

Just Neighbourhoods? Under-representation in Community-Led Planning activity

JN Working Paper #3: Community Plan Content Review and Assessment

July 2024

Content

1. Introduction
2. Place based inequality and the criteria deployed to distinguish between places
3. Local Authority sift, 'Community-Led Plan' content review and case study selection
 - 3.1 Local Authority and Plan sift
 - 3.2 England sample
 - 3.3 Scotland sample
 - 3.4 Wales sample
 - 3.5 Northern Ireland sample
4. Summary content review findings
 - 4.1 England – Plan review summary
 - 4.2 Scotland – Plan review summary
 - 4.3 Wales – Plan review summary
 - 4.4 Northern Ireland – Plan review summary
 - 4.5 Overall synthesis
5. References
6. Annexes 1-4: England, Scotland, Wales, and NI sample tables.

Community Led Planning Content Review and Assessment

1. Introduction

This working paper is the third in a series emanating from the *Just Neighbourhoods?* research project funded by the Nuffield Foundation. See: <https://research.reading.ac.uk/justclp>. The Nuffield Foundation is an independent charitable trust with a mission to advance social well-being. It funds research that informs social policy, primarily in Education, Welfare and Justice. The Nuffield Foundation is the founder and co-funder of the Nuffield Council on Bioethics, the Ada Lovelace Institute and the Nuffield Family Justice Observatory. The Foundation has funded this project, but the views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily the Foundation. Visit www.nuffieldfoundation.org.

This paper sets out a content review of the sample of plans taken from across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The content review involved three elements: reviews of local authority status and of community-led planning (CLP)¹ activity, and a content review of a sample of Plans found across under-represented places in the UK's four constituent nations. The content review required confirmation of the number of plans and areas eligible for inclusion, before deciding on the review sample and then looking at those systematically. The product here is a series of summaries and tables (see annexes) that show which areas were in scope and the information harvested.

The aim was to assess coverage of issues in made/completed Plans and to identify and understand key issues and policies as developed by communities themselves (see also Working papers #1 and #2 on the project website). The process will also inform case study selection in Work Package 2 of the project, drawing on a longlist of eligible areas compiled using the following criteria:

- All IMD (or equivalent) upper deciles and / or 'left behind' in the nations
- Level of CLP activity (i.e. presence of at least one community active in CLP but also other communities who are ostensibly similar and active in other voluntary arenas but not formal CLP)
- Evidence of attempts to address social and environmental issues in emerging plans
- Presence of gatekeepers and likelihood of access and engagement

First, we set out the way that the potentially in scope areas are defined in policy and the literature, before detailing the sampling process and setting out the findings.

¹ We deploy the term community-led plan (CLP) loosely here in order to capture a cross-section of planning related activity that involves or purports to involve local communities actively (see also, Crisp *et al.*, 2016).

2. Place-based inequality and the criteria deployed to distinguish between places

This section provides context to explain the rankings used across the nations, as well as the ‘left behind’ neighbourhoods index (OCSI/Local Trust, 2019; 2023). First, it is worthwhile reflecting that the theory and literature review (WP1a,b) raised pertinent questions about leadership, motives, and priorities, including:

- Is successful place-based leadership about navigating CLP on *any* terms or is it the *local priorities* which are the driver?
- What happens in left behind places where there are opportunities to create plans?
- In terms of ‘non-participating’ areas are there diffused or informal activities that could displace formal CLP activity?

The WP1a,b reviews also prompted three main research questions:

- **Understanding:** What do communities understand as (in)justice? (procedurally / outcome / in empowerment terms?)
- **Process:** How are priorities established by communities and how do they relate to questions of injustice or fairness?
- **Outcome:** How do forms of community-led planning address issues of hyper-local injustice?

Given the focus of the research on ‘left behind’ areas it is important to explain how the areas are identified and how this has been used to shape the WP1c activity as set out later. OCSI/Local Trust has used a set of measures, in combination with the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), to establish their list of ‘left behind’ neighbourhoods in England. Similar data is not yet available for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Notably OCSI put ‘social infrastructure’ into their ‘community needs index’ to establish list of 225 left behind neighbourhoods (at LSOA level) published in 2020.

The Community Needs Index for 2023 was made up of three domains: First, *Civic Assets* - capturing the presence of key community, civic, educational and cultural assets in and in close proximity to the area. Secondly, *connectedness*: capturing connectivity to key services, digital infrastructure, isolation and strength of the local jobs market. Lastly, *active and engaged community*: concerning the levels of third sector activity and volunteering and civic participation, social fabric and barriers to participation and engagement. Further detail on the methods and criteria used to report the Community Needs Index are available here: <https://localtrust.org.uk/new-community-needs-index-cni-2023/>.

The indices of multiple deprivation (IMD) baselines deprivation with an approach broadly consistently across UK and NI with some slight variations. The seven domains for the English IMD (as at 2019), are:

- *Income* – how will measures improve or manage income levels for those on lower income?

- *Employment* – how will employment be improved, what investment and links are there to the EST domain below?
- *Health, Deprivation and Disability* (HDD) – this domain focusses on impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health. The domain measures morbidity, disability and premature mortality but not aspects of behaviour or environment (when neighbourhood policy might well need to embrace this latter concern)
- *Education, Skills, and Training* (EST) – how will those with lower attainment be helped, what skills and training can act to empower?
- *Barriers to Housing and Services* – housing type, quality as well as quality of life impacting services links to the EST domain above
- *Crime* - links to employment and income measures are obvious but also built environment in terms of design and sense of place
- *Living Environment* – how will measures improve this, particularly the ‘outdoors’ living environment measures that relate to urban design.

These are applied to create the IMD place-based rankings in England as well as part of the OCSI work on left behind neighbourhoods. In the other nations the approach is similar but with some variation. The indices used for Scotland are Scottish Indices (SIMD): <https://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020/> which incorporates seven domains similar to those used in England. The SIMD uses Datazones (DZs) which are the Scottish equivalent of Lower Super Output Areas, but have a smaller population (500-1,000 as opposed to 1,000-3,000 for LSOAs in England and Wales). For the SIMD analysis, Scotland is split into 6,976 individual DZs, and each is then ranked on its deprivation relative to all other DZs.

Wales adopts the Welsh Indices for Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) and ranks all small areas in Wales from 1 (most deprived) to 1,909 (least deprived) (see Welsh Government, 2019a). There are several differences between the English IMD and WIMD; for example, each contain a different number of domains (8 for Wales, 7 for England) - however two of these domains are closely aligned (further details are [here](#)).

For Northern Ireland the NIMDM here:

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/deprivation/northern-ireland-multiple-deprivation-measure-2017-nimdm2017> is used and this was allied to exploring the existing / ongoing designation of neighbourhood renewal areas (NRAs) across the country.

There were several other considerations that we had to take into account, including three central difficulties:

- identifying IMD data at a ward level
- excluding NP activity in affluent neighbourhoods
- including NP activity in deprived neighbourhoods within affluent Local Authorities.

The above parameters have enabled a nuanced approach applied across the four nations. This involved slight variation, due to the need to sample more or less strictly and to reflect local circumstances. This is explained in each relevant nation section.

3. Local Authority sift, ‘Community-Led Plan’ content review and case study selection

This section sets out how we operationalised the review process using three stages: sift, sample and longlist, as follows.

3.1 Local Authority and Plan sift

Stage 1: the Local Authority sift

Scoping and nominating areas potentially in scope formed the first stage or LA ‘sift’. We adopted a slightly different approach for each of the nations. This was a necessary and pragmatic approach given the scale of CLP activity across England. The smaller number of LAs across Wales, NI and Scotland meant we had the capacity to assess all relevant areas in the stage one sift. For England, in addition to the IMD data, we drew on the work by OCSI and Local Trust (2019) identified 225 left behind neighbourhoods (wards) in England (see Annex 1) although such categorisation is imperfect and a wider debate over contested framings of ‘left behind’ places (Natarajan and Cho, 2022; Pike *et al.*, 2023) is recognised here. We created a long list of Local Authorities that feature Left Behind Places (LBPs), as well as the top 20% of IMD areas to ensure that the review stayed in scope and was made manageable, this created a list of 98 Local Authority areas. We additionally searched for any NDPs beyond that sift which overtly discussed social / spatial (in)justice questions (see WP1a/b).

Stage 2: Creating the sample of community-led plans for review

The intention was to identify neighbourhood planning activity within the most deprived Local Authority areas across England. For England, there were up to 49 eligible LPA areas who fitted the criteria of recorded disadvantage and who had been engaging in neighbourhood planning. All 321 neighbourhood areas participating in NP in those LPAs were identified and correlated with the IMD LSOA data. Those that featured a LSOA located in a 10% (decile) or 20% (quintile) of most deprived areas were identified.

This process led to us conclude that there were 45 plans to review across the regions, and across 25 Local Authorities. The process of sifting the number of LAs and made NPs is illustrated in Table 1 and Figure 1 (below). This immediately gave us a long-list of LPAs and a set of Plans to review for WP1c in England.

In Scotland, we set out to review all CLPs within the LPAs categorised as falling within the highest 20% of SIMD (2020) - (eventually totalling 30 Plans)

- All Place Plans in Wales (with a latter focus on the top quintile according to WIND data) and others as necessary (a total of 16 ‘plans’ given the different Plans in existence): x8 Local Authority areas in Northern Ireland (producing Community Plans), excepting Belfast, Derry and the Causeway Coast, ‘Place Plans’, and a spot check sample of Neighbourhood Renewal Areas (see NI section below and annex 4 for details).

The initial preparatory work gave an initial estimate that the number of Plans to be reviewed in total (stage 3) across the four nations would around 45 in England; 25-30 in Scotland; Wales c15 and in Northern Ireland c15. Thus, the target of 100+ Plans for content review could then be analysed using a common coding form (see Tables 1a-d below in 3.2, 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5), to explore basic facts dates, stage) and how these, informed by the WP1a, b work, appear or not to demonstrate:

- a. Awareness and framing of social and environmental justice,
- b. The extent to which they are attempting to address inequalities in these arenas
- c. How they seek to address these inequalities.
- d. Any commentary about how or whether a,b,c content had been omitted.

The content analysis will provide vital data on the policy positioning of CLP across the four nations (as yet unexplored at the national level). By looking at these will be able to target particular local authorities across the UK to do a first sweep of CLP activity and assist with WP2 case study area longlisting.

