

Volume 2

Volume 2 Vision & Framework Strategy

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Framework Vision

1. Framework Vision

1.1 Framework Vision

Drawing on the analysis of the local situation – the problems, the strengths and the opportunities presented for the city – the aims of the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plans (LRFIPs) are:

1. To improve quality of life and well-being for the communities of the regeneration areas by responding comprehensively to the problems addressed to the needs of people and the places and adopting a sustainable development approach. The strategy addresses the physical, economic, social, community development and community safety dimensions of regeneration.
2. To promote the social and economic inclusion of the regeneration areas into the mainstream life of the city, reducing the gaps between the regeneration areas and the average for the city as a whole. This means the strategy aims to reduce the social and economic inequalities in the city. It also aims to improve physical connectivity between the regeneration areas and the city and into the wider region. Opening up access to opportunities for people in the regeneration areas, for instance, in education, training and work will require harnessing existing resources of the city including those present in the regeneration areas and attracting coordinated public and private investment over the next 10 years.

The vision for the regeneration areas is to create

"Safe and sustainable communities where people of all ages enjoy a good quality of life, a decent home and feel a strong pride of place. Well serviced and attractive neighbourhoods will be fully integrated with the social, economic and cultural life of Limerick."

The strategy for the LRFIPs and the implementation arrangements are based on an integrated territorial development approach. The territorial focus of the LRFIPs is on the regeneration areas not in isolation from, but linked to, the wider economic and spatial strategy for, and cultural life of, Limerick City. This includes a focus on city centre renewal as well as stronger connectivity across the whole metropolitan area and into the region.

The integrated territorial development approach draws

on the Europe 2020 strategic framework of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The aims of the LRFIP include, but are broader in scope than, economic growth and inclusion. The focus is on improving quality of life. Quality of life covers a wide range of issues including housing, safety, environmental quality, education, transport, jobs, income, health, community, family life and ageing well. Access to services is a key issue for individuals and families resident in regeneration areas. Access to services does not only mean the services are there, but they are delivered in a way that the people who need them can benefit from them.

The LRFIPs place strong emphasis on safety, consolidating efforts in policing and the wider criminal justice system to address problems of crime in the city. Crime has impacted particularly negatively on the regeneration areas, affecting the reputation of those communities and the city as a whole. A further objective here is to change perceptions of Limerick in terms of its association with crime. Tackling the problems affecting the regeneration areas comprehensively (physical, economic, social, crime) offers the best prospects for a vibrant and safe city. Working with communities and other stakeholders is a key part of the strategy to promote community safety. The strategy, led by the local authority, involves a multi-

sectoral partnership approach and working with the local communities. This is supported by a "whole of government" approach. The preparation of integrated plans and the structures for their delivery represents a change from the past and builds on earlier experiences.

Linked to the amalgamation of Limerick local authorities and local government reform, the local authority has the key role in leading the planning and oversight of implementation of the strategy, working in partnership with local stakeholders and with the support of central government. Local implementation arrangements include a strong focus on governance and the establishment of structures for programme management, monitoring and evaluation of the strategy. The Limerick Regeneration Office within the local authority is the overall coordinating and executive structure of the regeneration programme. Effective delivery requires working in partnership with local agencies, the private sector, community and voluntary organisations and involvement of the communities themselves through consultation on the strategy and in the delivery of activities on the ground. The integrated approach to development will allow for thematic concentration on the key issues. This approach can create a critical mass, improve the effectiveness of public investment and have a lasting

