



PLANNING – THOUGHTS FROM WALES

Phil Williams

Director of Planning and Place
Belfast City Council





- Duty of Councillors
- Local Development Plan
- Wider Role of Planning
- Factors Driving Change





DUTY OF COUNCILLORS

- Age of Reform and Transformation
- Power and Responsibility
- Code of Conduct for Councillors and Committees
- Corporate Role as PC member
- Predetermination Issue
- Objectivity, transparency
- Scheme of delegation to officers





Local Development Plan

Key Changes

- More strategic in vision and approach which is flexible and faster
- Set out how places should change and what they will be like in the future
- Better participation from stakeholders earlier in the process
- Programme management and speedier delivery of plan documents
- Stronger link between evidence based plan policies and proposals
- Independent examination process that focuses on testing the 'soundness' of the plan (not objection based)
- Introduction of a plan-led system





Statement of Community Involvement

Before consultation the Council has to prepare:

A statement of the Council's policy for involving the community in development proposals and the plan





Local Development Plan



Local Development Plan – spatial priorities

Local Policies – how the priorities are to be applied

Planning process – Decisions/Implementation



Leading the case for Belfast

The next Programme for Government

The Government's strategic economic, social, and environmental priorities Northern Ireland

Getting commitments from Government to contribute to Belfast's Imperatives

The Belfast Agenda

The community planning and spatial planning processes will help us agree the vision and long term outcomes for the city. Developed with our partners the resulting 'Belfast Agenda' will determine the priorities and Imperatives for the city.

The council's and our partners' plans and strategic priorities for the city

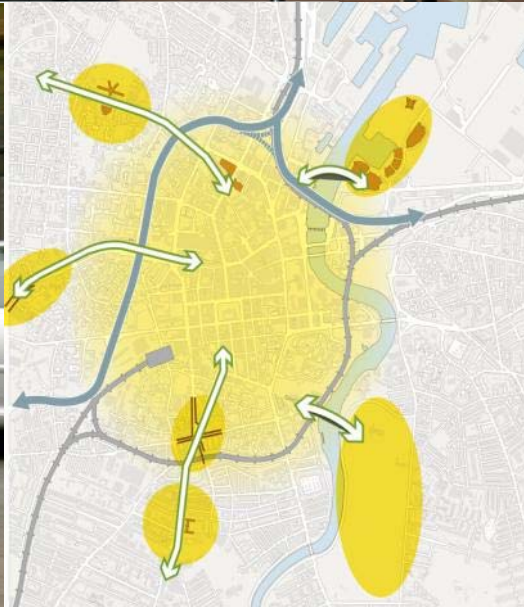
Local Development Plan (post 2015 spatial plan)

This will replace BMAP and be the city's long term spatial development plan





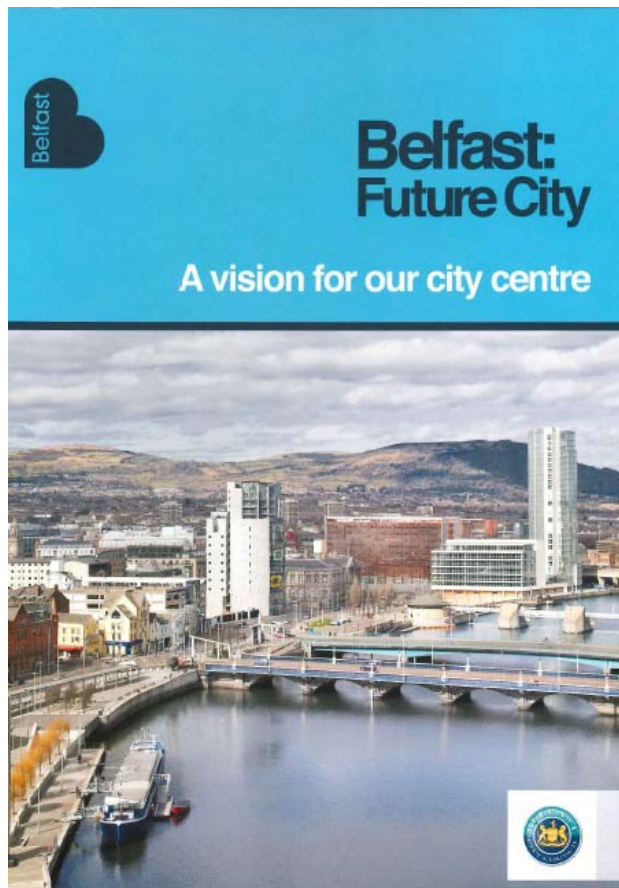
Planning: opportunities?





City Centre regeneration and the economy challenge.....

- Creating the conditions for growth and success?



Our response:
City Centre Investment &
Regeneration Framework





Green spaces





Connectivity





The skills & employment challenge

Skills and employability also impact on:

- Ability of city to attract inward investment
- Pay levels (and knock-on spend in the economy)
- Correlation with poor health and social issues (e.g. Crime and antisocial behaviour)





Opportunities

•Regeneration



•Community Planning





Next Steps

- Planning and regeneration functions
- City Centre regeneration
- Neighbourhood focus – targeted regeneration
- Economic growth and investment
- Dealing with inequality
- Integrating services
- New relationships with central government





What's required

- Shared planning process
- Long term ambition for the city, outcomes and programmes and interventions
- Understanding what makes an impact
- Engagement with communities and stakeholders
- Pragmatic partnership structures
- Measuring our success





New Development Management System

Create positive development management culture

Proportionate processes and decision-making at appropriate level through new 3 tier hierarchy:

- Councils determine major and local developments;
- DOE determine regionally significant through direct submission or call-in

Early pre-application engagement and enhanced transparency (including pre-determination hearings)





FACTORS DRIVING CHANGE

- Comprehensive SLAs
- Terms of Reference for Governance
- Planning Portal
- Planning Performance
- Inheritance



