

# The Potential of Community Planning for Community Development and Sustainability

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## The Potential of Community Planning for Community Development and Sustainability

- The shift to spatial planning
- The move to community strategies
- Relevance for Northern Ireland
- Donegall Pass community study
- Potential for a new form of planning at local level
- Key Questions



# The shift to spatial planning in Britain

- Defined as going 'beyond land-use planning to bring together and integrate policies for the development and use of land with other policies and programmes which influence the nature of places and how they function'
- Spatial planning should be 'linked to delivery mechanisms through the expenditure programmes of all relevant government and corporate agencies'.



# The move to Community Strategies

- Local Government Act 2000 - duty on local authorities to prepare community strategies.
- local authorities must actively involve and engage the community in local decisions
- the community strategy (in theory at least) should set the agenda for all other plans and programmes
- Janice Morphet:
  - ‘plan of plans’
  - ‘Consequent reduction of other plan requirements’
  - ‘Emphasis on partnership and co-ordinated working’
  - ‘Establishing more integrated delivery programmes’



# Relevance for Northern Ireland

- *In Northern Ireland the modernising planning agenda has been much less ambitious.*
- *What does mainstream planning offer local communities?*
- *Local experience of community planning*
- *RPA offers a significant opportunity to rethink planning at a local level.*
- *New Local Authorities will have more power and responsibility and a wider remit to co-ordinate service delivery.*



## Donegall Pass community study/plan

- *Partnership with Community*
- *Comprehensive and integrated approach*
- *Examining the dynamics of change*
- *Examining the roles & activities of existing agencies*
- *Realistic engagement about difficult issues*
- *Moving beyond wish-listing*



## The potential for a new form of planning at local level

- *Community planning ↔ mainstream planning*
- *Community strategies → local community plans*
- *Community planning partnerships*
- *Legislation which sets out clearly the duties & responsibilities of agencies*
- *A form of planning that addresses issues about implementation & delivery*



# Community Planning - Key Questions

- What are the main issues for the community sector?
- What problems will be encountered?
- What opportunities does CP offer for community sector?
- What are the next key actions for the community sector to pursue?



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