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Poverty, Place and Inequality

Northern Ireland Planning
Conference

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Breakout Seminar

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Seminar structure

Aim: to outline place-based factors of poverty and inequality and how these can be built in Local Development Plans

- Presentation and Q&A
- Group discussion
- Group feedback



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Poverty, Place and Inequality

The cover features a photograph of a modern multi-story apartment building with yellow balconies. A green circle in the lower-left of the photo contains the text 'Policy Paper'. The title 'Poverty, place and inequality' is written in large blue font below the photo. Below the title is the subtitle 'Why place-based approaches are key to tackling poverty and inequality' in green. The author's name 'Victoria Pinoncelly' is in blue. The RTPI logo and tagline are at the bottom right. The website 'www.rtpi.org.uk' is in the top right corner. At the bottom left, the registered charity numbers are listed.

www.rtpi.org.uk

Policy Paper

Poverty, place and inequality

Why place-based approaches are key to tackling poverty and inequality

Victoria Pinoncelly

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Registered charity number: 262866
Scottish registered charity number: SC 037841



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‘People versus Place’ debate

- For some commentators, *who* you are matters more than *where* you live
- Recognise significant inequalities between areas, but downplay impact place has on people
- Most disparities explained by individual differences (e.g. education) not ‘area effects’
- People with similar incomes concentrate in neighbourhoods due to costs (‘sorting effect’)



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‘People versus Place’ debate

“[T]hose without jobs or job prospects cannot afford to pay the housing market costs of better transport links. Moreover given their low skills or poor health and so their poor prospects of getting better jobs, they are likely not so badly off in living in less accessible but cheaper areas.”

- Cheshire, Nathan, Overman (2014)
Urban Economics and Urban Policy

Lack of/poor planning
wastes the potential of places
and people

Place Poverty Factors



Affordable, quality housing



Access to services



Availability and quality of green spaces



Access to educational opportunities



Availability of public transport



Access to jobs



Local air quality and pollution



Access to shops and healthy food



Rates of crime and anti-social behaviour

Recommendations and implications





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Recommendations and implications

Integrated poverty reduction strategies tailored to their particular places and communities need to be developed. At the local government level, many authorities have developed integrated poverty reduction strategies tailored to their particular places and communities. This can create savings and tackle issues more effectively. This is all the more important in the context of limited resources.



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Regeneration and poverty in Northern Ireland (review by Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2014)

“Following reform of local government in 2015, the new councils have scope to incorporate antipoverty objectives more overtly into their regeneration strategies and to include specific income poverty outcomes in their evaluation approach, along with increasing community involvement in the policy area through the community planning process, although effective joined up action will be a challenge”.



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Linking People and Places: Spatial and Community Planning (RTPI Scotland)

“Spatial planning needs to articulate to community planning what it can do”



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Linking People and Places: Spatial and Community Planning

Executive Summary

There has been a perception that there is a disconnect between the processes, outcomes and priorities of spatial planning and community planning. The Scottish Government defines community planning as a “process which helps public agencies to work together with the community to plan and deliver better services which make a real difference to people’s lives”. Given this, RTPI Scotland has undertaken research exploring if there is a disconnect, and if how we can address this, and what the benefits of a greater connection between processes might be for all parties.

The research identified a number of opportunities that were highlighted by both spatial planners and those working in community planning:

- delivering outcomes;
- sharing processes;
- sharing resources; and
- sharing knowledge.

A number of barriers were also identified:

- timescales and statutory processes;
- reduction in resources;
- institutional barriers;
- understanding spatial and community planning;
- commitment to implementation; and
- culture.

The research has also led to a number of recommendations for taking work forward:

1. There needs to be recognition of the starting points to making links between spatial planning and community planning;
2. There are opportunities to align processes to help deliver spatial planning and community planning outcomes more effectively and efficiently;
3. Spatial planning needs to articulate to community planning what it can do;
4. Community Planning Partnerships need to recognise the need for, and role of, spatial planning in delivering community planning;
5. There needs to be more effective communication between spatial and community planning actors;
6. There is a need to improve spatial planners’ knowledge of community planning and where they can contribute;
7. There is a need to explore the landscape of plans for overlap and consistency;
8. There is a need to be clear about roles and responsibilities at different levels;
9. There is a need to explore how community-led approaches contribute to the delivery of both Community Plan and Development Plan outcomes; and
10. There is a need to ‘drill down’ further to explore practical opportunities and barriers.



