



Department of the
Environment

www.doeni.gov.uk

Clerk and Chief Executive of each District Council
Local Government Change Management Officers
Mr J Buchanan, Chief Local Government Auditor
Ms H Moorhead, Chief Executive, NILGA
Mr L Hannaway, Hon Secretary, SoLACE
Mr J Quinn, Chief Executive, Arc21

Local Government Policy Division
6th Floor
Goodwood House
44-58 May Street
BELFAST
BT1 4NN

Telephone: 028 9025 6048
Facsimile: 028 9025 6080
Email: john.murphy@doeni.gov.uk

30 November 2009

Circular No: LG 19/09

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM – COMMUNITY PLANNING FOUNDATION PROGRAMME

A key aspect of the local government reform programme will be the introduction of council-led community planning. Local Government Circular 07/09 of 5 May 2009 indicated that consideration was being given to whether there was an opportunity for the trialling of Community Planning by statutory transition committees.

Work has been taken forward over recent months under the auspices of Policy Development Panel A to develop a programme of activities that could be undertaken by transition committees, to support the statutory introduction of Community Planning. At its meeting on 16 October 2009 the Strategic Leadership Board endorsed the programme agreed by the Panel.

The Operation Guide for this Community Planning Foundation Programme is attached for your attention. The aim of this programme is to ensure that the new councils are at a suitable stage of preparedness by May 2011.

An event is being arranged for mid January to provide an opportunity for transition committees and transition management teams to explore in more detail some of the issues that could impact on the successful delivery of the Foundation Programme. Further information on the event will be circulated in due course.

The Department is also exploring the opportunities that may be available to provide additional resources to support transition committees in the delivery of the programme in its later phases.

John Murphy