



Office of the

**First Minister and
Deputy First Minister**

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Sustainable Development Statutory Duty

Report on Implementation in the Public Sector

Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006 (c.33)

22 October 2014



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Ministerial Foreword

When we published the Executive's Sustainable Development Strategy and Implementation Plan, we provided a strategic framework to help inform and guide decision making in a sustainable way across the public sector.

Subsequently, the Sustainable Development Statutory Duty guidance, published in May 2013, provided a comprehensive approach to decision-making and management, in order to help delivery of positive sustainability impacts. The guidance included a reporting mechanism that has enabled us to show many examples of good practice in sustainable service delivery within the public sector.

This report illustrates the many benefits of adopting and integrating sustainability methodologies into service planning and service delivery. It also highlights the significant level of commitment that public authorities have shown in working towards the mainstreaming of sustainable development activities. The report will help to ensure that sustainability remains at the core of public sector service delivery both now and in the future.

Rt. Hon. Peter D. Robinson MLA
First Minister

Martin McGuinness MLA
deputy First Minister

INTRODUCTION:

Sustainable Development Statutory Duty

The statutory duty provided by the Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006 requires a relevant public authority to promote the achievement of sustainable development through the exercise of its functions.

Everyone's Involved, the Executive's Sustainable Development Strategy published in May 2010, identified six priority areas for action on sustainability, to guide the activity undertaken by public sector organisations in fulfilment of the statutory duty:

1. Building a dynamic, innovative economy that delivers the prosperity required to tackle disadvantage and lift communities out of poverty;
2. Strengthening society so that it is more tolerant, inclusive and stable and permits positive progress in quality of life for everyone;
3. Driving sustainable, long-term investment in key infrastructure to support economic and social development;
4. Striking an appropriate balance between the responsible use and protection of natural resources in support of a better quality of life and a better quality environment;
5. Ensuring reliable, affordable and sustainable energy provision and reducing our carbon footprint; and,
6. Ensuring the existence of a policy environment which supports the overall advancement of sustainable development in and beyond Government.

In reporting to OFMDFM on their compliance with the statutory duty, Departments and District Councils have provided examples of good practice, much of which is potentially transferable to other organisations.

For each of the six priority areas, this report presents a selection of these good practice examples, in support of more effective adoption of sustainable development principles across the public sector.

Additional information on the information contained in this report can be obtained from the Sustainable Development Unit at:

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Priority 1

Building a dynamic, innovative economy that delivers the prosperity required to tackle disadvantage and lift communities out of poverty

Our economy produces the wealth that supports the achievement of our ambitions as a society. By supporting economic development and growth that is sustainable, we can support quality of life improvements for everyone, now and in the future. The examples presented in this section demonstrate commitment and innovation in public sector organisations that support this aim.

Promoting economic growth

Armagh City and District Council

Economic Development

Omagh District Council

Social Economy Promotion

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI)

Investing in skills

Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council

Skills, Education, Employment and Knowledge Project

Building sustainable places

Craigavon Borough Council

Lurgan Market

Coleraine Borough Council

Causeway Speciality Market

Down District Council

Community Restoration Projects

Promoting sustainability in business

Lisburn City Council

Business Improvement through Environmental Solutions (Bites)

Promoting economic growth

Armagh City and District Council – Economic Development

Armagh City and District Council are working in co-operation with other South Eastern Economic Development (SEED) Councils to develop and deliver interregional economic development initiatives focusing on areas of targeted need. The rationale behind this approach in the Southern Region is centred reducing overlap between locally-based economic development initiatives in District Council areas. The collaborative approach will ensure programmes are delivered in a more efficient manner with minimal duplication of effort and resources. The sharing of expertise, networking and best practice between the partner District Councils will add considerable value to the quality and impact of local economic development programmes.

Sustainable tourism activities are another priority area for Armagh City and District Council. Armagh has a number of heritage tourism attractions that appeal to a niche market through their historical, archaeological and architectural nature. The Armagh Gaol project has obtained planning approval to bring back into use one of our most important historic buildings, which has been sitting vacant for the past twenty years. The Council have worked in a cross sector partnership to explore viable, sustainable and new uses.

Omagh District Council – Social Economy Promotion

A new social enterprise officer has been appointed to promote social enterprise organisations in urban areas. Projects supported include the Mullaghmore & Castleview Community Association (MACCA) allotment project, CKS Young Enterprise ‘Dragon’s Den project’, Campsie allotments and a car boot sale project. A second social enterprise support officer has been recruited to support rural enterprise projects such as Owenkillew, Drumquin, An Creggan and Techno Tyrone.

Omagh District Council promotes an urban and rural strategy leading on the Rural Development Programme (2007-2013) for £18.4 million to support rural business, and to support and create employment. The urban based Neighbourhood Renewal Plan targets five of the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods in Omagh.

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment – Small Business Research Initiative

The agri-food industry is a major part of our economy, and the poultry industry is an important sector within this industry.

Traditionally the industry has relied on the spreading of poultry litter on land to manage waste products, but the EU has indicated such practices are no longer sustainable. A range of departments and public bodies are working together with industry to find solutions and facilitate the sustainable development of the poultry industry in NI.

A joint group comprising DETI, DARD, Invest NI and SIB was established in 2012 and a Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) project was initiated. Discussions with the industry and potential funders indicated the need for demonstrator projects before full commercial roll out. A loan scheme was developed by DETI and Invest NI to help fund demonstrator projects.

Investing in skills

Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council – Skills, Education, Employment and Knowledge Project

The purpose of the Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council Skills, Education, Employment and Knowledge (SEEK) project is to increase the supply of skilled, educated knowledge workers in our economy and to help them gain sustained employment or self-employment by providing training/skills development for approximately 80 unemployed participants over a 2 year period. The SEEK programme will enhance the employability of participants by offering a flexible training package tailored to suit individual needs.

Participants include men and women who are unemployed or economically inactive including:- women returners, lone parents, other disadvantaged parents, ethnic minorities, migrants, people with disabilities and health conditions who fall within 'Pathways to Work', men and women with no or low qualifications, young people not in education, employment or training, other disadvantaged groups, redundant workers including young males affected by the demise of construction and 50+ age group.

Building sustainable places

Craigavon Borough Council – Lurgan Market

The new weekly Lurgan Market opened in November after months of collaborative work. In the few months since the Market has been operational, it has already had a valuable impact on reviving and enhancing Lurgan Town Centre by increasing footfall and the vibrancy of the area. The project brought together a multifaceted, enthusiastic team of individuals, who together addressed the issue of 'a market town without a market', putting the heart back into Lurgan and creating the vision of Lurgan Town Centre as a vibrant, shared and prosperous town to live, visit, shop, socialize and do business in. Craigavon Borough Council effectively combined cross-departmental, public and private sector skills, expertise, dedication, enthusiasm and resources to re-establish Lurgan Market.

Coleraine Borough Council – Causeway Speciality Market

Causeway Speciality Market is the largest outdoor speciality market in Northern Ireland and is managed and funded by Coleraine Borough Council. The Council have been developing the Market through a 'Journey to Market' project, part financed by Invest NI and the European Regional Development Fund under the European Sustainable Competitiveness Programme. It is a practical programme aimed at helping residents of the Coleraine Borough Council area who are dedicated to opening their own artisan food and craft producing business.

