

DEPARTMENT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

URBAN REGENERATION

AND

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

ON PROPOSED

TOWN CENTRE REINVIGORATION POLICY

**(INCLUDING RESPONSE TO ASSESSMENT PUBLISHED
IN FEBRUARY 2003)**

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TOWN CENTRE REINVIGORATION: EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESMENT

Aims of Proposed Policy

1. Our town centres have all been affected to varying degrees by a combination of circumstances which have meant that they have lost some of their vitality. For example, changes in shopping patterns, the growth of out of town retailers, the troubles and the problems of the rural economy have given rise to a downturn in town centre business.
2. The Town Centre Reinvigoration Policy aims to reverse this decline by:
 - ◆ encouraging Government Departments and other funding agencies to offer incentives which will stimulate town centre reinvigoration;
 - ◆ promoting public policies which will create an environment within which town centres can thrive; and
 - ◆ establishing administrative arrangements within Government and with local communities to provide an organisational framework to make sure policies and incentives actually deliver better town centres.

Equality Considerations

3. Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires public authorities, in carrying out their functions relating to Northern Ireland, to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity:-

- ◆ between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
 - ◆ between men and women generally;
 - ◆ between persons with a disability and persons without; and
 - ◆ between persons with dependants and persons without.
4. In addition, without prejudice to the above obligation, public authorities should also, in carrying out their functions relating to Northern Ireland, have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.
 5. Schedule 9 of the Act requires public authorities to prepare equality schemes which should state, inter alia, arrangements for assessing the likely impact of policies adopted or proposed to be adopted by the authority on the promotion of equality of opportunity. Schedule 9 also requires that a public authority, in publishing the results of an assessment, should give details of any consideration given to measures which might mitigate the adverse impact of that policy on the promotion of equality of opportunity and alternative policies which might better achieve the promotion of equality of opportunity.
 6. The Department for Social Development (DSD) is whole-heartedly committed to complying with the statutory equality obligations. The Department has set out in its Equality Scheme how it proposes to fulfil its obligations. The Department's Mission statement "together, tackling disadvantage, building communities" highlights our commitment to work together with organisations both within and outside the Department in order to implement our statutory obligations.

7. A copy of the Equality Scheme is available at www.dsdni.gov.uk Hard copies are also available from the Department's Equality and Corporate Planning Unit, 5th Floor, Churchill House, Victoria Square, Belfast, BT1 4SD (Tel: 9056 9188 – Mary Graham).

Existing Policy

8. Existing policy tends to concentrate on physical measures as a means of regenerating town centres such as:

Comprehensive Development Schemes

These involve the regeneration of rundown areas, often in or close to town centres. Typically there are a wide variety of properties in multiple ownership which have been left to decay. The Department has powers to vest such properties and to promote a Development Scheme which it believes will make best use of the land. Such schemes often include new retail development, better access to the area and a range of commercial uses.

Environmental Improvement Schemes

The general quality of our public areas within town centres are important in that they set a standard or tone for the local community and can affect the attitude of local people to the care and maintenance of their property. The Department therefore promotes schemes which involve the upgrading of the physical fabric of roads and footpaths, including the provision of associated works such as good quality street furniture and planting of trees and so on. These schemes frequently involve the renewal of unsightly overhead cabling.

Other Schemes

In conjunction with the International Fund for Ireland (IFI) the Department has promoted schemes in town centres, mainly based on the upgrading of individual buildings. These schemes include:

- ◆ Community Regeneration Improvement Special Programme (CRISP)
- ◆ Community Economic Regeneration Scheme (CERS)
- ◆ Urban Development Programme (UDP)
- ◆ Community Property Development Scheme (CPDS)
- ◆ Second Community Projects

Details of these schemes are available on on <http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/urb-reg/progmeasus.asp> or by contacting the Regional Development Office, Department for Social Development, Londonderry House, 21 Chichester Street, Belfast, BT1 4JB (Tel: 028 9025 2702 – Leslie Ferguson)

Reasons for Changing Existing Policy

9. Whilst existing policy has been recognised as being very effective, there has been increasing evidence that our town centres have been adversely affected by a range of factors. These include changes in shopping patterns, the growth of retail competition, increasing car ownership, the troubles, and in more recent times, the problems of the rural economy. It has been equally obvious that some towns have suffered to a greater degree than others. It was therefore concluded by Government that if our town centres were to be reinvigorated there was clearly a need to establish the reasons for decline and how this might be reversed.

