



## **Belfast City Council response to Ligoniel Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership's Action plan (2007)**

### **Background**

The Ligoniel Village Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership has been working to address local needs for some time in the Ligoniel area. In the introduction to its Action Plan, it notes that its vision is:

*"An engaged, welcoming and integrated community, where people care for one another, which is at peace with itself and its neighbours, which enjoys equality of opportunity and a vibrant village centre, as well as its distinctive natural environment and heritage"*

This vision is underpinned by the following strategic objectives:

- **Community Renewal** – to develop confident communities that are able and committed to improving the quality of life in the most deprived neighbourhoods;
- **Economic Renewal** – to develop economic activity in the most deprived neighbourhoods and connect them to the wider urban economy;
- **Social Renewal** – to improve social conditions for the people who live in the most deprived neighbourhoods through better co-ordinated public services and the creation of safer environments; and
- **Physical Renewal** – to help create attractive, safe and sustainable environments in the most deprived neighbourhoods.

The authors note that 'in line with other NR Action Plans, it is anticipated that in Year 1 the focus will be on the delivery of actions/initiatives that are currently in progress and negotiation. Year 2 will start to bring forward new projects and proposals that further support the vision and strategic objectives as set out in the plan. Whilst it is acknowledged that some commitments may already have been made in existing planning cycles, the NRP will work and negotiate with the relevant body/agency to ensure that these are timed and/or amended to reflect the locally expressed need and interests of the NRA.'

'In Year 3, the LVNP will be seeking the implementation of the projects/proposals that have been negotiated and refined with the relevant stakeholders during Years 1 and 2. The Action Plan therefore contains specific proposals for the earlier stages and indicative actions and dates for the later stages.'

### **The council's input**

Detailed below are each of the twenty-nine council-related actions suggested by the Partnership in the Action plan and an agreed council response to each.

## Strategic Theme: Community Renewal

Desired outcome: Sufficient skills and capacity to engage local people and influence statutory bodies  
Shared Learning  
Existing capacity shared amongst groups

(1) Action sought: **Implement tailored targeted capacity building programmes for individual community organisations**  
**Identify & facilitate access to community leadership training – for emerging as well as existing leaders**

Resource implications: Cost of Capacity building and leadership training programmes  
Training costs

Lead: DSD, **Belfast City Council**

Support: LVSP, LIA, CEP, LFC

**Council response:** Our Community Services unit is currently devising a new Community Support Plan which we will be consulting on with the public in early 2008. Capacity building is a theme within the proposed plan and there are therefore likely to opportunities for our Community Services section to work with the NRP and other Ligoniel stakeholders on such training programmes.

Desired outcome: Proactive engagement of all the community in NR & local volunteers actively involved in NR projects / activities  
Volunteer opportunities  
Ensuring continuation of resource to carry out actions  
Recognition and appreciation of volunteers

(2) Action sought: **Identification and promotion of volunteer opportunities**  
**Provision of advice, information to existing local groups to recruit & retain volunteers**  
**Identify and access existing volunteer training programmes**  
**Additional volunteers recruited**  
**Annual volunteer recognition awards**  
**Development and expansion of "community chest" scheme**

Resource Implications: Staff time and resources including materials for training and equipment  
Staff time and resources to recruit volunteers and manage volunteer scheme  
£ sourced to run annual volunteer recognition awards

Lead: DSD, (VCU), (NBCAU)

Support: LVSP, LIA, CEP, N.B. Advice Partnership

**Council response:** As one of the local service providers, our Community Services unit has a support role to play in this regard with staff active in the local area and volunteering playing a major role in Ligoniel Community Centre's provision of programmes and activities. The council is currently developing a new community support plan 2008-2010, as part of which we are planning to develop a volunteer policy.

Desired outcome: Community engagement  
 Increase in uptake of service delivery  
 Identify and ensure maximised use of existing facilities – Boxing Club, Community Centre, Wolfhill Centre, Primary School, Youth Club, Ligoniel Family Centre and parochial hall

(3) Action sought: **Develop marketing strategy with local organisations**  
**Develop and distribute a directory of activities, events and groups to the wider community**  
**Work with facility owners to develop agreement for sharing and using facilities**  
**Run targeted promotional events for specific programmes**

Resource Implications: Marketing, advertising, publicity meetings

Lead: LVSP

Support: BRO, CEP, LIA, Schools, Boxing Club, Parish Hall

**Council Response:** Our Community Services Unit has an important role to play in this regard, especially concerning Ligoniel Community Centre as the local physical resource. The council is currently developing a new community support plan 2008-2010. It is proposed that consideration is given within this to best practice approaches, including a review of directly managed community centre roles and responsibilities.

Desired outcome: Greater engagement between the community and statutory bodies  
 Building up of trust between community and statutory agencies  
 Greater statutory accountability

(4) Action sought: **Service level agreement – statutory bodies working with community organisations in implementing / delivering programmes to the community**  
**Sourcing and delivery of shared community development training**  
**Team building events**

Resource Implications: Legal fees  
 Admin costs  
 Training costs

Lead: LIA

Support: DSD, CEP, BHSCT

**Council response:** The council's move towards Local Area Working will encourage the active participation of local communities in shaping the prioritisation and delivery of council services and also seek to establish clearer channels of communication between the council and local communities. The council is consulting publicly on its plans for local area working in early 2008.

