Social Development

DSD Corporate Plan 2008 - 2011 **Priority Area 1: Investing in Housing and Addressing the Housing Crisis**			
Proposals	**SRF ref**	**Alignment with Government Policy direction**	**Challenge**
Sustainable communities			
In designing new developments, the emphasis all too often is the provision of housing, with little emphasis on the schools, community facilities, public realm, and open space. (For example, the Lagmore development) This needs to be addressed at design stage. It is recommended that "Community hubs" are included as part of large scale housing and mixed use developments.	WB 8.2.1 WB 9.3.2	One of the key objectives of DoE's Planning Policy Statement on 'quality residential environments' is: To ensure that adequate provision is made for infrastructure and appropriate local neighbourhood facilities as an integral part of residential development. The recent (2009) DoE consultation on reform of the Planning system put forward proposals for ways to enhance developer contributions to support infrastructure and community facilities which met with broad approval and are likely to be taken forward by the Executive, in recognition of the cross cutting impact (DN this is currently with the Executive for consideration) Within DSD there has been a shift towards a masterplanning approach	The challenge is to ensure that the necessary infrastructure and facilities are resourced in the most efficient and equitable way

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		to large scale urban regeneration, which has more scope to look at sustainability issues/provision of services. DSD is seeking to provide a leading role across Government for these issues.	
There is a need for an integrated approach to housing development that considers all elements of communities including older people, families, people with special needs and those living alone.	NB 8.2	The wider planning context for housing (the Regional Development Strategy and draft Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan's Housing Strategy) aims to create balanced local communities and provide housing choice by achieving a mix of tenures This policy direction is also expressed in the DSD Belfast City Centre Westside Regeneration Masterplan and Northside Urban Village Regeneration Framework and in the 5 Physical Regeneration Concept Masterplans (for Shore Road/York Road, Crumlin Road (Including Lower Oldpark), Lower Shankill, Lower Falls and Inner East) on which consultation ends on	The challenge is to ensure that new housing developments are attractive to and can cater for a diverse range of people
There is a need to establish a diverse and sustainable community (in the Shankill), comprising of people from different age and socio-economic groupings (require the provision of a range of differently sized private, affordable and social accommodation to suit – at sufficient levels of density)	GS 6.2.1		
It is suggested that policies are required to encourage the	WB 8.3.2		

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design of mixed tenure residential developments to promote social diversity and sustainable communities.		3 March. The NIHE aims to promote tenure diversity and balanced communities through land releases for social and private housing development and the sale of homes to tenants. It is committed to supporting vulnerable people to live independently within wider society. NIHE recognises the challenge of integrating housing plans with wider regeneration strategies.	
It is recommended that the strict policy controls regarding HMOs in the dBMAP Subject Plan are enforced by both Planning Service and the NIHE.	WB 8.2.5	The NIHE launched a Houses in Multiple Occupation Strategy in 2009 which sets out plans for enforcement and awareness raising activity, further research and action to reduce adverse impacts.	The challenge will be securing legislative changes and resources for delivery (e.g. for repair grants)

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Affordability			
Secure affordability in new residential developments	WB 8.3.1	The Minister's New Housing Agenda is addressing the issue of affordability in a number of ways: ▪ The Northern Ireland Co-Ownership Housing Association assists those on low incomes to access owner occupation. ▪ The sale of homes to NIHE tenants ▪ managed disposal programme of undeveloped land ▪ working with DoE to investigate how the planning system can be used to secure developer contributions towards social housing ▪ promoting private rented accommodation as an affordable option ▪ piloting a partner landlord scheme in two locations	The challenge is to deliver on this ambitious agenda
Ensure that housing within (South Belfast) is …as affordable as possible.	SB 3.9		

