

Laganside Community Strategy 2003-2006
As of 3rd June 2003

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1. Community Strategy 2003-2006

Laganside is responsible for the comprehensive regeneration of the “Laganside Designated Area” (see page 6). It is an instigator and facilitator of rapid and relatively large-scale change. Whilst this is of city and province-wide significance, it also impacts directly on its surrounding communities. Laganside recognises that such change can only happen successfully if accompanied by a community strategy aimed at paving the way for change, enabling local people to influence and seize opportunities arising from the developments. Although the Corporation is primarily concerned with physical regeneration, its integrated approach recognises the importance of the economic, social and regional cohesion aspects of regeneration.

Laganside strives to develop its designated area with a strong commitment to the principles of equality, human rights, cultural diversity, targeting social need and partnership, thus creating an environment in which the “Laganside Local Community” can have a better quality of life and realise its full potential. The Community Strategy is based on these principles and Laganside Corporate Plan 2003-2006, which is in line with the Northern Ireland Executive’s Building on Progress.

The “Laganside Local Community” comprises of the residents and the public, private, voluntary and community sectors, based in the 14 wards adjacent to and within the Laganside Designated Area. It includes wards from North Belfast (Duncairn and New Lodge), South Belfast (Ballynafeigh, Botanic, Rosetta, Shaftesbury and Stranmillis), East Belfast (Ballymacarrett, Island, Ravenhill, the Mount and Woodstock) and West Belfast (Falls and Shankill). The population of the area is approx 77,000. There are more than 800 community and voluntary sectors organisations operating in the area. Laganside has adopted New Targeting Social Need as a strategic theme in the regeneration of the Laganside area. 66% of the Laganside wards rank in the most deprived 10% in Northern Ireland. 6 of the 10 most multiply deprived wards in Northern Ireland are located within Laganside’s local community.

The community strategy aim is:

“To engage the “Laganside Local Community” enabling it to avail of the opportunities arising through the regeneration of the “Laganside Designated Area.”

The key objectives of the community strategy are:

- (1) **To understand the needs of and communicate effectively with the “Laganside Local Community”**
- (2) **To support appropriate initiatives, directly relating to the “Laganside Designated Area”, that address the needs of and benefit the “Laganside Local Community”** (in line with section 2, sub-priorities 7 & 8 and in line with section 4, sub-priorities 4 & 5 and in line with section 5, sub-priority 3 NIEBOP*)
- (3) **To monitor Laganside’s New Targeting Social Need Action Plan** (in line with section 2, sub-priorities 1 & 6 and Section 4, sub-priorities 4 & 5 NIEBOP*)

The key activities concerning the community strategy are:

(1) To understand the needs of and communicate effectively with the “Laganside Local Community.”

- To adopt an integrated approach by formally liaising with Belfast Area Based Partnerships on strategic matters.
- To understand the needs of the “Laganside Local Community” by consulting with and actively engaging relevant Laganside community representatives concerning proposed Laganside developments (concept, design and implementation stages).
- To actively participate in relevant multi-agency partnerships with those directly responsible for social inclusion, economic development and regional cohesion.
- To consider establishing appropriate fora as relates to Laganside’s Corporate Plan Objectives.
- To regularly keep the “Laganside Local Community” informed via “Laganlines” (Laganside’s newsheet), relevant fliers, website and presentations.

(2) To support appropriate initiatives, directly relating to the Laganside area, that address the needs of and benefit the “Laganside Local Community.”

(2.1) Employment and Employability Initiatives: aimed at giving the “Laganside Local Community” access to jobs arising in the “Laganside Designated Area”

- To encourage employers to support employability initiatives.
- To support pre-recruitment training programmes and employment recruitment drives.
- To support area-based employability initiatives.
- To encourage enterprise and self-help employability initiatives.
- To manage a grant programme to support recruitment, pre-recruitment and area-based employability initiatives giving the “Laganside Local Community” access to employment opportunities arising in the “Laganside Designated Area.”

(2.2) Community-led Regeneration Initiatives: aimed at encouraging and supporting the delivery of innovative, sustainable community-led regeneration initiatives in the “Laganside Designated Area.”

- To support Needs Assessments, Feasibility Studies, Economic Appraisals and Business Plans directly relating to community,

environmental and amenity improvement projects.

- To support community, environmental and amenity improvement projects.
- To support and encourage safe community use of the River Lagan
- To manage a grant programme to support the delivery of innovative, sustainable community-led regeneration initiatives in the “Laganside Designated Area.”

(2.3) Community Activity Initiative:

- To manage a small grants programme to encourage suitable public activities (arts, sports, educational, cultural and environmental) in the “Laganside Designated Area” that will contribute to bring Laganside to life.

(3.0) To monitor Laganside’s New Targeting Social Need Action Plan.

- To advise on and monitor Laganside’s delivery of its New TSN objectives.

NOTE : * Northern Ireland Executive Building on Progress -

Section 2 relates to “Growing as a Community”, relevant sub priorities:

1. We will tackle social need and social exclusion
6. We will ensure that everyone has the opportunity to access decent affordable housing.
7. We will renew our most disadvantaged urban and rural neighbourhoods, building community participation.
8. We will develop a greater understanding of, and respect for, our cultural history and heritage.

Section 4 relates to “Investing in Education and Skills”, relevant sub priorities:

4. We will Equip our young people with the skills and qualifications to gain employment in the modern economy.
5. We will assist and support the unemployed and those looking to enter or return to the workforce.

Section 5 relates to “Securing a Competitive Economy”, relevant sub priority

3. We will promote creativity, entrepreneurship, innovation and competitiveness

Community Team Organisational Chart