Table 1: Overview of Plans across regions by LBP status (England)

Number of NPs in region (LAs with LBPs)	Region	Number of plans to review in each region	Number of Local Authorities
62	East England	7	4
10	East Midlands	2	2
41	North East	5	2
54	North West	5	4
25	South East	3	3
35	South West	4	2
17	West Midlands	5	3
74	Yorks & Humber	14	5
Total: 321	All	45	25

Stage 3: Sampling / Longlisting

The third stage was to consider the prior review and use the stage 2 initial ‘longlist’ to examine the extent of wider activity and to look at the actual content profile of the selected sample of around 100 Plans. Ultimately the research design assumes that one case study local authority area (including two

neighbourhoods) will be selected in each of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, with two cases in England (i.e. four neighbourhoods across two LPAs) reflecting the larger population and scale of activity. Following the content review, and initial exploratory work five local authority (NUTS 3) areas will be selected to form the case study areas. The finalised case studies will be prioritised by cross-referencing the sample of community-led plans reviewed in WP1c and the theoretical framework developed in WP1a and review literature in WP1b.

'Other Places of interest' and 'Plans of interest'

Given our wish to ensure a wide sweep in WP1c, we were also interested in other plans or ways communities pursue their priorities, and whether they have started or not completed such a 'Plan'. The team had to determine the degree to which the focus would be on formal or informal community-led planning activity, and then add this as a criterion to help shape the longlist for WP2 work. This meant concretely that we have reviewed plans or initiatives across areas with 'left behind' neighbourhoods across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland as below (see Tables 1a-d) with a focus initially on the existence of formal activity and then to bottom-out wider activity as the list is whittled down to a workable long list. The final selection can only be two LAs in England (4 neighbourhoods), one in Scotland (2 neighbourhoods), Wales (also 2 neighbourhoods) and Northern Ireland (also 2 neighbourhoods). We have also had to nuance the approach taken for each territory in order to reflect the data and circumstance for each nation – which is explained below, alongside the scoping data in the tables (see annexes 1-4) and featured in the next section.

3.2 England sample

The WP1b review includes an overview of outputs and activity relating to CLP in England (with a focus on neighbourhood planning) and that section should be read in conjunction with this part of the WP1c paper. For England there were three main challenges in creating the sample:

1. *The difficulty of assessing the status of individual neighbourhoods against available data (LSOA vs neighbourhood boundary).* In order to overcome this difficulty, each area was searched within the LSOA IMD map, a neighbourhood was included in our sample if any part of an LSOA featured within that neighbourhood area boundary.
2. *Including NP activity in left Behind Places (LBPs) located in more affluent LA areas* – to address this all LAs that had a LBP were included in the first sift, NP activity within areas that were not picked up from the IMD data alone (within the 20% most deprived), more affluent LA areas were potentially included.
3. *Excluding NP activity in affluent neighbourhoods in deprived LA areas* - by correlating the neighbourhood areas with the LSOA IMD data, we were able to exclude activity in affluent neighbourhoods in deprived areas.

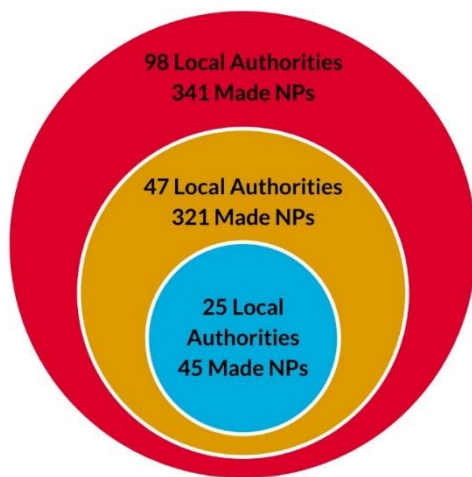
For England, the initial criteria were those areas featured as left behind that had neighbourhood planning activity. There were 225 'left behind' areas identified by Local Trust / OCSI (2019). The following stages were taken to sift these areas into a manageable list of plans for us to review:

Sift one: The process for identifying and then reviewing the Plans in England was to identify what LAs are relevant: A total of 98 LAs hosted a LBP and/or have IMD top 10 or 20%, across these, there were 341 made NPs.

Sift two: 47 of these LAs host at least one LBP and have at least one NP or emerging NDP in that area. And who have identified emerging as well as completed neighbourhood plans. Across the 47 LAs there were 321 made NDPs. There are 32 LAs that have one or more LBPs but have no made NPs, 16 of these with no made NPs also have no other NP activity.

Sift three: The 321 areas that have made a NP were then correlated with the LSOA IMD data to identify that across **25 LAs there were 45 NP areas** that are within 10% (decile) or 20% (quintile) most deprived areas (see Figure 1).

Figure E1: England sampling: Number of LAs and made NPs at each stage



It is worth noting that there is a disparity because those who might need to address issues of environmental and social injustice, may be less likely to use NPs. As such the selection going into WP2 will need to keep sight of wider activity across all four countries.

See annex 1 tables for the made plans which we then examined - we moved from a very extensive list to a more refined sample which were a top 20% IMD / or LBP status, and presence of some CLP activity and details the LAs, the number of Left Behind Places, whether the LA is within the top quintile most deprived and what the NP activity is in each LA.

3.3 Scotland sample

The WP1b review includes an overview of outputs and activity relating to CLP in Scotland and the section should be read in conjunction with this part of the WP1c paper. The review provided confirmation of a long history of community focussed and led activity, through for example Community Planning Partnerships.

Since January 2022, and the publication of Planning circular 1/2022, local communities in Scotland now have the ability to produce statutory Local Place Plans, which whilst not part of the development plan (as in England), have statutory weight in the planning process – LPAs must take them into account when preparing their Local Development Plans. Given how recently Local Place Plans have been given statutory weight, it is unsurprising that at the time of the content review only a small number of CLPs with this title had been produced. In line with the planned approach, we examined the 32 local authority areas in Scotland (<https://www.cosla.gov.uk/councils>) and took a two-stranded approach. We reviewed the websites of the 11 local authorities which had 20% or higher of their Data Zones (DZs) in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) quintile 1, this being an appropriate comparator to our approach of looking at the most deprived quintile of local authorities in England; and drew on a valuable resource in the form of the 2021 *How to Guide to Local Place Plans*. That guide reviewed 54 CLPs, including five pilot Local Place Plans and various other forms of CLPs including Community Action Plans. The Scottish review summary is discussed in section 4.2.

3.4 Wales sample

The WP1b review includes an overview of outputs and activity relating to CLP in Wales and that section should be read in conjunction with this part of the WP1c paper. The review provided an indication of CLP activity which appears to be more limited when compared to England.

Place Plans are a key means of community-led planning in Wales. They were first introduced in 2013 in the Welsh Government’s consultation paper ‘Positive Planning: Proposals to reform the planning system in Wales and a formal part of the Welsh planning system since the publication of the Development Plan Prospectus (2015), the Planning Prospectus Overview (2015) and Planning Policy Wales (2016). Place Plans can cover a single village all the way up to a Town and Community Council (TCC) area and can be initiated by TCCs, the local authority, local community groups, or individual members of the community.

Place Plans are non-statutory and do not form part of the development plan. They can be adopted as supplementary planning guidance (SPG) and therefore are designed to advise and assist the delivery of the local development plan (LDP). As SPG, Place Plans cannot introduce new policy but should be linked to the relevant LDP and should focus on land use and development related topics. Place Plans can identify local development sites but not allocate them nor set out the type, scale and quantum of new development. They must be tied to a policy in the LDP, on which they provide further guidance. This might include:

1. Providing guidance to expand on topic-based policy to assist the implementation of the LDP
2. Cover detail and numerical guidelines/thresholds (where they may change) to assist flexibility and avoid the LDP becoming outdated

3. Provide additional detailed guidance on the type of development expected in an area allocated for development in the LDP; this could take the form of a development brief or a more design orientated master plan.

Place Plans are one tool among several in Wales available to pursue community planning activity. Other tools that can be made from neighbourhood to local authority level include: Placemaking Plans, Community, Town or Village Council Plans (most of which predate the introduction of Place Plans), Well-being Plans, Biodiversity Action Plans, Local Nature Recovery Plans, Local Flood Plans and Climate Emergency Action Plans. This should be borne in mind when considering the content of Place Plans, as some issues may be covered in alternative plans. The Welsh Government now requires each local authority across Wales to develop Place-Making Plans (PMPs) to set out how they will identify, plan and deliver place making in each of their town centres. It is expected that PMPs may crowd out and/or replace Place Plans in future.

Wales is covered by 22 local authority areas – which are unitary authorities (see Annex 3) – and three National Parks. At the neighbourhood scale, there are 735 TCCs (equivalent to Parish Councils in England) covering cover an estimated 70% of the population. It is TCCs that are the most common author of Place Plans. A desktop review was undertaken to identify made and ongoing Place Plans in Wales, (building on previous research conducted by a postgraduate student and Planning Aid Wales employee in 2022). This process obtained 16 completed Place Plans, 11 of which were adopted as SPG, and only three in communities which might be considered ‘left behind’ (situated in Ceredigion, Conwy and Powys). A further 15 communities were identified as in the process of producing a Place Plan.

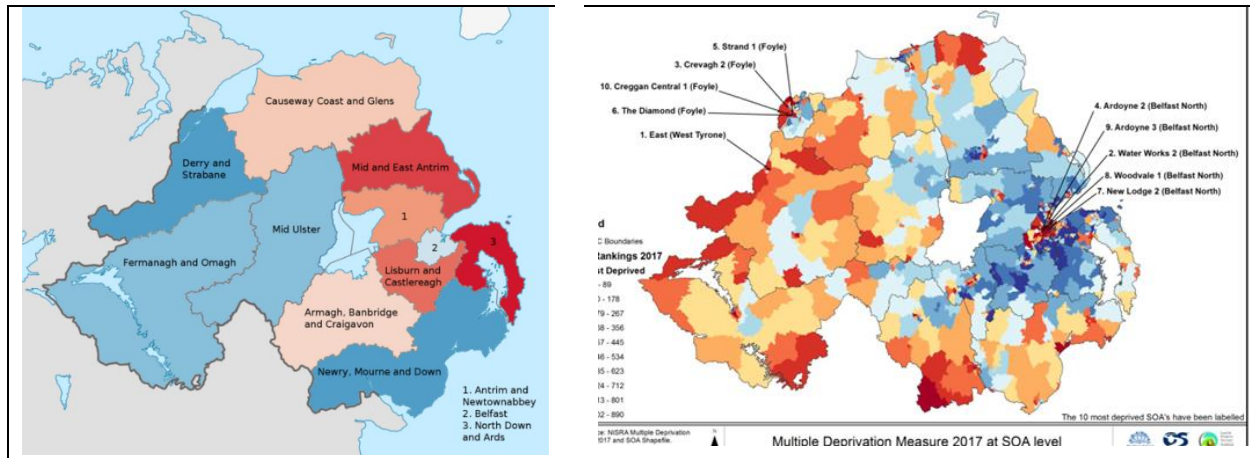
3.5 Northern Ireland sample

The WP1b review includes an overview of outputs and activity relating to CLP in Northern Ireland (NI) and that section should be read in conjunction with this part of the WP1c paper. In NI there are eleven local authority areas serving a population in 2018 of 1,862,137. The LA areas are split into 890 super output areas (SOAs). The most relevant Planning activity at scale in NI appears to be via Community Planning Partnerships (which oversee a ‘Community Plan’ prepared at LA level) and also via related strategic activity such as through neighbourhood renewal programmes and see: Neighbourhood Renewal | Department for Communities (communities-ni.gov.uk) where 36 of the top decile (10%) according to the NIMDM were highlighted for intervention and targeted funding.

