



## One-Day Conference

Thursday 2 May 2013  
Canal Court Hotel, Newry



*'Planning Reform on the Island of Ireland -  
from Policy to Practice'*

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Chief Executive, Antrim Borough Council

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## Talk Outline



- Legislation & Complexities.
- Delivery & Structures.
- Opportunities.

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## What is happening



- Planning Transfer to Local Government.
- Timeframe - April 2015.
- NI Exec decision - *(supported by £48m contribution to Reform).*
- Working in co-operation with Planning Staff.
- WIP - still more to do and learn.
- Generational change.

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**Executive's Vision for Local Government**



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

Central to this vision is the provision of high quality, efficient services that respond to the needs of people and continuously improve over time.



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**Legislation & Complexities**



- 11 new Councils created from 26 existing.
- Central Government transfers to Local Government - services, people, £.
- New Planning regime.
- £40m+ / 474 no. employees / £15m+ Assets.

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**Legislation & Complexities**



- Principles -- Resources transfer
  - + rate neutral at point of transfer
  - + fit for purpose.
- Business model development:
  - fee structure
  - funding package
  - right sizing (Staff nos. 474 from max 795 in 2010)
  - due diligence.
 (Area Plan deficit).

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**Planning Act 2011 - in brief**



- Overarching framework for reform and modernisation.
- Planning becomes a core function of the 11 Councils.
- Local Government will prepare local plans.
- Will bring planning back to where it belongs - in the local community - bringing together family of planning functions.
- Spatial planning - place shaping - community planning.
- The Department's role.

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**Legislation & Complexities**



**Planning Bill 2011**

5 key areas:

- faster processing
- faster and fairer planning appeals system
- enhanced community involvement
- simpler and tougher enforcement
- other measures to enhance the environment

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**Legislation & Complexities**



**Planning Bill 2011**

- Trials new procedures e.g.
  - Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)
  - Economic development considerations
  - Others
- Financial implications ?

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### Legislation & Complexities



- **Member perspectives:**
  - legal discipline, risks!
  - role change
  - capacity building - local & central government
- **WG work programme:**
  - PID -14 strands of work
  - integration with other Working Groups e.g. ICT (Planning Portal), HR, Finance, others

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### Legislation & Complexities



- **People:**
  - relationships, change, anxiety, IR, service standards
  - officer capacity building
- **Communications challenge:**
  - planning
  - reform generally
  - stakeholder interests

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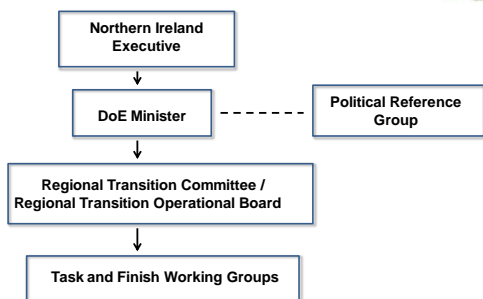
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### Delivery & Structures



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## Delivery & Structures

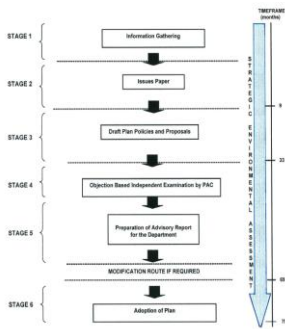


6 Divisional Offices & 2 Sub Offices (+ HQ)  
 ↳ 11 Councils + (HQ, Specialisms Regional Projects)  
 ↳ collaboration

- New regime, shorter 'Development Plan' timeframe
- Single Planning Policy vs. 20+ PPSs
- Code of Conduct & ethical standards
- Compliance with Regional Development Strategy + other Regional Strategies

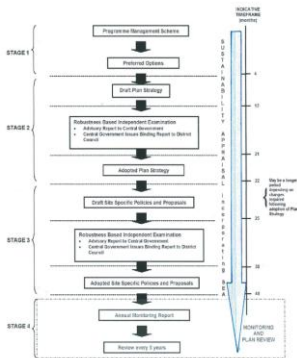
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## Existing Development Plan System



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## Proposed Local Development Plan Process



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## Opportunities



### **Community Planning**



**Co-ordination of Services/Delivery**



**Citizen focused outcomes**

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## Opportunities



- **Strong Local Government:**
  - more purpose / authority to develop own area
  - supports pragmatic Local Government.
- **Provides for alignment of complementary powers:**
  - planning; urban/rural regeneration; community
  - planning; Local Economic Development,
  - + general power of competence.
- **Supports the concept of "Place Shaping" - locations; environment; infrastructure/services.**
- **Engages communities:**
  - Statement of Community Involvement.

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## Conclusions



- **Appreciation of the complexities & legislation.**
- **Appreciation of the delivery arrangements.**
- **An insight to the opportunities available.**
- **Acknowledge and support the significant work ongoing.**
- **Engage through the STC and Capacity Building.**
- **Consider the opportunities and prepare to build stronger and better communities.**

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