The project involved two elements; the enhancement of the Causeway Speciality Market, and the development of local food and craft producers through a business mentoring programme. The programme provides participants with: one to one expert mentoring, workshops to develop skills, a business clinic to meet with key stakeholders, assistance to develop business plans; best practice visits and the opportunity to test trade at showcase events across the Borough.



Down Arts Centre

Down District Council have undertaken several projects involving the restoration of listed buildings, transforming a number of important historical sites and creating a sustainable future for significant pieces of our built heritage. The Council carried out major restoration and development of the former Downshire Hospital in Downpatrick, at a cost of £11m, to create the new Down Civic Centre. The Down Arts Centre was also completely refurbished at a cost of £1.4m, and work began in 2014 to extend the Down County Museum, which will be used to house the 1100 year old High Cross of Downpatrick. These projects demonstrate the potential to produce high-quality, sustainable public buildings that respect and repurpose historic infrastructure.

Promoting sustainability in business

Lisburn City Council – Business Improvement Through Environmental Solutions (BITES)

Lisburn City Council is providing the BITES business support initiative to help up to 30 local businesses to reduce waste and energy, boost profits and help the environment. Participating businesses should have a combined resource spend (water, waste and energy) of less than £60,000, with the majority of places being awarded to businesses with a combined resource spend of £30,000 or less.

The programme consists of two complementary elements:

1. Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Foundation Course in Environmental Management, a series of six business improvement workshops addressing topical environmental issues to include:
 - Environmental Management Systems (BS 8555/ISO 14001).
 - Resource efficiency – water, waste and energy.
 - Green travel; transport, and logistics.
 - Purchasing and supply chain.
2. Up to three days one-to-one consultancy support, tailored to suit each individual business, commencing with a mini site audit to identify current environmental practices and areas for improvement, coupled with mentoring and one-to-one assistance to address site specific issues and audit findings.

Priority 2

Strengthening society so that it is more tolerant, inclusive and stable and permits positive progress in quality of life for everyone

Working for greater tolerance and inclusivity, and taking action to tackle the poverty and inequality that continue to affect the lives of many, is essential to our efforts to build a society that supports people to live better quality lives. It helps us to make our society more robust to the external impacts that are inevitable features of life in the modern, globalised world. As demonstrated by the examples below, Departments and Councils are working day and daily to achieve these ends.

Health promotion

Banbridge District Council

Closing the Gap Health Project

Lisburn City Council

Health and Wellbeing Partnership

Coleraine Borough Council

Coleraine Heart Town Project

North Down Borough Council

Health Initiatives

Newry and Mourne District Council

Wellbeing Action Partnership

Omagh and Fermanagh District Council

Active Communities Programme

Supporting young people

Craigavon Borough Council

Sustainable Schools Programme

Carrickfergus Borough Council

Reclaiming Our Play Space

Belfast City Council

Youth Forum

Sustainable communities and culture

Derry City Council

Celebrating Cultural and Linguistic Diversity

Cookstown District Council

Safer Neighbourhoods Programme

Antrim Borough Council

Sustainable Community Projects

Health promotion

Banbridge District Council – Closing the Gap Health Project

Banbridge District Council works in partnership with the Public Health Agency in a project called 'Closing the Gap' aimed at reducing health inequalities by increasing community capacity and signposting to services.

An objective of the Closing the Gap Project is also to co-ordinate, deliver, monitor and evaluate holistic health programmes throughout the Council area. Examples include:

- Co-ordination and delivery of a menu of services: Cook It (6 week cooking programme), Weigh to Health (7 week weight management programme), Review, Relax & Renew (stress management programme), mental and emotional health services and programmes, men's health services and programmes, physical activity programmes, Walk and Cycle Leader Training, supermarket tours, health check services, stop smoking services, sexual health programmes, armchair aerobics.
- Working in partnership with Southern Health and Social Care Trust in the development of the new Gilford Community Centre as a healthy living centre model which delivers services and programmes involving a multi-agency approach. A parent & toddler group has been formed and developed into a constituted group of local parents;
- Holistic health programmes for men recent programmes have focussed on men living in rural areas, who often work in isolation. The programme prioritises physical activity but has a strong element of interactive health information sessions promoting personal responsibility and cognitive positive change.
- A local stop smoking campaign in partnership with the Public Health Agency included local people who had successfully stopped smoking featuring on posters which were displayed in public areas/buildings/shops, etc. Free stop smoking services were provided to local businesses, including 6 clinics offering support to employees and the supply of nicotine replacement therapy; advice and support on conducting a smoking audit; advice and support on developing, implementing and updating workplace smoking policy; and,
- Tailored health related programmes to young people not in employment, education or training. An example is an 8 week programme delivered in partnership with Reconciliation, Education and Community Training, an organisation commissioned by PHA to deliver drug and alcohol services.

Lisburn City Council has entered into a formal “Health and Wellbeing Partnership” with the Public Health Agency and Health and Social Care Trust in the Lisburn City Council area. The main purpose of the partnership is to establish, develop and facilitate joint working arrangements between the core members to tackle health and social wellbeing inequalities in a coordinated manner.

Project teams have been set up involving Council officers from a number of service areas who work along with PHA and HSC staff to promote improvements in health and wellbeing.

These include:

- Accident Prevention – home safety check scheme which targets older people and distribution of the home winter packs to vulnerable people;
- Workplace Health – Invest in Health, Profit in Business scheme for local businesses which encourages businesses to introduce a health check scheme in the workplace. HSC support provides advice on smoking, nutrition, weight loss, cancer awareness and exercise;
- Enhancing Communities Scheme – A grant award scheme for communities and neighbourhoods to undertake environment regeneration projects;
- Healthwise scheme – an exercise referral scheme for adults who have been referred from a primary healthcare professional (GP);
- Cycling – Leisure services have piloted a number of initiatives which have arisen out of suggestions from the Cycling Forum; and,
- Bee Safe – Annual, week-long programmes of exhibitions, displays, discussions and talks all on the theme of safety for school children in Primary 7 from local primary schools. The event is organised by the Council with support from the Public Health Agency, the PSNI, Fire and Rescue Service, Ambulance Service and a number of other agencies.

Coleraine Borough Council – Coleraine Heart Town Project

Coleraine Borough Council, working in partnership with British Heart Foundation, Public Health Agency, Northern Trust and Causeway Rural and Urban Network, developed an annual action plan to deliver initiatives promoting heart health messages across the Borough.

These included:

- Heart Walk: Christie Park Coleraine;
- National Heart Month: February;
- Signage promoting Heart town status;
- Pass it on Healthy heart toolkit training;
- Information sessions with traders;
- CPR awareness sessions with the community and elected members; and
- Fundraising initiatives.

Coleraine Heart Town initiative received an outstanding achievement award in promoting Heart Health across the Borough in October 2013.

North Down Borough Council – Health Initiatives

Through North Down Borough Council's involvement in the Health Economy Forum, and the Public Health Agency Cluster Partnership, it is promoting partnership working with other health providers and contributing Council resources, facilities and expertise to community health development. The Council is also a member of the local World Mental Health Day events committee and organises a walk for residents called 'Mind, Body and Stroll' to mark World Mental Health Day.