Initial exploration showed that CPs are district level strategies and are led by established organisations and public sector bodies; the closest comparison in England were the Community strategies (renamed sustainable community strategies) prepared from 2000 (see Raco *et al.*, 2006; Lambert, 2006). Place plans are somewhat similar in style and approach it seems, but are prepared at a neighbourhood scale. Beyond that, informal CLP activity may be present and we have searched for

this as part of the stage 2 and 3 sampling. We have looked for built and natural environment strategising to limit the scope to our core interest.

Figure N1a,b: Northern Ireland - Local Authorities (post-2015) left and NIMDM map 2017 right (where red is most deprived)



The approach for Northern Ireland involved drawing on the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) which uses seven domains: Income, Employment, Health, Deprivation & Disability, Education, Skills & Training, Access to Services, Living Environment, and a Crime & Disorder Domain, see: <http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/Home.aspx>. The latest NIMDM statistics were used to assess the most deprived SOA in each area and then we looked at each LA website to discern observable activity. We also drew on project advisory group knowledge to help steer towards stage 3. The picture overall in NI has been shifting with a People and Place review commenced in 2022 'to improve how the Department addresses the objective need of a place-based approach to tackling deprivation' (Department for Communities, no date).

The sift also showed us that each of the local authorities bar two (Causeway and Coast, Lisburn and Castlereagh) have SOAs in the top 20% of the NIMDM. The selection process and the target number range meant that we eventually examined 16 Plans or activity reports (for NRAs). It is notable that 50 of the 100 most deprived SOAs are in Belfast, while another hotspot is Derry - for other reasons these LA were not explored any further. This gave us eight LAs to focus on (see annex 4).

Despite their status as 'partnership led' we took Community Plans as falling into our definitional reach, and as a way into further exploration of the dynamics of planning and justice in NI. Although this would take-up much of the NI sample if we looked at them all - and given that our initial review showed that the Community Plans were not 'community-led' and prepared with whole district coverage - we risked omitting other useful activity. Conversely, while 'Place Plans' are at a neighbourhood or group of neighbourhood scale they should be examined here. While 'other activity' was less easy to discern, we decided to include some Neighbourhood Renewal Action plans

and reports, partly as the numbers of Place Plans were low and given that NRAs have explicit aims across four linked objectives:

- Community Renewal *'To develop confident communities that are able and committed to improving the quality of life in their areas'*. Second is
- Social Renewal *'To improve social conditions for the people who live in the most deprived neighbourhoods through better coordinated public services and the creation of safer environments'*, thirdly
- Economic Renewal *'To develop economic activity in the most deprived neighbourhoods and connect them to the wider urban economy'* and lastly,
- Physical Renewal *'To help create attractive, safe, sustainable environments in the most deprived neighbourhoods'* (Department for Communities NI, 2003).

So, while the CPs are not community-led, or appeared to be created largely by institutional partners we included a set of these to show contrast and provide the most up to date local level community planning in NI. This approach also aided manageability given the overall sample target of 100 across the nations, but also because we wanted to explore 'other activity'. In order to focus on the key areas of concern and assess the closest Plans / activity to the CLP model we selected all existing finalised Place Plans in areas where higher levels of deprivation were present, some NRAs and the remainder Community Plans. This approach gave us a total of 16 plans for review in NI: 6 Community Plans (prepared at district level: Ards and North Down, Armagh Banbridge & Craigavon, Omagh & Fermanagh, Mid-Ulster, Mid and East Antrim, & Newry, Mourne & Down) and 10 neighbourhood scale Place Plans (x4) or NRA documents (x6) - and see annex 4.

4. Content review findings – questions of justice

We selected 107 plans from across the nations which had been prepared in the relevant IMD top 20% / LBP areas, or sampled following this general approach as appropriate in NI and Wales and all Place Plans in Scotland which were available. We had to be more or less selective depending on the level and type of activity known to be occurring in each nation. Our initial inclusion criteria were:

- ‘Left Behind Place’ (England) / top quintile of deprivation index in relevant nation
- date of completion - selecting in the main more recent Plans where a choice was available
- other activity e.g. Neighbourhood renewal area plans in NI

The third stage of the WP1c work was the content review of the 107 Plans. The synthesis and findings from the content review are summarised below. Recalling that the threshold target total for review was 100 Plans, split across each nation As a result of the first stages of the review process, we were able to identify the most relevant LPAs and the numbers of CLP activity present across the sample of Plans from each nation. The eventual number and split was: England at x45 plans, Scotland x30, Wales x16 and Northern Ireland x16 Plans (see Annexes 1-4).

For each nation, the plans or strategies in scope were examined for the ‘policies’ or priorities set out, and for explicit use of key words, and where other text demonstrated the addressed some aspect of spatial or environmental justice. This has been organised to form the mnemonic of JEDI (Justice, Equity, Deprivation, Inclusion). We created a protocol for the latter stage so that plans could be interpreted through the lens of the research (and see WP1a, b working papers #1 and #2). We anticipated that many plans would not use explicit terms such as justice or injustice but would be seeking to address such questions through a variety of relevant issues, solutions, or framing devices, for example aiming for more social housing, enhancing employment opportunities, or addressing flooding.

As a result of the above, our aim has been to create a summary of the included plans that responds to the overall question: ***to what extent is this plan aimed towards generating a more just neighbourhood?*** (see summary text sections below 4.1 *et seq.*). The JEDI framework and keywords used aided exploration of how communities demonstrated awareness of social and environmental justice, the extent to which they sought to address inequalities in these arenas and by what means.

4.1 England - plan review summary

A total of forty-five (45) neighbourhood plans were reviewed across England (see section 3 and annex 1). The focus of our review has been post-2010 and the formal basis for NP in the 2011 Localism Act (amended in the 2017 NP Act) and via the 2012 NP regulations in England. In areas without a parish or town council, Neighbourhood Forums (NFs) need to have at least 21 members and to apply to the LPA to have the group designated, otherwise, in parished areas, it is parish or town councils who lead on the creation of the Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs). All neighbourhood groups apply to the relevant LPA to have their neighbourhood area approved. Often this is the same as the parish boundary in parished areas, or a smaller or focused area, or a

wider area when working in partnership with adjacent parish or town councils to produce a joint NDP. In some cases, NFs might use a physical boundary, such as a road or a river or an existing ward boundary reflecting the boundary recognised by the community. NDPs should be evidence based and meet ‘basic conditions’. These include having regard to national and local policy, contributing to sustainable development and being compatible with EU obligations.

Community engagement feeds into the vision and aims of the plan, which in turn informs the policies and site allocations. NDPs then go through a process of institutional validation through submission to the LPA, who identify if all information and documentation is in place. They arrange for an independent examination after a period of publicity. If the NDPs meet the basic conditions at the examination stage, the LPA will then arrange a public referendum. Although the NDPs follow a standard process, there is a difference in the length and quality of the Plans. Plan themes often include; housing, employment, transport, town centres and retail, design, historic environment, natural environment, and community facilities.

Plan content

As anticipated, very few plans explicitly reference the key word terms assembled as a result of our preparatory work during WP1a, b (see Working Papers #1 and #2). Many plans do however address challenges associated to justice, equity, disadvantage, and inclusion, however the extent to which the plans express issues relating to those headings, or attempt to address them via policies or community action points within the plan, appears to be dependent upon several factors. Those who were in the top 20% most deprived neighbourhoods rarely mentioned deprivation or disadvantage, and some in the top 10% referred to deprivation, either in the context of the whole plan or as justification for specific policies. Whereas some plans list issues without the contextual links or evidence to such matters they may highlight issues through non-planning matters, which cannot be addressed via a NDP formally, but nevertheless are included as community actions alongside policies as ‘informatives’ in a substantial number of plans. These provide important clues to aid longlisting and are part of the rationale for a deeper dive into how NP may both reveal and also obscure some neighbourhood scale issues.

Social Justice

Matters of social justice were referred to in most of the NDPs for areas in the top 10% most deprived areas, this included a mixture of different challenges identified in the areas, some of which are also covered in the sections below. They include deprivation and disadvantage in its many guises, including an imbalance in age of the population (e.g. St Mary in the Marsh, E#20) and access to appropriate (affordable) housing or services that respond to the needs of the population. Geographical location influenced the social issues raised, for example, in some of the most deprived inner-city areas, challenges are presented due to transient populations were identified. In most of the coastal areas, access to employment outside of tourist season was generally a challenge.

Highlighting the connection between the spatial implications of the social challenges within local areas occurred in a number of the plans reviewed, with these examples being indicative:

"It is acknowledged that the solutions to issues of anti-social behaviour lie largely outside the planning system although there is a strong link between successful regeneration policies such as those supported by this Neighbourhood Plan, and an increase in the wealth of the Town for all." (E#43 - Gainsborough Town Council Neighbourhood Plan, p.20).

"People have said time and time again that there are significant problems with drugs, homelessness, poor living conditions, litter, dog waste, overgrown front gardens and anti-social behaviour. These are symptoms of people living in high housing densities in an area that simply does not have sufficient private amenity space, shops, services and transport to mitigate against the effects" (E#21 - Boscombe and Pokesdown Neighbourhood Plan, p.40).

"The housing conditions are associated with high levels of deprivation and anti-social behaviour which affects the quality of life of the community's residents" (E#2 - Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan, p.25).

