

<b>DfC Urban Regeneration &amp; Community Development transfer of powers to Councils – A Neighbourhood Renewal Perspective</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> December 2016</b>
<b>To: The Leisure and Development Committee For Information</b>	

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)</b>	
<b>Strategic Theme</b>	Resilient, Healthy & Engaged Communities
<b>Outcome</b>	Council will work to develop and promote stable and cohesive communities across the Borough
<b>Lead Officer</b>	DLD
<b>Cost: (If applicable)</b>	N/A

**The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Council in relation to the Department for Communities Urban Regeneration & Community Development transfer of powers to Councils, particularly in relation to Neighbourhood Renewal.**

Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships have recently received correspondence from the Department for Communities on behalf of the Minister for Communities, Mr Paul Givan, MLA, who made a statement to the Assembly on 22 November. The Statement advised of the Minister's decision **not** to progress the Regeneration Bill in this mandate. The Minister also announced reviews of the Department's current strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal and of the population thresholds for physical regeneration programmes.

Regeneration powers currently sit with the Department for Communities. However, through the Reform of Local Government, it had been agreed that these would be extended to the new Councils but this was unable to progress within the mandate of the previous Assembly.

In the intervening period new Central Government Departments have been established with a broader range of functions and a new approach to the Programme for Government has been adopted by the NI Executive.

The Minister stated that the Programme for Government provided a new context for the delivery of the Department's services, including the way in which they address poverty and disadvantage. Furthermore the Minister announced that it is his intention to review the current strategies for tackling deprivation, with a view to replacing them with a programme that will be more closely aligned to support the delivery of the new Programme for Government outcomes, indicating the importance of ensuring that any new programme builds on and does not lose the real benefits of the existing programme.

Assurance was provided that there would be no sudden change to the delivery of the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme but rather existing arrangements would remain in place until the review is complete. The Department confirmed within their correspondence that the process would likely take eighteen months to two years to complete and that development of proposals would be informed by widespread consultation, including consultation with existing Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships.