



Eddy Curtis, Director,
Newry & Mourne District Council

Adjusting to Reduced Budgets:
the practical realities of doing more with less

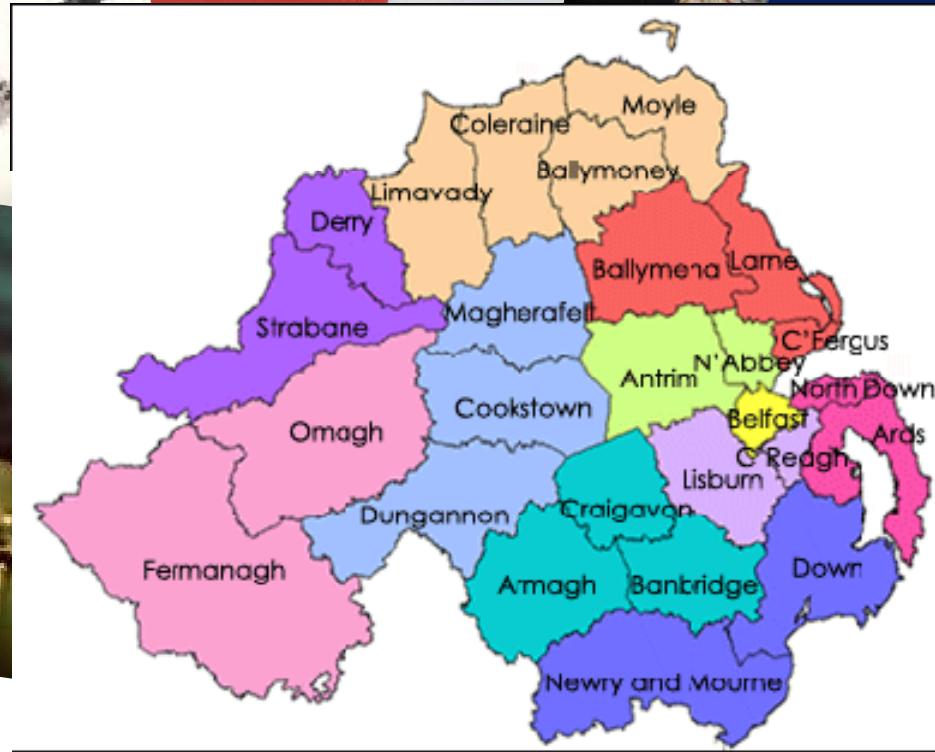




Main focus

- ① Context & key challenges
- ② Some theory
- ③ Doing more with a less – the reality
- ④ Final thoughts

Key challenges



What are the challenges?

- Cuts in public sector spending
- Increasing tax burden on our citizens
- The changing face of the District
- Business as usual
- RPA & local government reform



A local perspective



Economic challenges:

Stagnant economy

Competition for investment

Decrease in local disposable income

Social challenges:

Potential reduction / removal of grant funding for social cohesion & community development

Unemployment & Deprivation

Demographic & Infrastructural challenges

Cuts to the Welfare Budget

Reduced contribution to the voluntary sector



More for less – a definition

“more outputs or improved quality in return for less resources”

Source: Unknown



More for less – a definition

“more outputs or improved quality
in return for less resources”

What are the realities?





The realities

- No sacred cows
- Reduced funding
- Protect frontline services
- Need to plan longer term
- New vision
- Leadership



Managing competing demands

The triple whammy effect of:

- Political demands
- Local community demands
- Operational demands



Securing better value for money

Some recent successes:

- Centralised procurement/e-procurement
- Established Scrutiny Committee
- Customer Service Excellence
- Improved productivity
- Reduced absenteeism
- Re-organisation
- Postage costs
- Energy costs – 10%
- Shared Services
- Louth County Council
- Partnerships

Danny McSorley, CEO, Omagh District Council

Chair of the Improvement, Collaboration and Efficiency Working Group (ICE)





Developing a longer-term response

- Securing the necessary mandate (capital & revenue)
- Understanding the business environment
- Reviewing services, structures & systems
- Shared Services / collaborative working
- Leadership
- New thinking
- Learn from others

Final thoughts

“there can be no economy
where there is no efficiency”

Source: Benjamin Disraeli





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