



Belfast City Council

Report to: Development Committee

Subject: Neighbourhood Renewal Progress

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Relevant Background Information

Members will be aware that in June 2003, the DSD published 'People and Place: A strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal' a document which aims to tackle the complex, multi-dimensional nature of Northern Ireland's most disadvantaged urban neighbourhoods. In order to progress this Agenda, DSD progressed the establishment of 12 Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships within the BCC area. Each Partnership was tasked with producing a Vision Framework (7-10 years) and Action Plan (3 years) for the Neighbourhood Renewal area. The 12 Partnerships are:

- Inner East Belfast
- South West Belfast
- Greater Falls
- Upper Springfield
- Inner North Belfast
- Ligoniel
- Inner South Belfast
- Greater Shankill
- Lenadoon
- Crumlin/Ardoyne
- Andersonstown
- Upper Ardoyne/Ballysillan

Each Partnership has developed its Action Plan which has been submitted to DSD for consideration. These Plans propose thousands of actions that would need to be delivered by a range of organisations in key areas such as housing, health, education, community safety, good relations, employability, community development, culture, tourism, leisure, children and young people, older people and environmental and physical improvement.

Key Issues

The Council has become a key participant in the neighbourhood renewal process and to date the following support has been provided:-

- Officer participation provided on all 12 Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships through Community Services.
- Action Plan responses prepared for each of the 12 Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships Action Plans.
- Established a Neighbourhood Renewal Working Group comprising Council Neighbourhood Renewal representatives and representatives from council departments.
- Formal presentations and workshops delivered to the Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships.
- Creation of a Neighbourhood Renewal Database detailing all key actions and implications for the Council in the neighbourhood renewal process.
- Neighbourhood Development Officers in place to co-ordinate the delivery of actions within each Plan.
- Commitment to deliver on neighbourhood renewal is embedded within the new Corporate Plan.
- Provision of SNAP area-based intelligence to support the neighbourhood renewal process.
- Neighbourhood renewal information directories prepared for the Partnerships detailing Council services and key staff working in the local area.
- Development of the neighbourhood renewal section of the Council website, creating a central repository for all Action Plans and responses.
- Integration of neighbourhood renewal within Council's SNAP/Local Area Working agenda.
- On-going work with BRO regarding the development of a pilot partnership approach to the implementation of the Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan in Lenadoon. Proposals will be presented to committee in due course.

An update on progress made with each Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership and their plans is provided within **Appendix 1**.

Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plans: Implications for BCC

To date, co-ordinated responses have been prepared for the 12 Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plans. Belfast City Council has been highlighted as having a lead or a supporting role in nearly 600 specific actions regarding service delivery at a neighbourhood level. Whilst the majority of these can be addressed via co-ordination with the Council Departments there are still a number of issues that need to be considered within this, including:-

- Council has been identified as a key player in the implementation of neighbourhood renewal activity whilst all of the Action Plans have been developed the main challenge is ensuring successful implementation.
- There are large differences in the number of actions identified within each Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan which highlights varying levels of capacity.
- There are a number of key BCC service areas that have been identified as a priority in the neighbourhood renewal plans which includes local economic development, community safety, community services, youth provision, alley-gating, physical renewal, cleansing, good relations, parks, sport and leisure, older people, well-being and the provision of advice services at a local level. This requires significant co-ordination.
- Council alone cannot deliver on these 600 specified actions as other organisations have also been asked to contribute alongside these actions. This means that there is a need to build/work in partnership with a range of other partners including statutory organisations in order to successfully deliver neighbourhood renewal.
- The neighbourhood renewal areas do not align with any existing Council boundaries which can make monitoring or planning work difficult.

- Most Council services are not currently structured or planned on a local basis which can make it challenging to respond to the programme.
- Many of the existing Plans are already being reviewed at different times which also makes co-ordination difficult.
- The likely transfer of neighbourhood renewal responsibility to Councils through the Review of Public Administration.

Resource Implications

Human Resources
Co-ordinated by the SNAP Manager

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Note the contents of the report

Key to Abbreviations

NR	Neighbourhood Renewal
NRPs	Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships
NRA	Neighbourhood Renewal Area
NRAP	Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan
NDO	Neighbourhood Development Officer
SNAP	Strategic Neighbourhood Action Programme
YENI	Young Enterprise Northern Ireland
DSD	Department for Social Development
BRO	Belfast Regeneration Office
LIAG	Local Implementation Action Group
MUGA	Multi-Use Games Area
ASB	Anti Social Behaviour
CC	Community Centre
PACT	Partners and Communities Together
LOTS	Living over the Shops
SRF	Strategic Regeneration Framework
HUB	Hybrid Use Building

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 - Neighbourhood Renewal Update report

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