

Progress Made or Lost Opportunity?

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Community Technical Aid

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Community Technical Aid

- is a voluntary organisation
- develops community engagement
- funded by earned income and Planning Service grant aid



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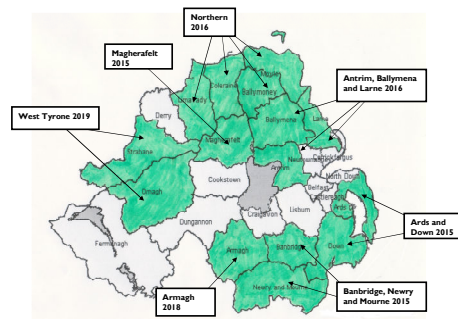
Area Plan Consultation

- From 2000 to 2006
- Seven Area Plans



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Consultation Coverage



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Consultation Coverage

- 15 local council areas
- 64% of region's land mass
- 43% of region's population



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Need for New Approach

Previous approach:

- not inclusive or strategic
- favoured land interests
- re-inforced inequalities
- limited, technical, legalistic, staid and preserve of the 'experts'
- no community or political support



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Context for New Approach

- new political environment
- Programme for Government Commitment
- New TSN
- Equality legislation



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Defining Characteristics

- pro-active with a range of opportunities
- collaborative process design
- recognition of existing community evidence
- two-way learning process
- targeted on exclusion
- focus on strategic issues - Issues Paper



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Key Elements: Pre-Issues Paper

- engaging strategic community organisations
- community briefings
- outreach and awareness-raising
- scoping of community reports
- co-planning for Stage 2
- findings report to inform Issues Paper



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Key Elements: Post-Issues Paper

- local community publicity
- leafleting and postering
- summary of issues distributed
- collaboration with community networks



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Opportunities: Public Drop-ins



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Opportunities: Community Workshops



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Opportunities: Public Meetings



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Opportunities for Involvement

- school and youth mapping events
- Section 75 outreach
- findings report distributed to 2,300+ groups
- analysis of Draft Plans' responses to consultation issues



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Levels of Involvement

- 200 engagement opportunities
- 3,300+ participants
- 20-160 at public meetings
- 3,600+ community groups contacted



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Obstacles

- confusion with other 'plans'
- lack of understanding of planning system
- scepticism in communities and planning
- limitations of land-use focus
- complexity and length



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Consultation Impacts: Northern Plan

- constraints on over-development of apartments
- 20% target for social housing
- new criteria for HMOs
- registration of tourist developments
- special provision for Rathlin islanders



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Lost Opportunity

- to demonstrate responsiveness
- to tackle scepticism and inequality
- to reduce the dominance of the legal and technical processes and of 'experts'
- to nurture community support



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Progress Made

- shared learning
- strategic discussions
- beyond land use
- policy issues identified



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Way Forward?

- Community Planning
- Devolved Planning
- Restructured Development Planning



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