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LAGANSIDE

Jenny Mc Garry
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2-14 Castle St
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6th October 04

Dear Ms Mc Garry

**RE: LAGANSIDE RESPONSE TO NISRA'S (DFP) NORTHERN IRELAND
MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION MEASURE 2004, CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**

Thank you for inviting Laganside to comment on the above document.

Please find attached Laganside's response to the consultation questions. Laganside welcomes the recommendations outlined in the draft proposal and has highlighted additional comments in its response. This has been drafted further to consideration of Laganside's experience of delivering its community strategy, delivering its New TSN Action Plan and discussion with community representatives of Laganside's Board of Directors.

I also enclose Laganside's "Community Strategy", "New TSN Action Plan 03-04" and "Measures of Deprivation in Northern Ireland as relates to Laganside Corporation Report", for your perusal.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this response further. I look forward to seeing the final implementation plan.

Yours sincerely



Kyle Alexander
Chief Executive.

posted
18/10/04

LAGANSIDE RESPONSE TO NISRA'S (DFP) NORTHERN IRELAND MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION MEASURE 2004, CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Relevance to Laganside

As a Non Departmental Public Body (NDPB) responsible to the Department for Social Development, Laganside Corporation's New Targeting Social Need Action Plan has been operating since April 01.

Both Laganside's New TSN Action Plan and Community Strategy aim to ensure that the "Laganside Local Community" (wards in / adjacent to the Laganside designated area) benefits from the regeneration taking place in the Laganside area.

The "Laganside Local Community" wards are:

North (Duncairn *, New Lodge*)
South (Ballynafeigh, Botanic, Rosetta, Shaftesbury*, Stranmillis)
East (Ballymacarrett*, Island*, Ravenhill, The Mount*, Woodstock*)
West (Falls*, St. Annes*, Shankill*)

In March '02 Laganside prepared a report "Measures of Deprivation in Northern Ireland as relates to Laganside", which was also based on the Noble figures. In targeting social need, Laganside focuses on the 10 wards (asterisked above), which have multiple deprivation, measures that rank in the worst 10% in Northern Ireland.

ISSUES

Overall Domain Structure:

- It would be very useful if the domains can be readily compared with those in rest of UK and if possible other EU countries.
- Important in planning stage that consideration is given to the fact that deprivation measures for each domain and overall multiple deprivation measures, are readily accessible to the public.
- In Northern Ireland weak Community Infrastructure ought to be included in the new deprivation measures if the statistics available are statistically robust. This domain could then possibly address the issue of "perceived lack of services / facilities" eg an individual may live adjacent to services (eg school,shops etc) but perceive that they would not / could not use these facilities.

Income Domain:

- Is it possible to use statistics to take account of the affect of the "black economy".

Weighting Of Domains:

Recommend that weighting indicated in table A, pg 21, is preferred to achieve the long term goal of tackling social need. It prioritises Income Deprivation (25%), Employment Deprivation (25%), Health Deprivation (15%), Education Skills and

Training (15%) Geographical access to services (10%), Crime (5%) and Living environment (5%). Education and Health are key to securing employment and increasing income, thus moving people above the poverty line.

Super Output Areas

- Recommend that Output Areas (OAs) and Super Output Areas (SOAs) are welcomed as they are comparable with the rest of UK and enable local comparisons (as will have even sized population distributions).
- Important that OAs & SOAs are of similar population size as in UK, for comparative reasons.
- The report does not clarify if OA & SOA boundaries will alter with time, as currently happens with ward boundaries. A problem with ward boundaries was that they did not correlate directly with census data. It would be useful if OAs & SOAs boundaries were constant over time for comparative monitoring reasons.
- It is also important that a mechanism is put in place to correlate postcodes to OAs & SOAs for monitoring purposes.
- Ward by ward method of creation of OAs & SOAs is useful:
 - If council boundaries in NI are to roughly remain the same with time.
 - To compare statistics for proposed OAs & SOAs with previous multiple deprivation measure findings.
- Economic Deprivation Measure is useful as statistics are available to cover small areas (currently enumeration district level) and are useful for targeting social need (as focus on employment and income domains).

Note: Suggest that in the document there ought to be recognition of the relevance of equality issues and Section 75.