DSD Corporate Plan 2008 – 2011 **Priority Area 2: Building Communities, Tackling Disadvantage and Encouraging Social Responsibility**			
Proposals	**SRF ref**	**Alignment with Government Policy direction**	**Challenge**
Neighbourhood Renewal			
Support the implementation of Neighbourhood Renewal Actions Plans	EBP9 SB 3.9	DSD is committed to the implementation of these Action Plans through leading the co-ordination with partners across government and using the resources of the Neighbourhood Renewal investment fund. To improve frontline services, DSD is taking forward a Service Delivery Model project that is seeking to develop more co-ordinated and joined up service provision in Belfast's Neighbourhood Renewal Areas.	The challenge will be to deliver on these local agendas at a time of severe resource constraints
The Belfast Strategy Group must have sufficient representation, powers and drive to bring integrated approaches and solutions on behalf of central government.	NB 10.2		
Shared Future			
Ensure that the objectives of the Shared Future initiative are delivered at a local level.	SB 3.9	Minister has made Shared Future one of her top priorities.	
Establish or support programmes to	EBP23		

DSD Corporate Plan 2008 – 2011 **Priority Area 2: Building Communities, Tackling Disadvantage and Encouraging Social Responsibility**			
Proposals	**SRF ref**	**Alignment with Government Policy direction**	**Challenge**
pursue greater community cohesion and the reduction of sectarianism and racism through the Shared Future agenda.		Overall responsibility for promoting equality, shared future and good relations lies with OFMDFM. DSD has a role in promoting social cohesion through Neighbourhood Renewal and the Voluntary and Community Unit and through the work of the NIHE. The Department's plans to develop new shared spaces in the city centre (e.g. Bank Square) also support this agenda. This project will present opportunities to develop a better understanding between residents of West Belfast and beyond. Belfast Regeneration Office has provided a lead by drawing together the main statutory bodies to	
There is a need to provide opportunities to explore and share histories and cultures in order to develop a better understanding between residents.	WB 9.3.5		
In moving towards a peaceful and thriving Shankill community, the peace line should never be considered a permanent fixture. (although timing of its removal can only be decided through consensus between those living on either side of it).	GS 6.2.2		

DSD Corporate Plan 2008 – 2011 Priority Area 2: Building Communities, Tackling Disadvantage and Encouraging Social Responsibility			
Proposals	**SRF ref**	**Alignment with Government Policy direction**	**Challenge**
		discuss the Shared Future agenda in relation to regeneration.	
Focus on projects that support the integration of currently divided elements of North Belfast's communities. Projects should focus on the gradual removal of interfaces.	NB 7.3	The implementation plan for the Northside Urban Village provides opportunities to focus on the integration of divided communities	
Volunteering			
There is a need to actively encourage the participation of marginalised groups in community activity.	WB 9.3.4	DSD consulted on a draft Volunteering Strategy for NI in 2009 which aims to: Promote the value and benefits of volunteering; Enhance accessibility and diversity within volunteering; improve the volunteering experience and; support and strengthen the volunteering infrastructure. The final Strategy is due	
There is a need to develop and promote volunteering opportunities - not only as a valuable resource for the community but also as a stepping stone to training and employment and a mechanism for improving self esteem and social skills.	WB 9.3.3		

DSD Corporate Plan 2008 – 2011 **Priority Area 2: Building Communities, Tackling Disadvantage and Encouraging Social Responsibility**			
Proposals	**SRF ref**	**Alignment with Government Policy direction**	**Challenge**
		to be launched in summer 2010	
Governance Structures			
Ensure continued support for the Belfast Area Partnerships	EBP3 NB 10.2 WB 7.2.1	The transfer of BRO's regeneration function to BCC as a result of the Review of Public Administration provides an opportunity to look comprehensively at structures to support regeneration in Belfast and relevant roles and responsibilities. An audit of partnership structures is being taken forward as part of the transition arrangements. Minister has stated that she does not intend to establish any new regeneration bodies in Belfast prior to the transfer of urban regeneration functions to	To agree the most appropriate structures to support regeneration and community development in Belfast.
Engage with BCC, SIB and relevant Departments to develop a model of collaborative networked governance around a shared urban plan (rather than establishing new vehicles/mechanisms).	EBP6		
Effort is required by political and civic leaders in North Belfast to establish structures that will champion and drive the regeneration agenda forward - The implementation of regeneration initiatives must be via a programme approach involving the collaboration of appropriate stakeholders.	NB 6		
There is a need for a city-wide development agency – the Belfast Investment and Development Agency.	NB 10.5 SB ref		

