



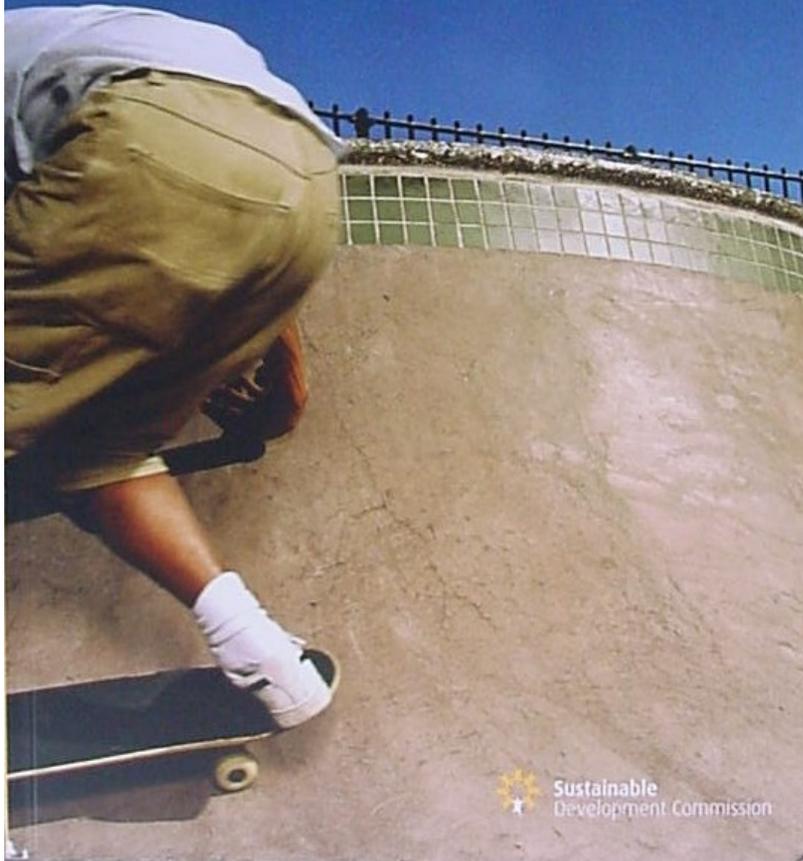
Sustainable
Development Commission

Mainstreaming Sustainable Regeneration – a call for action

University of Glasgow 3 September 2004

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'mainstreaming **sustainable** regeneration
a call to action



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aim

to identify what makes a regeneration programme sustainable, and what needs to be done to ensure that future regeneration programmes combine positive economic, social *and* environmental outcomes.

sustainable development principles

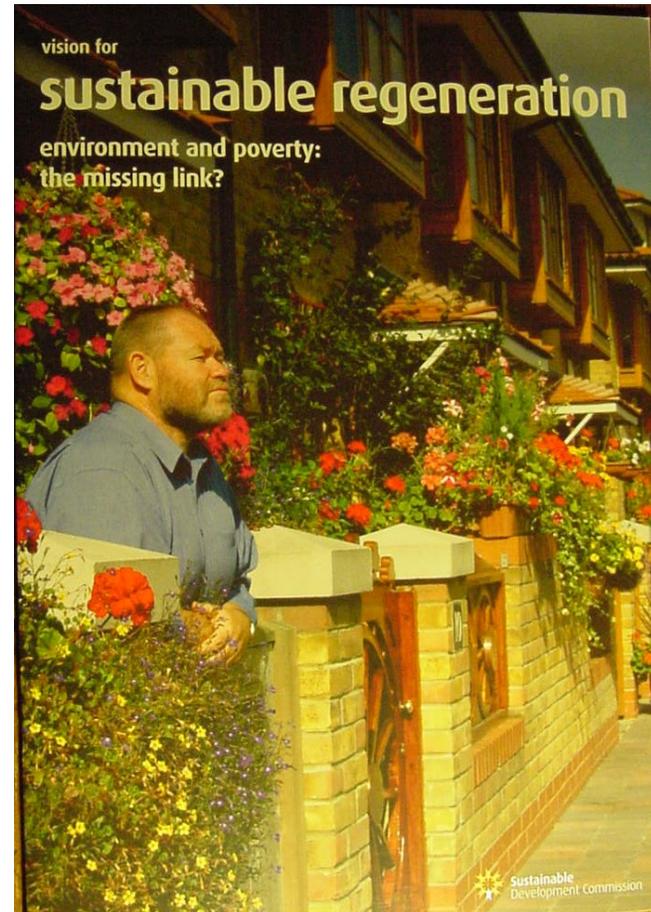
1. Putting sustainable development at the centre
2. Valuing nature
3. Fair shares
4. Polluter pays
5. Good governance
6. Adopting a precautionary approach



start

Vision paper

- Environmental justice
- Regeneration history
 - public health
 - move from physical
 - to social & economic
- Environment down agenda
- Link overlooked – sustainable regeneration?
- Integration required.



and continuing....

- Consultation UK wide
 - 66 in depth interviews
 - 46 case studies
 - Workshop
-
- Developed and tested core criteria

core criteria

recognises that sustainable regeneration involves:

- Complexity
- Time
- Communities

and impacts on resource use



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core criteria

- Putting local people at the heart of the process
- Improving the quality of the local environment
- Taking an integrated and long-term approach



findings

- Putting local people at the heart of the process – challenges, e.g.:
 - Achieving representation
 - Need for support and training
 - Allowing time for capacity building
 - Inequality of power
 - Maintaining community involvement over time
 - Planning system engagement



findings

- Improving the quality of the local environment whilst minimising resource use
 - challenges, e.g.:
 - Building and construction
 - Attitudes and understanding for more resource and natural environment friendly approaches
 - Practical challenges – e.g. planning, industry, skills, information sharing
 - Too many pilot projects – lack of mainstreaming
 - Legislation gaps – e.g. building regulations



findings

- Taking an integrated and long term approach – challenges, e.g.
 - Embedding sustainable development in policy
 - Economic goals overshadowing social and environmental elements
 - Professional understanding
 - Short term funding programmes



conclusions

- Concepts into practice
 - sustainable regeneration
 - environmental justice
 - sustainable development
- SD approach adds value to regeneration
- Significant activity – but not mainstreamed
- A greater lead required from government
 - Language is good, but actions not ‘joined up’



conclusions

- Buildings provide major opportunity to embed SD principles:
 - Contribution to CO² reduction
 - Waste reduction
 - Better use of land and water
 - Too much demolition, and not enough reuse?
 - Environmental and social costs?



conclusions

- Too many 'one offs' - mainstream
 - Better building regulations – level playing field
 - Whole life costing
 - Tax incentives?
- Demanding clients



10 action points

- 1. Sustainable development principles should be at the heart of regeneration policy and practice, thus ensuring that regeneration has environmental as well as economic and social justice outcomes.**



10 action points

- 2. Local people should continue to be at the heart of the process.** Effective community involvement and development is essential for successful regeneration. This is just as true for sustainable regeneration. Sustainable regeneration helps highlight the need for good community involvement and development, including local businesses partners and voluntary organisations. The next generation of community leaders should be fostered through training programmes and in schools.



10 action points

- 3. Training strategies for economic development, regeneration and planning should address the lack of understanding of sustainable development, and the shortage of skills needed to deliver sustainable regeneration.** Government should ensure that the Regional Centres of Excellence for Urban Regeneration prioritise sustainable development in all of their capacity building work with professional, councillors and community leaders.



10 action points

- 4. Improving the quality of the local environment whilst minimising negative impacts of resource use should be part of the strategic aims of every regeneration programme and partnership.** Government should require neighbourhood regeneration programmes to undertake a review of the local environment, including the impact of external pollution and other issues of environmental justice.



10 action points

- 5. Government environment and resource priorities and targets should be integrated into neighbourhood regeneration programmes, particularly:**
- Climate change and carbon emissions reduction
 - Waste management
 - Sustainable transport networks
 - Water supply and flood management issues
 - Green space strategies which consider accessibility, connectivity, community benefits and ecological function, as well as design and aesthetics.
 - Sustainable construction.



10 action points

- 6. An integrated and long-term approach should be built in from the start, including the involvement of environmental agencies in partnerships, environmental assessment and whole life costings.** Within government, cross-departmental targets should be set and regularly reviewed jointly as part of the development of plans and policies.



10 action points

- 7. Housing and construction should be regarded as a major opportunity to embed sustainable development in regeneration and in particular to make a significant contribution to carbon emission reduction.** There should be regular reviews of building regulations and construction processes to ensure that both social rented and private developers are required to incorporate full energy efficiency measures, use sustainable energy, reduce waste and pollution, include low toxin materials and promote the responsible use of natural resources.



10 action points

- 8. The planning system should contribute through insistence on higher densities in urban areas, on full environmental assessments before demolition programmes are undertaken, and on integrating public transport into development plans. Planners need to be more proactive in promoting sustainable development.**



10 action points

- 9. Employment programmes that are part of regeneration programmes should support new training programmes in local environmental management, (including recycling, energy conservation and renewables). Neighbourhood management vehicles should be created with a focus on maintenance, security, local services, community links – all of which create front-line jobs.**



10 action points

- 10. Existing good practice should be built upon and exchanged**, both at a government (e.g. Housing Corporation/Communities Scotland) level, and at a neighbourhood level. Good practice in sustainable regeneration should be rewarded and given higher profile for example, through DPM Awards.



next steps

- Report sent to four Ministers across UK
 - Asked them to review their regeneration strategies by July 2004
- Audit Commission (incl. NI Audit Office)
 - Asked them to take our conclusions into their work
- Looking forward to their responses!