Development of New Policy

10. In September 1999 consultants (EDAW) were commissioned to:

- ◆ identify the major factors influencing the changes experienced in town centres in Northern Ireland;
- ◆ examine current Government policies and other factors which affect towns; and
- ◆ identify what changes are needed to effect improvement.

11. Using a sample of 8 towns throughout Northern Ireland, the consultants examined a wide range of issues and reported their findings in January 2000. The 8 towns selected were:

- ◆ Antrim
- ◆ Cookstown
- ◆ Dromore (Co Down)
- ◆ Enniskillen
- ◆ Larne
- ◆ Lurgan
- ◆ Newry
- ◆ Newtownards

12. As part of their research EDAW undertook surveys within the sample towns and met with local people to discuss matters of local interest. A seminar was also held at which representatives from all the sample towns were able to discuss the consultant's preliminary findings.

13. Their Report makes some 27 recommendations involving a wide range of matters including town centre management, planning, transportation, and housing. A copy of the Report is available at www.dsdni.gov.uk under Urban Regeneration Programmes and Measures or by telephoning 028 9025 2702 - Leslie Ferguson.
14. The EDAW Study was overseen by an Interdepartmental Steering Group since it was recognised from the outset that to develop policies for the successful reinvigoration of our town centres would require consultation, consent and appropriate contributions from a wide range of interests. These include Government Departments, local Councils, other public bodies, and the community and private sectors. Development of the proposals since the receipt of the consultant's report has been facilitated by:
- ◆ Comments on the consultant's report from Councils and others.
 - ◆ Interdepartmental meetings to discuss policy matters of mutual interest.
 - ◆ Discussions with other interested parties such as the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Heritage Lottery Fund and the International Fund for Ireland.
15. Account has been taken of the Urban White Paper, "Our Towns and Cities: The Future" which made almost 200 recommendations to encourage the reinvigoration of towns and cities in England. A copy of this paper is available at www.urban.odpm.gov.uk under Urban policy Unit. Other measures taken into account include the Spring 2001 budget which introduced a range of tax incentives to encourage the reoccupation of certain vacant properties, the Prime Minister's announcement of proposals for the introduction of Business Improvement Districts in England and the potential impact of issues such as the current rating policy review.

Consultation during the Policy Development Stage

16. In developing the new policy the Department has been conscious of the need to consult as widely as possible so that policy can be influenced and shaped by interested parties right from the outset. The following consultations have taken place to date:

- ◆ EDAW convened meetings in each of the 8 sample towns used as the basis for the Study.
- ◆ Representatives from each of the 8 towns attended a seminar in Antrim to discuss the consultant's preliminary findings.
- ◆ The draft consultant's report was circulated widely for comments.
- ◆ A major conference was held in Armagh to discuss the consultant's report and other associated issues.
- ◆ Discussions have been held with a wide range of interested parties to "fine tune" policies and to ensure that mechanisms are in place to deliver the actual policies agreed.

A list of consultees is attached at Annex A.

17. The most frequent comments received by the Department were

- support for the overall proposals;
- concerns about funding; and

- the need for Departments to co-ordinate policy.

The Department accepts these comments and is trying to ensure that adequate finance is available and that it co-ordinates Government action on this important policy.

Main Elements of the proposed Policy

18. The proposed policy for town centre reinvigoration falls into 3 main categories. The main aims of each are set out below:-

Organisational

19. A new administrative framework is being established to provide structures for the effective implementation of all measures which impact on town centres. For example, it is important that the potential impact of car parking arrangements (a Department for Regional Development function) is discussed with all interested parties. The new framework will include:-

- ◆ establishment of an Interdepartmental Working Group;
- ◆ DSD taking the lead role in town centre reinvigoration and issuing guidance for development of existing and new strategies;
- ◆ the establishment and further development of locally based partnerships to develop town centre strategies which are in accordance with the above guidelines; and
- ◆ the examination and monitoring by DSD of town centre strategies.

20. It is recognised that this framework will need to be developed in harmony with other relevant structures established locally, e.g., the Local Strategic Partnerships which have been established under Peace II. Account will also have to be taken of any partnership arrangements proposed by the Department for Regional Development involving liaison with local Councils, etc, on the new Regional Development Strategy and Regional Transportation Strategy.

