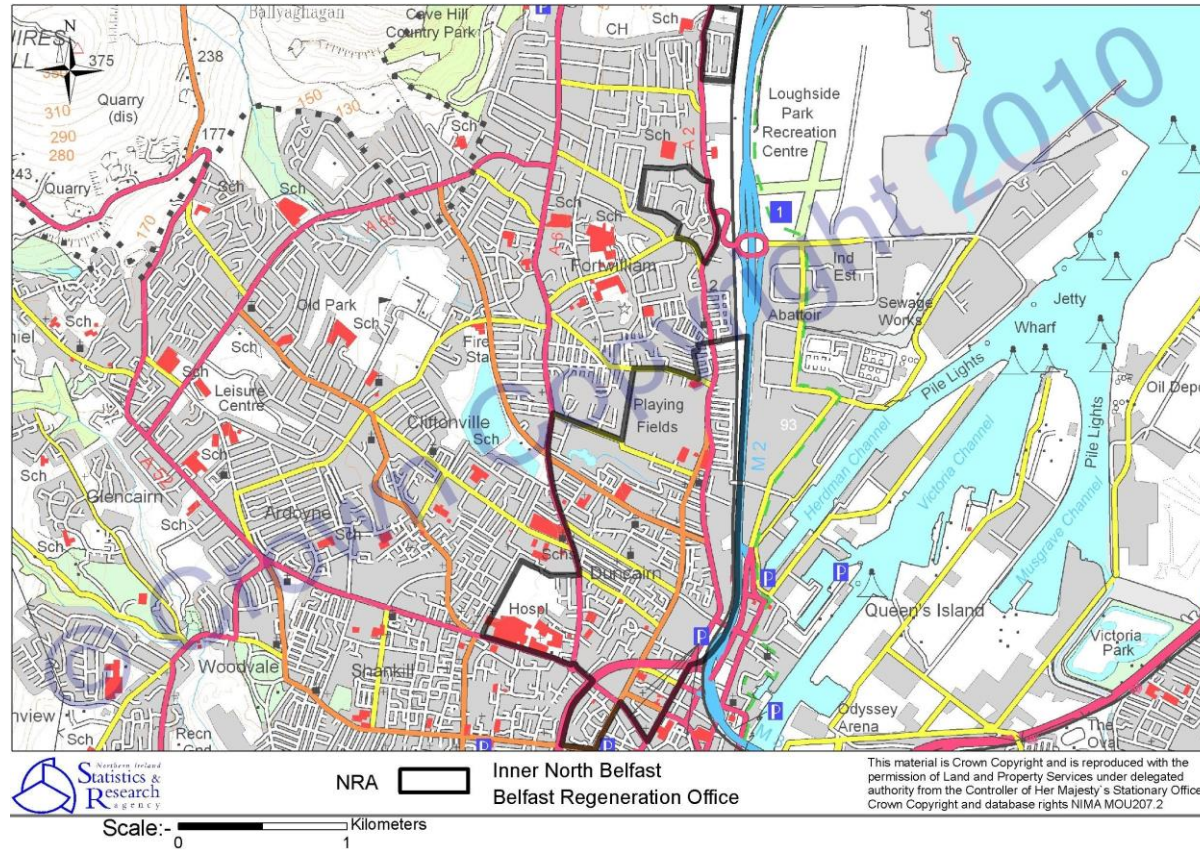


Inner North Neighbourhood Renewal Area Annual Report 2015/16



Area Profile of Inner North Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRA)¹



¹ The figures in this Section are based on the 2001 Census Output Areas which approximate the Neighbourhood Renewal Area shown in the map above. Census Output Areas are the smallest geographic units for which official statistics can be produced whilst also protecting the confidentiality of individuals. For a copy of the Output Areas on which this profile is based click here: [Neighbourhood Renewal Area to Output Area lookup](#)

Inner North Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership ANNUAL REPORT – 2015/16

About Neighbourhood Renewal

The Neighbourhood Renewal Programme aims to reduce the social and economic inequalities which characterise the most deprived areas. 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. Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships were established with representatives of local community interests together with appropriate Government Departments, public sector agencies, private sector interest and local elected representatives. The socio economic statistics demonstrate some of the principal challenges facing the Inner North area; reflecting high levels of unemployment, low educational attainment, community health issues and the challenges facing young people in the area and lack of facilities available.