Desired outcome: A recognised and accessible heart / village centre  
Holistic approach and provision of services  
A more active and vibrant village centre  
Positive recognition and promotion of Ligoniel Village

(5) Action sought: **Establish a residents' forum representing all parts of the Ligoniel area**  
**Promote awareness of Partnership and associated services**  
**Continue communication of issues / activities through Ligoniel View**  
**Identification and establishment of village centre management**  
**(NB. Physical actions related to developing the 'village centre' under physical renewal)**

Resource implications: £ for continuation and promotion of local services  
Cost of production and distribution of local services  
£ for village centre management

Lead: **Belfast City Council, NIHE**

Support: Local Residents Groups, CEP, LVSP, LIA

**Council response:** The council's move towards Local Area Working will encourage the active participation of local communities in shaping the prioritisation and delivery of council services. A new residents forum could have an important role to play in such a relationship.

Local Area Working will also seek to establish clearer channels of communication between the council and local communities.

The council is consulting publicly on its plans for local area working in early 2008.

Our Community Services unit has a support role to play in this regard with staff active in the local area and an important physical resource in the Ligoniel Community Centre. The council is currently developing a new community support plan which we will be consulting on with the public in early 2008. There are therefore likely to be opportunities for our Community Services unit to work with the NRP and other stakeholders on engagement and communications mechanisms.

Desired outcome: Programme of community events designed and owned by the local community  
An annual local 'fun' event for all NRA residents to incorporate positive community recognition  
Increased cross- community participation  
Development of joint Environmental strategy  
Increased Environmental Awareness

(6) Action sought: **Community consultation and engagement in design of community events**  
**Tie in with other community events e.g. CEP festival (soccer / lark in the park / clean-up) etc**  
**Creation of community environmental initiatives**

Resource implications: Funding for Programme of events

Lead: **Belfast City Council**, DCAL

Support: LVSP, CEP, Arts Council, Sports Council, LIA, LEI, Joint Neighbourhood Forum

Council response: The council's Community Services unit, which manages the local community centre, can offer support for the co-ordination of community activities and for local consultation and engagement. (The unit is currently consulting on future priorities and actions of its new Community Support Plan – and would welcome comments and suggestions on it.)

The council's new Strategic Neighbourhood Action Programme (SNAP) is putting in place new 'Local Area Working' policies and processes that will allow the council to operate in a much more effective and joined-up manner at neighbourhood level. It will create mechanisms to allow it to engage at a local level in a more joined-up fashion in relation to, for example, the co-ordination of local events.

With regard to practical support for events there is potential for support from a variety of sources under, for example, the council's existing leisure programme for youth, culture and arts funding, community services grants, and our Good Relations programme.

Our Culture and Arts Unit offers funding and support for arts and heritage based activity and are keen to engage community partners for heritage initiatives and on public art. There is also support for local festival organisations through the Belfast Festivals Forum including training and audience development.

Council's Cleansing service offers a range of community engagement activities from community talks, workshops, youth activities (eg) summer schemes and school workshops and visits alongside specific community focused anti-litter projects. Our Community Awareness Team facilitates cleanups across the city with a wide range of partners. The Team also visits schools promoting the anti-litter message.

Our Good Relations unit are leading on a number of activities in local areas around the city, for example, the Re-Imaging Communities programme (resources have been secured from the Arts Council); Conflict Transformation Projects; Good Relations grant aid (grants up to £10,000 to support community relations projects); and St Patrick's Day grants (grants to support small scale events to mark St Patrick's Day). ). These funding streams can support local initiatives and actions that actively promote greater local engagement on good relations issues.

Through its Parks and Cemeteries service the council would be keen to work with the Partnership on local environmental issues. Our Open Space strategy seeks to improve the character and accessibility of existing council owned open space such as Ligoniel Park.

- Desired outcome: Greater understanding and tolerance of issues & concerns – ‘new respect’  
Build and develop existing relationships  
Intergenerational meetings on a regular basis
- (7) Action sought: **Design and develop intergenerational events e.g. discussion platform for sports and domestic activities**  
**Advertise for two young people to be represented on the LVNP**  
**Encourage and support youth representation within local organisations**
- Resource implications: £ for events
- Lead: DSD
- Support: **Belfast City Council**, BELB, BHSCT, LVSP, Pensioners Club, Young Men’s Group, Young Women’s Group, CEP, North Belfast Advice Partnership, Ligoniel local history group
- Council response:** Noted.

In general our Community Services unit have an important operational role to play in this regard with staff active in the local area and an important physical resource in the Ligoniel Community Centre, which has been providing programmes for a wide range of age groups from toddlers to older people. As part of NR, we would suggest that the Centre develop a specific pilot project on this issue in conjunction with other stakeholders.

