



Neighbourhood Renewal Challenges and Opportunities

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DSD Mission...

”Together, Tackling Disadvantage, Building Communities”

Neighbourhood Renewal plays a pivotal role, however :

- **Housing**
- **Fuel Poverty**
- **Delivering Child Support to reduce poverty**
- **Social Security Agency – “Work for those who can, and security for those who cannot”**

are also key players



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Neighbourhood Renewal

- **Building Sustainable Communities**
- **Improving Quality of Life**
- **Adding to Life Chances**

A Sustainable Community ...

- **Has high levels of community participation;**
- **Receives high quality public services;**
- **Has a healthy and safe environment;**
- **Has accessible recreation opportunities;**
- **Has employment and educational opportunities for all;**
- **Has a sense of optimism about the future of its children.**

**IS CONFIDENT IN ITSELF AND IN ITS
RELATIONS WITH OTHERS**

Why Neighbourhood Renewal

- **Previous Initiatives (BAN, MBW, LRI);**
- **Little sustainable difference;**
- **Short term/project focused;**
- **No material impact on mainstream services;**
- **Long-term generational disadvantage;**
- **New approach needed.**



Neighbourhood Renewal

- Long term programme 7/10 years;
- Targets worst 10% under Noble;
- Community engagement through Neighbourhood Partnerships;
- Involvement of statutory agencies;
- Focus on improving public service delivery;
- DSD: funding body → Regeneration agency.

Progress To Date

- **Strategy published June 2003;**
- **32 Neighbourhood Renewal areas identified;**
- **Phase I and Phase II rolled out - mainly to establish and support community groups in Neighbourhood Renewal areas;**
- **Interdepartmental Ministerial Group established;**
- **Neighbourhood Partnerships currently being formed with the majority to be established by March 06;**
- **City Wide Programme Group established in North West;**
- **Initial statistical baseline reports available;**
- **Work on the ground in Sandy Row and Colin - Neighbourhood Managers appointed.**

Protestant Working Class Communities

- Perception of lower “capacity”;
- Indications that public policies do not have same impact;
- Taskforce set up by Ministers;
- Wide ranging assessment – dialogue with diverse range of interests;
- Sandy Row/Greater Village work;
- Dedicated interdepartmental team:
 - Terms of Reference
 - No budget



Sandy Row and Greater Village Reports

- **Areas regarded as representative of Protestant working class;**
- **Both within the worst 10% of wards and a Neighbourhood Renewal area;**
- **Areas reflect a strong cultural identity;**
- **Changing nature of the population;**
- **Private sector developments;**
- **Increase in young transient population and incoming workers from outside UK.**

Sandy Row and Greater Village Issues

- **Reports published Jan and June 2005 – Over 300 areas for improvement identified;**
- **Key Issues:**
 - **Poor levels of educational attainment;**
 - **Lack of formal/vocational qualifications resulting in poor employment prospects;**
 - **Poor levels of general health;**
 - **Sense of being left behind/disconnected from decision making – reflected in lack of effective local capacity and leadership;**
 - **Lack of connectivity in provision of / access to public services – reflected in poor participation by the local community.**

Sandy Row and Greater Village Lessons

- **Need to create more effective connections between Statutory Authorities, Government and the local community;**
- **Responsiveness of public services to local issues?**
- **Not about additional resources but the need to create conditions for better engagement with what is available;**
- **Need to secure more active participation by local residents.**

Challenges

- **Grow communities vs community organisations;**
- **Community development ↔ community relations;**
- **Community development → economic development;**
- **More comprehensive approach to physical regeneration:**
- **Much public money being spent – Does outcome justify expenditure?**
- **Improve the life prospects of children and disadvantaged youth.**



Challenges

BUT

- **Regenerating areas ≠ protecting communities;**
- **Cannot roll the clock back;**
- **“No one owes us a living”;**
- **Immigration: threat or opportunity?**

Challenges For Public Sector

- **Make a difference to people's lives -vs- providing services;**

- **Harmonise strategies:**

Employability, Investing for Health, Neighbourhood Renewal, Anti Poverty, Sustainable Development;

- **Join up delivery:**

Health Action Zones, Sports Zones, Education Action Zones, Neighbourhood Renewal Areas;



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Challenges For Public Sector

- **Avoid insularism;**
- **More focus on outcomes;**
- **Look at performance of existing resources;**
- **Avoid short termism.**



**“It is amazing what you can accomplish
if you do not care who gets the credit.”**

Harry S Truman



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