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Recommendations and implications

Local authorities should recognise the importance of planning in poverty reduction within their local plans. Programmes for poverty reduction should not be narrowly conceived through housing provision, but instead encompass better transport links, access to local services and amenities, and safer communities, all of which are important to creating better environments. In turn, these can promote greater economic participation and more cohesive communities, as well as generating more investment in struggling areas.

Policy context in Northern Ireland





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Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (September 2015)

“On the needs and aspirations of our society – facilitating sustainable housing growth in response to changing housing need (including delivery of social and affordable homes), supporting urban and rural regeneration (including proposals to address dereliction and promoting investment in the physical regeneration of deprived areas); progressing policies, plans and proposals that can improve the health and well-being of local communities; and helping build a strong and shared society.”



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SPPS Core Planning Principles

Paragraph 4.15 “Planning authorities should utilise development planning, regeneration and development management powers to contribute to the creation of an environment that: is accessible to all and enhances opportunities for shared communities; has a high standard of connectivity, and supports shared use of public realm. Regeneration initiatives should aim to address environmental issues by improving areas characterised by substandard living environments, insular layouts and poor connectivity. However, for these initiatives to be fully successful they should also seek to address the social and economic challenges of multiple deprivation and social exclusion.”



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SPPS Core Planning Principles

Paragraph 4.37 “The quality of our local environment is world renowned. (...) It also plays a critical role in supporting the local economy, and must continue to do so through sustainable economic development activity. The quality of our local environment can also influence our health and well-being, and help tackle social deprivation. The protection of existing, and provision of new, quality open space within or close to settlements plays a vital role in promoting healthy living and tackling inequality through facilitating play, sporting activities, passive activity and interaction with others.”

Poverty, Place and Inequality: Review of Local Plans



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Review of local plans

- Looked at whether the issues of poverty, inequality, deprivation and/or social exclusion were considered in local plans' policies (beyond the evidence base).
- Passing reference to the issues as part of the overall strategic objectives or within some specific policies only has been recognised.
- However, mention to “regeneration” alone in local plans was not regarded as sufficient in the absence of the keywords defined above outlined as intended outcomes of regeneration.



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Review of local plans: research sample

- Sample of 100 local plans/core strategies from across Britain (representing 115 and about 25 per cent of the total number of local authorities in Britain).
- Excludes Northern Ireland due to the recent decentralisation of planning powers.
- Representative of population distribution both within the UK nations and English regions, urban and rural areas, political control of local authorities, and local government structure.



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Review of local plans: results

- The review revealed that **39 per cent of local plans** did not consider these issues at all within their policies.
- Local plans in urban areas did tend to consider these issues more, with 64 per cent of local plans, while only 44 per cent of local plans in rural areas did.
- However, some rural local plans such as in Cheshire or Wiltshire stood out by their consideration of rural poverty and deprivation.

Review of local plans: Sheffield

Objectives for Opportunities for All; Inclusion & Opportunities

- Investment and renewal directed to neighbourhoods that lack adequate facilities and services, or those that suffer from an unsatisfactory environment, particularly in the north and east of the city.
- New development designed and located to benefit those who are currently excluded and vulnerable.
- A wider choice of housing provided through more mixing of house types and tenures, to meet the needs of the whole community, including older people and disabled people.
- Workplaces located where they are accessible to all by a range of transport options, particularly from areas of high unemployment.
- Services and facilities, and the spaces around and between them, located and designed to be safe and accessible to all.