Policy Co-ordination

21. The organisational framework outlined above recognises the need for a co-ordinated approach to town centre reinvigoration. Equally, it is vital that the policies adopted by different Departments and other public bodies complement each other. The areas highlighted below are good examples of important issues which will have a bearing on the future development of our town centres. Co-ordination in such areas is vital if the overall policies of town centres are to be achieved.

- ◆ out-of-town shopping;
- ◆ the type of town centre developments which should be permitted;
- ◆ the role of tourism, culture and leisure in town centres; and
- ◆ accessibility of town centres including parking controls, public transport and the role of pedestrian zones.

Incentives

22. The third strand of the new policy recognises the fact that to encourage town centre reinvigoration it is necessary to provide some tangible support. Any such support involving DSD resources will only be considered when the Department is satisfied that a suitable local strategy is in place. Guidelines on the preparation of a strategy are given at annex B.
23. The Department believes that the measures outlined below, some of which need further development, will help to ensure the successful reinvigoration of our town centres:-
- ◆ financial support for implementing and building on town centre management concepts which not only recognise the traditional role of town centre management but acknowledge and take steps to achieve the various social and community targets set out in the Programme for Government;
 - ◆ potential financial support for town centre housing where it can be demonstrated that there has been a failure of the housing market to meet demand;
 - ◆ continued funding by DSD of Comprehensive Development Schemes and Environmental Improvement Schemes to open-up derelict areas of land for redevelopment and to provide good quality public amenity areas; and
 - ◆ discussion with existing and potential funders such as the International Fund for Ireland and the Heritage Lottery Fund about their future role in this area of work.

24. These measures will complement other incentives including those announced in the Spring 2001 budget and the Prime Minister's statement about Business Improvement Districts.

Policy Context

25. It is important that the policy, and associated measures, outlined in this paper is understood in terms of how it will meet the overall aspirations of Government generally and in particular its commitments on Equality. It must also be recognised that town centres impact on local neighbourhoods and on the surrounding rural areas who rely on them for a wide variety of services.
26. The Programme for Government (PFG) announced by the Northern Ireland Executive in December 2001 which covers the period from April 2002 to March 2003 and the Corporate Plan published by the Department for Social Development both mention many important factors which affect policy on town centre reinvigoration. Some of the more relevant aspects are highlighted below.
27. The PFG requires a more joined-up and strategic approach to policy and aims to make a difference to the lives of all the people of Northern Ireland by creating a vision for the future which involves a cohesive, inclusive and just society. This vision is set out in the New Targeting Social Need (New TSN) policy which aims to tackle social need and social exclusion by targeting efforts and available resources within existing Departmental programmes towards people, groups and areas in greatest social need.
28. One of the key challenges in the PFG is to:

“develop a society – a wider community – in which all citizens can fully and freely participate. In such a community, equality, human rights, mutual trust and

respect must be core values and citizens must be able to realise their full potential and live free from poverty”.

29. These aspects of the Executive’s mission are set out in a number of areas within the PFG particularly under the theme of “Growing As A Community”.
30. In terms of the renewal of the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods and building community participation the PFG states that:

“We want to regenerate and sustain our cities, towns and rural areas, building strong communities in line with New TSN. We will objectively identify the urban areas and neighbourhoods in greatest need, developing and delivering co-ordinated programmes to bring about real improvements, not only in physical infrastructure, but also in people’s lives and economic opportunities.

The differences between the standard of life experienced in the most deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of Northern Ireland are wide and have persisted for many years, despite many worthwhile achievements. The most recent measurement of deprivation provides a clear picture of the location and nature of the problem. The most significant concentrations of deprivation, in both severity and numbers of people, are to be found within our cities and larger towns and we will take action to improve economic and social conditions as signalled in our New TSN Action Plan. We will also produce new strategies for the regeneration of the most disadvantaged urban areas and for town and city centres and we will use EU funding programmes, including Peace II and URBAN II, to strengthen our approach. In so doing we will take equality considerations fully into account.”

31. It is against this background that the Department for Social Development is committed to agreeing a strategy for reinvigorating town centres in partnership with elected representatives, community, voluntary and private sector interests.

In accordance with the Public Service Agreement which accompanies the PFG the Department for Social Development has a number of objectives including the tackling of disadvantage amongst individuals, communities and neighbourhoods, with particular emphasis on greatest need and encouraging, developing and supporting community development.