The Council supports and encourages volunteering in its area and acknowledges those who have been volunteers in or on behalf of their community. The Council recently acknowledged the contribution of 40 volunteers across various work areas with an awards ceremony.

Newry and Mourne District Council – Wellbeing Action Partnership

The Wellbeing Action Partnership (WAP) is a broad partnership of public and community sector organisations, with a focus on health and wellbeing.

WAP seeks to harness the energies, commitment and resources of people, communities and organisations whose work contributes to the health and wellbeing of the area, to make a bigger impact, identify needs and gaps, and attract new resources to the area.

The Council has partnered with Southern Investing for Health Partnership (from 2005) and the Public Health Agency (from 2011) in the employment of joint Health Improvement Officers.

Newry and Mourne Ethnic Minority Support Centre is an initiative arising out of the WAP. The aim of this particular project is to improve the wellbeing of ethnic minority residents by providing advice and support. The Centre also works in partnership with Citizens Advice Bureau and the Housing Executive to provide additional specialist clinics on housing and employment issues.

Omagh and Fermanagh District Councils – Active Communities Programme

Omagh and Fermanagh District Councils in partnership have rolled out the Active Communities Programme, funded by the Sports Council. This included:

- Employment of coaches and physical activity leaders, to deliver a range of sporting and recreational activities across Omagh and Fermanagh District Council areas to a variety of schools, clubs, groups, nursing homes, day care centres, disability groups, summer schemes;
- 5,764 participants taking part in various activities, and including 3,183 females, 1,180 persons with a disability and 874 older people, which are the main target groups for the Active Communities Programme;
- Partnership with Ulster Branch Rugby, providing coaching to under 16 girls from local schools, leading to the opportunity to participate in the Ulster Branch Girls School Tag Rugby Blitz and competitive rugby matches with the ultimate aim of playing at Ravenhill. This cross-community event included pupils from the Sacred Heart College, Omagh Academy, Loreto Grammar School, Drumragh Integrated School and Omagh High School;
- Tag Rugby Blitz at Omagh Leisure Complex for key stage 2 primary school children from Omagh County, Cooley, St Joseph's, Gillygooley, Dromore, Drumlish and Langfield Primary Schools, and outdoor Summer Camp for children between the ages of 6-9 years, providing an opportunity to sample multiple sports and in particular sports, which were associated with another tradition, for example Gaelic games, rugby, and hockey.

Supporting young people

Craigavon Borough Council – Sustainable Schools Programme

The Craigavon Sustainable Schools Program (CSSP) is a locally inspired initiative aimed at dramatically improving the sustainability of schools within the area and actively promoting the Northern Ireland Sustainable Development Strategy. The project successfully brought over £100,000 investment into 5 local schools through the sourcing of grant funding for Solar PV within each of the schools. With the emphasis on local and regional partnerships, CSSP is a prototype of a cost effective means of bringing sustainable development to the schools and communities of Craigavon. By bringing together parents, teachers, local government, businesses, utility companies and government organisations, we hope to develop relationships that deliver a program of economic, social and environmental benefits to local areas.

Sustainable Schools Programme

The programme is comprised of 5 modules for each school to aim for:

1. Energy and climate;
2. Water consumption;
3. Waste;
4. Biodiversity; and,
5. Sustainable communities.

Each of the modules is accompanied by an educational element for communication and learning for pupils, and the aim is for teachers to incorporate teaching on each element into their lessons. This approach underpins the priority areas of the Northern Ireland Sustainable Development Strategy providing classroom learning alongside the practice of sustainable development.

Carrickfergus Borough Council – Reclaiming Our Play Space

Carrickfergus Borough Council's mission is to create child and family friendly play spaces which will support young people to build relationships and learn new skills. The Green Kids in Outer Space project, supported by the EU's Peace III programme, aims not only to improve links between the Council and the young people in the area, but also promote and improve how the Council plans change and works with other organisations. This project is a brand new approach to planning for Council and it hopes it will radically change the way the Council thinks about and provides for children and young people's play space. It will challenge both those involved to use the outcomes of this project as a blueprint whenever taking decisions that affect children's play opportunities.

This project will provide children and young people across the Borough with an opportunity to identify the issues that prevent them from being able to play and to provide suggestions of what would encourage them and their friends to play. These views will be recorded and used to write a play strategy for the Borough of Carrickfergus. This document will be used by the Council to improve play opportunities in the area over the next four years.

The Belfast City Council Youth Forum was set up in 2006 and is made up of 40 young people elected from across Belfast. Young people make up a third of the population of Belfast, making our city one of the youngest in Europe. The Forum gives those young people a voice in the Council, and an opportunity to get involved in the social, economic and environmental issues that affect the city.

The Forum members are young ambassadors for the city and are encouraged to participate and make a difference to Council activities, through new experiences that are also fun and sociable. They are trained and supported to champion the rights of young people and to develop campaigns and projects, while developing an awareness of the local government political field.

Youth Forum members serve for two years and their role involves:

- Working together to identify priorities and action plans to progress them;
- Organising project groups to develop campaigns around agreed priorities;
- Participating in residential, one-off events and activities;
- Representing young people at civic events;
- Receiving training in a range of areas from facilitation and engagement, to media management in order to prepare for the role;
- Offering advice to councillors especially liaising with the political children and young people champions to solve issues affecting young people; and,
- Electing young people to sit on the UK Youth Parliament and the Northern Ireland Youth Forum executive committee.

Achievements:

- Represented the Council at: President Obama's visit, the IBM Smarter Cities Challenge, Eurvoice (Oct 13), and the Social Affairs Forum (Oct 13);
- Delivered 'Young People Future Cities', where digital apps were developed by young people for young people (#Livelouder and #digidragons);
- Input to development of a new urban sports park for Belfast;
- Worked with the BBC as youth stakeholders and DRD on a road safety campaign; and
- Participated in the cross-border Respect programme and Age Friendly Intergenerational project in 2013.

Sustainable communities and culture

Derry City Council – Celebrating Cultural and Linguistic Diversity

Derry City Council is committed to celebrating the cultural and linguistic diversity which exists in the region. With specific regard to the promotion of linguistic diversity, the Council is committed to complying with its legislative obligations to take resolute action to promote our indigenous languages – Irish and Ulster-Scots.

In pursuit of this aim, the Council is working to promote understanding, awareness and appreciation of both languages via a range of initiatives, including language learning programmes for Council employees, a consultative forum for the Irish language community, lecture events, heritage-themed events, events with schools, and longer-term projects exploring aspects of our shared cultural heritage. The Council also actively promotes access to Council services and information in Irish and works with community partners to deliver festivals and events such as Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann and the International Pan Celtic Festival.



Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann

Cookstown District Council – Safer Neighbourhoods Programme

The Safer Neighbourhoods Programme aimed to clean up neighbourhoods in the area and remove graffiti from public and private property, particularly those facing public highways, and to:

- Target graffiti, vandalism and other environmental issues such as litter;
- Use community development to involve local residents in campaigns for their area
- Raise awareness and inform residents of protocol and how to report issues;
- Establish a multi-agency steering group to direct the work of the project; and,
- Establish and Implement a joint protocol between agencies on the removal of graffiti.

