

Appendix 1 Renewing the Routes: Prioritisation 2010 methodology

Introduction

The importance of understanding the nature and scale of decline is crucial in the designing and placement of regeneration initiatives that will achieve the optimal outcomes.

However, given the finite amount of resources, there will always be a need for some form of prioritisation, which reflects both the need for regeneration and the opportunity to achieve this transformation.

An effective way to determine this prioritisation is to implement a criteria-based approach. The purpose of this methodology is to provide an approach to prioritisation that reflects the potential for the development of local regeneration activity as part of the continued Renewing the Routes initiatives.

Mixed methodology approach

Given the recent development of research methodology and perceived legitimacy of both quantitative¹ and qualitative² research, there has been an ever-increasing use of a mixed method approach by researchers of social and human sciences. The mixed method approach is defined as a process which employs strategies that collect and analyse both quantitative and qualitative data.

By adopting this innovative approach and utilising GIS, we can use the strength of every type of information collated and thus, in turn, increase the validity and accuracy of the analysis.

Guiding principles

In determining which variables to adopt, the following guiding principles has been

- data available in administrative geographies (e.g. electoral ward);
- geography to be of appropriate size to allow for variation in areas (e.g. population less than 3,000);
- variable measurable over time;
- variable to be appropriate to the chosen theme (e.g. average Income Deprivation Domain under Economic theme).

The experience gained during the completion of the original prioritisation exercise has provided the basis for this approach and will offer the potential to consider the physical changes over the last six years. The data sets utilised are also designed to highlight the areas in which the package of local regeneration activity can provide a impact.

The initial activity and experience also highlighted the value of working within focussed areas (0.5 to 1Km) to maximise the potential to secure the transformation of the local areas.

Stage 1

¹ Quantitative variables relate to data that can be measured or identified on a numerical scale.

² Qualitative variables relate to information that can be described in terms of some quality or categorisation that may be 'informal' or may use relatively ill-defined characteristics.

Localised data

In order to specifically target those areas which could benefit most from the project, it is proposed to use statistics that are available at a suitably small geographic level - in this instance, Super Output Areas (SOAs).

Deprivation

As with many regeneration activities, one of the main aims of their work has been to improve outcomes in deprived areas. In the case of Renewing the Routes, this consideration is no exception. Therefore, a fundamental criterion should be the prevalence of deprivation.

Multiple Deprivation Measure

The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) is the most comprehensive measure of deprivation, covering a range of economic, social and physical indicators.

The NIMDM combines indicators across seven domains into a single deprivation score and rank.

- Income;
- Employment;
- Health Deprivation & Disability;
- Education, Skills and Training;
- Proximity to Services;
- Living Environment;
- Crime and Disorder.

Given that the NIMDM was developed to the multifaceted, localised and time-varying nature of deprivation, it is proposed that the criteria for this research should fully utilise this measure and its associated domains.

Physical and Environmental

Given its focus on the arterial routes of Belfast, it is natural that the Renewing the Routes initiative will have an area-based and physical regenerative emphasis to it. That is why the chosen variables for this theme should be reflective of this application.

Proposed variables:

- average Outdoor physical environment³ (Living Environment Sub Domain) rank (2005, 2010);
- average Housing quality⁴ (Living Environment Sub Domain) rank (2005, 2010);

Visual inspection data

³ Housing quality value is comprised of (i) SOA level housing stress (**Source:** SDRC and NIHE) and (ii) Houses without central heating (**Source:** Census, NISRA)

⁴ Outdoor physical environment value is determined by SOA level local area problem score (**Source:** SDRC and NIHE)

To supplement these particular variables, a physical assessment of each of the arterial routes will be conducted by members of the Renewing the Routes team.

By individually inspecting the extent of the physical and environment degradation, spatial layout and occupancy levels, the assessment process becomes more holistic and comprehensive. Furthermore, the firsthand knowledge will become crucial in determining the type of approach that should be adopted for the area.

Proposed additional variables:

- number of voids;
- condition of buildings and space;
- number and areas of brown space;
- number and areas of green space.

Social

- percentage change in population (2001-2008);
- average Education, skills and training Domain rank (2005, 2010);
- average Health deprivation and disability Domain rank (2005, 2010);
- average Crime and disorder Domain rank (2005, 2010);
- proportion of population categorised as 'hard-pressed', ACORN (2008-2010).

Economic

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- average Income Domain rank (2005, 2010);
- average Employment Domain rank (2005, 2010);
- percentage change in number of businesses (2008-2010);
- percentage households in relative poverty (2004-2005).

Measuring over time

Whilst the variables named thus far provide a good snapshot for deciding where to prioritise regeneration, it should be acknowledged that these same variables can also capture how these places are changing over time.

Logically, places may exhibit similar levels of deprivation, but whether circumstances have been improving or worsening is important in deciding on the relative need for regeneration.

Therefore, analysing the dynamics of an area will not only require a cross-sectional assessment, but also some trend analysis. In combination, these will give an indication of the direction of travel of an area, illustrating both how the area is performing and how attractive the area is in attracting people and business.

Strategic Influences

Whilst purely examining the aforementioned variables may be suffice in determining which areas are deprived, or it could be argued, the nature and extent of this deprivation. However, as part of the mixed method approach, the inclusion of some qualitative data can help elaborate about what is exactly going on in area.

Proposed variables:

- strategic location;
- complementarity with other initiatives (e.g. Neighbourhood Renewal);
- existing developments.

Stage 2

Area Prioritisation

Once the necessary data has been collected and formatted, a scoring framework (based upon the weighted criteria set out in Table 1 below) will be applied at Stage 2 to produce a priority matrix value for each area.

The output in terms of the combined area data will be produced for each potential focus area of between 0.5 and 1Km to enable the comparison of areas across the city on a similar basis.

At Stage 2 the data associated with the Strategic Influences will be presented to Committee for consideration in advance the process to establish the final prioritised ranking.

Table 1 Weighting

<u>Theme</u>	<u>Weighting</u>
<u>Physical and Environmental</u>	<u>40%</u>
<u>Social</u>	<u>20%</u>
<u>Economic</u>	<u>25%</u>
<u>Strategic Influences</u>	<u>15%</u>