32. The Department believes that if its strategy for town centre reinvigoration is to be successful it must embrace fully the concept of partnership, both within Central Government and with local Councils, other public bodies and local interests. To this end the organisational framework being established to implement these policies will ensure that the principles set out within the PFG are implemented in full including those embraced in the Department's New TSN policy.
33. In December 2002 the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland announced the Government's priorities and plans for Government in Northern Ireland for the 2003/04 financial year and beyond. These are set out in the document titled "Building on Progress Priorities and Plans for 2003-2006". The statement confirmed that the Government was continuing to implement the Programme for Government previously agreed by the Executive and the Assembly for the current financial year (2002/03). Finally, the statement confirmed that in reaching decisions on policy and spending priorities for 2003/04 careful account of the proposals set out in the draft Programme for Government for 2003/04 and the views expressed on these during consultation had been taken into account.
34. The Secretary of State further confirms that Government has taken the priorities identified by the Executive and has decided to continue with these priorities as the basis for action over the coming year. Importantly, one of these priorities "Growing as a Community" confirms the Government's determination to promote equality of opportunity and good relations, protect human rights and tackle division and social disadvantage.

35. A key objective for 2003 is that the Department for Social Development will implement strategies for renewal in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods in urban areas and for the reinvigoration of city and town centres. Essentially, this confirms that Government is to continue with the policy on Town Centre Reinvigoration as previously endorsed by the Executive. Specific measures to achieve this goal are contained in the Department's Public Service Agreement which forms an integral part of the Building on Progress Priorities and Plans for 2003-2006.

Equality Implications for other Public Authorities

36. All proposed policies have to be screened and where appropriate an EQIA should be carried out.

Consideration of available data and research

37. The Department's principal source of data on Town Centre Reinvigoration is provided within the EDAW report, which is based on a wide range of research carried out by EDAW. This report which provides general information about good practice in towns outside Northern Ireland, also draws on the experience gained by EDAW in examining 8 towns in Northern Ireland.

38. During the development of its policy the Department has also examined information from a variety of sources. A list of sources is attached at Annex C.

Assessment of Impact

39. This policy sets out the strategy for town centre reinvigoration. All towns, as defined in planning terms can benefit under the new policy, provided they have established the type of strategy set out in the Department's Guidelines (Annex B).

For planning purposes towns which are considered to have a strategic role are described as district towns. These are shown on the attached list at Annex D together with the names of other towns. The list includes 22 district towns and 44 other towns. The Department believes that this policy is likely to touch the lives of all people in Northern Ireland by encouraging local partnership to develop town centres which will better meet the needs of those people who live, work or visit the heart of the town. Consequently, the Department believes that the policy is likely to have positive benefits for the people of Northern Ireland who use the towns.

40. The Department recognises that in implementing this policy it must seek to protect and promote the interests of Section 75 Groups. The Regeneration of Town Centres Report highlights a number of important points which need to be borne in mind in terms of equality and social inclusion. These include:
- ◆ changing demographic trends, including an ageing population which will require Government to encourage accessible and affordable local services. Accessibility is one of the key issues affecting the success of town centres (along with attractions, amenity and actions). Accessibility can be defined as the ease with which one can reach a destination and can be considered from the point of view of the trip origin in terms of workers travelling to their business or persons travelling to shop. Alternatively it can be defined as the catchment area for a town or business.
 - ◆ the need, as part of welfare to work and overcoming exclusion, to ensure that as many people as possible, including the disabled have good access to town centres. This can be achieved in various ways including the promotion and greater reliance on public transport and discouragement of all day on street parking;

- ◆ the need for the development of policy to contribute to social inclusion by encouraging inclusive communities through the addressing of a equality issues and other measures;
- ◆ promoting a breakdown of religious/political boundaries via the development of a policy which encourages town centre living which, in most towns, is likely to be attractive to all sections of the community;
- ◆ a requirement that in any project involving public finance the needs of the socially excluded must be recognised and the impact on Section 75 Groups stated;
- ◆ a targeting of need rather than a competitive regime approach and the related establishment of objective geographical boundaries;
- ◆ the importance of genuinely engaging local partnerships in delivery; and
- ◆ regeneration based on need involving physical, economic and people based intervention.

41. In spite of the very real difficulties in making an objective assessment of the equality implications of this policy the Department has tried to assess whether there is likely to be an impact on any of the section 75 groups. The Department's views on the impact on each group are set out in the next section.