Through its Good Relations unit, the council is involved in several initiatives and programmes in support of good relations in the area and the unit are available to explore joint action with the Partnership. The unit is already involved in a number of inter-generational projects.

Belfast Community Safety Partnership has funded the employment of an Intergenerational Coordinator in Belfast in partnership with Age Concern NI. The Coordinator is based at Age Concern NI offices in Belfast. The project is due to finish at the end of March 2008 and we are currently exploring sustainability.

Desired outcome: Reduced interface tension and violence  
Increased cross community participation in issues such as environmental awareness, health, education and youth

(8) Action sought: **Work through Joint Neighbourhood Forum on practical projects / joint issues to encourage greater collaboration (e.g. lobbying re Glenbank, space between the two schools)**  
**Pro-actively engage with potential 'interface' areas through specific initiatives e.g. environmental initiatives, youth initiatives to develop short term and long term activities to reduce tensions**  
**Team building**  
**Establishment of a charter for working with neighbouring communities**  
**Implementation of Good Relations Policy**

Resource implications: Staff time and resources  
Facilities  
£ for activities and programmes

Lead: DSD, Joint Neighbourhood Forum

Support: LVSP, **Belfast City Council**, PSNI, BRO, Community Relations Council, LIA, CEP, LEI

**Council response:** Noted.

The Good Relations Unit of the Council will be shortly awarded a significant amount of funding under Peace III to assist groups and organisations work with communities on a range of issues associated with interface life. The Ligoniel partnership would be an important partner in this work. The Unit's Conflict Transformation Project is currently producing research that will also pinpoint areas for development and involvement. The Good Relations grant aid programme can assist groups in activities such as developing a local good relations policy (grants up to £10,000 to support community relations engagement activity).

The annual St Patrick's Day grants programme also provides, grants to support small scale events to mark St Patrick's Day.

In general our Community Services unit have an important operational role to play in this regard with staff active in the local area and an important physical resource in the Ligoniel Community Centre.

Desired outcome: Points of contact for new arrivals  
Creation of resource for non-English speaking residents  
Promotion of long term residency  
Establishment of welcome pack

(9) Action sought: **'Community' for new people moving to the area. Provide information of what is going on / opportunities to take part  
Establish links with organisations who can provide assistance / training serving people whose first language is not English  
Encourage short term residents to stay longer term  
Promotion of a positive and safe community**

Resource implications: Cost of welcome pack and £ in order to keep it updated  
£ for community housing officer

Lead: DSD

Support: LVSP, LIA, CEP

**Council Response:** The council's Good Relations unit has developed a welcome guide for migrant workers to the city. The unit has resources for working with the migrant community and would be keen to work with the Partnership in sharing best practice. Good Relations funding may also be available for a resource.

Desired outcome: Increased cultural awareness and understanding among local residents  
Development of mutual understanding

(10) Action sought: **Cultural awareness programmes through public art workshops**

Resource implications: £ for resourcing of programmes

Lead: DCAL

Support: DSD, LVSP, CEP, LIA, PSNI

**Council Response:** Our Good Relations unit are involved in a number of activities in this respect in local areas around the city and may be a valuable resource supporting this issue.



# Strategic Theme: Economic Renewal

Desired outcome: New social economy opportunities identified and considered + additional opportunities for growth of existing enterprises  
Increased local uptake of business start-up and development programmes  
Promotion of positive role models  
Explore and support social economy initiatives

(11) Action sought: **Explore and support social economy opportunities, e.g. Childcare / DIY / Tourism, / Polytunnel / Environment & Heritage Project / Ligoniel Family Centre / Boxing Club**  
**Promotion of entrepreneurial activity through courses for local residents**  
**Develop links with major employers – Mater / Post Office / International Airport etc**  
**Run PR campaign for positive role models**  
**Explore partnerships with local developers and greater links with colleges**  
**Linkage with the North Belfast Partnership and North City Business Centre in their delivery of enterprise and exploring social enterprise programmes on behalf of Invest NI**

Resource implications: Staff time and resources; Localised enterprise strategy finance for social economy project; Business development services; £ for programme delivery

Lead: DEL

Support: Social Economy Network, Invest NI, LVSP, LCE, LIA, Ligoniel Economic Initiative, LEMIS, **Belfast City Council**, Federation of small businesses, Ligoniel Family Centre, WB and Greater Shankill Enterprise Council

**Council response:** Noted.

Local economic development has been an important strand of the council's work for over a decade. Through its Local Economic Development Plan for the city, the council has focussed on a number of priorities which it believes are key to successful economic renewal. These have include supporting a culture of entrepreneurship, the support of the emerging social economy and employment projects that link employees to the local work force.

Local employment initiatives have been a key component of the council's current and previous economic development strategies. Key examples of this have been support for the Belfast GEMS project which was linked to the Gasworks and more recently the LEAP initiative in north Belfast.

The council will be keen to work with the Partnership to ensure that barriers – physical, educational and economic are reduced for the local community in north Belfast.

Our Enterprise Officer is actively engaged in trying to increase the number of new business starts across the city. This work is done by undertaking a structured programme of outreach activity and the council would be keen to work with the community in Ligoniel to ensure that those who are interested can avail of the service.

The council is working to increase the employment rate in the city by ensuring better linkages between employers and potential employees. Through our Citywide Employability Consortium, we are seeking to provide an employer interface and support community-based development organisations to maximise the exposure of their clients to potential job opportunities.

Desired outcome: Greater awareness of benefit entitlement and access to advice service  
Increase in personal finance contributing to improved quality of life

(12) Action sought: **Continuation of advice services.  
Use community led mentoring services for individuals / families to assist with benefits advice and uptake  
Identify and provide advice training for mentors / volunteers (e.g. through Advice NI)**

Resource implications: Personnel; Training; Facilities

Lead: DSD

Support: North Belfast Advice Partnership, **Belfast City Council**, LIA, Advice NI, Housing rights service, Law Centre

**Council response:** Noted.

The council offers a number of advice services covering a wide range of issues including consumer advice and currently provides grant assistance to the Advice Service run by the Ligoniel Improvement Association.

# Strategic Theme: Social Renewal

Desired outcome:	Zero tolerance of underage and open-air drinking and drug taking
(13) Action sought:	<b>Work with FASA to identify local needs and link with appropriate training. Development and delivery of new approaches to issues of young people alcohol &amp; drugs with schools and community – e.g. Peer mentoring, detached youth work</b> <b>Awareness campaigns and education programmes for community / parents / schoolchildren</b> <b>Development and enforcement of alcohol free zones</b> <b>Work with local licensees to adopt a code of conduct</b> <b>Additional support for parents in alcohol / drug education (awareness sessions/ prevention etc</b>
Resource implications:	Staff time and resources £ for additional courses for parental support in drug / alcohol issues £ for training required £ of detached youth work
Lead:	<b>Belfast City Council</b> , BHSCT / H&SC Authority
Support:	Schools, Local Licensees, DSD, BELB, BHSCT, FASA, Youth Club, Ligoniel Family Centre, LIA, CEP, Local residents groups, The Healthy Living Centre, North Belfast Advice Partnership, PSNI

**Council response:** There are a number of council resources which could be called upon to assist the Partnership in delivering on this action.

The Belfast Community Safety Partnership currently coordinates the Get Home Safe Project, which, with the council, includes a number of partners such as PSNI and the Federation of Retail Licensing Trade. This includes a range of initiatives targeting issues such as underage drinking, off licences, on street drinking, and personal safety.

The council also has a Regulatory Services Manager who can work with the community on a number of these issues.

We are developing an Anti Social Behaviour Policy that will reflect issues around ASB and alcohol abuse.

A Community Safety Coordinator for North and West Belfast is available to work with the partnership on community safety issues.

To illustrate what can be achieved in tackling such issues, Belfast Community Safety Partnership recently funded a project in partnership with EDACT to run a campaign around the themes of parental responsibility around drinking.

Our Community Services Unit will work with the Partnership to address issues of anti-social behaviour through programme support, shared learning, and information.

Our Parks and Cemeteries Service are keen to work with the local community on ensuring that local open space is managed creatively to ensure that it is not a venue for anti-social behaviour.

Desired outcome: All residents feel safe outside and inside their homes  
Reduction in crime related incidents

(14) Action sought: **Development of safer neighbourhood scheme**  
**Provision of training for scheme participants**  
**Relationship building with the police**  
**Establishment of a local Care group**  
**Establishment of a community safety forum to support area initiatives**

Resource implications: Resource for training and advice; £ for facilities and volunteers for care group

Lead: PSNI, NIO Community Safety Unit

Support: **Belfast City Council**, DSD, LIA, Local residents groups, LVSP, NIHE, Private Landlords, Housing Association

**Council response:** Noted.

Again, as above, there are a number of council resources which could be called upon to assist the Partnership in delivering on this action.

The Belfast Community Safety Partnership currently coordinates the Get Home Safe Project, which, with the council, includes a number of partners such as PSNI and the Federation of Retail Licensing Trade.

A Community Safety Coordinator for North and West Belfast is available to work with the partnership on community safety issues. Belfast Community Safety Partnership currently support the work of the Upper Springfield Safer Neighbourhood Forum and the Greater Shankill Community Safety Network, which may be models of good practice for the Ligoniel scheme.

To illustrate what can be achieved in tackling such issues, Belfast Community Safety Partnership recently funded a project in partnership with EDACT to run a campaign around the themes of parental responsibility around drinking.

Our Community Services Unit will work with the Partnership to address issues of anti-social behaviour through programme support, shared learning and information.

Our Parks and Cemeteries Service are keen to work with the local community on ensuring that local open space is managed creatively to ensure that it is not a venue for anti-social behaviour.

Desired outcome: Shared spaces and parks are safe and accessible to the entire community  
Respect for parks and public spaces  
Reduction in the acceptable levels of anti-social activity  
Increased social cohesion  
Youth more involved within the community  
Creation of programme development for "at risk"  
IT programme development  
Internet cafe

(15) Action sought: **Educate through intergenerational programme, community (including) emerging and youth leadership programmes (see Community Renewal actions)**  
**Identify and implement environmental projects for young people in parks / public spaces.**  
**Develop a detached youth work programme to integrate young people into organised activities.**  
**Review the potential for CCTV at known 'hot-spots'**  
**Identify and implement appropriate programmes for re-integration of repeat offenders back into the community (e.g. contact NIACRO re this)**

Resource implications: Cost of programmes; Cost of detached youth work.

