



Inner South Belfast Neighbourhood Partnership

ANNUAL REPORT

2016

BACKGROUND

The Inner South Belfast Neighbourhood Partnership (ISBNP) was established in June 2005 to oversee the implementation of the Government's Neighbourhood Renewal Programme in the three inner city communities of Donegall Pass, Lower Ormeau and the Market. The ISBNP has membership drawn from the Community and Voluntary Sector, Public Sector and Private Sector, as well as elected members of Belfast City Council.

The Inner South Belfast NRA includes Donegall Pass, Lower Ormeau and the Market which, as of the May 2014 'Super Council' elections, are now located Botanic ward. The area has suffered from the decline in traditional manufacturing industries, and the resulting job losses, coupled with population movements out of the area, resulted in the local population suffering the composite effects of urban decline. In recent years, there has been an increase in the population of ethnic minorities in the Inner South Belfast area and therefore the Action Plan promotes regeneration which will bring social and economic benefits to the area through job creation and increased resources for all communities.

PEOPLE AND PLACE: A STRATEGY FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL

In June 2003, Government launched 'People and Place: A Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal', which represented a move away from short-term project-led interventions towards a long-term programme-based approach to tackle deprivation and close the quality of life gap. Neighbourhood Renewal is a cross government strategy and aims to bring together the work of all Government Departments in partnership with local people to tackle disadvantage and deprivation in all aspects of everyday life. Using the Noble Multiple Deprivation Measure, neighbourhoods in the most deprived 10% of wards across Northern Ireland were identified, resulting in a total of 36 areas being targeted for intervention, 15 of which are in Belfast.

Across these Neighbourhood Renewal Areas, Neighbourhood Partnerships were established as a vehicle for local planning and implementation. Each Neighbourhood Partnership developed long term visions and action plans designed to improve the quality of life of those living in the area and to ensure that the people living in the most deprived neighbourhoods have access to the best possible services and opportunities.

The purpose of the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme is to reduce the social and economic inequalities which characterise the most deprived areas and it does so by making a long term commitment to communities to work in partnership with them to identify and prioritise needs and co-ordinate interventions designed to address the underlying causes of poverty.

The Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy is informed by two over-arching goals:

- To ensure that people living in the most deprived Neighbourhoods have access to the best possible services and to the opportunities which make for a better quality of life for themselves and their families
- To improve the environment and image of our most deprived neighbourhoods so that they become more attractive places to live and work in

The Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy has 4 objectives:

- **Community Renewal**- to develop consistent communities that are able and committed to improving the quality of life in their areas
- **Economic Renewal**- to develop economic activity in the most deprived neighbourhoods and connect them to the wider urban economy
- **Social Renewal**- to improve social conditions for the people who live in the most deprived neighbourhoods through better co-ordinated public services and the creation of safer environments
- **Physical Renewal**-to help create attractive, safe, sustainable environments in the most deprived neighbourhoods

NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL AND THE MID-TERM REVIEW

The Department carried out a Mid-Term Review of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy, which considered the overall impact for those who reside in the Neighbourhood Renewal Areas. The aim of the Mid-Term Review was to determine the extent to which the Neighbourhood Renewal policy has met or is meeting its objectives and that those intended to benefit have done so.

The Neighbourhood Renewal Mid-Term Review, published in March 2011, identified a number of recommendations, including:

- A common set of project output indicators should be agreed for Neighbourhood Renewal Investment Fund supported projects
- If real change is to occur which goes beyond alleviating the symptoms of deprivation then regeneration success should be measured by the outcomes that it delivers (not activities) with a priority focus on improving economic outcomes.

The Mid-Term Review suggested that in order to make a positive difference to the lives of those people that we seek to support, Neighbourhood Partnerships must focus more on what they aim to accomplish as opposed to focusing on the projects supported and interventions made.

INNER SOUTH BELFAST NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP

The Inner South Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership underwent an election process, administered by the South Belfast Partnership Board, and on the 5th December 2013, a new ISBNP Board was elected. In addition, the ISBNP Constitution was formally adopted by the Board in mid-December 2013.

The ISBNP has a Board of 9 community representatives (3 from each community) and also consists of representatives from statutory bodies, as well as one political representative from each political party representing the Botanic area. The Partnership's Board includes a Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer, as well as the Chair of each of the 5 Thematic Sub Groups. In addition, there is a Neighbourhood Renewal Co-ordinator who provides secretarial support to the Chairperson and the Partnership.

The ISBNP delivers across 5 themes and therefore has 5 Sub Groups; one dedicated to each theme and directly linked to the delivery of the ISBNP Action Plan. The majority of the work and decision making is undertaken at the Sub Group level, which is then ratified at the overall Partnership Board meeting. The Sub Group meetings occur on a fortnightly basis, therefore it takes a period of ten weeks for all Sub Groups to have met once, and then the Board meets on the 12th week of the cycle. Therefore, there will be a total of 20 Sub Group meetings and 4 Board meetings per year for the ISBNP.

In January/February 2016 the ISBNP carried out an election process to its board. All Prospective members were publicly notified and invited to submit nominations and/or to participate in the Partnership's subcommittees.

STATEMENT OF NEEDS/PRIORITIES

The ISBNP carried out an Action Plan review in April/May 2014, and it was agreed that the Action Plan for 2015-2017 would continue to be based around 5 strategic themes, which the five Sub Groups are formed around in order to deliver on the Action Plan.

- 1. Building Strong, Safe, Attractive and Sustainable Communities**
- 2. Economic Development, Worklessness and Skills**
- 3. Improving Community Relations**
- 4. Raising Education Attainment and Engaging Young People**
- 5. Improving Health and Well-being**

SOUTH BELFAST SYNERGIES FORUM

The Inner South Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership joined with the South West Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership to establish the Neighbourhood Renewal Synergies Forum. The South Belfast Partnership Board are the lead on this initiative and the ISBNP actively participates in the events of the NR Synergies Forum. Areas of collaboration include: an Economic Forum, Consultations, Vacant Building Rates, Tourism, Youth, Health, Education and Communication/Newsletter.

INNER SOUTH BELFAST NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

The Neighbourhood Renewal Investment Fund is currently supporting projects in the Inner South Neighbourhood Renewal Area across the themes of Community Renewal, Economic Renewal, Social Renewal and Physical Renewal. The organisations which deliver in the Inner South Neighbourhood Renewal area include:

- Lower Ormeau Resident's Action Group (LORAG)
- Donegall Pass Community Forum (DPCF)
- Market's Development Association (MDA)
- Donegall Pass Community Association (DPCA)
- An Droichead
- Mornington Community Project
- Réalta na Cromóige
- South Belfast Alternatives (SBA)
- Sólas
- GEMS NI
- Cromac Regeneration Initiative (CRI)
- St Malachy's Youth Centre
- Pangur Bán

Lower Ormeau

LORAG has continued to expand and prosper over the last year and offers a range of services and amenities, including the South Belfast Family Support Hub. An Droichead has also continued to offer a range of culturally enriching opportunities ranging from an annual festival through to language and music classes. Of particular note for the area was the realisation of the Mornington Community Project's capital ambitions with the redevelopment and reopening of their community resource centre.

Donegall Pass

The Donegall Pass Community Forum has led the way in the physical regeneration of the area with the opening of a community garden which serves as another hub for local people to meet, work and socialise; the Forum has also, at its CRI based offices, offered a range of educational courses. South Belfast Alternatives continue to be active on the ground challenging some of the most contentious issues in the community and helping to offer positive alternatives through its Street-by-Street project and its community relations educational work.

The Market

The MDA has successfully lobbied for hundreds of thousands of pounds to be invested into the area over the last year, which includes £130,000 to rehouse St Georges ABC, £400,000 for the redevelopment of the playground and £250,000 for the accompanying Surestart modular build; while also making significant progress on a number of other projects, and in particular achieving planning permission from Belfast City Council for the landmark Tunnels Project. Local sports club Réalta na Cromóige has continued to flourish and has put dozens of young people in the area through their coaching badges and other sporting qualifications. The Pangur Bán Literary and Cultural Society, formed in spring 2014 and newly joining the Partnership in February 2016, has successfully levied in over £30,000 in funding for a variety of educational and art based activities, its leading role in the Market 1916 Centenary Project being of particular note.

INNER SOUTH BELFAST NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP

EXPENDITURE FOR 2015/2016

The following table details current projects funded via the Neighbourhood Renewal Investment fund. It also details the 2015/2016 individual spend for each project, the total amount of expenditure by strategic objective and the overall 2015/2016 total expenditure in the Inner South Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Area.

Programme/Project	CFF Funding Period	CFF Funding Amount (Project allocation)	2015/2016 Spend (as at 31/03/16)
COMMUNITY RENEWAL			
Donegall Pass Community Forum	01/04/15 – 31/03/16	£53,825.64	Up to £53,825.64
South Belfast Alternatives	01/04/15 – 31/03/16	£20,934.08	Up to £20,934.08
South Belfast Partnership Board	01/04/15 – 31/03/16	£61,812.68	Up to £61,812.68
Markets Development Association	01/04/15 – 31/03/16	£25,419.44	Up to £25,419.44
Total Community Renewal Expenditure		£161,991.84	Up to £161,991.84

SOCIAL RENEWAL – EDUCATION

An Droichead	01/04/15 – 31/03/16	£55,705.32	Up to £55,705.32
Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group	01/04/15 – 31/03/16	£97,353.26	Up to £97,353.26
Total Social Renewal Ed Expenditure		£153,058.58	Up to £153,058.58

PHYSICAL RENEWAL

Markets Development Association	01/04/15 – 31/03/16	£60,002.24	Up to £60,002.24
St Georges Boxing Club	01/04/15 – 31/03/16	£156,784.80	Up to £156,784.80
Total Physical Renewal Expenditure		£216,787.04	Up to £216,787.04

ECONOMIC RENEWAL			
Donegall Pass Community Forum	01/04/15 – 31/03/16	£97,353.26	Up to £97,353.26
Total Economic Renewal Expenditure		£97,353.26	Up to £97,353.26
TOTALS		Total Allocation <u>£629,190.72</u>	Total Spend <u>Up to £629,190.72</u>