About Inner North Neighbourhood Partnership

The Inner North Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership emerged in late 2004 through informal meetings between representatives of Greater New Lodge Community Empowerment Partnership and Lower North Belfast Community Council. The Neighbourhood Partnership initially comprised of four representatives from each group. Representatives from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and North and West Belfast Health and Social Services Trust also became members. The original community balance, established at the end of 2004, was supplemented in April 2006 by a representative from Mount Vernon when this neighbourhood was added to the neighbourhood renewal area (NRA) by DSD.

Inner North Belfast NRA comprises mostly of Duncairn and New Lodge wards, and includes Carrick Hill, Newington, Duncairn, New Lodge, Mountcollyer, Gainsborough, Grove, Northwood, Mountvernon and Shore Crescent. A number of main arterial routes run through the area and the M2 motorway acts as one of its boundaries.

The Partnership now consists of a range of community and voluntary sector partners from across New Lodge, Carrick Hill, Tigers Bay, Shore Road and Mount Vernon, and is complemented by the North Belfast Partnership Board, Belfast City Council, NIHE, and the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust. It is committed to delivering sustained improvement in Inner North Neighbourhoods as initially reflected in its 2006 Vision Framework and Action Plan.

The Partnership established 4 sub-groups to assist in the identification, development and where appropriate the delivery of projects which aim to address the Programmes 4 strategic objectives of Community Renewal, Social Renewal, Economic Renewal and Physical Renewal. They also assist local community organisations to coordinate actions that are beneficial for all communities living in the Inner North Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRA).

With the development of the first neighbourhood Action Plan in 2007 all members of the sub-groups involved in delivering Neighbourhood Renewal had a seat at the Partnership. After a review in 2009 it was agreed that the Partnership move to establish a smaller more focused Partnership Management Committee that would provide overall direction to the work of the Partnership.

Each subgroup would then nominate at least one member to sit on the main Partnership Management Committee. Each sub group was to appoint a chairperson and a co-chair and engage with the appropriate statutory representatives to ensure representation on the subgroup.

The aims of the sub groups are:

- To influence statutory agencies to focus their investments and resources on the delivery of public services where they will have most impact on improving the well-being and quality of life for those living and working in Inner North.
- To engage in effective working partnerships with key stakeholders from all relevant sectors to proactively deliver the identified priorities detailed in the Neighbourhood Action Plan.
- To maintain a Neighbourhood Partnership and related sub group structures that are representative of local regeneration stakeholders that will lead, coordinate and monitor implementation of the Neighbourhood Action Plan.

Partnership Management Committee Membership is listed below:

Paul Roberts (Chairperson)	Community Representative Ashton Community Trust	A
Billy Hutchinson (Vice Chairperson)	Community Representative Mount Vernon Community Development Forum	
Jenny Oliver	Statutory Representative Belfast City Council	
Vacant	Statutory Representative Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	
Malachy McKinney	Statutory Representative Northern Ireland Housing Executive	
Katrina Newell	Community Representative New Lodge Arts	
Frances Duff	Community Representative Fortwilliam Youth Club	
May Adamson	Community Representative Loughview Community Action Partnership	
Irene Sherry	Community Representative Ashton Community Trust	
John McCorry	Community Representative North Belfast Partnership	