It has proved to be a very successful campaign leading to the reduction of graffiti and improved partnership working between the community and various statutory and voluntary agencies.

Antrim Borough Council – Sustainable Community Projects

Antrim Borough Council's annual Good Relations Action Plan includes a programme delivering training and capacity building sessions for local people. The Community Services team delivers a range of initiatives, including the inter-agency 'Be Educated, Be Active, Be Together' (BEAT). BEAT targets anti-social behaviour hotspots identified through PSNI, Housing Executive and Council information and provides a programme of interventions to help engage detached young people.

Antrim Borough Council, in partnership with Groundwork NI, NIHE and Springfarm and District Community Association, developed the Springfarm Community Activity Zone with PEACE III funding. Springfarm caters for the recreational needs of all the community, regardless of their age, and features a toddler area, a traditional play area for older children, a youth zone, and outdoor exercise equipment to help young people and adults keep fit in their spare time.

Priority 3

Driving sustainable, long-term investment in key infrastructure to support economic and social development

When we invest in infrastructure, we shape the places that later shape the lives of the people who live and work in them. Making sustainable investment decisions means being aware of all of the impacts that our expenditure has, and taking these into account in an intelligent way. Public sector bodies are finding ways to achieve real, long-term benefits through public expenditure, as the examples below demonstrate.

Sustainable regeneration

Belfast City Council

Taming the Dragon

Department for Regional Development

Sustainable Infrastructure

Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council

Investment in Regeneration

Department for Social Development

Civic Trust Community Awards 2014

Newtownabbey Borough Council

Valley Park Shared Space Project

Sustainable procurement

Department of Finance and Personnel

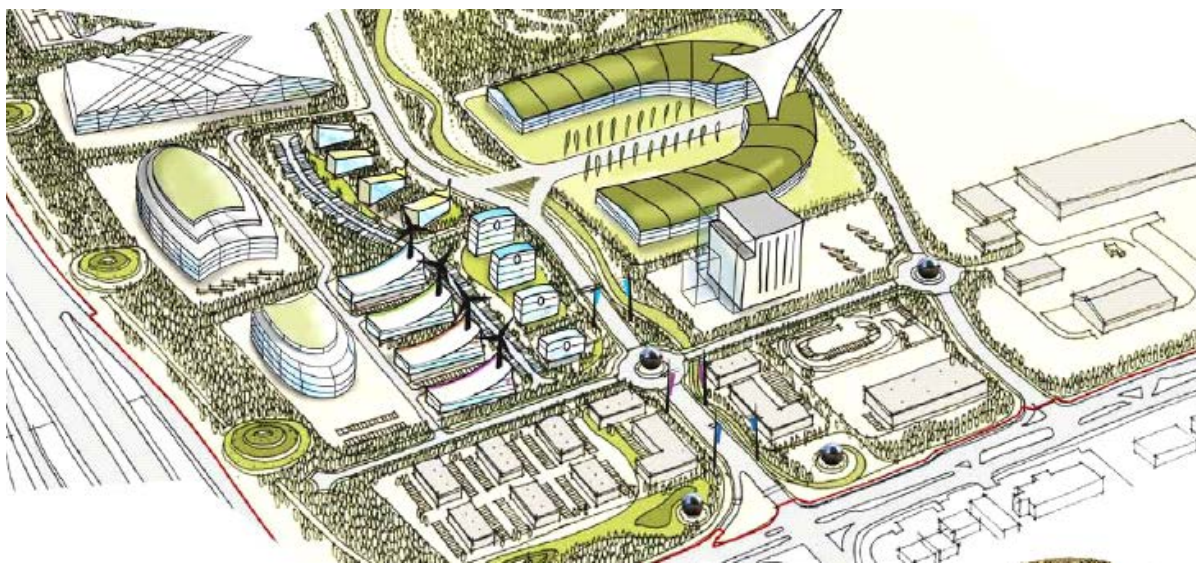
Central Procurement Directorate Sustainable Procurement

Department of Finance and Personnel

Sustainability in Procurement Contracts

Sustainable Regeneration

Belfast City Council – Taming the Dragon



Belfast Lough North Foreshore Development Plan

Over 10 million tonnes of waste was dumped at the 300 acre Dargan Road site over a 35 year period. The breakdown of the organic waste over time results in methane gas being released. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas which contributes to climate change.

The usual practice is to flare the gas to prevent it being released into the atmosphere. However methane gas can be captured and converted to renewable electricity and fed into the national grid. Considerable income can be obtained from this renewable energy through the government sponsored Renewable Obligation Certification Scheme.

The Dargan Road site closed in 2007, and since 2009 Belfast City Council have been extracting methane gas to convert it into renewable electricity. In 2009, the Council City was extracting 3,000m³ of methane per hour, which was used to generate 5 MW of electricity. Today the Council have two 1 MW generators, producing 2 MW of electricity from 1,000m³ of methane per hour. The electricity produced is sufficient to power 2,000 homes, and is exported to the local electricity grid.

Since 2009, £4 million income has been generated from the sale of this electricity. It is anticipated that the site contains enough methane to generate electricity for at least another 10 years.

This pioneering project was one of Belfast's first large-scale non-wind renewable energy projects, and has demonstrated the job creation potential of the low carbon sector.

Recently the Council has have been working with the Centre for Advanced Sustainable Energy at Queen's University on a pioneering research project to develop electricity from the waste heat which is also produced by the project. The outcome of this demonstration project will have many further applications in the region and will generate more income from the site.

The Council is keen to expand renewable energy generation, and plan to lease 10 acres of the North Foreshore to the private sector for a solar powered facility. There are also plans to develop two anaerobic digesters on the site, which will further increase renewable energy production and jobs in the low carbon economy. The long-term plan is to transform the landfill site into a Cleantech environmental cluster for green business development which will contribute significantly to the city's low carbon economy.

Department for Regional Development – Sustainable Infrastructure

To improve the sustainability performance of major infrastructure projects, Transport NI has mandated CEEQUAL assessments of its Strategic Road Improvement projects. CEEQUAL is an evidence-based sustainability assessment, rating and awards scheme for civil engineering projects.

Through the implementation of CEEQUAL and application of the principles of sustainable design to the projects, initiatives including use of pre-cast structures and Forest Stewardship Council timber products have been used in projects such as the A5 Newtownstewart Bypass.

The New Approach to Regional Transportation aims to guide a more strategic prioritisation of transport investment. A Policy Prioritisation Framework has been developed to identify and prioritise strategic transport interventions that support the growth of the economy, promote social inclusion, and reduce the environmental impact of transport including greenhouse emissions.

A key principle of the proposed Long Term Water Strategy is sustainable service delivery by managing future power needs and carbon emissions to deliver greener services. This means continuing to maintain and upgrade assets infrastructure in a sustainable way and a moving away from conventional high energy water, wastewater and drainage solutions.

The establishment of a Cycling Unit within the Department reflects the importance of cycling to the creation of a sustainable transport infrastructure. Cycling has an important role to play in the providing longer term preventative health benefits and can make a contribution to a reduction in greenhouse gases.

Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council – Investment in Regeneration

Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council is working with stakeholders from the statutory, private and community sectors to regenerate the town centres of Dungannon and Coalisland through local Regeneration Partnerships.

