

# APSE

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# Is Northern Ireland different?

- The public sector employs 1 in 3 people
- Public spending is higher per capita
  - Labour costs are lower and there is a trade border with the Eurozone
- Regional strategy seems to be pursuing low corporation tax for FDI led economic growth
- Local authorities have truncated powers yet expectation is high
- Fractured public sector is looking for joined up governance and administration through community planning
- Compared to the rest of the UK the actions of the public sector could be more significant
- Where is the political debate about sustainability? .

# What can be achieved locally?

- Sustainability is less amenable to traditional problem solving – the new powers of local government could be critical
- National and global levers are often paramount
- Understanding the local potential for green jobs, goods and services is critical
- Community planning
- Planning policy
- Procurement and organizational management

# What is sustainable development?

1. Living within environmental limits....
2. Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society (meeting the needs of all people in existing and future communities, promoting personal well being , social cohesion and inclusion and creating equal opportunity)
3. Achieving a sustainable economy (building a strong , stable and prosperous economy which provides prosperity and opportunities for all)
4. Using sound science responsibly (evidence based policy making taking into account scientific uncertainty and public attitudes)
5. Promoting good governance (actively promoting participative systems of governance engaging peoples creativity energy and diversity)

**Pretty much our Corporate Plan!**

# Making it easy

- Co-ordinate funding into major European programmes
- Joint ventures with private partners that yield community benefit
- Utilize academic and business expertise
- Clarify roles at different levels to mitigate against investor and business confusion.
- Increase knowledge about what is happening locally and further afield that can shape low carbon opportunities
- Create mechanisms to work consistently with private partners
- Take bold steps – Hamburg and Munich energy futures
- Understand the investment market in low carbon sectors
- Adopt the laboratory approach– testing, not just aspiring and hoping
- Identify and support supply chain activity
- Strong signaling investment opportunities eg Salford and other energy companies bringing in pension funds
- Build credible links to energy companies and utilities and understand their drivers
- Importance of ICLEI, Euro cites and other international networks
- Learning from others – Hammarby, Malmo, Freiberg, Bristol

# Measure progress

- Air quality
- Ecological footprint
- Household waste pre capita – a proxy for good resource use
- Biodiversity
- Life expectancy from birth
- Green spaces
- Transport
- Unemployment
- Education

And for future proofing :

- Commitment on climate change through mitigation and adaptation
- Number of VAT registrations per 10,000 residents (the vibrancy of the NI economy)
- Recycling
- Food grown locally

# Use planning powers

- **“ to achieve sustainable development, economic, social and environmental gains should be sought jointly and simultaneously through the planning system. The planning system should play an active role in guiding development to sustainable solutions.”**
- A chance for a joined up local government and governance system
- **Good examples – NIEA Prosperity agreements**
- **it's all about infrastructure in the end**

# Irwell Valley Sustainable Communities (Salford)

- **‘To encourage communities to work together to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change and help them to take advantage of opportunities in the green economy in the interests of their personal and economic well being’**
- Communal commitment to flood risk
- Increased awareness of energy consumption and management
- Increased involvement in growing and greening (Biospheric foundation)
- Understanding green economy and opportunities (not just locally) .
- Develop future leaders and champions
- Increasing social cohesion



# Promote and support sustainable local enterprise

- Mount Zion social care , Lurgan
- Oldham and Salford - the co-operative Council
- Local energy companies and tackling fuel poverty through alternative generation
- Southampton Geo thermal
- Birmingham city centre partnership with Cofely,
- Bath and West Community Energy,
- Up cycling.:Restore Banbridge, with skills based opportunities for young people
- Greening and Growing – maintenance of riparian lands through social enterprise
- Create partnerships to secure step change in waste
- Energy purchasing – Fairpower East Cheshire with Ovo, GM community switch

# Work efficiently and create leadership

**Focus on a few key areas of change**

## **1. Clear and evidence based planning: Sustainable Energy Action Plan**

- A coherent evidence based and prioritized action plan to shape a sustainable energy system. Obtaining a secure and affordable supply of energy leads to competitive advantage and the converse is true
- Support 'total environment' pilots that align investment and carbon reduction with community engagement

## **2. Bring together thinly spread expertise**

## **3. Create a single point of contact at a senior level to create visible leadership**

# Be sure you can square the circle

**‘there is yet no credible, socially just, ecologically sustainable scenario of continually growing incomes of nine billion people’**

- Displacing CO<sub>2</sub> is a real problem ...local emissions can decrease as global emissions rise
- Need for a framework for monitoring economic growth alongside CO<sub>2</sub>
- Make the case to business: The ‘Mini Stern’ for GM predicted up to £20bn could be lost to the GM economy if failed to act
- Tackling climate change in GM could add £650m and 34,300 jobs. The skills and knowledge would then be exported .
- But a note of caution on sustainable green jobs