DSD Corporate Plan 2008 – 2011 Priority Area 2: Building Communities, Tackling Disadvantage and Encouraging Social Responsibility			
Proposals	**SRF ref**	**Alignment with Government Policy direction**	**Challenge**
There is a need for a new community-led urban regeneration company to drive physical regeneration and investment (and) focus on the sustainable and Accelerated Delivery of regeneration of the Greater Shankill.	GS 5.2	councils under RPA.	

Social Development

DSD Corporate Plan 2008 - 2011 **Priority Area 3: Creating Vibrant Cities Towns and Urban Areas**			
Proposals	**SRF ref**	**Alignment with Government Policy direction**	**Challenge**
Policy recommendations			
Promote inner city areas as desirable, sustainable places to live. A sustainable community needs a range of housing opportunities including family housing.	SB 3.3	The proposals align with the approach currently pursued by the Department e.g. proposals for mixed use development in the Westside Regeneration Masterplan and Northside Urban Village Regeneration Framework, as they relate to the regeneration of inner city/middle core areas, will help maintain and expand the diversity of uses in inner city areas.	Under RPA the Department will transfer operational responsibility to local councils for urban regeneration and local community development while retaining policy responsibility for these areas. The Department is currently
The approach to regeneration should be based on 'Development Potential' rather than 'Social Need'. East Belfast SRF contends that the current "emphasis on deprivation as the main way to unlock resources can provide an incentive for places to remain	EB p5 and p21	People and Place is the Government's strategy on Neighbourhood Renewal. It has 4 interlinking strategic objectives: community renewal, economic renewal, social renewal, physical renewal in order to tackle the	

DSD Corporate Plan 2008 - 2011 Priority Area 3: Creating Vibrant Cities Towns and Urban Areas			
Proposals	**SRF ref**	**Alignment with Government Policy direction**	**Challenge**
amongst the most deprived in a 'race to the bottom'" Development Potential approach is based on 'social assets in small areas' research		complex, multi-dimensional nature of deprivation in an integrated way. The Strategy is based on targeting objective need in the 10% most deprived wards in NI An interim review of the Strategy is currently underway	preparing a new policy and strategy framework for urban regeneration and community development in Northern Ireland for application from May 2011, under the themes of regenerating towns and cities; tackling deprivation and; building strong, cohesive, welcoming communities. In addition to new or
a target private to public sector investment ratio of 5:1 should be pursued. That is to say that broadly for every £1 of public sector investment, a return of £5 private sector investment should be stimulated.	GS 7	Targets are in place for levering in private sector funding in the ratio of 1:3. Current leverage (Dec 2009) is 1:3.1 for the UDG programme in Belfast and 1:2.44 in Greater Shankill. The Department does not consider that a moving to a target of 5:1 would be realistic in the current economic climate	
Opportunities to accelerate development on prominent sites requires exploration in detail	GS 6.1.3	Vesting and redevelopment of derelict properties is one of the Department's key tools for	

DSD Corporate Plan 2008 - 2011 Priority Area 3: Creating Vibrant Cities Towns and Urban Areas			
Proposals	**SRF ref**	**Alignment with Government Policy direction**	**Challenge**
through assistance, incentives and if need be, penalties. consideration should be given to the use of compulsory purchase powers to take forward developments that have stagnated Mechanisms to acquire properties in need of investment should also be explored, so that they can be rapidly improved.		achieving physical regeneration	modified policies, the need for any additional legislative or financial arrangements will also be addressed SRF policy proposals will be taken into account in developing a draft Framework (due for consultation in autumn 2010)
Local developers should be encouraged to consider the reuse of old buildings or those with special architectural or historical merit, DSD should consider introducing special urban development grants which focus on the regeneration of such buildings.	WB 8.2.1	No current criteria for buildings of historical or architectural merit under UDG, however, limited grant aid for restoring historic buildings is available from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency.	
It is recommended that a physical development masterplan is developed for Andersonstown, including a physical public realm strategy, and that the Colin	WB 8.2.6	DSD has announced its intention to take forward the regeneration of the Andersonstown Gateway area by masterplanning. It is also	

