Incorporating quality in planning decision-making processes

Angus Kerr, Chief Planner & Director of Regional Planning, DfI
• The policy context for good design
• Why it’s important
• Role of LDPs
• Practical pointers on how to do it!
“To secure the orderly and consistent development of land whilst furthering sustainable development and improving well-being...”

Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011
The Purpose of Planning

2.1 The objective of the planning system, consistent with Part 1, Section 1 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (hereafter referred to as the 2011 Act), is to secure the orderly and consistent development of land whilst furthering sustainable development and improving well-being. This means the planning system should positively and proactively facilitate development that contributes to a more socially economically and environmentally sustainable Northern Ireland. Planning authorities should therefore simultaneously pursue social and economic priorities alongside the careful management of our built and natural environments for the overall benefit of our society.

2.2 Creating places where communities flourish and enjoy a shared sense of belonging, both now and into the future, is fundamentally what planning is about. In order to make positive change on the ground planning authorities should prioritise timely and predictable decision-making to support positive place-making and effective stewardship that contributes to shaping high quality sustainable places to live, invest, work and spend leisure time in. A key dimension of sustainable development for Northern Ireland is economic growth. This requires the planning system to continue to provide protection to the things we cherish most about our built and natural environment, including our heritage assets while unlocking development potential, supporting job creation and aiding economic recovery for the benefit of all our people.
5 Core Planning Principles

• Improving Health and Well-being;
• Creating and Enhancing Shared Space;
• Supporting Sustainable Economic Growth;
• Supporting Good Design and Positive Place Making; and
• Preserving and Improving the Built and Natural Environment.
10 Qualities of Positive Place-making

- Viable
- Crafted
- Hospitable
- Responsible
- Accessible
- Visionary
- Contextual
- Enduring
- Collaborative
- Vibrant and Diverse
Why Good Design is Important?
How some places get it wrong

Uncoordinated: clutter takes place of people

Uninspiring: places should stimulate people

Unwelcoming: places are read by people

Unconnected: barriers disconnect people
Rural Integration – The right Fit

Integrating with the landscape

Integrating with Existing Buildings

Infill within a Gap Site
Good Decision Making
Good Decision Making: 1. The Right Plans/Policies and Guidance
Good Decision Making:  
2. Strong Local Relationships, Collaboration and Engagement
Good Decision Making: 3. Make tough Decisions

- Getting Development Right Requires....

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Good Decision Making: 4. Review, Reflect and Monitor

- Review
- Reflect
- Monitor
- Improve
“imagine and plan for a better, greener, healthier and happier future” and “Build a better future that delivers more for our citizens, socially and economically, delivering cleaner, greener and healthier communities” Nicola Mallon, Infrastructure Minister
the starting point of all great design is the need to do the best

- M. Cobanli