42. The Department publicised its assessment in February 2003. It wrote to appropriate groups on its consultation list, published the assessment on the Internet and also invited comment through advertisements in the Belfast Telegraph, Belfast Newsletter and Irish News.

43. The consultation period closed on 10 April 2003. A total of 7 responses were received. Of these 3 offered no comments, 2 completed questionnaires agreed with the assessment and 2 made general comments.
44. The responses were in general more about points in relation to the implementation of policy rather than any specific issue about the policy itself. For example, one respondent was interested in details about provision of community facilities for people with dependents while another urged that children and young people should be consulted in the process of town development.
45. The Department has examined in detail all the comments received and has decided that the EQIA is not affected.

Impact on section 75 Groups

Religious Belief/Political Opinion

46. The Department's aim is that town centres should be shared places and freely available and welcoming to all communities. Town Centre Reinvigoration plans prepared by local partnerships will have to reflect these aspirations. In particular plans will have to address the issues set out in para 40 above. Town Centre Partnerships are one way in which the community can have a role in the development of their town centres. The Department therefore believes generally that this policy will promote equality between persons of different religious belief/political opinion.

Racial Groups

47. The Department believes that the impact will be the same as that for religious belief/political opinion.

Age

48. It is believed that the Department's policy will have positive benefits for example better accessibility for older people although all age groups will benefit from improvements to town centres. While younger cohorts of the population are declining in absolute terms it is clear a significant proportion of 15-30 year olds and the active elderly (60+) are characterised by an increased and growing amount of disposable income. These trends are creating a whole variety of new niche markets in retailing and leisure which developers are responding to and so will continue to influence the face of town centres. The Department recognises that if all people are to benefit the points set out in paragraph 40 must be addressed.

Marital Status/Sexual Orientation/Men and Women

49. As for religious belief/political opinion.

Persons with Disability and Persons without

50. The Department will ensure that any policies which it supports will take account of the needs of disabled people and comply with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act. For example, policies encouraging physical regeneration such as Environmental Improvement Schemes must ensure that there is ease of access e.g. facilities for wheelchairs, etc. In accordance with para. 40 above there must also be a range of positive i.e. push and pull measures such as discouragement of all day on-street parking, encouragement of short term parking in designated areas and better community transport arrangements.

Persons with Dependants and persons without

51. The Department believes that its policies will generally encourage the provision of community and other facilities. It therefore believes that these will help foster a climate within which people with dependants and people without dependants are more likely to have their needs met and therefore both will be afforded equality of opportunity.

Summary

52. This policy is a Government strategy designed to reinvigorate town centres in Northern Ireland. There are 66 towns, all of which can benefit under the new

policy. The Department considers that its policies will have a beneficial or neutral effect on all nine section 75 Groups.

Formal Consultation

53. The Department has already undertaken widespread consultations during development of the proposals for Town Centre Reinvigoration. In accordance with its Equality Scheme published in March 2001 the Department now intends to consult on this equality impact assessment by selecting the most relevant bodies from those listed in Appendix 5 of the Scheme. The Department will make best endeavour to engage fully with consultees in line with the principles set out in Section 4 of the Department's Scheme.

Monitoring Arrangements

54. Monitoring arrangements will be put in place to assess the impact of this strategy when it is implemented. It is not possible just yet to give a precise date when it would be appropriate to assess the impact of the policy on equality of opportunity because Town Centre Reinvigoration policy is so broad, it involves so many organisations and its benefits will not emerge for some time.

Conclusion

55. This Equality Impact Assessment has tried to address, in a practical way the effects of the Department's policy on Town Centre Reinvigoration on all nine section 75 Groups.

56. The Department would particularly welcome comments on any perceived adverse impact which these policies may have on any particular Group.

LIST OF ORGANISATIONS CONSULTED DURING THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY ON TOWN CENTRE REINVIGORATION

Antrim Town Development
Association of Town Centre Management
Bangor and Holywood Town Centre Management
Belfast Town Centre Management
Coleraine Town Centre Partnership
Disability Action
Federation of Small Businesses
Government Departments
Heritage Lottery Fund
International Fund for Ireland
LEDU
Limavady Town Centre Forum
Lisburn Development
Local Councils (except Belfast and Derry)
Lurgan Town Centre Management
Mourne Heritage Trust
New Opportunities Fund
Newry Town Centre Management Partnership
NI Chamber of Trade
NI Chamber of Trade and Commerce
NI Council for Voluntary Action
NI Housing Association
NI Housing Executive
NI Independent Retail Trade Association
NI Tourist Board
Omagh Business Forum
RUC
Rural Development Council
The Arts Council
Translink

In addition to the above consultees EDAW interviewed a wide range of local interests as part of the study.