In some areas it is considered that housing layouts facilitate crime (such as the *Growing Together* Plan, E#3 and Willenhall, E#9). In cases where high levels of anti-social behaviour and crime are apparent, there are often connections made to policies that aim to respond to managing spatial issues that were perceived to be linked, such as the scale, quality, density of new housing, the management of HMOs (HMOs were either addressed via policy or wider community actions), or a reduction of takeaway establishments, as well as the aim of increasing community cohesion and identity.

Spatial Justice

The content review shows that various NDPs have considered spatial aspects of justice. Some raise the idea that there is unequal access to services or amenities due to locational factors, or because of access to transport. In Colne (E#15), some 30% of the population do not have access to a car and was used as justification for the protection of local shops and public houses policy (p.57) and to reduce inequality by ensuring facilities are fully accessible. Locational factors can present challenges associated with spatial justice. Some NDPs referred to the way in which roads can divide their communities or cut them from services and amenities offered by city centres nearby, as in Old Market Quarter NDP (E#24). For the Isle of Portland (E#26) the challenges come from a reliance on services and amenities off the island. In one area, a "dangerous" junction was a cause for concern and featured in both a policy and community action (Madeley, Shropshire E#31). Access to public and private green space is also a consideration. In one area (Spring Boroughs, E#2) they found that 96% of the population were in homes that did not have a garden, and they were keen to address this by including gardens in the housing policy, as well as a policy on children's play spaces and other green spaces. Whereas in Great Aycliffe NDP (E#11) there is a specific policy on bungalows and their gardens, because it was identified that older people do not want a garden to maintain. The NDP references not wanting to use larger areas for development and mentions a need to improve the economic viability of new development for developers.

For others, spatial justice was acknowledged in the need for regeneration of the area. The motivation to create a plan for one community group was to expand upon the already existing community-led regeneration efforts nearby and gain a successful funding bid awarded for a Towns Fund. This was considered a good opportunity to realise the ambitions of the plan (e.g. Stainforth, E#35). Similarly, in Holbeck (E#37) there is an overlap with previous regeneration projects, such as the South Leeds Regeneration Priority Programme Area and other policy legacies (e.g. the Holbeck / South Bank Supplementary Planning Document). In some neighbourhoods, particularly urban ones, ‘meanwhile’ use or community use of vacant spaces featured within policies as a response to high numbers of under-utilised buildings in those areas.

Although most Plans identify that influencing current spatial issues can be a challenge via the NDP, they do focus on improving the way new housing developments can be improved. Some include policies that attempt to address some of the current challenges associated with low quality housing. The community aspiration in Holbeck’s NDP (E#37) is to strengthen a landlords’ forum, whereas a policy on making the most of or improving the existing housing stock is found in the Cramlington (E#12, Northumberland) and Heathfield Park (E#29, Wolverhampton) cases. Ideas applied to increase a sense of belonging and local identity were viewed as a response to perceived spatial injustice. In Heathfield Park (E#29), 60% of the respondents to the NDP survey considered that the area had a negative image and the NDP subsequently features a policy on this. For example, in Newington (E#45, Hull) a public legacy project, including public art was considered to be one way to improve the sense of belonging and instil community pride.

Environmental Justice

Many plans had an environmental thread running through them, with mention of the environment in each of the policies. A good example of this is Bridport NDP (E#25, Dorset), whereas others have stand-alone policies addressing environmental challenges. Some refer to wider challenges of climate change, loss of biodiversity and increase in pollution. Braybrooke NP in North Northants (E#4) for example, states that “unashamedly therefore, much of this Plan is devoted to the natural environment” (2023, p9.) This includes fifteen policies and a community action related to managing the local environment. One referred to the need to consider climate change for future generations. Some had policies that were specific to the characteristics of their areas such as coastal mitigation service (see Cramlington, E#12 and Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, E#14, both Northumberland) and others addressed challenges via site specific policies, such as in Hexham (E#13) where ten sites with site-specific environmental considerations are allocated. There were a variety of different ways that NDPs sought to address environmental challenges, including protecting and enhancing existing environmental assets, introducing new environmental assets, reducing environmental threats, other development related mitigation policies, travel and transport related policies and policies on renewable energy.

Where plans refer to the *protection and enhancement of existing environmental assets*, there are policies on green spaces, hedgerows, trees and verges, wildlife, bat conservation, habitat protection and connectivity, wildlife corridors, and country parks. Within NDPs, there is an opportunity to designate open spaces as Local Green Spaces, which are to be protected from inappropriate

development. Some plans consider the *introduction of new environmental assets* via policies and community actions, such as encouraging gains in biodiversity, tree planting, and dark skies initiatives.

The *reduction of environmental threats* is a feature in some NDPs, as flooding is a key concern for some, managing the way new development by incorporating SUDs and reducing surface water, improving air quality, as well as specific policies such as the maintenance of drainage ditches. *Development related policies* include separate policies, or references within overarching policies, on development, such as domestic scale renewable energy, wildlife and housing, open space and recreation are present. *Travel and transport related policies* refer to the increase in public transport, support electric vehicle use, or non-vehicular travel and the reduction of petrol vehicles. Some refer to *energy*, such as referring to the introduction of or management of domestic or neighbourhood scale renewable energy projects. In the *Growing Together* NDP (E#3), policies that ensure high levels of energy efficiency are included and attempt to influence local energy generation through renewable technologies. In Bridport (E#25) for example, there is a focus on carbon with separate policies on ‘Publicising Carbon Footprint, Energy and Carbon Emissions’, and ‘Energy Generation to Offset Predicted Carbon Emissions.’

One group used the NDP as an opportunity to lay out the expectations that the parish council have of the LPA. In Donnington and Muxton (E#30) they featured this section within the Plan:

“In order satisfy the stated expectations of respondents, the Parish Council expects Telford & Wrekin Council, in its role as local planning authority, to use its best endeavors to secure a high standard of energy efficiency in any new development permitted within the Neighbourhood Area. The Parish Council also expects Telford & Wrekin Council to positively consider local renewable or low carbon energy projects within the Neighbourhood Area” (p.20)

Equity

Equity was a consideration in most plans. Expanding upon the spatial justice consideration above, there was some specific mention of ‘social inequality’ (see Colne NDP, Pendle Borough E#15) and in Cramlington’s NDP (E#12), in a policy on healthy communities, they use the working “requiring development to contribute to creating an age friendly, healthy and *equitable* environment” (p.52) and use the words *inclusive* and *access* within the text that follows. Accessibility was referred to in many plans, this was in terms of being able to travel, such as have access to a vehicle or use public transport, and some also considered the design of housing and other development and access to open spaces for those who might be restricted in their movement or are wheelchair users. Some included phrasing to aim to be as inclusive as possible to ensure that their area was “accessible for all” (see for example Colne, E#15; Stainforth, E#35) or that in one Plan in the Fenland area “sustainable will only be achieved if all sectors of the community are catered for” (March NDP, p.21, E#6). Some have policies that are dedicated to accessibility (e.g. Alsager, Cheshire East, E#19). In Balsall Heath (Birmingham E#27), protecting the interests of disabled and minority groups is asserted in line with the Equalities Act.

Deprivation and disadvantage

Although the areas selected for content review are all considered to be within the top 20% most deprived, perhaps surprisingly some NDPs do not explicitly acknowledge the IMD levels of deprivation within them. However, for most of the areas within the 10% most deprived, deprivation was referenced as a justification for several policies set across the NDPs but in the main such points were mentioned within the areas statistics in the introduction of the plans only. While this was not always the case it is less usual, for example part of Braybrooke (North Northants, E#4) is in the top 10% most deprived, and their NDP states that “deprivation and overcrowding are not significant issues” but they did highlight barriers to housing and services and under-occupied housing.

Anti-social behaviour and crime were referenced in a number of plans and therefore *safety* is a key concern in some areas. For example, in Boscombe and Pokesdown (E#21), Hemsby (E#4) and Heathfield Park (E#29) there were concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime, including safety after dark, particularly for by older people and women. Heathfield Park (E#29), have aimed to design out crime by including making walkable places by improving accessibility and active frontages to improve natural surveillance. Another factor of safety considered is within public parks (Spring Boroughs, E#2) and green spaces for children to play (Great Aycliffe, E#11) and in *Growing Together's* NP (Northampton, E#3) they refer to the need for ‘natural’ surveillance to improve safety and reduce anti-social behaviour and crime. Attempts to address safety issues are included in housing policies to address layout of future developments. Others have attempted to address similar questions via policies on improving connections between blue and green spaces (e.g., in one case waterways were seen as unsafe because they were underused). A few plans attempt to address safety whilst travelling by including road safety and urging for safe non-vehicular routes.

Health and wellbeing was found to be a fairly common theme or policy within the NDPs reviewed. The protection and enhancement of community assets, including green spaces and allotments has been referred to in terms of improving disadvantage – particularly those experiencing mental and physical health challenges. Quoting the Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology, and Mind, Holbeck (Leeds E#37) highlighted the link made to accessibility of green space with better mental and physical health. Furthermore, their health and wellbeing policy mentions the need for a positive contribution to the health and wellbeing of the community, including measuring the impact of climate change (air and water pollution and noise), accessibility to high quality public and private spaces, healthy design and lifetime homes, encouraging physical activity and active travel and improving community safety. In addition, another policy advocates for the development of a health hub.

In some areas where deprivation is high, ‘community spirit’ can also be prized: *"The estate is very deprived with high levels of poverty, unemployment, poor health, crime and anti-social behaviour, and low educational attainment. Nevertheless there is a very strong **community spirit** that is supported by a network of voluntary and public sector organisations."* (Willenhall (Coventry E#9), p.3 – our emphasis).

Hot food takeaways were seen as an issue in some plans. Usually the challenges highlighted with ‘too many’ hot food takeaways were local obesity, unhealthy lifestyles and health statistics, and also linked to anti-social behaviour.

Employment opportunities were also a key consideration for some NDPs where unemployment, (seasonal in some cases, and/or low paid employment) was an issue. For some, the retention of young people in the area was mentioned in terms of improving opportunities. Policies in response to this challenge often involved the retention or enhancement of employment land uses, and the creation of new employment land uses. Some also included improving training opportunities.