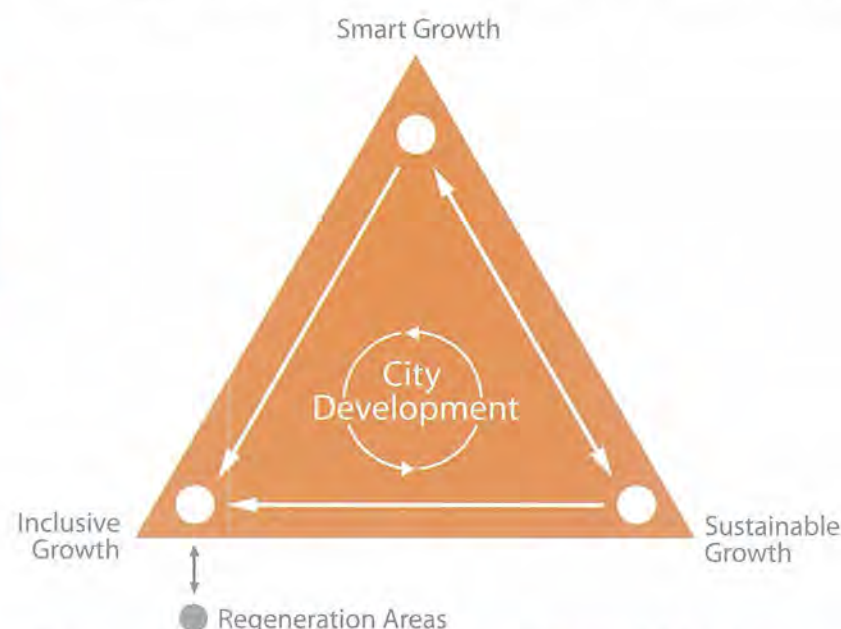


Figure 1.1: Overall strategy for the integrated territorial development

"After opening up the road to Coonagh roundabout employment is our greatest need in the community. The lack of that road to link our community to the outside areas has been the greatest disadvantage we have suffered from the beginning of Moyross"

Moyross Resident

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DELMEGE PARK

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impact on the problems affecting the regeneration areas. The social programme, in particular, is structured around a thematic approach. Coordination of mainstream (national, EU), local and philanthropic funds and of public and private investment is critical for efficient investment and in order to achieve sustainable results. In the field of economic development and social inclusion, this can include use of new instruments for financial engineering (e.g., JESSICA fund) supported under the EU Structural and Investment Fund.

The development prospects for the city as a whole will need to link the dimension of **smart, sustainable and inclusive growth**, based on addressing the problems / barriers to progress including poverty and social exclusion in the most disadvantaged estates, improving the physical, social and economic infrastructures and services to support development, and mobilising the strengths and assets of the city.

Smart Growth is centred on jobs in new high value-added sectors in the knowledge economy, businesses based on advanced technologies in manufacturing, design, ICT an on-going process of higher skills development; and investment in R&D and innovation and in the physical infrastructures to support this. In the local economy, there is a spectrum of economic development possibilities from Smart Growth through to Inclusive Growth. Intermediate stages along this spectrum emphasise strengthening the competitiveness of the local economy and SMEs. This can include developing in intermediate sectors with potential as new sources of employment in the city (tourism, heritage, cultural industries, back office business and customer services) supported by a process of up-skilling / re-skilling and lifelong learning.

An Inclusive Growth strategy is most appropriate to addressing the problems and realising the potential of the regeneration areas of the city. Taking into account the socio-economic profile of the regeneration areas, the strategy will develop from a low base of economic activity and a capacity building approach. It will progress to work into intermediate level development opportunities in the local economy. Inclusive Growth prioritises groups distant from the labour market (e.g., very long-term and inter-generational unemployed, young adults with low education and no experience of work, young offenders or young people at high risk of offending, lone parents) and neighbourhoods with complex social, economic and physical problems.

Further education, workforce training, work placement/ work experience and access to jobs are the key routes to improved employability and work. Training in new sectors prioritised for development in the local labour market include: green energy, tourism, technology, ICT, new skills in renovation / construction, health and social care, education / para-education, and entrepreneurship. These sectors could offer good possibilities for economic inclusion. Investment in groups disadvantaged in the labour market include preventive actions to address early school leaving, improve attainment in school (literacy, numeracy), health and well-being, and support for children and families at highest risk of poverty and exclusion (parenting, family support).