GUIDELINES ON THE PREPARATION OF A TOWN CENTRE STRATEGY

<u>Context</u>	<u>Social Exclusion and New TSN</u>	<u>Content</u>
<p>Town centre strategies will take account of -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the Regional Development Strategy and Policy Planning Statements; ▪ the RDS Local Development Guidelines, (pp 189-190 of the RDS Report); ▪ the Regional Transportation Strategy; ▪ the revised strategy on Urban Regeneration focusing on neighbourhood renewal; ▪ the economic development strategy of the District Council, and including LSP Strategy and Peace 2; ▪ relevant policies and proposals of other Government Departments. ▪ Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act which promotes equality of opportunity between: persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age marital status or sexual orientation; ▪ men and women generally; ▪ persons with a disability and persons without; and ▪ persons with dependents and persons without. 	<p>Town centre strategies will recognise the needs of the socially excluded and will demonstrate the impact of projects on those groups. It is mandatory for local authorities to promote equality of opportunity between different individuals and groups. The categories include religion, political opinions, race, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender, disability and dependants. In particular, strategies should explicitly indicate how projects will achieve the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ reinforce the neutrality of town centres in terms of divisions based on religious or political beliefs; ▪ provide for the access needs of people without access to a car; ▪ promote events/activities which cross religious/political divisions; ▪ provide for the needs of people with mobility problems (including the provision of shopmobility services where appropriate, dropped kerbs, tactile surfaces next to crossings, etc). 	<p>Town centre strategies should also address the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a thorough analysis and baseline study of local issues to establish benchmark standards; ▪ a consequent set of objectives; ▪ a comprehensive list of proposals including options, with local solutions for local problems; ▪ the strategy should adopt a holistic approach and recognise the importance of issues such as business development, housing, tourism, culture, the arts, leisure, entertainment, mixed-use development, and other activity which encourages vitality and also local distinctiveness; ▪ as part of the holistic approach, it should address reinvigoration of the town centre as a corollary to urban regeneration strategy; ▪ it strategy should also take account of the principles of sustainable development; ▪ it strategy should take account of the need to encourage good quality in design, architectural and historical heritage and other factors which will respect and enhance the local vernacular; ▪ it strategy should demonstrate a plan for implementation, including costs and benefits, as well as delivery, and management of proposals; ▪ it strategy should define performance targets against which progress can be locally monitored and should state the arrangements for post-project evaluation; and ▪ it strategy should demonstrate that it has wide-ranging local support including the District Council, the business sector, and the local community.

LIST OF SOURCES

- Northern Ireland Town Centre Reinvigoration Study. January 2000. EDAW
- Northern Ireland Executive. Programme for Government. February 2001
- Shaping Our Future. Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland: 2025. Department for Regional Development. September 2001
- Developing a Regional Transportation Strategy. A Consultation Paper. January 2001. Department for Regional Development.
- The Rural Development Programme 2001-2006. Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. September 2001
- The Cost of the Troubles Study. April 1999. University of Ulster and the United Nations University.
- About Town. Balancing the Issues of Town Centre Management. The Association of Town Centre Management.
- Review of Urban Regeneration Policy. PricewaterhouseCoopers. October 1998.
- The CRISP Story. 1999. Department of the Environment (NI).
- Modernising Local Government Finance : A Green Paper. DETR September 2000.
- Our Towns and Cities: The Future. Delivering an Urban Renaissance. November 2000. Department of the Environment Transport and the Regions.
- Pre-Budget Report: Building Long-term Prosperity for All. November 2000 H M Treasury.
- Our Countryside: The Future. A Fair Deal for Rural England. November 2000. Department of the Environment Transport and the Regions.
- Preparing Community Strategies. DETR December 2000.
- Budget 2001 – Investing for the Long Term: Building Opportunity and Prosperity for All. March 2001. H M Treasury
- Enterprising Communities : A Tax Incentive for Community Investment. March 2001. H M Treasury.

