



Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)

...is a forum that encourages debate on a wide range of research findings, with the overall aim of promoting evidence-based policy and law-making within Northern Ireland



Creating a Constructive Interface between Community Planning and Spatial Planning

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Aims of the presentation

- To disentangle different understandings of planning
- To explain the context, rationale and purpose of community planning
- To present a comparative analysis of community planning models in Scotland and Wales
- To provide a series of discussion points and recommendations to inform how a constructive interface between community planning and spatial planning could be created



Introduction

- Unique opportunity in Northern Ireland to develop a symbiotic relationship between community planning and spatial planning
- Need to assert a longer term, more strategic approach to service delivery and space/land use
- Better integration of these operations have the potential to achieve better outcomes for communities/citizens
- Success will require a new civic infrastructure and culture change



Research Methodology and Framework

The evidence informing this paper has been gathered through a combination of:

1. Individual and collective academic research and review of existing scholarly literature relating to land use planning reform and local government moderation;
2. Analyses of policy documents, strategies and reports, on community planning in Scotland and on community strategies and collaborative working in Wales;
3. Engagement with land use planning reform and community planning implementation;
4. Observation of meetings and other events on local government reform and community planning.



Definitions and themes

- **Land use planning:** the regulation and forward management of land and property development in the broader public interest
- **Strategic planning:** the territorial management of land use and development with a regional, more comprehensive perspective
- **Spatial planning:** beyond land use to embrace sector planning, regeneration and local service delivery, and promote connectivity
- **Community planning:** promotes the social, economic and environmental well-being of their area through identifying long-term objectives for achieving sustainable development

“there is no single model, or definition, of community – communities are as **diverse** as their members or residents, which is one of their **key strengths**”

“capacity of a community to: **identify, analyse, collaborate,** and **solve** pressing societal needs and issues through the efforts of engaged citizens and organisations **working across boundaries**”

Community? Planning

“community implies having **something in common.** Their common interest in things gives them a common interest in each other. They **work together.** ”

“is the **process** that councils, other public sector organisations, businesses and voluntary and community groups take to **work together** with local communities to **plan** and **deliver local services,** which can make a difference to people's lives”



Community Planning in Northern Ireland

- New integrative model of collaborative working to mainstream the principles of sustainable development into local governance
- Inform the design and implementation of quality local services
- Offers a conduit to consider:
 1. the ethics and operation of a new civic culture by modernising the state and the machinery of government
 2. democratic renewal and civic renaissance
 3. opportunities for developing social learning
- A laboratory to test how a constructive interface between community planning and spatial (land use) planning might be operationalised



Learning from elsewhere: Scotland

- Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 provides the legislative framework for community planning
- Community Planning Partnerships bring together key players responsible for devising integrated programmes of local service delivery
- Community planning provides:
 1. the over-arching policy and priority framework in a given jurisdiction
 2. vertical connections between national priorities and those arrangements at regional, local and neighbourhood levels of governance
 3. a means to promote community engagement (with respect to public services)
 4. flexibility for different models of delivery



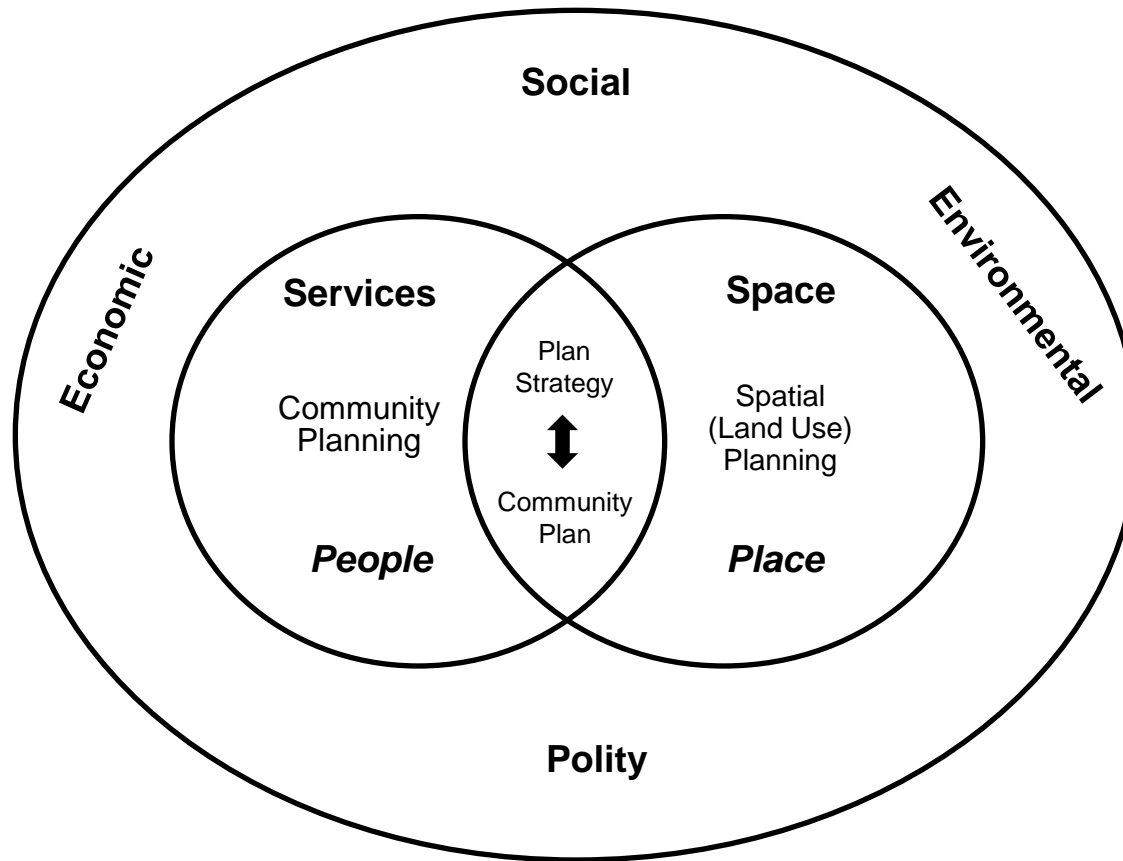
Learning from elsewhere: Wales

- Community Planning initiated by the Local Government Act 2000
- Ambition to: (1) transform local authorities; (2) enhance the quality of life of local communities; (3) achieve sustainable development through strengthening community leadership role of local government and policy coordination to deliver quality services
- Community Planning (Process)
- Community Strategies (Product)
- Local Services Boards (Practice)
- Local Services Agreements (Outcomes)

Learning from elsewhere: Wales

- The alignment between spatial planning and community planning in Wales can be articulated as follows:
 - “the Wales Spatial Plan (WSP) sets the agenda for the long-term strategic development of an area;
 - Community Strategies identify longer term strategic priorities necessary to improve and sustain local quality of life and wellbeing; and
 - Local Service Boards are the focus for joining up critical services to meet the needs of citizens.”
- (Welsh Assembly Government, 2007; 14)
- Dynamic and shifting strategic and local context
 - Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan (WIIP)
 - move towards a model of Single Integrated Plans (SIPs)
 - focus on measuring impact and distinguishing lines of accountability

The interface between community planning and spatial planning



Conclusions

- Northern Ireland is on a ‘learning’ journey
- Structural, organisational, procedural and cultural change
- Planning enterprises require a robust understanding of the relationship between *people* and *place*
- Councils need to take a more strategic, local authority-led approach that involves citizens in place-shaping to deliver sustainable change
- Develop a ‘spatial fix’ to address barriers that exist in linking service delivery (Community Planning) with spatial management (Spatial Planning)



Recommendation

- Need to create some critical space during the implementation of local government reform to establish strategic agendas
- Introduce a Strategic Statement of Intent for each new Council as an integrative vehicle for regional reporting
- Articulate ways in which land use planning (development plans) and community planning (service delivery) address inherited problems
- Support the performance improvement dimension of the Local Government Bill to monitor the symbiotic exercises of community planning and spatial planning
- Be part of the remit for the Partnership Panel to discuss and disseminate best practice





Northern Ireland
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