The Dungannon Town Centre Masterplan was developed to improve the town's trading position, and to provide for further retail opportunities and office provision. Perry Street Re-imaging Scheme has been drawn up to address dereliction.

A successful Living Over The Shops (LOTS) scheme and shop front improvement scheme were rolled out in Dungannon and Coalisland to encourage the traditional pattern of living above the town centre shops and to upgrade existing shop fronts. The redeveloped Ranfurly House Arts and Visitors Centre has recently opened and already there has been increased footfall in the town centre.

A Local Economic Development Plan is aimed at providing over £700k (part funded by DETI and Invest NI) in the incoming year. The Council's investment is to assist local businesses to grow and become more competitive and innovative in their production and business processes.

The £5.2 million capital Castle Hill project, jointly funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Arts Council incorporates the renovation and extension of Ranfurly House and gardens into a new all-purpose arts and exhibition centre with exhibition areas, galleries, 90 seat studio, arts workshops, flexible community facilities, and a landscaped park interpreting the heritage of the site.

The Civic Trust Awards scheme recognises the very best in architecture, design, planning, landscape and public art. The Department for Social Development had a leading role in two projects which won Civic Trust Community Recognition awards in March 2014.

Skainos Centre: The Skainos Centre, is a multi-use community facility, offering a wide and varied range of community spaces and activities for all. It acts as a local venue for live music and drama. It also features a mixed tenure housing development.

Thirty-six jobs were created on opening and eight new commercial tenants have been attracted to the area. The development company is operated as a social enterprise and is committed to redistributing any operational surpluses back into the area to support initiatives promoting shared space. Six local artists were employed to integrate art and craft during the design stages, and the building is now featured on a local art trail. The scheme has set a positive bench mark for future development in the area, helping raise the profile of the community.



Project 24

Project 24 in Bangor was funded by the DSD Regional Development Office. The aim of the project was to regenerate a once derelict space and encourage both locals and visitors to spend time in Bangor town centre. The project involved landscaping to make the site feel contemporary, yet welcoming, and created a vibrant and pleasurable shared space. The use of 'pods' has generated significant interest and the concept will soon be seen in other towns and cities throughout the country. This has provided a green-space area for people to enjoy and relax in, provided opportunities for community involvement through the community garden, and offers a unique and affordable work/gallery space for artists.

Newtownabbey Borough Council – Valley Park Shared Space Project

Newtownabbey Borough Council is in the process of completing a major development project that will see the creation of the Valley Park Shared Space project. The aim of the project is to create a unique and valued shared space that will be a welcoming, safe and attractive environment for local people and visitors. The project will include an adventure play area, 3G pitch and urban park, and is being supported by the Special European Union Programmes Body.

The project will contribute to social sustainability and community safety in the area by promoting the positive use of an environment that has been marred by sectarian tensions and interface violence. This project will help to address the legacy of the conflict and build on opportunities for peace by creating an area of shared space and creating opportunities for positive interaction. More indirectly, the proposal will address economic goals through the potential investment, employment and social economy activity it will bring to and promote within the area.

Sustainable Procurement

Department of Finance and Personnel – Central Procurement Directorate Sustainable Procurement

Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) has implemented sustainable procurement principles in the procurement of a range of goods, services and infrastructure projects, including:

Procurement of Heavy Goods Vehicles: The price evaluation criterion for heavy goods vehicle-based specification assessments includes the application of the EU Directive on the Promotion of Clean and Energy-efficient Road Transport Vehicles. This encourages suppliers to reduce the engine emissions and fuel use of their vehicles.

Procurement of Catering Services: The environmental sustainability issues addressed within this tender competition included:

- waste management and energy conservation;
- waste creation and responsible disposal; and
- efficient use of energy throughout its operations including: minimising numbers of deliveries; maximising the use of returnable forms of packaging; promoting use of re-usable containers, rather than disposable sachets; avoiding the use of disposable cutlery and plates/cups; use of serviettes made from unbleached, recycled material; and, avoiding the use of non-biodegradable containers for take-away food.

Procurement of Electricity to Public Sector Buildings: Two of the three contracted suppliers on the public sector electricity contract provide electricity from 100% renewable sources.

Environmental Performance of Office Buildings: The new headquarters building for DFP's Land and Property Services at Lanyon Plaza involved the re-use of an existing building on Lanyon Place – resulting in reduced environmental impact, and regenerating a significant building in Belfast City Centre.

The building provides sustainable accommodation for 870 staff, meeting Workplace NI standards and achieved a BREEAM 'very good' rating. A number of sustainable systems were included within the fit-out including: LED energy efficient lighting, gas fired heating, enhanced heating controls, re-cycling facilities, and cycle racks and showers to encourage cycling to work.

Department of Finance and Personnel – Sustainability in Procurement Contracts

In November 2013, CPD published *Procurement Guidance Note (PGN) 01/13 – Integrating social considerations into contracts* to assist Departments in the delivery of more sustainable contracts.

Economic, environmental and social requirements are now well embedded in Government construction works contracts. The requirements mandate, for example: fair payment practices; waste targets; environmental targets; and work and training opportunities in these contracts.

Through engagement with the construction industry, CPD has developed social clause requirements for construction professional services contracts. These requirements will create work opportunities for the unemployed and students.

CPD has decided to replace its diesel pool car with an electric car to reduce carbon emissions and fuel costs, and to promote sustainable transport to existing and new staff.

Priority 4

Striking an appropriate balance between the responsible use and protection of natural resources in support of a better quality of life and a better quality environment

It is often noted that sustainable development is not exclusively an environmental agenda. Respecting the limits of the natural environment – and having regard to the positive benefits of high-quality physical living spaces – are, however, critical considerations in enabling current and future generations to enjoy a high quality of life. The examples below illustrate the impact that Departments and Councils can have in this regard.

Greener communities

Craigavon Borough Council

Neighbourhoods in Bloom

Department of Environment

Eco-Schools Programme

Recycling

Banbridge District Council

Pay-Per-Weight Business Recycling Scheme

Banbridge District Council

Restore Programme

Castlereagh Borough Council

Wheelie Box Scheme

Greener communities

Craigavon Borough Council – Neighbourhoods in Bloom

Neighbourhoods in Bloom supported local community environmental action within 24 Neighbourhood Renewal Areas. The main objective was to inspire local people to work together to develop a sense of civic pride, making the areas involved a better place to live. It involved:

- Working with resident groups to organise and deliver 24 cleanups and establish links to litter action groups to sustain the work after the project;
- Almost 7 million spring flowering daffodil and crocus bulbs (178 tonnes) were planted in total. Alongside the spring flowering bulbs, over 1000 blossoming trees were planted within the community areas, as well as 1300m² of shrub beds.

Department of Environment – Eco-Schools programme

Approximately 350,000 children and students in nursery, primary, and post-primary schools are working through the Eco-Schools programme, with 16% of schools achieving the internationally recognised Green Flag Award. 100,000 teachers, classroom assistants, school governors and parents are also engaged with the programme, which encourages active participation in projects covering a range of environmental issues, including waste and litter, energy and water usage, and biodiversity within school grounds.

Two schools are now sending nothing to landfill as a result of the Eco-Schools programme, as all waste generated is recycled.

