

BRIEFING NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE

A DEFINITION OF REGENERATION

Regeneration activity is generally recognised as being the integration of actions to bring about an improvement in economic, social and environmental well being. There is no official definition of regeneration as such. However the key policy objectives of government have been stated in various strategy and guidance documents. These, and statements from other organisations working in the field have informed the definition adopted by the Council's Regeneration Best Value Officer Group.

*Regeneration – supporting local communities in addressing problems of economic and social disadvantage, to achieve improved prosperity, well being and quality of life.*

At the briefing meeting last week you considered that you would wish to see this amended to reflect more fully the physical aspect. The wording could be as follows:

*...addressing problems of economic, social and environmental disadvantage..*

A selection of relevant sources is set out below.

1. Key national policy objectives for regeneration are to:

- Promote sustainable regeneration
- Address social exclusion and enhance opportunities for the disadvantaged
- Support and promote growth in local economies and business
- Raise educational standards, improve employability and encourage lifelong learning for individuals
- Tackle crime and drug abuse and improve community health and safety

*(Government Office for the North West)*

2. National policies for neighbourhood renewal focus on:

- Tackling worklessness and supporting weaker economies
- Tackling crime
- Improving skills
- Tackling poor health
- Tackling poor housing and physical environment

*(New commitment to neighbourhood renewal – a national strategy action plan  
Social Exclusion Unit Jan 2001)*

3. Regeneration has a broad remit, including housing, health, employment, crime, transport, education and almost any other social, environmental or economic issue. This paper will regard 'community based regeneration' as any activity initiated by the community for the community, in order to improve its economic, environmental or social lot.

*(Community Based Regeneration Initiatives – a working paper. Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions 1998)*

4. All local regeneration schemes have the same overriding aim – to improve the well being, or quality of life, of people in the target area..... Local regeneration schemes may target different aspects of economic or social disadvantage, physical and environmental deficiencies, or adopt comprehensive strategies addressing all these.

*(Local evaluation for Regeneration Partnerships: Good Practice Guide Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions 1999)*

5. Regeneration: our objective is to enhance sustainable economic development and social cohesion through integrated regional and local action including the promotion of an urban renaissance. Our regeneration programmes also contribute to the achievement of several other departmental objectives on the environment, housing and rural development.

*(Annual report 2001  
Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions)*

6. The British Urban Regeneration Association was formed in 1990 as a forum for exchange of ideas, experience and information. BURA identifies and promotes best practice in regeneration and advocates an integrated approach to the social, economic and environmental issues involved.

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