LIST OF DISTRICT AND OTHER TOWNS

District Towns

Omagh
Strabane
Dungannon
Cookstown
Enniskillen

Craigavon
Newry*
Banbridge
Armagh

Coleraine
Ballymoney
Ballycastle
Limavady

Downpatrick
Lisburn*
Newtownards
Bangor

Antrim
Carrickfergus
Magherafelt
Ballymena
Larne

Other Towns

Fintona, Dromore, Carrickmore
Castleberg, Newtownstewart, Sion Mills
Coalisland

Irvinestown, Lisnaskea

Lurgan, Portadown

Warrenpoint, Crossmaglen, Kilkeel, Newtownhamilton
Gilford, Dromore, Rathfriland
Tandragee, Markethill, Keady

Portrush, Portstewart

Dungiven, Ballykelly

Newcastle, Ballynahinch, Ardglass, Castlewellan,
Crossgar, Killyleagh, Saintfield
Hillsborough, Moira
Comber, Donaghadee
Holywood

Randalstown, Crumlin
Whitehead, Greenisland
Maghera

Carryduff
Ballyclare

* These towns have now been granted city status.

GLOSSARY

Business Improvement District:	A new scheme announced by the Prime Minister in April 2001 which will help Councils and local businesses work together to improve their local area. The Scheme does not currently apply in Northern Ireland.
Community Economic Regeneration Scheme:	A Scheme jointly funded by the International Fund for Ireland and the Department for Social Development. The programme encourages community driven regeneration of economic activity in urban areas which have suffered from the effects of civil unrest, urban decay and lack of investment.
Community Property Development Scheme:	A Scheme within the International Fund for Ireland's Urban Development Programme to stimulate economic activity by encouraging cross-community groups to regenerate key properties in the most run down non-disadvantaged areas.
Community Regeneration and Improvement Special Programme:	A Programme funded jointly by the Department for Social Development and the International Fund for Ireland. The Programme is aimed at assisting communities in the regeneration of the most disadvantaged towns and villages under 10,000 population.
District Town:	A town which, for planning purposes is considered to be of strategic importance.
EDAW:	A private company with some 20 offices world wide providing advice on land and community planning, urban design and landscape architecture.
Equality Commission Guide:	Document published by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland entitled "Guide to the Statutory Duties".

Equality Impact Assessment:	A process which involves an examination of the impact of policies on various groups as defined by section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. It involves consideration of available data and research, consideration of measures which might mitigate any adverse impact, formal consultation and monitoring for adverse impact in the future.
Heritage Lottery Fund:	A body funded by the National Lottery, which gives grants to support a wide range of projects involving the local, regional and national heritage of the UK.
Interdepartmental Steering Group:	A group of officials from various Government Departments whose area of responsibility includes matters which will impact on town centre reinvigoration.
Interdepartmental Working Group:	A group of officials from various Government Departments who will help oversee the implementation of the town centre reinvigoration strategy.
International Fund for Ireland:	Body established as an independent, international organisation by the British and Irish Governments in 1986. The objectives of the Fund are to promote economic and social advance; and to encourage contact, dialogue and reconciliation between Unionists and Nationalists throughout Ireland.
Local Strategic Partnership:	A committee, at District Council level, which is emerging under Peace II, which will include representatives of key Government Departments, statutory agencies and the relevant local authority and social partners.
Programme for Government:	A Programme incorporating the Executive's agreed budget linked to policies and programmes which are subject to approval by the Assembly.

Public Service Agreement:	An agreement setting out for each Department its aims, objectives, programme budget allocation and key targets.
Rating Policy Review:	A review being carried out by the Department of Finance and Personnel to ensure that the responsibilities and powers of the devolved administration for regional revenue are used to best effect.
Regional Development Strategy:	An overarching strategy developed by the Department for Regional Development for the future development of Northern Ireland to 2025 which includes a broad framework to guide the strategy of various Departments.
Regional Transportation Strategy:	A document being prepared by the Department for Regional Development which will address the complex transportation issues facing Northern Ireland.
Urban Development Programme:	A Programme funded by the International Fund for Ireland which aims to stimulate viable economic activity in the commercial area of towns and villages by offering financial assistance to owners of properties who meet the criteria for the Programme.
Urban White Paper:	A paper published by the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions which sets out a framework for delivering an urban renaissance for towns and cities in England.
Urban II:	A European Union Programme which will run from 2000 – 2006 and will focus on disadvantaged urban areas within North Belfast.
New TSN:	The New Targeting Social Need Policy which recognises and seeks to reduce inequalities in the life experiences of citizens in terms of poverty, health, housing, educational and economic opportunity and disability.