Recycling

Banbridge District Council – Pay-Per-Weight Business Recycling Scheme

Banbridge Council has been running the only pay per weight recycling and waste collection service from businesses for the last two years. The scheme allows business to recycle in the same way as householders with a green bin for paper, card, tins/cans etc., a brown bin for leftover food waste and a general waste bin for unrecyclable waste. A business can only take part if they have at least one recycling bin. The scheme has a one off set up fee each year and then the cost is based on weight in each bin; both recycling and food waste is not charged for.

Banbridge District Council – Restore Programme

The Banbridge District Councils 'Restore' project, takes unwanted household good and refurbishes them for resale and offers placements for a variety of people. The Restore project provides work placements for the Probation Board, Youth Justice and the unemployed through People First. Some of those attending the project as part of work placements will gain NVQ's in woodwork or electrical maintenance while other will gain 'softer skills' such as the ability to work within a time frame and with people from other backgrounds.

Castlereagh Borough Council – Wheelie Box Scheme

There are currently 28,176 householders within Castlereagh Borough Council, a total of 16,729 receive a Kerbie box collection which is operated by Bryson Recycling. The remaining 11,447 receive a blue wheeled bin service for mixed recycling collection service operated by Castlereagh Borough Council. In May 2013, the Council in partnership with Bryson Recycling, commenced a pilot recycling service using a 'Wheelie Box' system across 836 households.

The Wheelie Box is an innovative recycling container consisting of three stacked recycling boxes on a stand with wheels and a handle for manoeuvrability. The Wheelie box system allows for a greater number of identified products to be recycled.

The trial provided very positive results both in increased kilos collected per household and in participation rates. Customer feedback was also very positive, with householders finding the design a vast improvement on existing kerbside recycling boxes and preferring the increased range of materials that can be recycled through the new wheelie box.

A survey of (324) householders participating in the trial in October 2014 indicated that:

94% prefer the Wheelie box scheme to the existing Kerbie Box scheme;

92% found it easier to separate items for recycling; and,

60% are recycling more since the introduction of the Wheelie Box scheme.

It is the intention of Castlereagh Borough Council to introduce this new service across the Borough.



Craigavon Borough Council Neighbourhoods in Bloom

Priority 5

Ensuring reliable, affordable and sustainable energy provision and reducing our carbon footprint

Rising energy prices continue to place a strain on household finances, and to present challenges to businesses seeking to maintain competitiveness. A sustainable future will inevitably be one in which our dependence on expensive, imported fossil fuels is reduced. The projects described in this section represent steps towards this sustainable energy future, taken through advances in renewable energy generation, energy efficiency, and measures to protect vulnerable people against high prices.

Energy efficiency

Ballymoney Borough Council

Energy Efficiency Programme

Department of Finance and Personnel

IT Assist

Department of Education

Energy Efficiency on the Schools Estate

Larne Borough Council

Carbon Reduction

Fuel poverty

Strabane District Council

Oil Stamps Saving Scheme

Renewable energy

Newry and Mourne District Council

Renewable Energy Project

Omagh District Council

Landfill Gas Power Generation

Omagh District Council

Hydro-Electricity Programme

Energy efficiency

Ballymoney Borough Council – Energy Efficiency Programme

Ballymoney Borough Council employs an Energy Efficiency Advisor, in partnership with Moyle District Council, and a Poverty Strategy Co-ordinator, who work across 10 council areas who target deprived and vulnerable people to provide help to make their homes more energy efficient.

The Council's Recycling and Education (R&E) Officer and Cloughmills Community Action Team have established Cloughmills as one of ten community food initiatives across the island of Ireland. This 3-year campaign, funded by Safefood and managed by Healthy Food for All, addresses the gaps in the current food system that prevent people accessing healthy and affordable food. This has led to initiatives including the Lint Dam Allotments, where Council is working closely with an isolated rural community on issues relating to food access, nutrition and related health and well-being.

The R&E Officer also took the lead on the 'Hungry for Change' initiative. This included a number of food education programmes with community groups, culminating in a food poverty conference in April 2014, with 55 people attending from across the Northern region.

Department of Finance and Personnel – IT Assist

IT Assist has a number of projects which seek to reduce power consumption and carbon emissions:

- IT Assist is now using a personal computer which draws almost 15% less power than the model it has replaced. Moreover, at end-of-life, 94.82% of the device can be recycled (90.6% for the model it replaced). There are more than 21,500 devices in use on the NICS network, so such changes have a significant cumulative effect; and,
- Power usage effectiveness (PUE) is a metric used to determine the energy efficiency of a data centre. By introducing measures such as allowing the equipment to operate at a higher air temperature; improving the design and organisation of the equipment racks themselves; and ensuring the data centre rooms are fully sealed, IT Assist has reduced the PUE in the NICS data centres from 1.78 to 1.6. Plans are in place to reduce this even further. These include more efficient equipment, reducing the number of servers and eventually a move to even more energy efficient data centres.

IT Assist has been working with departments to introduce multi-function devices to replace stand-alone printers across NICS. There are several advantages to MFDs: they are more energy efficient, and can replace not only printers but scanners and photocopiers as well. The proof of concept work is predicting a significant reduction in the numbers of boxes of printer paper.

Department of Education – Energy Efficiency on the School Estate

The Department has ensured that Education for Sustainable Development is included in the curriculum across all key stages. The Eco Schools project provides one way of demonstrating positive action. All five Education and Library Boards work with local councils to promote and support Eco Schools and 1,151 schools are currently enrolled on the programme.

The Department is committed to enhancing the energy efficiency of the schools' estate and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and up to £10 million will be invested in a schools' energy programme in 2014/15. This will involve: installation of photovoltaic panels; converting heating systems from oil to natural gas; and installation of energy and water monitors and replacement of single glazed windows. This "invest to save" programme will also help promote the importance of sustainable development among school pupils and the wider community.

Integrated College Dungannon and Greiner Packaging have a scheme where the College benefits from the company's waste heat, which is a by-product of their manufacturing process.

All major works in schools must include measures to achieve a Building Research Establishment Environment Assessment Method (BREEAM) rating of 'excellent' for new schemes or 'very good' for refurbishment schemes, where possible. All contracts include overarching requirements in respect of energy, water and low carbon design.

Larne Borough Council – Carbon Reduction

Larne Borough Council is committed to reducing its carbon footprint and improving environmental performance year-on-year. This is demonstrated through its accreditation to ISO 14001, the international standard for environmental management.

Larne Borough Council collects and analyses data to enable a carbon foot print to be determined. This information is reported to council on an annual basis and made available on the Council website.

Key measure of success include:

Energy Use: Energy use per employee has decreased by 3% over the past year and 30% over the past four years, exceeding Council's objective of a 2% decrease in carbon emissions year-on-year for five years;

Transport: Fuel consumption has shown 10% decrease over the past year and 14% decrease over the last four years;

Waste: Internal Council waste generated per employee has not increased over the past two years, but the amount diverted from landfill has increased from 48% to 59% over a four year period. This has reduced the carbon footprint of landfill waste per employee by 19% over the past four years.

Carbon Footprint: The carbon footprint of Council sites and services during 2012/13 was equivalent to 1,669 tonnes of CO₂. This shows a reduction of 6% on the previous year, and a 23% reduction over the past 4 years. This is due mostly to the 10% reduction in fuel consumption on the previous year and, prior to that, energy efficiency measures in the leisure centre and other Council sites.

