

IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH REGENERATION, HOUSING AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

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**Social
Development**
www.dsdni.gov.uk

DSD'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- Social Security Agency
- Child Support Agency
- Urban Regeneration & Community Development
- Housing



Urban Regeneration – not a single issue

- Vital & Viable City & Town Centres
- Tackling Disadvantage
- Supporting Communities



Vital & Viable City & Town Centres

- Cities & Towns have important role in driving economic growth
- Urban landscapes have been transformed in recent times, leading to:
 - Job creation
 - Improved investor confidence
 - Increased tourism
 - Improvement in quality of life for NI citizens



Vital and Viable Cities & Towns Belfast

- Laganside - £1bn +
- Victoria Square - £300m,
- Royal Exchange - £360m
- NW Quarter - £300m+
- Public realm - £50m



Regeneration in Other Parts of Belfast

- Titanic Quarter
- Crumlin Road Gaol/Girdwood
- Sirocco Site
- 5 Masterplans in inner city derelict areas
- Strategic Regeneration Frameworks



Derry City – NW Regional Economic Hub

- Masterplans for the city
- Major redevelopment of former military sites – Ebrington, Fort George, Clooney
- City Centre comprehensive development
- Public realm/Footbridge



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Regional Cities & Towns

- Establishing role of urban hubs outside Belfast/Derry
- Maximising potential of private sector investment
- Major schemes planned in e.g. Bangor, Ballymena, Coleraine
- Former security sites – e.g. Omagh
- Belfast/Dublin Economic Corridor



Tackling Disadvantage

Area-based regeneration

- Neighbourhood Renewal:
 - Cross-cutting government strategy to tackle disadvantage
 - Targets 10% most deprived areas in NI
 - About improving people's life chances



Neighbourhood Renewal – Different Approach

- Previous initiatives made little sustainable difference
- Longer term, outcome focused
- Based on partnership



Delivering Neighbourhood Renewal

- 36 Neighbourhood Partnerships established
- Local neighbourhood action plans
- Development of statutory agreement on how to meet local needs



Measuring The Impact

- Regional targets developed for:-
 - Health
 - Education
 - Employability & Skills
 - Economic Growth
 - Crime & Fear of Crime.
- Local targets for Neighbourhoods
- Monitoring & Evaluation Framework to ensure progress is managed



Housing

- Affordable Housing
- Homelessness
- Fuel Poverty



Affordable Housing

- House prices – increased 46% in past year
- 50% drop in first-time buyers
- Current schemes –
 - Social Housing Development Programme
 - Co- ownership
 - House sales Scheme
 - Housing benefit



Semple Review

- Review of Affordable Housing launched April 07
- 80 Recommendations
- Inter-departmental Group set up to consider recommendations



Homelessness

- Extreme form of social exclusion
- Affects the most vulnerable in society
- Causes complex
- Needs joined-up response



Promoting Social Inclusion of the Homeless

- Strategy developed by DSD
- Executive Approval on 21 June 2007
- Partnership of government, agencies and voluntary sector
- Preventing homelessness
- Better access to services for the homeless



Fuel Poverty

- Fuel Poverty Strategy launched 2004
- Eradication of fuel poverty
- Schemes include:
 - Warm Homes Scheme
 - Winter Fuel Payments
 - Cold Weather Payments
 - NIHE Heating Replacement Programme



Fuel Poverty

- Fuel Poverty Partnership Schemes
- Environment & Renewable Energy Fund
- 1,200 homes fitted with solar panels
- Fuel Poverty Advisory Group
- Inter-Departmental Group on Fuel Poverty



Some Conclusions

- Northern Ireland experiencing new investor confidence
- Impact needs to benefit whole of society
- Real need to tackle disadvantage
- Life chances shouldn't be post code lottery



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