



Community Planning: Northern Ireland Context

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COMMUNITY PLANNING

Decisions in light of the Review of Public Administration were outlined by ministers on 22 November 2005.

In announcing proposals for the introduction of a duty of community planning to Northern Ireland, Lord Rooker stated that.....



COMMUNITY PLANNING

“The aim of community planning is to make sure that people and communities are genuinely engaged in decisions made about public services which affect them.

Through the community planning process we have an opportunity to address poverty, promote good relations, target environmental inequalities and tackle the fundamental issues which prevent the achievement of sustainable communities.”



COMMUNITY PLANNING

- The drive for community planning should be seen in the context of the process to create more responsive and effective public services for People, across the board.



COMMUNITY PLANNING

- Civic leadership is at the very heart of the new council arrangements. Successful local councils must be effective local champions, responding to the aspirations and concerns of their communities and guiding, in partnership with others, the future development of their area.



COMMUNITY PLANNING

- Government wants to put community leadership at the heart of every council, and in the hands of every councillor - bringing together public agencies and other key stakeholders, including the Voluntary and Community sector and the business sector, to act in partnership to secure excellent services and address local problems.



COMMUNITY PLANNING

- The aim of community planning is to make sure that this happens and that people and communities are genuinely engaged in decisions made about the public services which affect them.



COMMUNITY PLANNING

- Through the community planning process democratic processes will be strengthened, people will be encouraged to participate in civic life and political life.



COMMUNITY PLANNING

DEVELOPING A FRAMEWORK



COMMUNITY PLANNING

- A Community Planning Sub Group, chaired by Tom McCall, reported at the end of June 2006, making 21 recommendations, covering areas such as legislation, statutory guidance, pilot projects and capacity building.



COMMUNITY PLANNING

- The Department carefully considered the report of the Community Planning Sub-group and developed the requisite robust policy proposals to inform Community Planning legislation.



COMMUNITY PLANNING

- Preliminary work has also been commenced in respect of the design of a Community Planning Pilot Programme that will be used to inform the development and operation of community planning and the statutory guidance that will support the introduction of Community Planning.



COMMUNITY PLANNING

**Review of the Local
Government RPA
decisions / current
position.**



COMMUNITY PLANNING

- Upon restoration of a devolved Administration the NI Executive decided to undertake a Review of the local government aspects of the PRA.



COMMUNITY PLANNING

- Executive Sub-Committee established to take Review forward.
- Chaired by Minister of the Environment, Arlene Foster MLA.
- 4 other Ministers members of ESC; DSD, DRD, DHSSPS & DFP.



COMMUNITY PLANNING

- Review has three inter-linking strands -

Developing a shared Vision for local government in N.I.;

Looking at optimum number of councils required;

Considering functions to transfer to local government.



COMMUNITY PLANNING

- Review was also asked to consider as a cross-cutting issue the decision of the previous Administration to develop a council-led community planning process and a complementary power of Well-being.



COMMUNITY PLANNING

- Interim decisions on the Review published by the Executive October 2007.
- Broad agreement on a Vision for a local government that would create sustainable, vibrant, healthy, prosperous and stable communities.
- Community Planning seen as a critical tool in delivering this.



COMMUNITY PLANNING

- Focused period of stakeholder engagement carried out on the interim findings of the Review.
- Stakeholders across all sectors endorsed agreed Vision for local government.



COMMUNITY PLANNING

- Process of engagement emphasised strong support for the introduction of Community Planning, in the context of the creation of a strong local government sector with responsibility for delivery of a “suite” of critical services that would make Community Planning meaningful.



COMMUNITY PLANNING

- Final Decisions ??????????????



COMMUNITY PLANNING

- Finally
- The drive for community planning must be seen in the context of the process to create more responsive and effective public services for citizens.
- Community planning is not merely the process of sticking together a number of existing plans and practices – but rather the creation of a new vision for a locality.
- Central to the promotion of civic leadership
- Bedrock of truly strong and influential local government