Lead: BELB, PSNI

Support: **Belfast City Council**, NIHE, LIA, CEP, Ligoniel Family Centre, Local Schools, Youth Club, Local residents group, North Belfast Advice Partnership, LVSP, The Healthy Living Centre, Youth Justice Agency

**Council response:** Noted.

Our Good Relations grant aid scheme can support local programmes that lead to greater community cohesion within the area. Under Peace III there will be opportunities for the area to engage in large scale developmental programmes that will engage local young people in wider community activities.

In general our Community Services unit have an important operational role to play in this regard with staff active in the local area and an important physical resource in the Ligoniel Community Centre.

Belfast City Council is currently developing an Anti-Social Behaviour Policy that may support the work of the local community in this activity.

Belfast Community Safety Partnership run a small grant programme for community based activity tackling ASB and diverting young people.

The Partnership also funds an Intergenerational Coordinator who is based at Age Concern NI.

Belfast Community Safety Partnership currently coordinates a project that looks at CCTV provision, particularly in Belfast City Centre. There may be learning from this to support community activity.

As noted above, our Parks and Cemeteries Service are keen to work with the local community on ensuring that local open space is managed creatively to ensure that it is not a venue for anti-social behaviour but an important community resource in the neighbourhood renewal process.

Desired outcome: Community and Youth Club 'fit for purpose' and open on evenings and weekends & holiday periods  
Additional local youth activities and facilities provided

(16) Action sought: **PR Strategy to maximise centre utilisation**  
**Undertake scoping analysis of youth provision in the area**  
**Develop rationale for re-developing youth centre (see action under physical renewal)**  
**Develop detached / outreach worker programme in the area**  
**Negotiate with BCC / BELB in regards to opening hours and management of the Community Facilities**

Resource implications: Costs of extended opening hours  
£ to improve existing facilities & equipment  
£ for scoping analysis of youth provision  
£ for detached youth work

Lead: BELB, **Belfast City Council**

Support: DSD, NBCAU, LVSP, CEP, Youth Club, LEA, Healthy Living Centre

**Council response:** Our Community Services have an important operational role to play in this regard with staff active in the local area and an important physical resource in the Ligoniel Community Centre.

The council is currently developing a new community support plan 2008-2010. It is proposed that consideration is given within this to best practice approaches including a review of directly managed community centre roles and responsibilities

Desired outcome: Parents engaging with the schools  
Better communication & interaction  
More young people gaining meaningful education leaving school with the necessary qualifications and life skills to fulfil potential  
Sufficient provision of pre-school for all children in the area  
Parents fully equipped with the knowledge, skills and resources to help their children  
Children with learning difficulties offered the same educational opportunities

(17) Action sought: **Identify and quantify gaps in provision and support for pre-school children**  
**Work with school to develop parent / children's views on importance of education – through mentoring project, positive role models and promotional material**  
**Support local schools in developing the extended schools agenda (...)**  
**Increased individual support for struggling pupils (...)**  
**Develop a parents group**  
**Increased after-school provision in the area e.g. homework club**  
**Develop a parent / pupil education / information support pack**

Resource implications: Use of Extended Schools Initiative  
£ for community support initiatives  
£ for after-school provision  
£ for information / support pack

Lead: DE, BELB – Youth Service

Support: DSD, LIA, Ligoniel Family Centre, Local schools, Business in the Community, **Ligoniel Community Centre**, SureStart, LVSP, CEP

**Council Response:** Our Community Services have an important operational role to play in this regard with staff active in the local area and an important physical resource in the Ligoniel Community Centre.

Through the Grant Aid system, funding may also be available to support some of the recommended actions.

Desired outcome: Inclusion of older participants in a varied programme of activities as a group and with other local groups  
Improved access to service provision  
Increased domiciliary care  
Establishment of social structured activities  
Voluntary help and care to support independent living  
Usage of social economy business which contributes to independent living  
Access to welfare advice and support

(18) Action sought: **Develop outreach programme (using volunteers) designed to reach out to the local elderly community**  
**Actively encourage older people to attend existing daytime / evening classes & programmes or to volunteer**  
**Linkage to the Good Morning Ballysillan scheme and expansion into Ligoniel (take into consideration NIO report on Good Morning Schemes in NI in March 2006)**  
**Use of intergenerational programmes (see under community renewal)**

Resource implications: £ for expansion Of Good Morning Ballysillan into Ligoniel  
Resource for training volunteers  
£ for cost of programme of activities for older people

Lead: **Belfast City Council**

Support: BHSCT, LVSP, Age Concern, PSNI, Local Church, Ligoniel Family Centre, Pensioners Club, CEP, LIA, Local residents groups, North Belfast Advice Partnership, Healthy Living Centre, Belfast Institute

**Council response:** The council's Community Services unit can offer support in developing inclusive activities for older people on the local community. The local community centre is already a resource for local voluntary activity and the unit would be keen to work with the Partnership on priorities focussing on older people.

