

Implementing community planning

agendaNi seminar



A new skill for Northern Ireland

Tuesday 15th June 2010 • Dunadry Hotel, Co Antrim

www.agendaNi.com/events

Community planning: A new responsibility

As the Northern Ireland local government sector prepares for re-organisation in May 2011, from the current 26 local authorities to 11 new Councils, community planning is one of the most important functions that will transfer to the new organisations. They will be required to produce community plans for their areas defining local needs and identifying local solutions. The plans will not only have to identify tasks that need to be completed, but will also set out who will be responsible for carrying these tasks out. Under the planned legislation, local councils will have a duty to lead the community planning process and other bodies will be required to participate in and promote community planning.

The community planning process

Community planning is an evolving and long-term process. It will improve the connection between regional, local and neighbourhood levels through partnership working and making best use of all available resources. It recognises that no organisation alone can solve the problems or exploit the opportunities that exist in an area, this can only be achieved by working together.

Put simply, the purpose of a community plan is to set out how the public, private, voluntary sector and community organisations will work together to achieve a vision for the area.

Some of the key issues that could be addressed through local community plans include:

- ✓ Provision of high quality housing
- ✓ Designing transport connections
- ✓ Improving health and well-being
- ✓ Economic renewal and prosperity
- ✓ Provision of infrastructure
- ✓ Creating sustainable communities
- ✓ Leisure facilities and local amenities
- ✓ Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour

Exploring a key skill for all policy-makers

agendaNI has organised this one day seminar to examine some of the key issues for Northern Ireland in moving towards a local council-led community planning system. It brings together a high level panel of local and visiting speakers with expertise in this area.

The seminar programme recognizes that community planning is a new concept in the Northern Ireland context. It explains the importance of community planning in delivering improved services that are responsive to the needs of the communities they provide for. The seminar will also set out some of the advantages of community planning in tackling issues such as health inequality, meeting housing needs and providing safer neighbourhoods.

Although the community planning process in Northern Ireland will be led and facilitated by local councils and councillors, an understanding of the process should not be confined to those working within this sector. Issues associated with community planning cut across all sectors, including transport, health, education, justice, infrastructure, regeneration and the economy and this seminar will be of interest to those working in any service delivery, policy or planning role. One of the key ideals at the heart of community planning is partnership working so it is important that those across the private, public and voluntary and community sectors all have an understanding of this new approach to providing high quality, efficient services that contribute to vibrant, healthy, prosperous, safe and sustainable communities.

When people are involved in shaping their local communities, some of the benefits can include:

- Additional resources
- Better decisions
- Sustainability
- Building community
- Democratic credibility
- Easier fundraising
- Empowerment
- More appropriate results
- Professional education
- Responsive environment
- Satisfying public demand
- Speedier development

Tuesday 15th June

09.00 Chairman's welcome and introduction
Richard Hart, Director, Cherton

The role of community planning in building local communities

Valerie Watts, Chief Executive
Derry City Council

Community planning: Opportunities for the voluntary and community sector

Lisa McElherron, Policy Manager, NICVA

Community planning as a mechanism for sustainable community regeneration

Dr Ken Sterrett, School of Planning,
Architecture and Civil Engineering
Queen's University, Belfast

Engaging with the community in planning & implementing infrastructure investment

Kenny Knox, Senior Assistant Strategic
Advisor, Strategic Investment Board Limited

Questions and answers / Panel discussion

10.30 Morning coffee / networking break

11.00 *Keeping communities safe: Identifying and delivering local solutions to local problems*
Dan Mulholland, Head of Partnership
Development Branch, Community Safety Unit
Department of Justice

*Community planning:
The key to tackling health inequalities*
Joanne Morgan, Director, Community
Development and Health Network

Engaging with the community in delivering better housing

Heather Voisey, Partnerships Manager,
Development and Regeneration
Glasgow Housing Association

Planning with communities: The role of planners in community planning

Deborah Peel
Member, Executive Committee RTPI

Questions & answers / Panel discussion

13.00 Chairman's summary and seminar close followed by networking lunch

“Community planning will provide a framework whereby councils, government departments, statutory bodies and other relevant agencies and sectors can work together to develop and implement a shared vision for promoting the well-being of an area based on effective engagement with the community”

Minister of the Environment, **Edwin Poots**, MLA
Northern Ireland Assembly
1st March 2010



I wish to:

- Reserve _____ places at the *Implementing community planning seminar*
£175 + VAT @ 17.5% = £205.63
- Discounted rate for the voluntary and community sector
£155 + VAT @ 17.5% = £182.13
- Discounted rate for local government sector
(Elected representatives and officers)
£155 + VAT @ 17.5% = £182.13

Delegate details

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr): _____

Job title: _____

Organisation: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Payment options

- I enclose a cheque for £ _____
Payable to 'bmf Business Services'
- Please invoice me
- Please debit my Visa / Access / Mastercard / AMEX

Card number

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Name of card holder _____

Signature _____

Expiry date _____

(Please provide card billing address if different from company address)

Cancellations / substitutions

For those unable to attend, a substitute delegate may be sent at any time for no additional charge. Alternatively a refund will be given for cancellations received in writing, by fax or email, up to 14 days prior to the seminar, less an administration charge of 25%. Regrettably no refunds can be made after that date.

Who should attend?

This seminar will be of interest to a wide range of stakeholders with an interest in improving services in local communities, including:

- Local government officers
- Councillors and other elected representatives
- Service providers and planners across the public sector
- Voluntary and community sector
- Planning & design experts
- The housing sector
- Transport planners
- Infrastructure providers
- Urban regeneration professionals
- Developers

Benefits of attending

Delegates attending the seminar will:

- ✓ Understand the importance of community planning in building local communities
- ✓ Hear from expert speakers with direct experience of community planning
- ✓ Gain insight into the role of the voluntary and community sector in local service provision
- ✓ Learn about how community planning can help to tackle health inequalities
- ✓ Receive details on community planning as a means towards sustainable regeneration.

Acknowledgement of registration

Confirmation of registration will be sent to all delegates, following registration details. If you have not received your acknowledgement seven days prior to the date of the conference, please contact Cathy Glenn at agendaNi to confirm your booking.
Email: cathy.glenn@agendaNi.com

Other ways to book



By fax
028 9261 9951



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