DSD Corporate Plan 2008 - 2011 Priority Area 3: Creating Vibrant Cities Towns and Urban Areas			
Proposals	**SRF ref**	**Alignment with Government Policy direction**	**Challenge**
Masterplan incorporates public realm improvements.		currently implementing a major environmental improvement scheme at the Stewartstown Road in the Colin area (the Colin Gateway). DSD has carried out engagement with the West Belfast and Greater Shankill Partnership Boards on the regeneration of its Springvale lands by masterplan. The Department would question the value of preparing additional Masterplans or design guidance in advance of the transfer of planning and regeneration powers to Belfast City Council under RPA	
Two comprehensive masterplanning exercises are required to direct the regeneration of the Glencairn and Springvale (including Paisley Park and Forth River Business Park) areas.	GS 6.5.2		
It is proposed that DSD and Belfast City Council commission an integrated Urban Design Strategy for key city spaces.	SB 3.3		
It is proposed that an Urban Design Study of the Shankill Rd interface area be commissioned so that future development does not limit the ability to remove the Peace Line in future years.	GS 6.2.2		
It is recommended that all strategies being prepared should create a 'movement framework', which examines the potential to externally access the space and also examine the internal movements	WB 8.4	Transport, access and movement issues have been important considerations in developing physical improvements, masterplans and development frameworks as shown above.	

DSD Corporate Plan 2008 - 2011 Priority Area 3: Creating Vibrant Cities Towns and Urban Areas			
Proposals	**SRF ref**	**Alignment with Government Policy direction**	**Challenge**
Flagship projects			
Improve connections between Titanic Quarter, Sirocco Quays East Belfast and the city centre to optimise local benefit and connectivity.	EBP4/ 11/13	The Department is aware of the development by East Belfast Partnership (with support from SIB) of the East Belfast Development Strategy, which develops these two proposals further The Department will consider the East Belfast Development Strategy on completion	
Undertake comprehensive rejuvenation of Holywood Arches area as an urban heart for EB, focusing on Greenway.	EBP13		
Develop the civic qualities of Templemore Avenue, including redevelopment of the school as a community hub facility and hospital site and consolidating the role of the library and baths.	EBP2	This recommendation is reflected in the draft DSD Physical Regeneration Concept Masterplan for Inner East Belfast.	The challenge will be to secure the commitment of relevant stakeholders and resources for delivery
Ensure the development of the Skainos project and linkages with it	EBP8	The mixed use development of Skainos is supported by DSD's Belfast Regeneration Office as it will contribute to the Inner East Neighbourhood	

DSD Corporate Plan 2008 - 2011 **Priority Area 3: Creating Vibrant Cities Towns and Urban Areas**			
Proposals	**SRF ref**	**Alignment with Government Policy direction**	**Challenge**
		Renewal Area in terms of economic, social, community and physical renewal.	
Regeneration of strategic sites including the Crumlin Road Gaol, Girdwood Barracks, Crumlin Road Courthouse	NB 7.2	Development of the Crumlin Road Gaol and Girdwood are the subject of an ongoing masterplan process. DSD has recognised in the draft Physical Development Concept Masterplans that the Courthouse is of key importance in the regeneration of the Crumlin Road and Shankill area.	The challenge will be to secure agreement on proposals and resources for delivery
Public Realm investment			
Improve public realm at the main gateways of Shaftsbury Square/Bradbury Place, Ormeau Road and East Bridge / Cromac Street and the key gateway at the M1 Broadway roundabout, impacting on the Donegall Road arterial route.	SB 3.2 A	Investment in the public realm is key part of the Department’s approach to regeneration of the city centre (e.g. Belfast: Streets Ahead) and in Neighbourhood Renewal areas (e.g an	The proposals on public realm investment broadly align with the Department’s