Conor Ellis

Statutory Representative
Belfast Regeneration Office North Team

Michael Bradley

Statutory Representative
Belfast Regeneration Office North Team

Amanda Ashe

Community Representative
Loughview Community Action Partnership

Paul O'Neill

Community Representative
Ashton Community Trust

INNER NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP SUBGROUPS

Physical and
Economic Sub
Group

Social and
Renewal Sub
Group

Children and
Young People
Sub Group

Health and
Wellbeing
Sub Group

The sub group members are detailed as below :

Physical and Economic Sub Group

Paul Roberts (Co-chair)	Ashton Community Trust
Amanda Ashe (Co- chair)	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Alice Quinn	Invest NI
Lynn Carvill	Womens TEC
Billy Hutchinson	Mountvernon Community Development Forum
Bill Hill	Loughview Community Partnership
Turlough McAleenan	North Belfast Partnership
Frank Dempsey	Carrick Hill Residents Association
Gerard Brophy	St Pats and St Josephs
Jim Crothers	The Hub
Liam Wiggins	Seven Towers Residents Group
Pat Boyle	Ashton Community Trust
Paul O'Neill	Ashton Community Trust
Malachy McKinney	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Susan Neill	North Belfast Employment Centre
David Mawhinney	Invest NI

Social and Community Sub Group

Billy Hutchinson (Co-chair)	Mount Vernon Community Development Forum
Paul O'Neill (Co- chair)	Ashton Community Trust
Alex Bunting &	FASA
Diane McMullan	FASA
Barbara Wallace	Groundwork NI
Jackie Bradley	Carrick Hill Residents Association
Caoimhin O'Murchu	Newington Residents Association

David Mawhinney	Loughside Credit Union (LCAP)
Jenny Oliver	Belfast City Council
Joan Totten	NI Alternatives
Maria McCafferty	Star Neighbourhood Centre
Paula Reynolds	Sector Matters
Moyra Wylie	Mount Vernon Community Development Forum
Heather Floyd	Arts For All

Children and Young People Sub Group

Katrina Newell (Co-chair)	New Lodge Arts
Frances Duff (Co-chair)	Fortwilliam Youth Club
Jackie Bradley	Carrick Hill Residents Association
Cathy Crawford	Sure Start
Christine McKeown	Kinderkids Daycare
Margaret Valente	Star Neighbourhood Centre
Mark McBride	North Belfast Area Partnership
May Adamson	LCAP
Colleen Crothers	The Hub
Kerry Johnston	Ashton Community Trust
Jeanette Burns	Ashton Community Trust
Patricia Donnell	Belfast Regeneration Office
Diane McMullan	FASA
Sarah Kelly	Star Neighbourhood Centre

Health and Well Being Sub Group

Irene Sherry (Co-chair)	Bridge of Hope
Justine Brown (Co-chair)	North Belfast Partnership
Alex Bunting	FASA

Jackie Bradley	Carrick Hill Residents Association
Cathy Curry	Belfast Health & social Care Trust
Dianne McMullan	FASA
Fiona Molloy	Contact NI
Maria McCafferty	Star Neighbourhood Centre
Helen Patterson	Mount Vernon Community Development Forum
Brian McGuire	PIPS
Jo Murphy	Lighthouse
Joe Canavan	Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
Julie Jamieson	New Lodge and Duncairn Gdns Healthy Living Partnership
Karen Collins-Neill	New Life Counselling
Liddean McStravog	Cancer Lifeline
Linda Duffy	174 Trust
Mary Connelly	Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
Mary Crawford	Brook Advisory Clinic

North Belfast Neighbourhood Partnership Chairs Forum

Inner North Neighbourhood Partnership is one of a number Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships throughout North Belfast. The others are:

- Ballysillan and Upper Ardoyne Neighbourhood Partnership
- Crumlin / Ardoyne Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership
- Ligoniel Neighbourhood Partnership
- Rathcoole Neighbourhood Partnership

The North Belfast Neighbourhood Partnership Chairs meet bi-monthly to collaborate on their neighbourhood renewal work across North Belfast's most disadvantaged communities. The Chairs' Forum, which is facilitated by North Belfast Partnership and BRO, is a valuable mechanism for promoting the work of community organisations delivering Neighbourhood Renewal. The Forum also acts as a conduit for

collective responses from Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships to consultations, policy issues and potential collaborative funding opportunities.

