



**Planning on the Island of Ireland:
A Changing Landscape
Northern Ireland
Anne Garvey**

A Changing Landscape

A New and Exciting Phase

- Planning Reform
- Local Government Reform

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Current Responsibilities for Planning

- DRD** - Regional Development Strategy
- DSD** - Regeneration
- DOE** - Planning Policy, Legislation, Reform, Standard Setting, Development Management including Enforcement, Development Plans, Conservation, TPOs
- OFMDFM** - Re-investment & Reform Initiative e.g. Maze/Long Kesh and ILEX sites
- PAC** - Independent Appellate Body

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Planning as an Enabler

Programme for Government

Investment Strategy

Economic Strategy

- Helping to deliver 8,000 social and affordable homes and infrastructure projects
- Pre-application discussions on Stadia Projects; Maze/Long Kesh regeneration site; One-Plan for Derry/Londonderry
- Private Sector Projects
- Community Based Projects

Ensure 90% of large scale investment planning decisions are made within 6 months and applications with job creation potential are given additional weight

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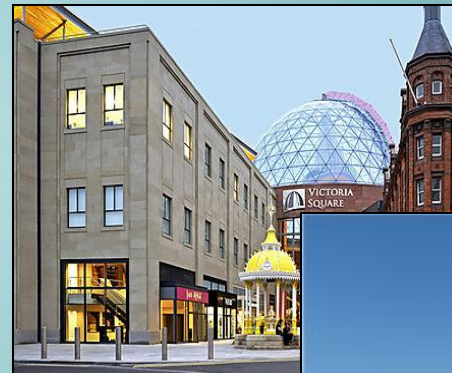


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Modernising Planning on the land and at sea

- Planning Act 2011 (Local Government Reform)
- Planning Reform Bill
- Marine Bill
- Strategic Policy
- Community Planning
- Subordinate Programme



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Faster Plans and Processing of Planning Applications

- Speedier, simpler, streamlined processes – new development plan and development management systems.
- Focus on spatial planning – place making
- Enhanced community involvement in development plan preparation and applications.



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Fairer and Faster Appeals

- Appeals to be decided purely on material that was in front of planning authority when it made its original decision
- Appeal period reduced from 6 to 4 months
- Award of Costs – Allows the PAC to award costs in planning appeals where the unreasonable behaviour of one party puts other parties to unnecessary expense.



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Simpler and Tougher Enforcement

- Period in which enforcement action can be taken changed to 5 years (previously 4 and 10 years)



- Introduction of Fixed Penalty Notices for failure to comply with enforcement or breach of condition notices

- Multiple fees for retrospective applications



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Planning Functions Transferring to Councils

- Local development plans
- Most development management functions
- Enforcement
- Conservation
- Duty to further sustainable development and promote or improve wellbeing

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What stays with DOE?

- Legislation, regional policy and guidance
- Regionally significant applications
- Statutory listing of buildings
- Fee setting, funding, grant making powers
- Oversight role with audit, inspections & performance management of councils

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Transforming Local Democracy

- **Reform and Re-organise**
- **ICE** - Improvement Collaboration Efficiency
- **Reform policy proposals**
 - boundaries
 - re-organisation
 - ethical standards
 - governance arrangements
 - finance
- **Community planning**

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Practical Preparation for Transfer

- Restructuring and de-agentisation of Planning Service
- Planning Act (NI) 2011
- Legislate for Local Government Reform



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Practical Preparation for Transfer

- Early publication of subordinate legislation and guidance
- Thematic pilot projects
- Capacity building
- Training for Councillors and planning staff
- Transitional Issues

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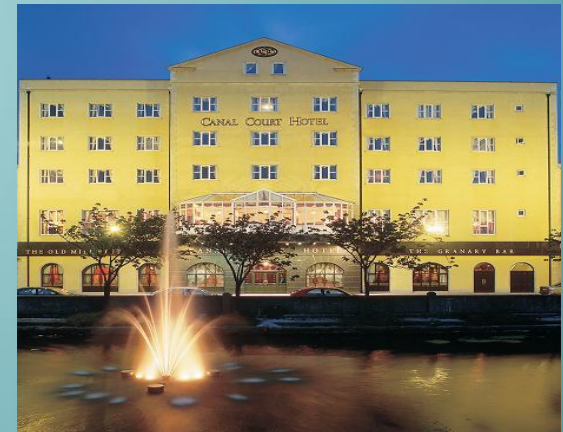


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Sustainable Economic Development

A Broad Suite of Existing and New Functions

- Economic Development
- Tourism & Leisure
- Community Planning
- Spatial Planning
- Urban Regeneration
- Conservation Designation
- Decisions on Planning Applications
- Provision of Facilities
- Delivery of Services



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