Inclusion is sometimes explicitly referred to in Plans, such as in Cramlington NDP (E#12), where their aim is to “promote social and economic inclusion,” or this issue is often referred to indirectly, such as via accessibility as mentioned above. Meeting the needs of all sections of the population is a feature in some deployed housing policies, particularly regarding ageing population, people with limiting illnesses, vulnerable people, young people, and families. One NDP referred to the need for more affluent housing to reduce the number of people leaving the area (Stainforth NDP, Doncaster, E#35). Some refer to having done housing needs assessments and make reference to objectively assessed need and have housing policies that raise that specific need. Some refer to the need to retain local people in the area, with affordable housing being made available to local residents as a priority or to be supportive of a LAs local letting scheme. Some groups were clearly motivated to create a NDP because of a general feeling of not being included or having influence over planning matters in their local area:

- Gainsborough (West Lindsey, E#43) *"Gainsborough's Neighbourhood Development Plan used the acronym 'RAGE', a name that reflected the mood felt by many residents toward planning decisions made in the recent past. The demolition of Gainsborough Central Station, an impressive listed building, in 1977 and, more recently, the construction of the KFC building in a conservation area, are just two examples of planning decisions that have generated strong negative feelings locally. In reality, RAGE stands for 'Rediscovering A Gainsborough for Everyone'"* (p.5)
- Newington (Hull, E#45): *"To promote genuine opportunities for bottom-up rather than top-down decision making where the community voice is taken into proper consideration"* (p.10)

The importance of the neighbourhood group being included in pre-application planning discussions was mentioned in some via policies or in the wider text of the plan (e.g. Lawrence Weston, Bristol E#23), who laid out what the expectations of the NP group were in this regard. This demonstrates developed understanding of the planning process beyond the plan-production stage. This may be a consequence of the statutory footing of NDPs requiring significant engagement with the planning system and or support from professionals..

In terms of the inclusivity of the process, NDPs developed by NFs appeared more likely to involve a wider engagement with the community than parish or town councils. This is because the legal requirements for a NF include membership of a minimum of 21 members, which are made up of people living and working in the area, and elected members of the area. They are also required to form a constitution, which encourages consideration for the group's purpose coming together for and beyond the NDP document. For example, Beeches Boothes and Barr NDP (Birmingham E#28) reports that "the process of producing a Neighbourhood Plan has been used to galvanise local people" (p.9). Some had done extensive community engagement leading up to the NP due to other projects such as a Big Local Plan (e.g. in the case of *Growing Together* - E#3) but after finding that such projects could not address some of the challenges raised, a NDP was pursued (see also

Parker *et al.*, 2020 on benefits of Neighbourhood Forums). This included items such as pedestrian routes, and influencing future housing design. In Whittlesey (Fenland, E#5), 678 children had responded to a questionnaire as part of the engagement process. In Lawrence Weston (E#23), it was highlighted that 24% of the respondents to the NDP consultation did not have any access to the internet which demonstrated the drive to include a wider range of people.

Reflection

With NDPs going through a rigorous process of assessment and validation (and noting the role of both consultants and the LPA), there is scope for influence on how Plans are drafted and whether the aspirations of NP authors are ultimately expressed (Bradley, 2018; Parker *et al.*, 2015; 2017) in relation to JEDI challenges. Some plans seemed to include such explicit links and aims, sometimes drawn from their community engagement, while others seemed to directly identify evidence of the need for particular policies.

The plans that attempt to address issues and challenges under JEDI themes appear to be more likely to respond to those needs identified through evidence gathering. Those who are in the top 20% most deprived are less likely to identify and/or report levels of deprivation in the neighbourhood area and instead focus more on the aesthetics and location of new development (e.g. Cassop-cum-Quarrington, Durham, E#10). Whereas those within the top 10% most deprived were more likely to raise matters of deprivation, injustice, inequality and the detrimental impacts on their area (socially, spatially and environmentally) due to not being included in the planning process in the past (e.g. Gainsborough, E#43; Newington, E#45).

4.2 Scotland - plan review summary

As set out in the WP1b report *Local Place Plans*, introduced by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 and promoted via a subsequent ministerial circular in January 2022, are the closest policy tool to English Neighbourhood Plans and congruent with broad definitions of being ‘community-led’ (Crisp *et al.*, 2016). There is a longer history of community led planning, including *Community Action Plans*, which were widely produced across Scotland and also not dissimilar from England’s *Parish Plans* (Parker and Murray, 2012). These sit within the context of activity undertaken by Community Planning Partnerships at the local authority scale, mandated by the Local Government Act of 2003.

The methodology used to identify the sample of Scottish CLPs generated a range of different plans for review (see section 3). We reviewed 31 plans / plan areas in total (see annex 2), a mixture of Local Place Plans, Community Action Plans, Masterplans, Placemaking Plans (mostly produced by East Ayrshire District Council to act as community-level Supplementary Guidance to its Local Plan), and various other plans with similar names and purposes. The plans tended to be produced by partnerships, often led in rural areas by the Community Council (the equivalent of England’s Parish Council) and including bodies such as local schools, churches, businesses and voluntary organisations. The sifting method has led to plans from a range of areas being studied, from relatively small parts of cities to large rural parishes.

The review of the plans revealed a great deal of diversity in scope, processes and outputs. They range in length from three pages to 60, with most falling in the range of 10 to 20 pages. A common theme throughout has been the importance of community engagement/involvement/consultation, with many plans featuring quotations from community members on things they valued about their community, and things they would like to see improved. It is clear from the review just how much effort has gone into producing the plans, and how important the communities feel it is that they are listened to – often one of the things which they observe could be improved is a feeling of being disconnected from decision-making. This, of course, was a significant justification for the introduction of Neighbourhood Planning in England.

Content of the plans – the JEDI framework

Whilst the emphasis given to the JEDI framework varies significantly, this appears in large part to reflect the context of the plan, including the demographics of the area covered, or the scope of the plan, e.g. a plan focussed upon design contains understandably less on the social issues faced by a community. That said, we found some evidence of the JEDI issues in all the plans.

Looking first at *Justice*, a number of plans expressed concern about this challenge. The Crail Local Place Plan (Fife, S#30), for instance, explained in its introduction that the plan was “*designed to improve local capacity to tackle poverty, reduce inequality and promote social justice*” (p.3). This use of the word *justice* itself was fairly uncommon, but looking at the detail of the issues covered reveals specific aspects of justice including a declining or ageing population, shortage of employment opportunities, ability to access (affordable) housing, a reduction in service provision, and problems of physical access, whether relating to remoteness from jobs, services, etc., or through poor active travel networks.

Many if not all plans addressed the challenge of *Equity* in one way or another. Some, for example the Ruchill and Possilpark Community Plan (Glasgow, S#1), explicitly committed themselves to “tackling inequality” (p. 1). More often, equity was often linked to the differential impacts of issues noted in relation to other challenges, for example that older or disabled people might find the poor provision of footpaths a particular issue, or that younger people were particularly disadvantaged by a lack of employment opportunities or affordable housing. The Cupar and Country Community Action Plan Report (Fife, S#26) contains a pretty sophisticated analysis of the impacts of poor public transport provision on three specific groups: “*people on benefits...; young people...; older people?*” (p.13).

The sifting method we used has resulted in some plans covering relatively less deprived areas, in terms of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation ranking. That said, it was unusual for a plan not to discuss *disadvantage or deprivation* in some way. Sometimes this related to nuances in the SIMD, for example the Sandford and Upper Avondale Community Action Plan (Lanarkshire, S#24) observed

that whilst the area did not score particularly highly on the SIMD overall, it was in the “lowest 10-15% in Scotland for access to services” (p.4), whilst variations within areas, and the identification of pockets of deprivation, was a recurring theme. A lack of social or affordable housing was identified as a problem in a majority of plans, whether urban or rural, and whether relatively more or less deprived. Health, and a higher than average proportion of the population with long-term health conditions, was also identified in many plans. Crime was not commonly identified as an issue, though fear of crime occurred several times.

Inclusivity or inclusion was interpreted in different ways across the reviewed plans. The need for social activities for younger people, and older people, occurred frequently, as did the need to build community spirit and ensure people feel more involved (relating to the point about disconnection from decision-making noted above). The Kirkfieldbank Community Action Plan (Lanarkshire, S#21) addressed both these issues, noting the reduction in active community groups, and that “There is a desire for more communication about what’s going on in the village, particularly on how local plans are being implemented” (p.17).

It is fair to say that some of the plans we reviewed were stronger on identifying the problems, issues and challenges faced by the place than they were on specifying deliverable *Actions* in relation to our JEDI framework. This reflects the scope of the plans and the ability for communities to actually make meaningful change to the places they live in, as we return to below, and not a lack of ambition on the part of those communities. In the Cumnock Community Action Plan (East Ayrshire, S#5), the numerous actions include “Improve rail links for Cumnock and explore re-opening of town station” (p. 25), whilst the Elie and Earlsferry Community Place Plan (Fife, S#27) has an action to “Provide more housing options... to enhance the health and wellbeing of the area; address fuel poverty through more sustainable construction” (p.49). Other plans highlighted what had been achieved in recent years, whether by the community themselves or as a consequence of investment or policy change elsewhere. The Ruchill and Possilpark Community Plan (Glasgow, S#1) identified that in addition to a new school provided by the local authority “the local community has provided solutions for themselves” (p. 14) through voluntary activity. Community-focussed actions were a common theme, often in response to a perceived failure or lack of action by the public or private sector. These ranged in ambition, for example Woolfords, Auchengray and Tarbrax Community Action Plan (South Lanarkshire S#)22 actions included “*Explore the feasibility of community-run gritting and snow clearance... [and] Explore the feasibility of community-owned transport for local groups*” (p. 13). Exploring community ownership of assets, whether minibuses, shops or houses was an aspiration expressed in a number of plans.

Reflection and analysis

This review of plans in Scotland has both reinforced and challenged commonly held presuppositions about CLPs. There were indeed some examples of plans expressing concern about relatively minor issues, which are hard to link to the JEDI framework. As noted above, the relative and absolute

levels of deprivation faced by the communities varied significantly, and it is unsurprising that JEDI issues loom largest in those plans whose population is less advantaged, whether this was explicitly stated or not. However, in every instance it was possible to identify some engagement with JEDI issues, and some plans were impressive in their analysis of inequity and inequality within their area. It is also perhaps unsurprising that the importance of the community having an active voice recurred frequently, with irritation at top-down decision-making being frequently expressed.

Some plans included a large number of actions, some focussed on fewer, but in many instances it was possible to wonder just how some of the more ambitious actions might be delivered. The constraints around power imbalances, and the framing of CLP, that we explore in more detail in Working Paper 1 are real, and clearly present significant impediments to communities in following through on their ambitions.

4.3 Wales - plan review summary

The 16 plans included in the Wales content review revealed a great deal of diversity in scope, process and final output. The plans ranged in length from 10 to 119 pages, from more informal, even colloquial examples, to more comprehensive plans built on in-depth consultation (on balance, there was more of the latter than the former). This variation was notable in comparison to NDPs in England that have tended to become more uniform and professional over time. It is clear that the lack of statutory footing, and therefore less need to dwell on either policy conformity or on explicitly land-use planning issues, results in a greater diversity of plan types that embrace a wide range of community development activity (much of which is outside of the scope of the planning system).

The review does make clear the huge undertaking communities are willing to make to influence the future of their neighbourhoods and there was a notable lack of complaint regarding being disconnected from decision-making or being forgotten or bypassed by higher tiers of government which can be seen in many English CLPs and is noted above in Scottish review in 4.3. One exception to this was the Lampeter plan which hoped to replace “the existing aggregate approach to town planning into a cohesive, well thought through, all-encompassing plan for the whole of Lampeter” (W#13). A common motivation however, was the withdrawal of state funding and services at the unitary authority level and the need for the relevant TCC to ‘take over’ public services and community facilities. A significant number of the plans were also used as an opportunity to set out actions the relevant Town Council is already undertaking.

The included plans were all produced by TCCs, bar one by an independent community partnership, although in some cases the process was instigated and orchestrated by the Local Authority despite remaining ‘community-led’. Notably, the use of consultants does not appear to be widespread, but those that did use consultants, including Planning Aid Wales, were longer, more comprehensive,

more closely tied to existing LA policies, and typically involved deeper community consultation. Several plans made reference to other the plans or policies produced at the neighbourhood level, and it is clear that many communities have an assortment of community-led plans (in two instances, the Place Plan was an explicit attempt to combine various other existing or dated plans). The included plans were mainly drawn from small-to-mid-sized market towns, both coastal and in-land, and rural villages.

The plans were mixed in their reporting of community engagement exercises. The vast majority reported some community consultation specifically tied to the production of the plan, but this was rarely detailed (for example to the level that might be expected to pass examination in the NP regime in England). It was common for plans to include direct quotations from community members concerning what they valued in their community and what they would like to see improved. Deeper forms of community engagement or more systematic analysis of community inputs was rare, but there does appear to be a correlation between the involvement of consultants and/or Planning Aid Wales and more comprehensive forms of engagement (Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn's plan W#5 is a notable example). From the plans themselves, it is near impossible to ascertain how representative the plans themselves were of feelings in the wider community.

The JEDI criteria

The emphasis given to issues in the JEDI framework varied significantly from plan to plan, however all plans engaged with at least some of the JEDI issues in some form. Perhaps unsurprisingly, there was a correlation between in-depth consultation exercises, plan length, and sustained engagement with JEDI issues. Direct references to *justice* or just policies were rare, other than when citing other sources (e.g. Welsh Government's 2020 publication *Building Better Places: The Planning System Delivering Resilient and Brighter Futures*), however every plan referenced or addressed issues that can be labelled as *social or spatial justice*, such as unequal access to services or amenities due to location (most often this was discussed in terms of appropriate, affordable or accessible transport), intergenerational fairness (such as access to housing for young people), or economic opportunity (such as better paying jobs or opportunities for career progression). In some instances such as Towyn and Kinmel Bay (W#1), spatial fragmentation was directly linked to a lack of social cohesion. Undoubtedly the most common social justice concern was the loss of social infrastructure in the form of community facilities such as village halls, pubs, youth centres and GPs.

Most plans addressed *equity and inequality* in some form, although again direct references to these concepts were rare. This was most often discussed in terms of unequal access (e.g. to housing, transport or employment) and differential effects of the lack of provision (e.g. young people lacking community facilities, or the elderly lacking efficient transport). In line with the sparing inclusion of evidence in the review plans, reference to the Welsh Indices of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) to identify deprivation was rare (an exception being W#1 Towyn and Kinmel Bay).

There are several unifying themes that occur in all or most of the plans reviewed. Tourism is a near universal concern for communities in the plans reviewed, with attracting and accommodating visitors often being the primary motivation or concern for Place Plans. This often manifests in references to making places more attractive, keeping them tidy, and providing adequate parking provision. This is unsurprisingly linked to the health of the local economy, employment opportunities, and general prosperity. The plans reviewed were almost uniformly concerned with promoting and sustaining tourism, and this rarely conflicted with other community concerns. One exception to this is Colwn (W#2), which has some significant pockets of deprivation: here the plan wrestled with addressing holiday lets (such as Airbnb) and second homes skewing housing provision, and the development of a park as “both a tourism asset and community facility” (p.49). Dedicated sections were frequently provided for tourism, but the issue was also often inflected other topics. For example, it was not uncommon for discussion of environmental issues to be linked to attractiveness and provision of environmental goods (like green spaces) for visitors as well as residents. It is clear that communities’ engagement with concepts of social and environmental justice are expressed through substantial topics such as housing or tourism.

The promotion of Welsh *language, culture, and identity* features prominently in most plans. The idea that places retain their individuality is a common feature of CLPs, but for obvious reasons this takes on a specific aspect that is tied to Welsh history and national identity. It is difficult to demonstrate how this affects conceptions of social and environmental justice via CLP, but it bears investigation throughout the rest of the project since in Wales the political context is arguably more progressive than in England and can be viewed as part of a wider identity that seeks to differentiate Wales with its neighbours. Mold’s plan (W#3) for example, states: “Mold’s identity as a Welsh town” is steeped in the “rich cultural heritage of the Welsh language” and this is directly linked with attempts to empower communities and encourage community development. In the Bay of Colwyn (W#2), celebrating the “area’s heritage, valuing its Welsh culture and unique identity” is explicitly tied to *inclusivity* – a prominent theme in the plan – and the desire to “make Welsh culture accessible to all. Our area will host events, festivals, and live music, accessible to all” (p.27). Tying local communities to a wider national identity can be seen as an issue of *inclusivity* or *inclusion* and bears comparison with the UK’s other constituent countries and perhaps the English regions.

Affordable housing is another key theme that emerges in the majority of plans reviewed. Where explicit policies have been developed, these typically indicate that planning proposals should be rejected where a given percentage of affordable homes are not met. Most plans made some mention of specific development sites (for example, noting that a site could be developed or should not be developed) but a minority go into further detail, discuss site suitability, or reference allocated sites. A minority of plans can be seen as obviously seeking to limit development (Penyffordd is one example - W#4) via development size and density policies; more common was the desire to promote housing that met the needs of the elderly (for example, those wishing to downsize) and young adults/first time buyers. In Crickhowell (W#8), these issues were explicitly linked with the plan discussing the

desire of those in larger homes to have more two-bedroom homes to downsize to, freeing up larger properties for younger inhabitants. Improving intergeneration fairness via housing was a more commonly invoked than issues of social housing provision or other issues linked with deprivation. Deprivation was not explicitly invoked in the included plans as a motivating issue or an issue in need of redress, although barriers to housing and under-provision were reported. This may reflect the sample which was predominantly drawn from wealthier areas.

Issues of *environmental justice* figure prominently in the reviewed plans, although the sections and policies on environmental issues ranged widely to include providing climate-friendly/renewable energy, preventing housing that caused biodiversity loss, planting pollinator-friendly flowers, to parking and dog fouling policies. In some cases, environmental actions were explicitly linked to future generations. One exception to the range of actions and policies that sought to protect and enhance existing environmental assets or reduce environmental threats (flooding was unsurprisingly a major issue) was Welshpool's plan (W#7) which stated the Town Council will "object to TAN8 at all levels on the basis that the guidance is flawed" (p.29). TAN8 was a technical advice note concerning renewable energy (it was revoked in 2021 with the publication of the national plan for Wales). The plan includes no further details about why the advice was rejected but it is a clear expression of an alternative view on a key environmental policy. The plan continues that the "Town Council will object to all multiple wind farms in Montgomeryshire" alongside its opposition to power transmission lines and electrical hubs that support wind farms. This policy was anomalous in two ways, first in its apparent rejection of renewable energy (it is conceivable that the council is supportive of renewable energy but not via windfarms for example) but also in the lack of context provided for it (e.g. evidence or consultation data). Otherwise plans could broadly be split into those with dedicated and often ambitious climate-supportive actions (Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn W#5 again provide examples here) and those that are more modest in their ambitions and link environmental issues to other issues such as tourism.

Beyond references to Welsh culture (see above), *inclusivity* featured sparingly in the plan-making process but more frequently in policy content. In the Bay of Colwyn, engaging young people was a dedicated aspect of the consultation process, as it was in Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn (W#5), but these seemingly are anomalies. A sizeable minority of plans invoked the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and in Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn, inclusive well-being was a key theme. For example, the plan adopted a definition from Disability Wales's 'Way to Go' project and sought to go beyond issues of disabled access to think about a definition of everyone that "parents with buggies, older people, people with less than perfect sight, less than perfect hearing, less than perfect mobility or less than perfect understanding of the world around them" (p.31). This is a key example of where national legislative context has influenced the content and approach of a CLP in a devolved nation. Although direct references to ensuring inclusivity were rare, adopting an inclusive language was common. For example, the Aberystwyth plan (W#16) called for "Wellbeing activities and accessible health services for all" (p.6) (although this plan was notable for the lack of specificity

it is policies and strategies). In a similar way, housing policies that “achieve balance of tenure” (p.7) or community activities that “promote a wide programme of events to cater for all age groups and abilities” (W#2 Bay of Colwyn, p53) can be read as inclusive, as they promote increased access to housing or widen social participation.

The most striking aspect of the plans considered in this review was the variation in approach, from short, informal reports of a single consultation event, to comprehensive, professionally-guided plans. This may be explained in part due to the bricolage of plans that apply to the very local level in Wales. As noted above, the most ‘formal’ status a Place Plan can achieve is Supplementary Planning Guidance (i.e. relevant for LA decision-making but not statutory) but the majority of included plans were not adopted SPG. This affords communities more scope in approach and content, but places less importance on producing evidenced, actionable policies, or linking to existing policy. Although there were notable exceptions, many plans lacked specificity in identifying who was responsible for desired actions and many actions and policies within plans were frequently outside of land-use/planning issues. Nonetheless, most plans represented illuminating and cogent analysis of their area and the nature of key issues.

4.4 Northern Ireland - plan review summary

The review for Northern Ireland (NI) involved 16 plans - 6 Community Plans, prepared at district level: Ards and North Down, Armagh Banbridge & Craigavon, Omagh & Fermanagh, Mid-Ulster, Mid and East Antrim, Newry, Mourne & Down, and 10 neighbourhood scale Place Plans or Neighbourhood Renewal (NRA) documents selected from across those districts (and see annex 4 and section 3.5 above).