DSD Corporate Plan 2008 - 2011 Priority Area 3: Creating Vibrant Cities Towns and Urban Areas			
Proposals	**SRF ref**	**Alignment with Government Policy direction**	**Challenge**
Improve and enhance the public realm along arterial routes (e.g., Ormeau Road, Donegall Pass, Lisburn Road, Malone Road, Donegall Road) as well as local centres and key nodes (e.g. The Markets, Sandy Row, Botanic Avenue, Taughmonagh).	SB 3.2 B	extensive programme of street tree planting)	policy in this area but collectively represent a significant resource challenge
There is a need to promote and develop gateway locations to create new and exciting landmarks and focal points for the area. Locations include: Andersonstown, Castle Street, Broadway, Divis, Lower Falls, Hannahstown, Grosvenor, Colin.	WB 8.2.3	DSD has led on work to promote "gateways" at Castle Street (through the ReStore initiative), Divis/Falls and Grosvenor Road (through the draft Physical Development Concept Masterplan), Andersontown (through the Feasibility Study for that area), Hannahstown (through the Lands at Glen Road research study) and is working with Lisburn City Council and the Colin Neighbourhood Partnership to promote the development of Colin Town Centre and environmental works along the Stewartstown Road. DSD is also developing a major	

DSD Corporate Plan 2008 - 2011 Priority Area 3: Creating Vibrant Cities Towns and Urban Areas			
Proposals	**SRF ref**	**Alignment with Government Policy direction**	**Challenge**
		environmental improvement scheme for the Andersonstown Road.	
Undertake environmental improvements to raise the quality of local shopping areas, including shop front enhancements.	EBP23	This recommendation is reflected in the draft Physical Regeneration Concept Masterplan for Inner East Belfast.	
The appearance, character and effectiveness of the gateways into north Belfast require improvement and specific renewal projects should focus on Clifton Street (and its links to the extension of the Northwest Quarter, North Queen Street and the Greater Clarendon area.	NB	The Clifton Street area is suggested as an important gateway in the draft Physical Development Concept Masterplan for Crumlin Road (including Lower Oldpark). The Clifton Street/Carrick Hill area is highlighted as an important gateway to the city centre in the Northside Urban Village Regeneration Framework	
Regeneration programmes should target improvements to the York Road/Shore Road and Antrim Road both visually and in terms of providing people with a reason to	NB 7.4	There are proposals for York Road/Shore Road in the draft Physical Development Concept Masterplan for that area.	

DSD Corporate Plan 2008 - 2011 Priority Area 3: Creating Vibrant Cities Towns and Urban Areas			
Proposals	**SRF ref**	**Alignment with Government Policy direction**	**Challenge**
stop			
A comprehensive scheme to upgrade the Shankill Road's public realm should be developed, extending from its origins in the City Centre to Woodvale Park and connecting with key destinations such as Crumlin Road.	GS 6.1.3	This is in line with proposals in the draft Physical Development Concept Masterplan for Lower Shankill. Proposal consistent with overall thrust of BRO's work to bring about environmental improvements and public realm enhancements. With initial prioritisation of such work focusing on the Lower Shankill Masterplan area, and its connection to the city centre, a dedicated scheme for this area is likely to come about as part of a phased approach following initial concentration on the main arterial route of the Shankill.	
The environmental quality of the Greater Shankill's different neighbourhood areas must be the focus of localised improvements as required. This should prioritise safety and attractiveness of streets and public spaces, whilst ensuring adequate provision of community facilities. Community areas have to be designed to encourage outward interaction with neighbouring areas, rather than internalising activity to their respective centres.	GS 6.2.1		