The North Belfast Economic Forum

Chairs from the five North Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships along with representatives from North Belfast Partnership and Belfast Regeneration Office agreed to establish an Economic Forum to work collectively for North Belfast to boost economic regeneration locally. This grouping is called the North Belfast Economic Forum and has a remit to work collaboratively with local training and employment organisations, government departments, statutory organisations and private sector employers to promote increased economic regeneration, prosperity and investment for North Belfast.

Representatives from the community and voluntary sector and government departments includes DSD, DEL, North City Business Centre, Ashton Community Trust and the Women's TEC. In 2014 the Forum received a boost when Patricia O'Hagan MBE, Chief Executive of Core Systems NI Ltd, agreed to adopt the role of 'Champion' for North Belfast and is currently assisting the Forum to promote the area as a good place to invest. Other progress made included organising a North Belfast Economic Summit in 2015 which was followed up with a publication that complement findings from the event.

It is anticipated that the Forum will act as a driver for economic regeneration across North Belfast to bring much needed investment and resources into the area across multiple fronts including job creation, inward investment and maximising the effect of local large scale regeneration projects

The North Belfast Health Forum

The North Belfast Health & Social Wellbeing Forum has been in existence from 1999 when North Belfast Partnership facilitated the coming together of interested individuals & groups to develop a cross-community partnership approach to addressing issues of health & social well-being throughout north Belfast.

The Forum provides a platform to discuss health issues impacting north Belfast and prioritise areas of work which need to be addressed: members include representatives from across the community, voluntary and statutory sectors working in the field of health & wellbeing with the overarching aim of reducing life inequalities throughout the locality.

Inner North Neighbourhood Renewal Funded Projects

The Neighbourhood Renewal Investment Fund is currently supporting seven projects within the Neighbourhood Renewal Area.

Community Renewal/Social Renewal

1. Ashton Community Trust – Kinderkids Daycare

The project objectives are to deliver a high quality, affordable, accessible childcare service to local people in some of the most deprived areas in north Belfast. Through its three facilities Kinderkids provides childcare to over 200 children in the 0-12 age group.

Activities this year have included

- over 150 parents and guardians able to access training, employment and educational opportunities;
- providing childcare training placements to people from local schools and training providers; and
- hosting visits from the ambulance and fire services as part of the 'People Who Help Us' element of the curriculum.



Children dressing up for Kinderkids

2. 174 Trust - Afterschools

The project provides a secure and shared venue for children, aged 5-11 years, from the Greater New Lodge and surrounding areas, for play, social interaction and other activities putting children first. It sustains 18 places in afterschool playcare provision at an affordable cost. Additionally the project facilitates parents who are in work or training as well as families in need of respite care. This is an inclusive project and at present one third of its children have additional needs and staff are required to work on a 1:1 basis with children experiencing social and emotional difficulties as well as children with learning and physical difficulties.

Activities this year have included

- placements for childcare trainees; and
- hosting a very successful summer scheme

3. Carrick Hill Residents Association – Community Development and Relations

The project aims to support, develop and implement programmes of activities in order to build positive and effective relationships with local people and statutory agencies. The project promotes community involvement in Carrick Hill and has already built up good working relationships with statutory agencies to address issues around housing, environment, education and society.

Activities this year have included

- Collaborating with the NOW project to provide training support to young people;
- Summer schemes and summer intervention programmes for young people;
- After school homework club;
- Healthy living programmes including Pilates, boccia, involvement in Older People's Health Programme with New Lodge/Duncairn Community Health Partnership; and
- Lobbying for improved road safety and resolution of parking problems in the area.