Fuel poverty

Strabane District Council – Oil Stamps Saving Scheme

Strabane Community Projects, using funding from the Public Health Agency and the Council, helps users of central heating oil make savings by buying in bulk. By combining orders from participating members, oil prices are negotiated with oil suppliers to get the best price. At the end of the first year of the project in April 2014, £19,440 of oil was sold by suppliers to 165 households. There are now 24 shops selling oil saving stamps. The scheme is advertised on social media sites, and both suppliers and retailers are keen to be part of the scheme.

Renewable energy

Newry and Mourne District Council – Renewable Energy Project

The Council is leading on a Renewable Energy Project, 'Energy Connections', that engages with local SMEs, providing signposting, mentoring, and knowledge transfer opportunities that will help them to avail of the opportunities within the renewable energy sector.

This programme is being delivered across 6 Council areas (Newry & Mourne, Down, Craigavon, Banbridge, Armagh and Newtownards) with a target to work with 180 SMEs

Omagh District Council – Landfill Gas Power Generation

Omagh District Council is utilising methane gas, a by-product of decomposing landfill at its Tullyvar site, as an energy source. This has decreased its energy needs from fossil fuels and increased its energy security. Landfill gas is the natural by-product of the anaerobic decomposition of waste within the landfill. It typically contains around 50% Methane (CH₄) with most of the remainder being Carbon Dioxide (CO₂). The gas extracted is used to generate electricity to be utilised on site, the surplus being exported to the national grid. The Tullyvar landfill facility is owned and managed in partnership with Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council, and the first methane based electricity production from the site began in June 2010.

The site is currently generating 800 kW of electricity, which is enough electricity to power around 1,000 homes.



Camowen River Hydro Scheme

The Omagh District Council Hydro Scheme installed a 93 kW Archimedes screw type water turbine on the Camowen River in the centre of Omagh. It was commissioned to provide power for the adjacent leisure centre. Anticipated long-term benefits include 308,506 kWh of green electricity generated per year, and 133 tonnes of carbon dioxide saved in the leisure centre. These savings equate to the CO₂ generated by 33 homes each year.

Priority 6

Ensuring the existence of a policy environment which supports the overall advancement of sustainable development in and beyond Government

Ultimately, fully supporting the achievement of sustainable development requires that a public authority finds a mechanism for ensuring that the decisions it takes on a day-to-day basis support the achievement of a better quality of life, now and in the future. There are many ways of pursuing this aim – the examples in this section describe how some organisations have gone about achieving it.

Mainstreaming sustainable development

Armagh City and District Council

Sustainable Together through Environmental Management Project

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

Sustainability Projects

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Common Agricultural Policy Reform Programme

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

New Sustainable Development Unit

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Sustainable Design

Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

Social Development

Magherafelt District Council

Sustainability Initiatives

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Sustainability Measures

Department of Environment

Sustainable Development Initiatives

Limavady Borough Council

Sustainable Environmental Health Initiatives

Ards Borough Council

Environmental Management System

Mainstreaming sustainable development

Armagh City and District Council - Sustainable Together through Environmental Management

Armagh City and District Council's Sustainable Together through Environmental Management (STEM) project engages with 220 small to medium sized businesses across the East Border Region, from north and south of the border, across a number of industry sectors, in a Sustainable Economic Development business networking programme.

The programme consists of SMEs networking and collaborating across jurisdictions and sectors, sharing knowledge, experience and resources. The project aims to increase efficiency, to achieve savings of energy, water and waste, and to increase recycling and renewable energy.

Businesses receive training and capacity building to enable them to adopt sustainable practices that will enhance their competitiveness and economic viability.

SMEs are assisted to identify areas in which they can improve efficiencies and supports mentoring and learning between larger businesses and smaller businesses.

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure – Sustainability Projects

The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) has supported a range of projects that have contributed to sustainable development across education, health and wellbeing, social inclusion and the economy. DCAL supported projects include:

- Ulster GAA programme for long-term unemployed people under the youth employment scheme, offering an opportunity for young people to get coaching and first aid qualifications, followed by an 8 week placement within a coaching environment;
- Job seekers can get an insight into improving their employment prospects, at special 'Get Set' road shows in libraries across Northern Ireland. A range of providers are on hand to provide advice and offer support to those looking for work, applying for jobs, going for interviews coping with redundancy or aiming to start their own business;
- Inland Waterways Branch, in partnership with the Public Health Agency, Big Lottery Awards for All, and Antrim Borough Council, provided £11,000 as part of its Water Recreation Programme to install a Gym Trail and seating along the Six Mile Water River in Antrim;
- DCAL is piloting iPad and mobile technology platforms in community based settings. This aims to build the capacity of community groups and schools in deprived areas to enhance delivery of projects supporting education and health and well-being; and,
- In 2012 the Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG) for architecture and the built environment participated in public consultation for Colin New Town centre. Working with Colin Neighbourhood MAG ran a pilot transport initiative to connect people and places previously not served by public transport.

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) – Common Agricultural Policy Reform Programme

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) has worked in conjunction with the other Devolved Administrations, DEFRA, MEPs and the Irish Presidency to secure a Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform framework. This is closely aligned with DARD policy objectives and, in particular, provides full flexibility to decide on a broad range of implementation options at a regional level. This flexibility is being used to construct an agricultural support framework which best meets the balance of interests within the agricultural sector and provides the underpinning support to facilitate continued sustainable development of our farming sector.

The framework will continue to deliver the cross-compliance protection of the outgoing regime for land based CAP measures, as well as introducing the concept of greening to primary agricultural support.

30% of the support budget will be linked to the delivery of greening obligations by individual farmers. Given the nature of our agricultural sector, the practical impact of this on main, grass-based enterprises will be minimal and the greater effect will be seen in the smaller arable and horticultural sectors. Nevertheless, this marks a significant shift in EU CAP policy towards the green agenda, and provides a platform for the further evolution of the CAP from 2020 under the next reform.

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety – New Sustainable Development Unit

DHSSPS have established a sustainable development unit to provide a champion role for sustainable development within the health, social care and public safety sector. This will promote new standards of sustainable development, and advance best practice alongside the highest standards of design, environmental sustainability and construction in health, social care and public safety policy design. It will help to embed sustainable development in the formulation of future policy, and deliver real sustainability benefits within new capital development projects and across the existing health estate.

The work of the unit also supports the implementation of NI Executive policies and initiatives such as the climate change, greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energy and biodiversity.

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety – Sustainable Design

For new capital developments, the main tool that has been developed is the Sustainable Development Design Brief for new capital projects. This tool is applied by both Health and Social Care and Public Safety organisations and Health Estates Investment Group Project and Programme Management as a policy directive. The tool incorporates the use of the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method for Healthcare (BREEAM), with the aim of achieving a BREEAM "excellent" score for new capital developments. The design brief requires an evaluation of options for ensuring sustainable development is incorporated into scheme designs.

Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister – Social Development

Delivering Social Change is a new initiative aimed at tackling some of the most invidious issues associated with poverty and deprivation, including its multi-generational impacts. Its approach is characterised by the application of three central principles of action:

- To break down or circumvent traditional barriers that obstruct effective coordination between organisations with shared interests;
- To apply best available interventions and programmes, based on robust evidence of efficiency – and efficacy at the outcome level; and
- To intervene early to prevent the negative effects of deprivation, breaking cycles of deprivation by taking action before negative effects are ingrained.

The Social Investment Fund has been designed to channel significant resource and capital investment directly to the community level, in support of improved social and economic outcomes in communities experiencing issues associated with deprivation. To do this successfully, and to ensure a positive, sustainable impact as a result of the investment requires:

- The direct involvement of community-level stakeholders in the design and delivery of investment programmes, to ensure best available local knowledge is harnessed, and that targeting of investment is successful;
- The design of new facilities, programmes and services to sit alongside, complement and learn from existing public, private and community and voluntary sector services; and,
- The capture, retention and dissemination of evidence, knowledge and experience from across service providers and stakeholders in all sectors, to build a repository of ‘what works’, and to inform future investment and service provision.

Together: Building a United Community is the Executive’s strategic framework for improving good relations and was published in May 2013. It is focussed on how the Executive will deliver a better future where everyone can live, learn, work and socialise together. The strategy outlines a vision of “a united community, based on equality of opportunity, the desirability of good relations and reconciliation – one which is strengthened by its diversity, where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced, and where everyone can live, learn, work and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance.”

Magherafelt District Council – Sustainability Initiatives

Magherafelt District Council actively promotes whole school sustainability through the Eco-Schools Programme. The Council supports local schools through their Environmental Projects Officer and rewards school with £500 when they obtain their first Green Flag, so that they can continue their work on sustainability. This has proved extremely successful with almost 90% of all the schools in the District registered for the programme and almost 60% of those already at Green Flag standard.

Magherafelt District Council is committed to the principles of the sustainable use of resources, as demonstrated by the new biomass energy plant installed at the Greenvale Leisure Centre. The wood-chip biomass plant supplements the Centre’s energy requirements and reduces its dependence on fossil fuels.

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development – Sustainability Measures

Rural Development Programme: DARD has continued to develop the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 in line with the Europe 2020 strategic objectives of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, incorporating action on climate change as a cross-cutting objective. The industry-led Agri-Food Strategy Board has identified sustainable growth as one of the over-arching themes in its strategic plan.

Rural Proofing: The promotion of Rural Proofing by DARD across all Departments increased awareness of the need to take account of rural needs and circumstances in the policy making process, which helped to ensure the future sustainability of rural areas.

Efficient Farms Cuts Greenhouse Gases Strategy: The “Efficient Farming Cuts Greenhouse Gases” strategy by the DARD-chaired Greenhouse Gas Implementation Partnership (GHGIP), in conjunction with industry and environmental interests, sets out a focus on the implementation of on-farm efficiency measures to lower the carbon footprint of food production. The aim is to establish carbon intensity reductions for key agri-food products which are, in the main, exported. Carbon intensity measurement and reductions are increasingly seen as important in countries and regions where exports are central to sustainable growth.

Department of Environment – Sustainable Development Initiatives

Carrier Bag Levy: DOE successfully implemented a levy for single use carrier bags, to reduce significantly the damage to the environment by the unnecessary use of these bags. Some 3,200 retailers across Northern Ireland are charging the levy, and figures to date point towards an annual reduction of at least 70%, with major supermarkets reporting reductions in excess of 80%.

Rethink Waste Capital Funding: DOE has allocated some £1.06 million Rethink Waste capital funding to local councils in 2013-14 for projects that will boost waste recycling and reuse.

Waste Prevention and Recycling: DOE awarded funding totalling £266k to 10 successful projects from local Councils, the community and voluntary sector and the private sector for waste prevention and recycling. East Belfast Mission received £33,433 to develop a bicycle repair and refurbishment workshop, whilst Voluntary Service Lisburn received £70,000 to refurbish furniture for re-use. Both these examples not only deliver resource efficiency, they also deliver employment, training and skills opportunities to unemployed people. The products from these activities provide low cost, high quality products for the community.

As part of the Department's Rethink Waste campaign, a total of 2,335 different activities were registered in Northern Ireland for the European Week of Waste Reduction (EWWR) from businesses, schools, councils, charities, retailers and individuals. This was a 400% increase in registrations from 2012 and NI had the second highest number of actions registered in Europe – this also represented over 90% of the total registered UK activities.



Benone Beach

Tourism Initiatives: Limavady Borough Council have put in place specific Sustainable Tourism Initiatives such as the "Leave No Trace" project at Benone Beach and a review of vehicle management at Benone. All local businesses are able to place recyclable material at Council's recycling centres for free.

Allotments and Community Gardens: The Council are working with Supporting Communities NI to develop allotment provision in Dungiven, and are also exploring the delivery of a community garden/allotment programme for the Magilligan area through the Interreg IV(a) Community Gardens and Allotments Project.

Health and Wellbeing Programme: The Council has appointed an Active Lifestyle Officer (funded by the PHA) to implement a health and well-being programme for referrals from the primary care sector. The Council is also a lead partner and delivery agent for a Sport NI Active Communities Programme - this programme targets older people, disabled people and females to encourage participation in sport by these groups and improve their physical activity.

Ards Borough Council – Environmental Management System

Ards Borough Council Environmental Management System (EMS) system allows the Council to ensure that all relevant duties are identified and that compliance is achieved. Statutory inspections are carried out by Northern Ireland Environment Agency and Northern Ireland Water on Council licensed waste management sites and those subject to closure action plans. Internal auditing is performed monthly on all sites using EMS. The Council employs qualified pollution experts who can investigate any issues that arise and implement control measures. Ground gas monitoring is carried out at closed landfill sites. The carbon footprint is measured and along with energy use is reported regularly to the Council. The organisation is moving towards a paperless system and meeting attendees are now using iPads to read documents at meetings. Electronic payslips and online claim forms are also used throughout the organisation.

As part of its EMS, environmentally sustainable practices are now the norm in terms of open space management of the beaches and playing fields. The Department of the Environment Waste Management Strategy is being applied through the Council's full and participative membership of Arc21, and the sub-regional waste management group.

Sustainable Development Statutory Duty Legal Compliance Statement

The Sustainable Development Unit at OFMDFM can confirm that the following organisations have provided satisfactory assurance of their compliance with the legal requirements of s. 25 of the Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006.

Antrim Borough Council
 Ards Borough Council
 Armagh City and District Council
 Ballymena Borough Council
 Ballymoney Borough Council
 Banbridge District Council
 Belfast City Council
 Carrickfergus Borough Council
 Castlereagh Borough Council
 Coleraine Borough Council
 Cookstown District Council
 Craigavon Borough Council
 Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
 Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure
 Department of Education
 Department for Employment and Learning
 Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment
 Department of Finance and Personnel
 Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
 Department of the Environment
 Department of Justice
 Department for Regional Development
 Department for Social Development
 Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister
 Derry City Council
 Down District Council
 Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council
 Fermanagh District Council
 Larne Borough Council
 Limavady Borough Council
 Lisburn City Council
 Magherafelt District Council
 Moyle District Council
 Newry and Mourne District Council
 Newtownabbey Borough Council
 North Down Borough Council
 Omagh District Council
 Strabane District Council