



Learning the Lessons National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal

jonathan.france@ecotec.com

Principal Consultant

ECOTEC Research & Consulting



Sound analysis, inspiring ideas, effective delivery

The study

- Two-year impact study of the National Strategy Neighbourhood Renewal (2001)
 - AMION consulting (top down statistical analysis)
 - ECOTEC (in-depth case studies)
- 21 deprived neighbourhoods and 12 local authorities
- 700 in depth interviews and 36 resident focus groups
- Analysis of SOA change data, local strategies and reports
- **Rich** evidence base:
 - *impact; what worked; where next?*

NSNR achievements

“Within 10 to 20 years no one should be seriously disadvantaged by where they live”

- Ambitious aim. Has it been met?
 - *Arrest and reverse the wholesale decline of neighbourhoods* ✓
 - *Should no longer be accepted that people on low incomes suffer from failing conditions and services* ✓
- What's the evidence?
 - improved services
 - increased investment in neighbourhood infrastructure
 - increase in community spirit and involvement
 - targeted services for young, elderly, women (less so BME and disabled)
 - resident/stakeholder perceptions of quality of life improvements

Spatial interventions important for tackling 'neighbourhood effects'...



NSNR achievements

- Ambitious aim. Has it been met?
 - *All neighbourhoods in the country should be somewhere people can see a future for their family... X*
 - *... rather than somewhere where so many people's number one priority is to move out ?*
- What's the evidence?
 - dissatisfaction with local jobs and employment and training services
 - lack of housing choice and affordability
 - fear of crime (youth and gang-related violence)
 - community tensions (recent immigration)

... but serious structural and local cultural problems remain

NSNR achievements

“Lower worklessness, less crime, better health, better skills, and better housing and physical environment, narrowing the gap with the rest of the country”

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Improvement</i>	<i>Impact</i>
Better environment	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓
Less crime	✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓
Better housing	✓ ✓	✓
Better skills	✓ ✓	✓ ✓
Lower worklessness	✓ ✓	✓
Better health	✓	✓

NSNR more positive impact on the symptoms of deprivation

Surface vs systemic issues

Theme	Crime	Environment/ Housing	Health	Education	Employment
Surface Issues ✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Burglary/Theft - Anti-Social Behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cleaner Streets and Parks - Decent Homes Standard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Smoking - Exercise Levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - KS4 Attainment - Post-16 Participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Short Term Unemployed (JSA Claimants)
Systemic Issues ✗	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Robbery - Youth and Gang Violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tenure Mix - High density/ 1960s estates - Overcrowding/ Affordability (London) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Teenage Pregnancy - Substance Abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Literacy and Numeracy (KS2/3) - GCSE Attainment (White Working Class and Caribbean Males) - No-Skilled Adults 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Long Term Unemployed (Incapacity Benefit) - NEETs - Job creation

What worked?

Delivery chain

- Supportive and flexible national policies
- Strategic leadership and ‘steering’ of neighbourhood renewal from LSPs
- Integration of physical (especially housing) and economic policy with neighbourhood renewal by local authorities
- Neighbourhood management: intermediaries to gather intelligence, translate programmes & ‘create space’ for public-private-third sector solutions
- ‘Animation’ of residents through involvement in improving and delivering local services

Multi-level governance, strong regeneration leadership & continuity critical

What worked?

Funding

- Funding for **supplementary services** to tackle embedded problems
 - substantive education, employment and youth programmes
- **Incentivising/nudging** providers towards more neighbourhood-focused, responsive, preventative modes of service delivery
- Revenue funding for **neighbourhood management** and revenue/capital for small-scale neighbourhood interventions

However important **weaknesses**. NRF often...

- Insufficiently targeted and additional (to existing services)
- Mono-sectoral and/or 'siloed' (themes)
- Short-term (not strategic)
- Distracting (NRF became NSNR)

Resources are required from the centre to tackle deprivation... but must be evidence-based, joined-up & long-term

What has worked?

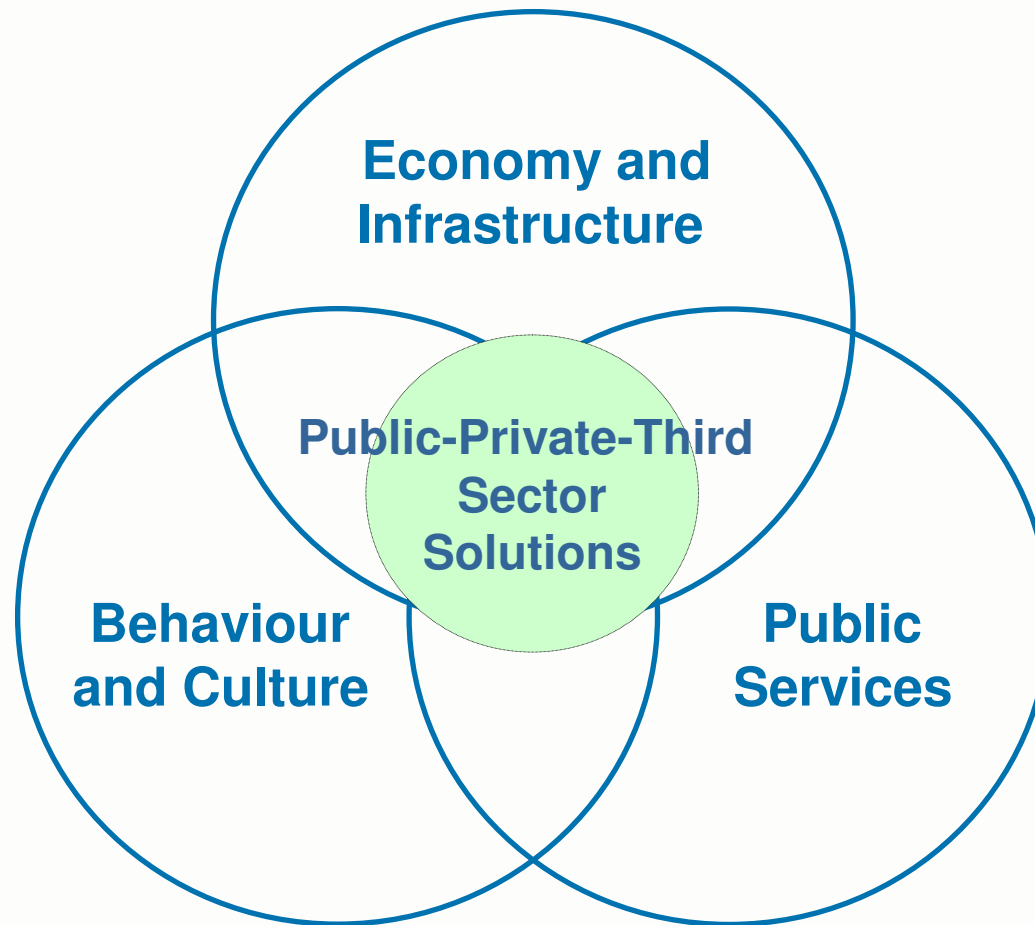
Resident engagement

- **Benefits** of resident involvement tended to outweigh the costs
 - can improve the responsiveness and take-up of local services (i.e. effectiveness)
 - boosts capacity, sense of belonging and trust (residents *and* service providers)
- **‘Neighbourhood brokers’** (neighbourhood management orgs and frontline service providers) most successfully engaged residents
- Availability of **additional funding** to nudge/incentivise providers important
- However potential impact of NSNR reduced by...
 - Over-reliance on formal consultative and representative modes
 - Tokenistic consultation exercises /fatigue
 - Under-utilization of Community Empowerment Fund to widen engagement
 - Existing neighbourhood capacity
 - Lack of awareness/publicity

Resident involvement is an easy win... but Big Society needs structure & resources

Where next?

Holistic Solutions *and* Delivery



Where next? *New localism*

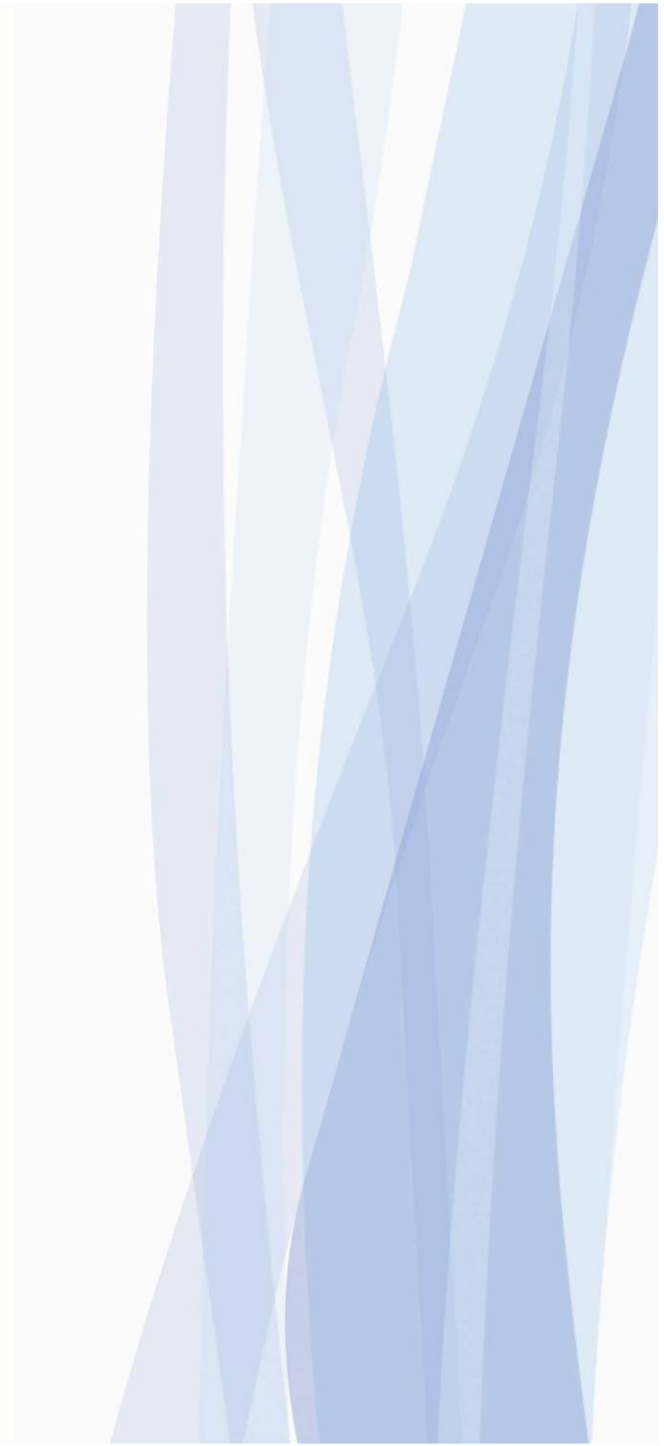
- Local government and its partners to define *where* to target investment, and the *level* of investment required.
- Local government and its partners to determine the specific emphasis on service/behavioural/economic factors, depending upon local context...
- ... allied to an increased level of challenge, negotiation and reward from higher tiers of government

Where next? *CLG: intelligent broker*

- **Challenge** LAs to develop medium to long-term strategies for deprived neighbourhoods (5-10 years)
 - Multi-level governance, existing service budgets, identification of strategic gaps, evidence-based, partnership solutions
- **Negotiate** strategies through peer review process
 - Agree relevant targets and level of extra funding, strong brokerage role for CLG (vertical and horizontal)
- **Reward** based upon delivery of strategies and relevant (and achievable) outcomes



Sound analysis, inspiring ideas, effective delivery



Thank you.

Questions?

Sound analysis, inspiring ideas, effective delivery