Community consultation about traffic calming in Carrick Hill

4. Arts for All - Community Development and Relations through the arts

The project delivers a programme of activities which will develop the community and build its capacity through the medium of arts in north Belfast. The programme has been devised to improve skills, build confidence and compliment formal education whilst encouraging local people to express themselves in a creative and positive ways.

Activities this year have included

- theatre and DJing workshops for young people;
- music workshops with local schools;
- an inter-cultural programme involving people from Irish, Colombian, English, Kurdish and Indian backgrounds; and
- the continuation of the cross-community Port and Docks of Belfast textile project



Mural at Arts for All John Luke Gallery

5. Star Neighbourhood Centre - Community Development and Relations

The Star Neighbourhood Centre provides a range of services, programmes and facilities for the local New Lodge community. The project's principle aim is to improve the quality of life of local residents by providing much needed services to the 'Long Streets' area of the New Lodge. This project will attempt to tackle social exclusion by promoting community development which will in turn build confidence, self-esteem and capacity of local people to participate in neighbourhood regeneration.

Activities this year have included

- Cross community events for older people at Christmas and Easter;
- Continuation of "Little Stars" childcare/afterschool facility that enables parents/guardians to access employment and training and provides placements to trainees;
- Provision of accredited OCN qualifications including Law and Order, youth work and peer leadership; and
- Young people involved in cultural awareness programmes, Street Games project, visits to Berlin as part of OCN work and cross community residentials.



Older residents taking part in armchair exercise class at Star Neighbourhood Centre

6. Mount Vernon Community Development Forum / Loughview Community Action Partnership - Community Development and Relations

The Forum and Partnership is an umbrella group that seeks to address social and economic issues for residents from White City to Tigers Bay. They work collaboratively with other groups to address these social and economic issues within the Inner North Neighbourhood area including Ashton Community Trust, Northern Ireland Alternatives, Good Morning Belfast, Sure start and the CLARE project.

Activities this year have included

- Volunteers working with the CLARE project to help combat social isolation amongst older people;
- Development of LCAP interagency community safety group involving PSNI, NIHE and BCC;
- Diversionary programmes for young people at risk of anti social behaviour; and
- Health events at Loughside Recreation Centre and Alexander Church Halls

The Inner Youth Platform

The Inner North Youth Platform is made up of young people from the New Lodge and Mount Vernon estates. They have taken part in a range of accredited qualifications, training, teambuilding days and planning residentials, as well as facilitating their own 'Identifying Community Needs' consultation for young people. The young people have completed Governance training and participated in 2 residentials in the last year, one teambuilding/fun and one to plan for their consultation evening with young people to identify community needs'. The group have also had 3 teambuilding days with Journey free, which have helped the group to have fun, build confidence and grow as a strong group that can represent their peers and their communities.

Young Women's Football Training Programme and Older Peoples Activities – projects lead by one sub group.

Inner North Neighbourhood Partnership, received an Active Award from Sport NI award of £8,706 to run a series of young girls (7-14 year olds) football sessions across the inner North Belfast. The purpose of the programme was to get more young girls involved in taking regular exercise through good quality football coaching. Community organisations that participated in the initiative were the Star Neighbourhood Centre, New Lodge Youth Club, Kinderkids and the Duncairn Community Centre. Each participating organisation received six free coaching sessions as well as free transport to and from venues. The project ran from the end of September and ended with a Christmas celebration event in December 2015, with 45 young girls taking part and the majority expressing their interest in continuing.

In Partnership with the New Lodge Duncairn Community Health Partnership, the project also targeted older people encouraging participation in exercise related activities such as hill walking, yoga and Boccia, which in all engaged 20 older individuals in these activities.