While *justice* acts as an overarching or organising principle (see the WP1a report), it can only ever be a high-level lens to assess action. The term itself may also appear rather grandiose in a context where many plans address concrete, street-level issues. As such, it is unsurprising that the plans reviewed in the NI sample rarely mention the term (in)justice explicitly. There are however a lot of topics expressly covered in plans which link to key factors or elements that routinely feature in debates over *spatial justice*. The use of keywords such as *equity*, *deprivation* and *inclusion* act to ensure that various issues that are relevant are identified and we have also provided comments where key issues such a social housing or housing affordability feature, or for instance unemployment.

Themes and issues from the Northern Ireland review

It is clear from the NI sample that the model used for Community plans, Place Plans and NRA Action Plans do not easily conform to working definitions of CLP, or are not expressly claimed to be ‘community-led’ in the sense understood in the design of English Neighbourhood Planning. This conclusion is drawn given that community-led approaches were loosely defined by Crisp *et al.* (2016, p.4) as: ‘activities undertaken by individuals, groups or organisations within defined geographical neighbourhoods in

order to achieve social, economic or environmental objectives defined by participants with minimal external control'. Our view tends to confirm the assessments made in the albeit limited recent academic coverage available concerning community planning in NI and, to an extent, this issue applies to Wales and Scotland as well (see above).

For some areas in NI, it has been difficult to bottom out detail – for one thing Local Authority website clarity is variable and there is a lack of coherence over what is being done by whom. For NRA work there is little accessible information about process or local strategy and instead, lists of priorities and actions forms most of what is publicly available. This underlines a need for deeper, qualitative data collection to better understand the processes undertaken and the linkages between issues and actions.

For Community Plans, the texts considered cover many of the areas highlighted as experiencing relatively high areas of disadvantage. Introduced post-2014 and the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) Community Plans are led by Local Authorities and produced by cross-sectoral partnerships. While each plan gives some assurance about community participation in their production, and this is required by the legislation (see Cave, 2013), the Community Plans bear resemblance to community strategies produced in England post-2000 (Lambert, 2006; Raco *et al.*, 2006) and they provide overviews of whole local authority areas picking out issues, priorities and ideas for action across many topics or sectors. Rafferty (2020) has already indicated the limitations of Community Plans and the extent and depth of voice afforded to the community (see also WP#1b literature review).

The Community Plans tend to generalise, possibly leaving it to other actors and plans to detail and implement projects. This raises some questions about who and how are such matters then taken forward and what role the community (neighbourhood scale) sustains. Overall, the plans, and policy that they are derived from, conform to types of involvement associated with more established partnership models and renewal programmes found elsewhere; particularly resonant of those operated in the preceding two decades in England (e.g. Gaventa, 2004; Bailey, 2013). The review is limited to desk-based work and it would be necessary to explore the limits and rationale for this approach via primary data collection which would also explore the input of communities in their construction.

In terms of our focus, in the NI sample sees *equity* as sometimes rivalled by the term equality which is somewhat different in meaning (and closer to *inclusion* or *inclusivity*), with fairness a more relevant proxy – yet few Plans discuss fairness either. The NI#4 (Newry, Mourne and Down Community Plan) does mention *equity* as a principle and aspiration for the area. It will be of interest as the research progresses to see how links between such aspirations are made with policies, actions and resources. Notably the Armagh Community plan (NI#1), refers to *equality* quite often and makes a point of positioning this as working principle *'We believe that the key to community planning is partnership*

working based on relationships of mutual trust and equality' (p.5), and also runs *inclusion* together with the term. The same plan also discusses poverty and inequality as overarching issues.

Deprivation is recognised in most of the plans in the NI sample. Sometimes the proxy of disadvantage is also used and in several instances, poverty is mentioned (NI#2, #9, #11, and #13), typically this word is deployed to highlight an economic and social gap in some areas for some groups. In particular, the issue of unemployment is highlighted but there is weak link to actions (NI#7; NI#15). Other ways that *deprivation* is explicitly recognised is for instance in NI#2 (Omagh and Fermanagh): *'We will prioritise resources and activities towards targeting areas where deprivation and poverty are evident so as to narrow the gap between our most and least deprived communities'* (Community Plan, p.12) and is cited across six plans in total (NI#2, #3, #4, #5, #7, #11). Where *deprivation* or disadvantage is recognised, it is treated lightly in the Community Plans. It is the NRAs, where good publicly available material exists, see for example Kilcooley (NI#16) fieldwork report 2018 that such matters are apparent. In the Place Plans there is an uneven coverage of JEDI issues with Banbridge (NI#6) making no mention of these but recognising *'that the area 'exhibits one of the highest levels of social housing need'* (p43). Interestingly, the scale and capacity at the very local scale may account for the fact that most Place Plans involved consultants.

Inclusion features explicitly in most of the plans or documents considered to a lesser or greater degree of specificity (only two plans did not use the term explicitly; NI#5 and #13). In some documents, *equality* is deployed and serves as a proxy for *inclusion*. For example, some documents pick out particular groups or issues; e.g. health (NI#3,4,5) or digital inclusion (NI#6), youth (NI#10) or ageing (NI#12) as of particular issues, or groups to focus on. While there are numerous references made to *inclusion* at a high level, on occasion this is also linked to key policy areas such as housing (NI#9). Indeed, housing and affordable housing appear across many of the Plans, and the topic is discussed in terms of affordability (NI#7), and social housing (NI#14), mixed tenure (NI#6) and is also linked to inclusion in NI#9 explicitly.

In terms of Place Plans prepared at a neighbourhood scale, they appear to be led primarily by institutional actors and are not formal policy bearing documents. They tend to read like small scale Community Plans. There was little discussion of justice overtly, although in one Place Plan (NI#13), the idea of restorative justice was mentioned (also in Kilcooley NRA - NI#16), presumably reflecting the past troubles that have been experienced in NI and hinting at efforts that are needed to bridge between different groups living in the same area. Some areas are devolving planning activity further with the Newry, Mourne and Down Community Plan (NI#4) setting out how seven DEA (district electoral areas) fora are to take work forward at the very local scale – exploration of such DEA process and activities may merit further attention (NICVA, no date).

Neighbourhood Renewal Area Action Plans

In order to draw in prior work that specifically targeted deprived areas, we looked at several Neighbourhood Renewal Areas (NRA) and some are referenced above. It is useful to note that these were first identified as areas for attention, and the NRA programme initiated, by the NI government twenty years ago (Muir, 2014; Mohan, Longo and Kee, 2020). As such the individual NRAs had a lot of *a priori* data from the NI government, and by the fact of being picked out for 'renewal' they have been deemed to present a range of issues and challenges. The framework for attention for each NRA is also imposed in general terms and actions need to be organised and taken with reference to four aspects: *physical, social, community* and *economic* renewal poles.

So, the types of interventions are broadly pre-set, leaving the local actors to generate actions under those labels, as Mohan *et al.* outline '*Each NRA had a partnership board made up of stakeholders including representatives from statutory and delivery bodies, community groups with resident participation. NR partnerships outlined priorities for NR investment to address local needs*' (2020, p.792). What is less clear is how actions were actually generated and deliberated upon by and amongst the community and other actors. The lack of a local 'paper trail' means that it is more challenging to discern the processes from a desk-based study. It seems that discussion and any co-production is being undertaken by working groups and further research to interview such groups about process and awareness of questions we are signalling using the 'JEDI' filters will be needed and appears to be supported by the extant literature on neighbourhood scale community action in NI.

Having said this the NRAs are explicitly set up to help address questions of deprivation, with Kilcooley (NI#16) positioning the 'cycle of deprivation' as critical to their work, with continued concerns over '*some of the most difficult issues which continue to disrupt peaceful and democratic society, in particular, the issues of continued paramilitary activity, criminality and organised crime*' (2018, p.2). Social equity mentioned in the Ballymena area (NI#12) and inequality is promoted as the main focus for the NRA there. While the NRAs potentially make good comparators to the Place Plans there is no single 'plan' that sets out the range of questions, instead the NI government provides a full assessment of issues in profiles for each of the NRAs - see NI government produced area profiles: [Neighbourhood Renewal Area Profiles 2022 - areas outside Belfast and the North West | Department for Communities \(communities-ni.gov.uk\)](#). What is clear however are the possible sensitivities about English researchers being present in some NRA areas (Inckle, 2015; Rafferty, 2017).

Actions

In terms of actions the plans vary - the NRA documents are primarily reporting on actions that take their lead from the NI government profiles and other data. More work would need to be undertaken to explore how the actions / projects are generated and prioritised. The Community Plans and Place Plans also feature lists of 'actions' or priorities. For community plans these are most often set out to produce high-level actions or specific projects that have been derived from the planning process and linked to issues such as redeveloping a particular site or making public space improvements.

The Community Plans tend to set out priorities or themes, with Mid and East Antrim (NI#3) setting out 5 themes: *Sustainable jobs and developing our tourism potential; Good health and wellbeing; Progress in education and improving aspirations for all; Improving community safety and cohesion, and 'Our environment'*. For example more specific items appear, in the Banbridge Place Plan (NI#6) where a mix of 13 'Big ideas' form the core of the Plan (and which are actually quite specific actions): i.e. to provide more gallery and studio space; enhance sports and physical activity opportunities; create an historic plaza, a riverside walk and a new bridge work; carry out a sustainable transport audit, a cycling network, an improved evening economy offering, mixed tenure housing developments, allotments, community gardens and lastly, a digital creative innovation hub. Associated to this there are 56 specific actions.

By contrast much broader matters are set out in some NRAs, Grange (NI#15) for instance has an action plan which lists key objectives as: access to the best possible services and to opportunities which make for a better quality of life, better prospects and the creation of a safer environment for people; that economic activity in the area is developed and connects the community to the wider economy; thirdly, to develop confident communities that are able and committed to improving the quality of life in the Grange NRA, and lastly improve the environment and image so that the area becomes an attractive place to live and invest in. The Enniskillen NRA (NI#8) has fifteen actions delineated (p.52) and notably, most are related to physical improvements. Why these NRAs set out the issues in these different ways with varying granularity and range requires more detailed investigation but clearly linked funding for NRAs may provide one of the reasons for this.

