



Briefing 12-03

Scottish Governments Regeneration Strategy

To: All Chief Executives, Main Contacts and APSE Contacts in Scotland

For information only to England, Northern Ireland and Wales

Key Issues

- The Scottish Government's Regeneration Strategy suggests the economic, social and physical needs of a locality need to be developed in a coherent and holistic manner.
- The Regeneration Strategy places a considerable emphasis on an outcome based approach together with the need for a supporting evidence base.
- There is a key role for Community Planning Partnerships in establishing approaches to outcome based planning and resourcing.
- The Regeneration Strategy draws upon the English Total Place pilots.
- The Regeneration Strategy details a range of actions to secure its implementation particularly in relation to early intervention programmes.
- There is not a lot of additional money, emphasis will be placed on redeploying mainstream resources in relation to outcomes, across partner organisations.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Scottish Government's Regeneration Strategy builds on their discussion paper "Building a Sustainable Future" issued in February 2011 and the updated Economic Strategy published in September 2011. In addition, the Regeneration Strategy needs to be viewed in relation to the recently issued Infrastructure Investment Plan (December 2011) and the National Planning Framework, both of which are concerned with the delivery of regeneration outcomes, as is the forthcoming strategic approach to Cities/City Region.
- 1.2 The Regeneration Strategy also makes reference to:-
 - Public service reform

- Child poverty strategy
- More Choices More Chances
- Skills strategy

1.3 The inter-relationship with other key policies illustrates the complexity of the regeneration agenda.

2.0 Regeneration Vision

2.1 The Scottish Government see regeneration as a key tool to turn around disadvantaged communities and create sustainable communities which are “well”, particularly in economic and social terms.

2.2 To deliver the regeneration agenda the Scottish Government indicate the economic, physical and social needs of an area need to be addressed in a coherent and holistic manner. The Regeneration Strategy places an emphasis on the delivery of outcomes in a collaborative context, in terms of partnership working in communities and localities. This approach strengthens the role of Community Planning Partnerships in outcome planning and delivery.

3.0 Key Elements of the Scottish Governments Regeneration Strategy

3.1 The Regeneration Strategy identifies a number of key elements which are considered to be essential in terms of achieving success and delivering outcomes. These include:-

- Putting communities first
- Adopting and delivering holistic approaches which embrace **all** physical, economic, social and community dimensions.
- The importance of placed based approaches. (Drawing on the former English based “Total Place” methodology and pilot areas.
- The need for bespoke interventions to create economic opportunity in order to address worklessness and employment.
- The need to align funding streams across public sector organisations operating with defined areas.
- The requirement for effective leadership and partnership working.

3.2 The Regeneration Strategy recognises the need for evidence based approaches in order to shape future interventions. There is a significant role for the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation in shaping bespoke interventions.

4.0 Implementing the Regeneration Strategy

4.1 In progressing the strategy due cognisance will be given to:-

- Public service reform, taking an asset based approach, improving joint working and local delivery.
- Support for community led regeneration.
- Focussed funding programmes.

4.2 Specific actions within the Regeneration Strategy included:-

- Establishing a “high level” group to be chaired by the Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure and Capital to identify and overcome barriers to collaborative working and to place communities at the heart of the public sectors approach. This is entirely consistent with the findings of the Christie Commission.
 - Launching an “Achieving Change Programme” to help transform Scotland’s most deprived communities. Public sector agencies will be encouraged to submit proposals to the Scottish Government as part of the programme in 2012. Resources may be attached to the programme.
 - Establishing a People and Communities Fund with funding of £7.9m per annum over the period 2012/15 to promote and support community led regeneration.
 - Progress the Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill which will push for community involvement in underused public assets and derelict property in their neighbourhoods.
 - Support for the third sector.
 - Creating a Regeneration Investment Fund by reconfiguring existing investment funds.
 - Re-prioritising existing E.R.D.F monies to meet the planned regeneration outcomes.
 - Establishing four new Enterprise zones.
 - Examine and introduce new funding models to support regeneration (see Infrastructure Investment Plan previous APSE briefing).
 - Continue to promote the value of social housing in terms of its contribution to the regeneration policy and delivery agendas. The commitment to deliver 30,000 affordable new homes will make a significant contribution.
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- Continue to promote the Hub Initiative/model via the Scottish Futures Trust.

5.0 **APSE Comment and Conclusion**

5.1 Scotland and in particular specific communities experience significant amounts of concentrated deprivation across the full range of poverty dimensions. The sharp increase in unemployment in Scotland particularly amongst young people is becoming a central concern. For the period August to October levels of unemployment rose by 25,000 to 229,000 taking the unemployment rate up to 8.5% which is now higher than the U.K. The rate for youth unemployment went up from 72,000 to 93,000 a rate of 23.5%. Research published in December 2011 by the Scottish Trade Union Council highlights the point that long term unemployed (JSA over 12 months) is rising faster in Scotland than any other nation/region of the United Kingdom. And that Scotland has 8 of the 10 local authority areas showing the largest percentage increases in long term unemployment over the past year.

These areas include:

- Inverclyde
- Stirling
- Aberdeenshire
- Dundee City
- Falkirk
- Clackmannanshire
- West Dunbartonshire
- Aberdeen City

Many of these areas experience and encounter significant amounts of concentrated deprivation and arguably need additional support to assist in the regeneration of their areas.

The current and future outlook for particular communities will be challenging given the economic and austere conditions. The Scottish Governments approach to managing the economy is well documented in the Spending Review, Economic Strategy and the Infrastructure Investment Plan, which are designed to stimulate the economy by creating much needed growth and demand.

5.2 The Regeneration Strategy compliments and aligns with previously produced policies and plans. The strategy rightly recognises the need for a corporate approach is required in terms of delivering regeneration based services to disadvantaged communities. There is a key strategic role for local government in providing leadership to communities via the Community Planning Regime. Increasingly, Community Planning Partnerships will need to develop outcome delivery plans for their area which need to be supported by resources in terms of aligning partner budgets to outcomes. Mainstreaming the delivery of outcomes through the budget process will be an essential requirement as will the development of evidence based approaches to performance management. This will be a difficult task given the downward pressures on public sector finances.

5.3 The local government sector and its services has a significant role to play in regenerating communities, however the recent financial settlement for local government will make the regeneration challenge even more difficult. The regeneration strategy pledges £175 million to transform disadvantaged communities much of this is being allocated to the existing Urban Regeneration companies who are to lose funding in April 2013 only £7.9 million will be spent annually on community regeneration programmes and projects.

Many councils in Scotland will experience a reduction in their budgets, at the same time service demand pressures are increasing. The purchasing or spending power of Councils will reduce over the next three years and this will have significant implications for local authority areas in terms of their economic and social well being. The importance of targeted interventions will become even more important.

APSE provides members with a range of material to address economic and social challenges. Examples include *'More bang for the public buck: A guide to using procurement to achieve community benefits.'* In addition a number of APSE strategic forums considered issues identified within this briefing and member Councils are always encouraged to participate.

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