Young Women's Football Training Programme



Economic Renewal



7. Ashton Community Trust – Skills and Employment

There are 2 elements to this project namely Community ICT and Community Access to Lifelong Learning. A wide range of programmes are on offer including; essential skills, adult literacy and numeracy, an entrance strategy into the world of education, a social means of communication through ICT and a drop in facility as well as outreach when possible. This training helps participants progress to further education, training or into employment.

Activities this year have included

- Participants achieving accredited qualifications in essential skills, communication, literacy and numeracy and ICT
- A number of residents obtaining employment following participation in the training

Inner North Neighbourhood Partnership 2015/2016 Expenditure (by Strategic Objective)

The following table details current projects funded via the Neighbourhood Renewal Investment fund. It also details the 2015/16 individual spend for each project, the total amount of expenditure by strategic objective and the overall 2015/16 total expenditure in the Inner North Neighbourhood Renewal Area.

Programme/Project	CFF Funding Period	CFF Funding Amount (Project allocation)	2015/16 Spend (as at 31/03/16)
COMMUNITY RENEWAL/ SOCIAL RENEWAL			
Ashton Community Trust _ Kinderkids Daycare (Head of Childcare & Family Support, Manager, 2 Childcare Assts, PT Administrator)	01/04/2015 – 31/03/2016	£117,040.56	£116,750.76
174 Trust (Part funding of Deputy Co-ordinator Post)	01/04/2015 – 31/03/2016	£11,126.64	£11,105.16
Carrick Hill Residents Association (FT Centre Co-ordinator, PT Finance/Admin Officer)	01/04/2015 – 31/03/2016	£41,371.72	£39,018.54
Arts for All (PT Admin Officer, Part-funding of Project Co-ordinator Post)	01/04/2015 – 31/03/2016	£8,612.28	£8,612.28
Star Neighbourhood Centre (Centre Manager, Childcare Co-ordinator, Deputy Leader, 3 Youth Development Officers – 1 F/T, 2P/T)	01/04/2015 – 31/03/2016	£136,400.73	£133,145.95
Mount Vernon Community Development	01/04/2015 – 31/03/2016	£110,689.80	£104,104.04

Forum / Loughview Community Action Partnership (Community Development Worker)			
Total Community/Social Renewal Expenditure		Allocation	Expenditure
TOTALS		£425,241.73	£412,736.73
Programme / Project	CFF Funding Period	CFF Funding amount (Project Allocation)	2015/16 spend (as at 31/03/2016)
ECONOMIC RENEWAL			
Ashton Community Trust – Skills and Employment (ICT Tutor, Essentials Skills Tutor)	01/04/2015 – 31/03/2016	£65,640.29	£40,882.64
Total Economic Renewal Expenditure		Allocation	Expenditure
TOTALS		£65,640.29	£40,882.64

ACHIEVEMENTS OF NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUNDING IN 2015/16 YEAR

Community Renewal

Project→ Target ↓	Arts for All	Ashton - KinderKids Day Care	Ashton - Skills and Employment	Carrick Hill Residents Association	Mount Vernon/LCAP	Star Neighbourhood Centre	TOTALS
CR1 - Number of people participating in community relations projects	208					181	389
CR2 – Number of people participating in community bonding projects					36		36
CR3 - Number of people volunteering for community development activities	35	3		27	18	19	102
CR4 - Number of people engaged/involved in unpaid voluntary work			0		37		37
CR5 - Number of people receiving training in community development/capacity building skills				17	25		42
CR6 - Number of people using new/improved community facilities	1,496						1,496
CR7 - Number of community/voluntary groups supported	24				3		27

Social Renewal - Education Output Measures

Project→ Target ↓	174 Trust	Arts for All	Ashton - Skills and Employment	Carrick Hill Residents Association	Mount Vernon/LCAP	Star Neighbourhood Centre	TOTALS
SR(Ed)1 – Number of child care/nursery places created /safeguarded	30			27	6	128	191
SR(Ed)5 – Number of people engaged in parenting/skills development programmes			9	13	53	32	107
SR(Ed)6 – Number of pupils directly benefitting from the project (literacy and numeracy)		166		33	210		409
SR(Ed)14 – Number of young people directly benefitting from the project		112	31	70			213
SR(Ed)17 – Type and number of accredited qualifications completed						34	34
SR(Ed)18 – Number of pupils directly benefitting from the project (extended schools)				33			33
SR(Ed)33 – Number of young people involved in shared activity				20			20