The council has made a specific commitment to responding to the needs of older people and has a series of facilities and schemes including discount scheme for our leisure centres, community centre activities; Safety of Seniors events and assisted lift bin collections.

We have an Older Persons Working Group which was set up to our services are suitably adapted to meet the specific needs of older people. The group is developing an action plan and will be hosting a related Older Persons convention in May 2008.

Belfast Community Safety Partnership, along with Belfast District Policing Partnership and a range of partners coordinate the Safety of Seniors Project. This is an information road show on issues of safety for older people that are run via community centres and local community groups.

Belfast Community Safety Partnership have in the past funded the work of the three Belfast based Good Morning Projects, and continue to work with them to explore sustainability and the potential for mainstream funding.

Belfast Community Safety Partnership fund Volunteer Training via Volunteer Development Agency. The second of three sessions takes place on 19th Feb 2008 in Clarendon House from 10am – 4pm on the subject of Volunteer Management. The third of three sessions takes place on 13th March 2008 on the topic of Risk Assessment (venue to be confirmed).

- Desired outcome: Improved health and well-being of the local community  
Development of sports facilities  
Increased health related physical activity programmes for all  
Development of environmental and heritage project  
Reduction in Sedentary & Health related illnesses
- (19) Action sought: **Feasibility study into development of a local Sports facility (indoor / outdoor) in conjunction with neighbouring communities**  
**Seek sufficient equipment to ensure optimal use of existing facilities.**  
**Healthy Living Centre to run physical activity programmes in local facilities / area (e.g. local walking club, arm chair aerobics etc.)**
- Resource implications: £ required to build new facility  
£ required for Environmental and Heritage project  
£ for feasibility study (approx. £7,500)
- Lead: Sport NI
- Support: BHSCT / H&SC Authority, DSD, DCAL, **Belfast City Council**, HLC, BLF, Joint Neighbourhood Forum, CEP, LVSP, LIA

**Council response:** Noted.

The council is keen to see that its leisure services can make an active contribution to the regeneration of the surrounding neighbourhood and is eager to remove perceived barriers to access. Our Recreation Service can work with the Partnership and others to examine this action.

There is also potential of linkages with our Parks team in jointly exploring the role of open space in the area in contributing to neighbourhood regeneration; and with our Community Services unit regarding the use of the local community centre resource.



Desired outcome: Co-ordinated approach to improving the sexual health of people in the area  
Reduction in high risk and underage sexual activity  
Reduction in reported STI's

(20) Action sought: **Identify gaps in training and sexual health service provision in the area and recommend key areas for development**  
**Target marginalised young people who do not access services**  
**Promotion of STI and sexual awareness programmes**  
**Develop and provide appropriate training for local staff / volunteers in sexual health**

Resource implications: £ for staff and training  
£ for programme costs  
£ for equipment

Lead: BHSCT

Support: LVSP, Belfast City Council, Healthy Living Centre, Ligoniel Family Centre, North Belfast Advice Partnership, CEP, Sure Start

**Council response:** Our Community Services Unit will continue to play an important operational role in this regard with staff active in the local area and an important physical resource in the Ligoniel Community Centre.

In particular, the Co-ordinator of services to Children and Young People based within the Community Services unit, and the council-supported Youth Forum would be important resources in delivering this action.

## Strategic Theme: Physical Renewal

Desired outcome: A cohesive and integrated community  
Identification of private rental mapping exercise  
Established response and referral system for all residents  
Safer and cleaner community  
Key contacts established with all departments

(21) Action sought: **Employment of a Housing officer for the area to represent and engage with all levels of house occupiers**  
**Establish a residents' forum representing all parts of the Ligoniel area**

Resource implications: £ for housing officer  
£ for mapping exercise

Lead: DSD

Support: NIHE, LIA, LVSP, CLANMIL, BIH, **Belfast City Council**

**Council response:** Noted.

The council's move towards Local Area Working (through the work of its SNAP team) will encourage the active participation of local communities in shaping the prioritisation and delivery of council services. A new residents forum could have an important role to play in such a relationship. The council is consulting publicly on its plans for local area working in early 2008.

The council offers a number of advice services covering a wide range of issues including consumer advice, cleansing, building control issues and a variety of environmental health matters. The majority of these have developed mechanisms for engagement and support at a local level.

Desired outcome: Positive and productive community led forum  
Greater participation in community development and awareness of the environment  
Upkeep and maintenance of Ligoniel Park  
Aesthetically pleasing environment

(22) Action sought: **Development of a strategy regarding planning / community lobby – potential establishment of an open space forum through the existing structures in the LVNP**  
**Environmental Awareness campaign**  
**Establishment of local environmental forum**  
**Maintenance and upkeep of Ligoniel Park**

Resource implications: Staff time and resources  
£ for park ranger and maintenance of park

Lead: NIHE, DSD

Support: Planning Service, NIO (CSU), LIA, LVSP, **Belfast City Council** – Parks, Belfast Hills, Local residents groups

**Council response:** Noted.

Our Parks and Cemeteries Service can work with the Partnership to expand the opportunities presented by the park and other open space in the area to contribute to the wider renewal work beyond the traditional projects associated with open space. Parks have an outreach worker available to facilitate such work.

Parks and Cemeteries Service will work with local community groups to seek to improve, protect and promote the provision of open space in Inner North which is accessible to all. At all time the council must function within physical, human and financial constraints.

Desired outcome:	Additional Sports Facilities Purpose built local sports facility (N.B. Social Renewal actions relating to SR issue 10) Increased uptake in physical activity Reduction in sedentary & health related illnesses Increased community cohesion & social capital
(23) Action sought:	<b>Identify potential sites for multi-use games / sports area.</b> <b>Undertake feasibility study / economic appraisal for potential development of multi-use games / sports area</b> <b>Land purchase</b>
Resource implications:	Approx £10,000 in order to complete feasibility study and economic appraisal Funding to support findings from feasibility study and economic appraisal £ for capital build £ for professional & legal fees Staffing Security & maintenance costs
Lead:	Sports Council, <b>Belfast City Council</b>
Support:	Joint Neighbourhood Forum, DSD, Local Sports Clubs, LIA, LVSP, CEP

**Council response:** The council is keen to see that its leisure facilities can make an active contribution to the regeneration of the surrounding neighbourhood and is eager to remove perceived barriers to access. Our Recreation Service can work with the Partnership to examine this action.

The council can engage with the Partnership on the specific community proposals for a multi-use games area (MUGA). Such a proposal would need to include the development of sport activity plan as part of any resulting facilities management agreement.

Desired outcome: Appropriate youth facility (N.B. Social Renewal actions relating to SR issue 3)  
Reduction in antisocial behaviour  
Increased social cohesion  
More youth involvement in the community  
Personal Development e.g. Capacity Building  
Greater interaction with neighbouring communities

(24) Action sought: **Investigate the DE / BELB fund for community led youth facilities. Feasibility Study and economic appraisal for potential new youth centre Development of a fit for purpose youth facility**

Resource implications: Approx £10,000 in order to complete feasibility study and economic appraisal  
Funding to support findings from feasibility study and economic appraisal  
£ to complete development / building of facility

Lead: BELB

Support: **Belfast City Council**, LIA, LVSP, Youth Club, DSD

**Council response:** Noted.

Our Community Services have an important operational role to play in this regard with staff active in the local area and an important physical resource in the Ligoniel Community Centre. The council is currently developing a new community support plan 2008-2010. Consideration is being given within this to resources including directly managed community centres and future developments.

Desired outcome: Safe, attractive and fully equipped play areas  
Increased generated prospect for community ownership  
Additional play facilities to captivate new developments

(25) Action sought: **Develop programme of additional evening diversionary activities for youth Undertake activities on-site to encourage children and young people to value the area (e.g. community painting initiatives) Satellite play areas**

Resource implications: £ for additional diversionary activities and on-site activities  
Funding secured for satellite play areas  
£ to maintain and equip play areas  
£ for facilitation, supervision & support

Lead: NBCAU, **Belfast City Council**

Support: DSD, LIA, BELB, LVSP, Local residents groups

**Council response:** Current Community Services facilities provide a range of activities for children and young people as part of a general community development programme. There may be some additional capacity available at the council centres.

Belfast Community Safety Partnership currently works with Belfast Education and Library Board to fund diversionary activities via youth outreach workers.

Belfast Community Safety Partnership currently runs a small grants programme with an emphasis on reducing Anti-Social Behaviour and diversionary activities.

Desired outcome: Reduced interface tension and violence  
Mutual respect for other traditions

(26) Action sought: **Pro-active engagement with the Glencairn / Ballysillan communities  
Consider the issue of an emerging interface with Glencairn  
(N.B. Community Actions relating to relationship building under  
Community Renewal action 8)**

Resource implications: Staff time and resources  
Good relations worker

Lead: CEP, Joint Neighbourhood Forum

Support: NBCAU, CRC, **Belfast City Council**, PSNI, NIHE, DSD, NIO, LVSP, LIA, BCF,  
Glencairn Community Association

**Council response:** Our Good Relations unit is involved in a number of activities in local areas around the city. The unit is keen to engage local people in the development of a local area good relations plan and through this support actions which promote engagement within the area. Good Relations grant aid (grants up to £10,000 to support community relations projects);

The Good Relations Unit can also offer advice and developmental support, as well as linking the partnership with practitioners in the field of good relations. There may also be potential for Good Relations training for the community.