6. Responding to evidenced social needs

KP13: RESPONDING TO EVIDENCED SOCIAL NEEDS

A key part of the successful progression of the city will be to develop sustainable neighbourhoods, tackle deprivation, and improve the quality of life for all. This will be achieved through:

- i. Providing a range of dwelling sizes, types and affordability including seeking to provide a target of 6,953 affordable dwellings over the remaining 13 years of Plan period;**
- ii. Supporting the vitality, viability and attractiveness of existing District and Local Centres and their regeneration, including retail and other commercial development and housing of an appropriate scale;**
- iii. Encouraging the provision of a full range of social, health, leisure and education facilities and community infrastructure for both existing and new communities that are accessible to all by walking and cycling and public transport;**
- iv. Supporting the regeneration of deprived communities within the city and maximising the additional benefits that new communities can bring to adjoining or surrounding communities;**
- v. Encouraging the enhancement of communities through better equality of access to services for all, promoting cultural and wider diversity for all groups in society, and creating places that encourage social interaction and cohesion;**
- vi. Developing new cultural and sporting facilities to build upon Cardiff's role as a major tourist, cultural and sporting destination for visitors and residents alike; and**
- vii. Designing out crime and creating communities which are safer and feel safer.**

Review of local plans: Trafford

Vision: Attractive, sustainable communities, with good access to jobs, services and green infrastructure/multi functional green space will be established across Trafford with a range of housing types and tenures (including affordable housing)

- SO2: Regenerate – the physical, economic, environmental and social fabric of the most disadvantaged communities within the borough to reduce inequalities and improve prosperity

Place objectives

- MVO12: To secure improved access to the area by sustainable modes of transport, particularly from the Borough's most deprived areas
- OTO17: To secure improvements to public transport which are critical to opening up job opportunities for residents of Trafford's deprived neighbourhoods.
- STO17: To improve access to work and reduce economic deprivation.

POLICY L3: REGENERATION AND REDUCING INEQUALITIES

L3.1

Within Trafford's Regeneration Areas the Council will secure:

- Improvements to accessibility between the Regeneration Areas and employment areas such as Trafford Park, Carrington, the town centres and the Regional Centre by a choice of modes of transport, including walking and cycling;
- Improved access to and/or the provision of community (including cultural) facilities for the communities within the Regeneration Areas;
- Healthier lifestyle choices for the communities within the Regeneration Areas;
- Improved access to education, training and advice centres to/from the Regeneration Areas;
- Improved quality of design and construction and range (including affordability and type) of the Borough's housing stock on offer to residents within the Regeneration Areas;
- Improvements to the local environment of the Regeneration Areas; and
- Opportunities to reduce crime and to enhance community safety.

L3.2

Within these Regeneration Areas the Council will support appropriate development(s) that will reduce inequalities, secure regeneration benefits; create truly sustainable communities; and make positive contribution(s) to achieving the Plan's Strategic Objectives and relevant Place Objectives as follows:



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Case study: (award-winning) Plymouth Plan

- Poverty and inequality strong focus across the plan, prioritising the importance of physical and financial access to facilities, services and opportunities and promoting community cohesion and “where inequality and fairness are addressed for those living and working in the city” and to “allow all residents to take advantage of economic growth delivered in the city”.
- Addresses health inequalities (including through tackling food poverty) lack of enough affordable housing, the need to provide good quality jobs, climate change, increased demand on services, and reduced public sector resources.



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Case study: Plymouth Plan

- In neighbourhoods where people are disadvantaged and do not have equal chances, providing specific support to local communities and consider targeted regeneration and other interventions as appropriate.
- Role for local planning authority to support this by identifying sites for development and considering proposals for development in terms of whether they deliver sustainable linked neighbourhoods, strengthen communities and address inequality (including where appropriate using planning powers to control the number of betting shops, fixed odds betting terminals and pay day lenders in the city - a recommendation that emerged from the City's Fairness Commission).

Better planning
boosts the potential of places
and people



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Questions for group discussions

- What are the challenges in terms of place-based poverty/inequality in your local area?
- Aligning with the community planning process and developing a shared vision – how can it be articulated how spatial planning can add value and help to achieve community outcomes better?



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Group feedback



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