Social Renewal - Health Output Measures

Project→ Target ↓	Carrick Hill Residents Association	Mount Vernon/LCAP	Star Neighbourhood Centre	TOTALS
SR(H)1 - Number of people benefitting from Healthy Lifestyle Projects			38	38
SR(H)2 – Number of people attending Health Education/Awareness initiatives		362		362
SR(H)3 – Number of people accessing intervention/treatment services	67	64		131
SR(H)4 – Number of health education awareness initiatives		2		2
SR(H)6 – Number of people participating in suicide prevention projects	14		28	42

Social Renewal - Crime Output Measures

Project→ Target ↓	Ashton -KinderKids Day Care	Carrick Hill Residents Association	Mount Vernon/LCAP	Star Neighbourhood Centre	TOTALS
SR(C)3 – Number of people participating /attending community safety initiatives	93		27	24	144
SR(C)6 – Number of young people benefitting from youth inclusion/diversionary projects		98	160	104	362

Physical Renewal Output Measures

Project→ Target ↓	Arts for All	Carrick Hill Residents Association	Mount Vernon/Loughview Community Action Partnership	TOTALS
PR6 – Number of community facilities improved		1		1
PR7 – Number of traffic calming schemes		3		3
PR9 – Number of projects improving community facilities	1			1
PR11 – Number of people/volunteers involved in physical development and/or environmental improvement projects			4	4

Economic Renewal Output Measures

Project→ Target ↓	174 Trust	Arts for All	Ashton - KinderKids Day Care	Ashton - Skills and Employment	Carrick Hill Residents Association	Mount Vernon/LCAP	Star Neighbourhood Centre	TOTALS
ER2 – Number of residents going into employment				5				5
ER3 – Number of people accessing careers advice				157				157
ER4 - Number of people receiving specific job training	1		14		11	21	4	51
ER6 - Number of people receiving non job specific training				139				139
ER11 – Number of social economy enterprises created/supported			3			0	1	4
ER13 - Number of new/existing childcare places supported to facilitate training and/or employment			457				60	517
ER14 - Number of people attaining a formal qualification from participation in Adult education				63				63
ER15 – Number of FTE jobs safeguarded	0.8 (1 post)	1.8 (2 posts)	4.6 (5 posts)	1	1.6 (2 posts)	1	5.2 (6 posts)	16

Inner North Neighbourhood Partnership Conclusion

In the 2015/16 financial year, **Inner North Neighbourhood Partnership** total overall spend was £453,619.37

This can be further broken down into Strategic Objective spend as follows:-

Community Renewal/ Social Renewal	£412,736.73
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Economic Renewal	£40,882.64
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There are 3 key future developments in the Inner North Neighbourhood Renewal Area as detailed below:

Ulster University Greater Belfast Development

This development is the most significant regeneration project in the Northside of Belfast for a generation. It holds the potential for significant economic and social development for a part of the city which suffered badly during the years of unrest. This is a significant £250 million development, built around the existing campus in York Street. The construction will take place in two stages and it is hoped to have the full campus opened by September 2018. The university acknowledges there will be challenges ahead in ensuring Belfast has the right infrastructure in place for a development of this scale. They are working in partnership with Belfast City Council and a number of government departments including DSD to ensure that concerns around student housing, car parking and public transport, public realm and community benefit are addressed. The University has engaged with the Inner North Neighbourhood Partnership and the local community to address a range of issues.

York Street Interchange

Transport NI and DRD have developed proposals, estimated at a cost of £120m - £165m, to provide a grade-separated junction at York Street that would provide direct links between Westlink, the M2 and M3 motorways and greatly improve access between these roads. Plans to improve the York Street Interchange with Westlink are included in Department's Investment Delivery Plan for Roads. Proposed plans have raised concerns for residents particularly residing within the New Lodge and Carrick Hill area. Alternative plans were submitted

to the Department and Translink NI and presented at a public inquiry. On 20 October 2016 the Department for Infrastructure announced that this project was at risk due to uncertainty about potential EU funding following the decision to leave the European Union.

Building Successful Communities

Neighbourhood decline can be viewed as being fuelled by a combination of factors, including social and economic change. Factors affecting areas include: mass joblessness as a result of recession and the decline of old manufacturing industries; and rising skill demands in new industries affecting future employment prospects. At the same time these areas have seen more family breakdown with the majority of lone parents reliant on benefits, a decline in popularity of social housing areas and increasing concentrations of vulnerable people in poor neighbourhoods; coupled with an increasing availability of drugs and the growth of the drug economy. If the income of an area goes down, it is less likely to be able to sustain shops and banks, but has more need of access to credit and good value shops and if people start to leave an area, higher turnover can destabilise communities. If properties are not filled, desertion creates a deteriorating physical environment and more opportunity for crime.

In DSD currently, housing and regeneration programmes are largely delivered in isolation. Regeneration programmes focus mainly on town and city centres and arterial routes and largely ignore the needs of adjacent communities. Social housing development is primarily delivered in areas on the fringes of town and city centres and is delivered in isolation of regeneration policies and programmes. Also, the Neighbourhood Renewal programme², the NI Executive's main programme to tackle deprivation and disadvantage, which aims to tackle disadvantage and deprivation in all aspects of everyday life through programmes targeting economic, community social and physical renewal has had some impact on health and education indicators within disadvantaged communities but has largely excluded housing development and improvement within target areas.

This approach does not recognise the potential for economies of scale and greater return on investment which could potentially be generated from collaborative working.

²People and Place-A Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal DSD (NI) 2003 Available from: http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/urcdg-urban_regeneration/neighbourhood_renewal.htm

The Programme for Government (PFG) 2011-15 stated that the primary focus of the Executive is to grow the economy and tackle disadvantage. Some of the stated measures for achieving this objective area to:

- Support people (with an emphasis on young people) into employment by providing skills and training;
- Contribute to rising levels of employment by supporting the promotion of over 25,000 new jobs; and
- Improve community safety by tackling anti-social behaviour.

Building Successful Communities will meet the strategic aims of the Executive by providing greater opportunities to access social homes and will decrease levels of homelessness and housing stress; primarily through the development of housing in areas of lower housing demand, and also through the redesign of areas of high demand to enable greater development.

It will also offer training and employment opportunities to people living within social housing estates to ensure that they are supported into employment and given the necessary skills and qualifications to actively contribute to the economy. Furthermore, it will deliver programmes to improve street and road layouts to design out crime, and support community led initiatives to reduce crime and the fear of crime.

The agreed overarching objective for the project is to test a housing led regeneration approach in 4 areas which are experiencing blight, dereliction and decline in partnership with local communities and key statutory and voluntary and community sector organisations, e.g. NIHE, Housing Associations, DEL and PSNI. Tigers Bay / Mountcollyer in the Inner North NRA has been selected as one of the 4 pilot areas, Objectives within each of these areas are to:

- Improve current housing and infrastructure;
- Deliver new social and affordable homes;
- Deliver environmental upgrading works;
- Improve access to amenities; and
- Improve access to economic activity.

Following resident surveys and public exhibitions, the Tigers Bay and Mountcollyers action plan is in the final stages of agreement.

A map below details the targeted area.





**Belfast Regeneration Office
North & Greater Shankill Office
North City Business Centre
2 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast, BT11 8GZ**