Desired outcome: Litter free streets  
Clean streets  
Local residents managing their domestic rubbish  
Increased knowledge of Environmental Damage

(27) Action sought: **Advertise / enforce litter laws & better co-ordination of street cleaning and bin collection  
Additional promotion / information re: blue bin recycling  
Meet with BCC to negotiate for:  
- better coordination of street cleaning with bin collection  
- additional Waste Bins and Cleaning Operatives  
Quarterly Annual Community Clean-ups**

Resource implications: Cost of additional signage, promotion and enforcement  
Rescheduling of street cleaning after bin collection  
Additional Cleansing Operatives  
£ for environmental health programmes  
£ for additional and promotion of additional recycling points

Lead: **Belfast City Council**

Support: NIHE, Local residents, LVSP, LIA, Local Schools, Healthy Living Centre  
LEI, Joint Neighbourhood Forum

**Council response:** Representatives from the Council's Cleansing Services, Community Awareness, Enforcement and operational teams service are available to meet with the Partnership to provide a full picture of current activities and to discuss support in the future.

The Council's North Belfast Cleansing Forum holds quarterly meetings as a way for community groups and individuals to work with Cleansing Services and we encourage the Partnership to join the forum.

Cleansing offers a range of community engagement activities from community talks, workshops, youth activities (eg) summer schemes and school workshops and visits alongside specific community focused anti-litter projects. Our Community Awareness Team facilitates cleanups across the city with a wide range of partners. The Team also visits schools promoting the anti-litter message.

The council has a recycling education and awareness team available to work on recycling issues with local groups providing similar initiatives to that highlighted above. We can arrange for the ARC21 recycling education bus to visit the area and we are working with the Community Section to use community centres and waste education information centres. A new comprehensive communication campaign is currently being designed with a specific aim of community targeting which will highlight any needs arising in Ligoniel. We are also eager to work with communities to develop waste initiatives for specific areas

Desired outcome:	Dog dirt placed in appropriate bins that are available in necessary locations throughout the estate Health awareness campaign Reduction of stray and unwanted dogs
(28) Action sought:	<b>Request for more dog bins (with bags) on streets / outside shops etc</b> <b>Enforcement of the Dog fouling laws</b> <b>Education programmes for dog owners in the NRA – targeted visible dog warden presence</b> <b>Dog health awareness and check-ups</b> <b>Walking route for dog owners</b>
Resource implications:	Installation and clearance of bins Cost of education programmes Focus of dog warden resource for specified time
Lead:	<b>Belfast City Council (Dog Warden)</b>
Support:	Schools, LVSP, Local residents group, LIA, Joint Neighbourhood Forum

**Council response:** The council would be keen to work with local groups on education and awareness programmes to promote responsible dog ownership. The Council does not favour separate dog fouling bins and encourage the placement of bagged dog fouling into existing litter bins, or for owners to dispose of it at home, via their own wheeled bins

This is also an issue that relates to the management of the local park and is something Parks and Cemeteries Service are available to discuss.

Desired outcome: All graffiti is removed and does not reoccur – community educated and involved  
Greater community ownership  
Reduction of public damage  
Establishment of Self Expression areas  
Youth wardens responsible for allocated areas

(29) Action sought: **Use of public arts projects with children, young people and residents to encourage community involvement**  
**Investigate potential of localised graffiti removal operation (social economy potential)**

Resource implications: Staff time & resources + artists & materials  
Equipment and volunteers  
£ for maintenance of self expression areas

Lead: **Belfast City Council**, DCAL

Support: BELB, NIHE, LVSP, LEI, Local Schools, Youth Club, Ligoniel Family Centre, LIA, CLANMIL, BIH

**Council response:** As noted above representatives from the council's Cleansing Services, Community Awareness, Enforcement and operational teams service are available to meet with the Partnership to provide a full picture of current activities and to discuss support in the future.

There are technical and legal issues around the removal of graffiti which the council can discuss.

The Council's North Belfast Cleansing Forum holds quarterly meetings as a way for community groups and individuals to work with Cleansing Services and we encourage the Partnership to join the forum.

Cleansing offers a range of community engagement activities from community talks, workshops, youth activities (eg) summer schemes and school workshops and visits alongside specific community focused anti-litter projects. Our Community Awareness Team visits schools promoting the anti-litter message.

The council's citywide Safer Neighbourhoods pilot project – which includes work in north Belfast – is also tackling the issue of graffiti.

The council also manage a Roaming Wardens Project in which a team of wardens are allocated to appropriate areas across the city (on a temporary basis) through consultation with various partners. These wardens can act as a mechanism for the reporting of anti-social behaviour including graffiti.

There are also possible contributions from our Culture and Arts unit – who have an Artist in Residence who is involved in a number of community arts projects. Our Good Relations unit, through its administering of the Re-Imaging Communities programme, can also engage with the community about such projects. Ligoniel Community Centre could be a valuable resource as a physical base in the area to run such projects.

## STATUTORY IMPACT ANALYSIS

With specific reference to an item in the Vision document, the council would also suggest a change to the Statutory Impact Analysis text on page 96. *Replace 'Community Centre & 1.5 FTE Community Development Worker (this post will soon change to be 1 FTE working between Ligoniel and Ardoyne)'. Suggested replacement is 'Community Centre with 1.5 Supervisors, 2 p/t Assistant Supervisors, 1 f/t Community Development Worker, & 1 Community Development Assistant (24 hr post). Community Services structure is currently under review.*