

The Need for Connections in Neighbourhood Renewal

Tuesday 28 February 2006

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The Need for Connections in Neighbourhood Renewal

- Neighbourhood renewal – a change agenda
- What critical connections do we need?
- Connect sectors at Local level
- Connect at area level
- Connect with Regeneration initiatives
- Connect communities with each other
- Connect to RPA
- Connect with the private sector

Mission

- Ensure people in most deprived areas have access to best possible services &
- opportunities to improve quality of life
- Improve environment & images of neighbourhoods
- better place to live, work & invest

Neighbourhood renewal: The Approach

- Target most acute multiple deprivation
- Take a long-term view
- Address community division & segregation
- work in partnership
- empower communities
- make a difference to deep-seated problems

Strategic objective

- Community Renewal- to develop confident communities able to improve quality of life

Strategic objectives

- Social Renewal-improve conditions through better public services, safer environment

Strategic objectives

- Economic Renewal-develop economic activity in most deprived communities, linking to wider urban community

Strategic objectives

- Physical renewal-create attractive, safe, sustainable environments

Need for connections at Neighbourhood Partnership level

- Community Perspective:
- Opportunity to get something done!
- Make vision a reality
- Enable those most vulnerable to get connected.
- Develop local community participation
- Build community capacity – new voices
- Develop strong local voice
- Statutory Perspective:
- Legislative duty
- Priorities for action
- Opportunity to address the most critical local needs
- Target limited resources
- Bend the spend
- Develop a mutual understanding with community
- Consult
- Link with other responsible agencies

Need for connections at Neighbourhood Partnership level

- Elected representatives:
- “All politics are local”
- Opportunity to reflect constituents needs
- Understand the sectors
- Increasing political power
- Opportunity to shape real change
- Input in all sectors, at all levels
- Visible
- Private sector:
- Retail sector: traders
- Small businesses
- Sustain jobs
- Larger firms-pool of labour
- Local wealth creation
- Bring entrepreneurial skills
- Can contribute
- Giving back

Connections at local level

- Vision Framework
- Action Plan
- Range of experience
- Range of skills
- Priorities & budgets
- Variety of approaches
- Spheres of influence
- Virtuous circle of development

Connections at Area level

- Join up local NR P'ships & action Plans
- Compare themes
- Area experiences & challenges will differ
- Exchange practical experience
- Best practice & expertise
- Develop a strong local area voice
- Monitor, evaluate & compare progress
- Established a sub committee

Connections at Strategic Level

- Joined up working
- Local Action Plans knitted to strategic Regeneration Plans on area basis e.g.
- Housing Strategy
- Jobs Task Force
- Investing for Health
- City Council Plans
- Victoria Square
- Education
- Challenge: Local Action Plans must figure in priorities & budgets of broader strategies

Connections between neighbourhood renewal areas

- Address community division & segregation
- Work in partnership
- Shared Future
- Opportunity to establish a Belfast Network-sharing experience & best practice, advice
- Develop Common social & economic agenda
- Deliver change
- Get a better deal for Belfast, its people and places
- Contribute to leadership development and peace building in a meaningful way

Connections work!

- West Belfast Shankill Employment Services Board
- Job Assist Centres
- West Belfast/ Greater Shankill Employers Forum
- West Belfast/ Greater Shankill Enterprise Council

Connecting the private sector

- Private sector not traditionally involved with neighbourhoods
- Contracting public sector
- Enhanced Growth & competitiveness of private sector
- Proactive links
- Employers forum
- Major firms involved
- Sectoral committees
- Further & Higher education
- addressing skills gaps and workplace development

Connecting NR in the future

- Review of Public Administration
- Responsibility for Urban regeneration shifts to Councils
- Health, education, economic development linked to community planning
- Organised connected Communities with strong agendas have better opportunity to engage proactively in change process and deliver for their communities

The Need for Connections that work: Some lessons

- A common agenda stronger than the differences
- Working together is more effective than working separately = collaborative urban alliances
- What's good for the other is good for me and vice versa

The Need for Connections that work: Some lessons

- Short and long term goals
- Unending engagement, graft and lobbying
- Connections at all levels, vertical and horizontal

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