and environmental protection. Specific Subject Policies are proposed for transport and natural heritage, as well as renewable energy and climate change. The Strategy and the SPPS should support each other in the respective delivery.
EC (2007) EU Floods Directive	Directive aims is to reduce and manage risks that floods pose to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity. This involves identifying the relevant river basins and associated coastal areas at risk of flooding, drawing up flood maps and establishing flood risk management plans focused on prevention, protection and preparedness between 2011 and 2015.	Flood risk is part of the proposed Subject Policies list provided. Integrating flood risk management into planning decisions will ensure compliance with this directive.