Sustainable Growth focuses on building a more competitive, low carbon economy that makes efficient and sustainable use of resources. It concerns protecting the environment, reducing emissions to achieve climate change goals and preventing bio-diversity loss. It also concerns strengthening resilience and capacity to deal with climate change risks, developing and rolling out new green technologies and production methods. As well as being an important strategy in its own right, Sustainable Growth offers new possibilities to support regeneration. It is particularly relevant to the physical environment but also can be promoted in education, training, enterprise and employment (e.g., training and employment in green energy, improved energy efficiency in retrofitted housing and public buildings, business / enterprise opportunities in green energy, construction-related enterprises). Sustainable Growth supports the objective of improved connectivity across the urban area through the Smarter Travel initiative in Limerick City. It also offers opportunities for engagement of local people and communities in environment protection issues (e.g., from local "clean ups" and campaigns, to stronger awareness of, and engagement in, environmental issues).

1.2 The Sectoral Pillars of the Framework Implementation Plans

The specific objectives of the strategy and associated interventions in the Framework Implementation Plans are structured around three pillars: Physical, Social and Economic. These are developed in detail in the following chapters, accompanied by maps and drawings in relation to the physical interventions.

A summary of the types of interventions pursued under the three pillars is shown in table 1.1:

Within the body of interventions, certain "flagship" initiatives are proposed. These are larger-scale strategic interventions. They include the programme of housing stock renewal and new build in the physical pillar, activities in the social pillar being developed and tested in regeneration areas that can be scaled up and replicated in other areas if successful, and new interventions in the economic pillar including a proposed National Social Innovation Centre.

1. Physical	2. Social	3. Economic
1.1 Removal of infrastructural barriers to connectivity	2.1 Education and learning initiatives over the lifecourse	3.1 Sectoral training, work experience / work placement and job creation
1.2 Develop connecting streets within regeneration areas to outside areas	2.2 Health and well-being of the population (child, adult, older people, special groups)	3.2 Economic engagement platform focused on regeneration areas (multi-stakeholder)
1.3 Improve community safety and perception of safety via design and CCTV monitoring	2.3 Ageing well neighbourhoods	3.3 Social innovation / social enterprise hubs (support services and new enterprises) including a National Social Innovation Centre
1.4 New housing construction, mixed unit size & type to support diversity	2.4 Employability and work interventions for groups distant from the labour market	3.4 Niche economic activities (working up to intermediate and smart and sustainable growth sectors such as green technologies)
1.5 Renewal / retrofitting of existing housing	2.5 Targeted support for families with difficulties and youth at risk	3.5 Developing a “knowledge economy” sub-sector in community development and community enterprise
1.6 Energy efficiency improvements in buildings	2.6 Community development, empowerment and capacity building	3.6 Inward investment / long-term revolving loan financing for new public / social and educational infrastructure
1.7 Social and educational infrastructure renewal / adaptation and new build		3.7 ICT development to support economic and social development objectives
1.8 Landscape / environmental protection and management		

Table 1.1: Types of interventions by pillars of the LRIFIP

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1.3 The Integrated Approach and Cross-cutting Priorities

A defining characteristic is the integrated approach adopted in the development of the Framework Implementation Plans (LRFIPs). This integrated approach in planning is carried through into implementation, and indeed is required for effective implementation. The scope for integration across the pillars of the LRFIPs is illustrated below in Figure 1.2. For instance, investment in the renewal of existing housing in the regeneration areas will not only improve the housing stock, improve resource efficiency but also offers new opportunities for education and training in skills in demand in the labour market, jobs and income.

The three sectoral pillars are underpinned by the following cross-cutting priorities:

- Policing, justice and community safety. Reflecting continuity with the experience of regeneration to date, this is “fundamental to creating the conditions for other interventions to be successful” – across the three pillars – “and for restoring the confidence of local communities” (Fitzgerald 2007).
- Community: based on participation and empowerment to engage in decision-making and neighbourhood planning, drawing on a community development model, engagement in developing / implementing local community facilities and local service delivery.
- The Government /public sector reform agenda and a “whole of government” approach.

The purpose of the following section is to describe the Social, Economic and Physical Framework Strategy for the regeneration areas, reinforcing the vision set out in Section 1.0 and identifying site specific guidance for future interventions.

