

## Partnership with Local Communities: New Roles for the New Councils in Northern Ireland

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Fifth Annual ICLRD Conference: 21-22 January 2010



## The Vision

“a strong, dynamic local government creating communities that are vibrant, healthy, prosperous, safe, sustainable and have the needs of all citizens at their core”

Arlene Foster MLA – 31 March 2008



## Local Government (Reorganisation) Bill

- Establish the new councils and end old local government districts
- Provide new governance arrangements for councils
- Introduce new ethical standards regime and new Code of Conduct
- Introduce Community Planning and Power of Well-being
- Make provision for central/local government relations
- Transfer of current functions, staff, assets, liabilities etc from old councils to new.



## Transfer of Functions

- Local development plan, development control and enforcement
- Public realm aspects of local roads
- Urban regeneration and community development delivery
- Local economic development functions
- Local tourism functions
- Delivery of EU Rural development Programme



## Community Planning

Essence is the recognition that the needs of individuals and communities – if they are to be addressed successfully must be addressed collectively, not separately



## Community Planning Framework

- Statutory duty on new councils to make arrangements for community planning
- Duty on Departments to promote use of community planning and have regard to community plans
- Duty on other specified public sector bodies to participate in, and support community planning
- Publication of Plans



## Role of New Councils

- Consultation and co-operation with other sectors
- Lead role in Community Planning Strategic Partnership for area
- Through Partnership develops and sets out shared vision with agreed objectives
- Through Partnership streamlines arrangements for the planning and delivery of services
- Agrees challenging outcomes for Partnership
- Develops processes for effective communication
- Monitors and evaluates progress



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## Power of Well-being

- Complementary to Community Planning
- Councils creatures of statute
- Potential to fill any legislative void
- Will not be an unfettered power



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## Conclusion

- Framework for bringing all the service providers in an area together
- Requirement for effective consultation and communication with community on plans
- Challenge for new councils and other organisations and sectors
- Priority to deliver improved outcomes for citizens



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