The structure of the following section is outlined as follows:

- 2.1 Social Framework Plan
- 2.2 Economic Framework Plan
- 2.3 Physical Framework Plan

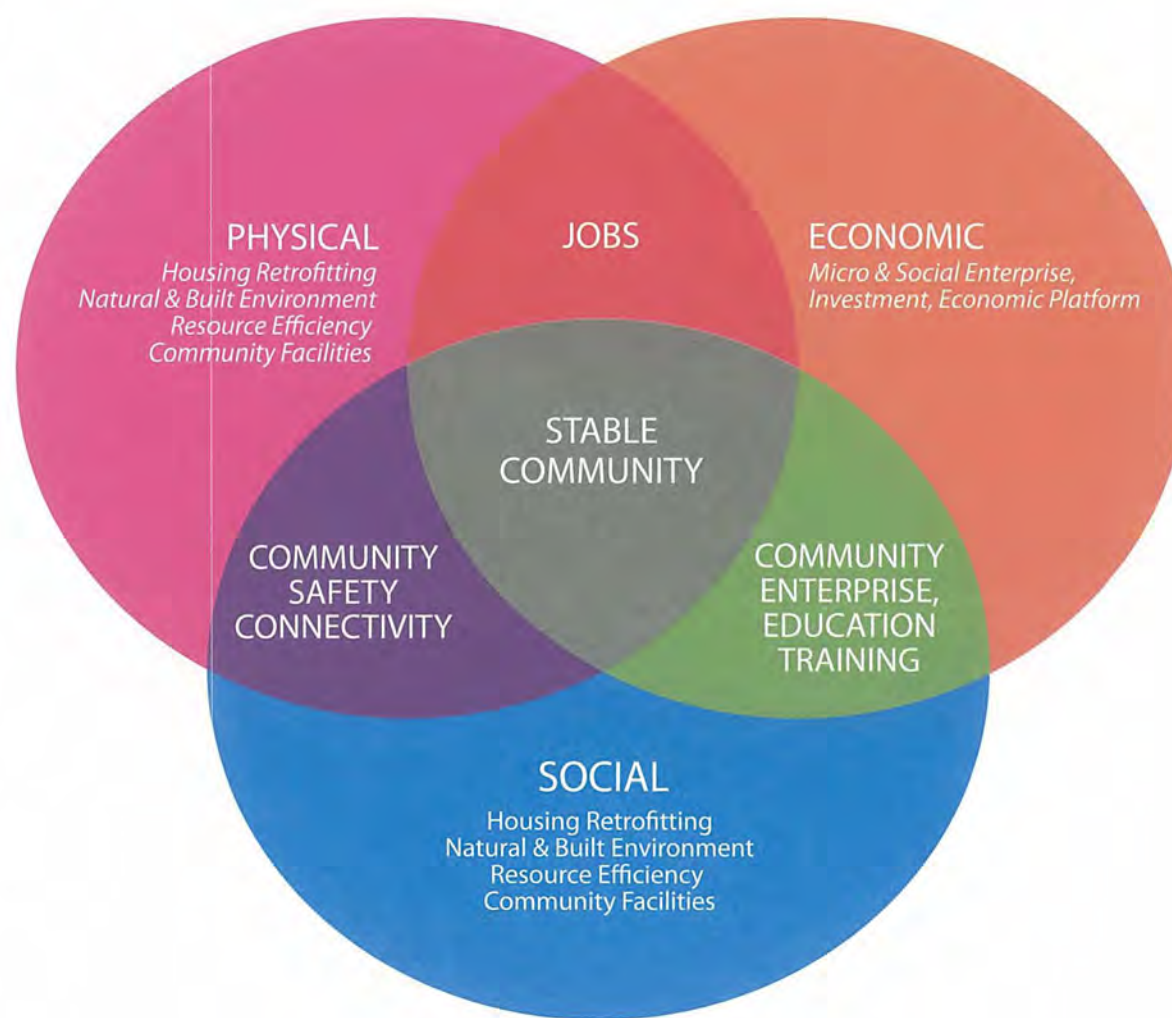


Figure 1.2: Integration of the Physical, Social and Economic Pillars