Reflections

Many of the NI plans reviewed have been prepared at local authority scale and by a wide partnership. As such the review reflects the formal community planning approach that has been adopted in NI. Clearly some issues are common and link to our theoretical frame to some extent. Questions of deeper social and economic problems appear to be treated quite lightly. It is also difficult to discern which issues and what priorities have come direct from the community in the documents assessed. Clearly primary data will be needed to better understand both process and prioritisation in the NI context and to explore the perceived difficulties in planning which is more genuinely 'community-led'. The review highlights that the areas who have produced Place Plans would provide a logical basis for longlisting and furthermore, a more targeted approach to data collection may be more appropriate in the NI context – to explore the rationale for the approaches taken to Place Plans/planning.

4.5 Overall synthesis

The national overview sections and reflections paragraphs across section 4.1-4.4 of the report give a flavour of what was found in the review. Here, some headline points are briefly summaries.

We managed to distil activity in England down to 45 Plans across 22 LAs (annex a), this gave us a good sample from which to derive a longlist of 8+6 areas. For Scotland the sample of 30 showed uneven approaches to different types of Plans but the work has helped focus attention now to four local authority areas. Similarly, for NI the work has helped suggest two likely LA areas to be pursued and in Wales there appear four candidate areas that can be assessed more closely now.

In terms of mapping plans against the JEDI principles, we saw that in the English review JEDI type questions tended to be reflected on to a greater degree in areas in the IMD top-decile. This was also where plans had effectively drawn out such matters via evidence and consultation. In producing NDPs there is a level of engagement and consultation required to include those who live, work and play in the areas. The NP policy also requires sustained engagement with local policy (the Local Plan for example) and it may be that some ‘policy language’ is better reflected in CLPs. This underscores the importance of getting closer to those neighbourhoods and understanding **how such issues are researched, evidenced, understood, and processed** in community planning exercises.

Actions were uneven in terms of indication about what action to needed to take place, while the differentials were most apparent in NI because we decided to look at NRAs too – which are much more action-focused and practically oriented and with funding for linked renewal projects being tied to NRA areas. It will be of interest to explore how very local areas / groups of wards, such as DEA (district electoral area) – of which there are seven in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon - and this scale of activity is being pursued in NI now (e.g. see Macedon DEA in Antrim and Newry Mourne and Down; NICVA, no date).

There was evidence in plans across England and Scotland of frustration at top-down decision-making and this being a motivation for the creation of the community-led plans. This motivation was absent in Wales, but the withdrawal of local services and cuts to funding was a widely-held motivation. In NI, truly community-led planning seems to be absent formally speaking, but we have information that some hybrid forms are being assessed for implementation.

Issues that were raised vary across the nations given the **scale and scope** of the plans. In England, there was some reference to JEDI in most of the 45 plans reviewed. Matters of social justice included *deprivation* and *disadvantage*, with many also linking to spatial challenges that influence and contribute to deprivation, antisocial behaviour and crime. Unequal access to services, amenities and community assets was considered in some plans, either in terms of disability access or in terms of access to a car or public transport. Responding to issues relating to environmental justice, many plans referred to the protection, enhancement or introduction of environmental assets, reduction of environmental threats, travel and transport-related policies, development-related policies, and energy. *Equity*, *inclusivity* and *accessibility* were referred to in many plans, but usually as an overarching theme, although some did include policies that specifically responded to matters of equity.

The English review gave an indication of the role of **evidence gathering** and the requirement for this in the NDP process. This contrasts with Wales where the lack of evidence was notable. It is likely to reflect the relationship between deeper consultation and evidence inclusion in terms of **awareness of more structural problems**, and adopting ‘policy speak’.

There is also a question of the **timing** of plans too - as some appear to react and prioritise policies addressing new development when such development appears imminent, or a bad experience fuels a concern to improve say design or other impacts of development, or more rural areas not recognising some justice, equity issues in their area, as shown in other national reviews. Timing appeared less relevant in Wales, with only those communities expressly hoping to have their plan adopted as CLP engaging with Local Development Plan timescales.

Health and wellbeing, antisocial behaviour and crime, and employment were key themes when responding to issues of deprivation and disadvantage. Recurrent themes of housing quality, design and affordability appear. It was also noted that matters beyond formal land-use planning are intimated particular in the informatives or wider **community actions sections** of plans. This hints that wider or deeper issues can be excised or 'rescripted' (Parker *et al.*, 2015; 2017) - we will want to look at this carefully in the next stages exploring what and how wider or deeper issues or action have been kept in view or sidelined.

Stimulated by the content review, a key finding in the variation of linking policy or issues to actions, emphasises the need for good action planning (Lewis and Flynn, 1979; Duffy and Hutchinson, 1997), as much policy writing, or whether a community has acknowledged an issue. Where a Plan or other community activity (with a wider scope than land use planning), goes further to aiming for action i.e. **what** needs to be done and **who** needs to do it? becomes ever more important to the study. This very much accords with the experience of developing parish and then CLPs in England (see Parker, 2008; Parker and Murray, 2012).

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Annex 1: England sample

Table a: England review 'sift' list

No. Of LBP	IMD	Local Authority	Region	No. of CLPs	NP activity	NP in LBP	Notes / issues (i.e. factors to promote or demote in longlisting)
3	5	Great Yarmouth	EE	5	3	N	
8	5	Tendring	EE	1	3	N	
3		Fenland	EE	3	3	N	
3		North Northants	EE	24	20	N	
2		West Northants	EE	30	20	N	
1		Ashfield	EM	2	0	N	
3		Coventry	EM	1	2	Y	Willenhall made plan 2018
1		High Peak	EM	1	3	N	
1		North West Leicestershire	EM	6	3	N	
5	5	Middlesbrough	NE	2	3	N	Aware of interest within LBPs - Gresham (Newport Ward - top 1% most deprived). Big Local operates in North Ormesby. A made NP is in a more deprived part of Middlesbrough, others exist in less deprived areas.
4	5	Hartlepool	NE	1	2	Area	Headland a designated area is LBP
3	5	Newcastle upon Tyne	NE	4	7	Area	Woolsington
4	5	South Tyneside	NE	2	0	N	
16	5	County Durham	NE	9	21	Area	4 areas approved are in LBP
6		Northumberland	NE	23	17	N	
1	5	Blackpool	NW	1	0	N	Not in LBP
2	5	Burnley	NW	4	1	N	Not in LBP
1	5	Pendle	NW	2	1	N	
3	5	Wirral	NW	1	2	N	
3	5	Bolton	NW	3	2	N	
1	5	Sefton	NW	2	1	N	
3		Wigan	NW	1	2	N	
1		West Lancashire	NW	1	0	N	
1		Warrington	NW	39	3	N	

1		Cheshire East	NW	3	22	N	
5	5	Thanet	SE	1	6	N	
1	5	Southampton	SE	1	0	N	
4		Basildon	SE	2	4	N	
2		Havant	SE	1	0	N	
1		Dover	SE	4	5	Area	Dover Town
1		Folkestone and Hythe	SE	7	4	N	
1		Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole	SE	7	5	Y	Boscombe West is part of the Boscombe & Pokesdown NP: http://www.boscombepokesdown.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/190812_BaPNPv15.pdf
1		Rother	SE	3	4	N	
1		Maidstone	SE	32	9	N	
1		Bristol	SW	3	2	N	
1		Dorset	SW	2	26	N	
9	5	Birmingham	WM	8	3	N	None in LBP. (9 LBPs, none with NP activity)
2	5	Wolverhampton	WM	5	0	N	
1		Telford and Wrekin	WM	6	2	Area	Brookside part of area designated in LBP
2		Solihull	WM	10	3	N	
1	5	Bradford	YH	2	6	N	
5	5	Doncaster	YH	4	1	Area	Stainforth & Barnby Dun
1	5	Sheffield	YH	21	3	N	
4	5	Barnsley	YH	3	1	N	
1	5	Leeds	YH	1	18	N	
3	5	Rotherham	YH	26	2	Y	Maltby , adopted Feb 2024:
5	5	Wakefield	YH	1	4	N	
1		West Lindsey	YH		10	Y	Gainsborough East (LBP) part of the Gainsborough Town Council NP :
8	5	Kingston upon Hull, City of	YH		0	N	Not in LBP. 1 Plan failed referendum
		Totals:		321	235		4 made NPs in LBPs

Table b: Sample of Identified Plans across the selected 25 English LPAs

LSOA reference	Plan / Code	Region	Local Authority	Top 20%	Top 10%	Coastal	Urb/Rural	Forum
Great Yarmouth 001c	Hemsby (E#1)	EE	Great Yarmouth	Y	N	Y	Rural	N
Northampton 021F / 021E	Spring Boroughs (E#2)	EE	West Northamptonshire	Y	Y	N	Urban	Y
Northampton 005E	Growing together (E#3)	EE	West Northamptonshire	Y	Y	N	Urban	Y
Harborough 002B	Braybook (E#4)	EE	North Northamptonshire	Y	N	N	Rural	N
Fenland 006D	Whittlesey (E#5)	EE	Fenland	Y	N	N	Urban	N
Fenland 005D	March (E#6)	EE	Fenland	-	Y	N	Urban	N
Northampton 018B	Duston (E#7)	EE	West Northamptonshire	Y	N	N	Urban	N
Ashfield 001B	Teversal, Stanton Hill (E#8)	EM	Ashfield	-	Y	N	Urban	Y
Coventry 039D	Willenhall (E#9)	EM	Coventry	-	Y	N	Urban	Y
County Durham 041A	Cassop-cum-Quarrington ((E#10)	NE	County Durham	Y	N	N	Rural	N
County Durham 061C	Great Aycliffe (E#11)	NE	County Durham	-	Y	N	Urban	N
Northumberland 029D	Cramlington (E#12)	NE	Northumberland	-	Y	N	Urban	N
Northumberland 035F	Hexham (E#13)	NE	Northumberland	-	Y	N	Urban	N
Northumberland 009B	Newbiggin-by-the-Sea (E#14)	NE	Northumberland	-	Y	N	Rural	Y
Pendle 004C	Colne (E#15)	NW	Pendle	-	Y	N	Urban	N
Wirral 022A	Devonshire Park (E#16)	NW	Wirral	Y	N	N	Urban	Y

Wigan 038C	Golborne and Lowton West (E#17)	NW	Wigan	Y	N	N	Urban	Y
Wigan 002E	Standish (Lancs) (E#18)	NW	Wigan	Y	N	N	Urban	N
Cheshire East 040B	Alsager (E#19)	NW	Cheshire East	Y	N	N	Urban	N
Shepway 011E	St Mary in the Marsh (E#20)	SE	Folkestone and Hythe	Y	N	Y	Rural	N
Bournemouth 019D	Boscombe & Pokesdown (E#21)	SE	Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole	-	Y	Y	Urban	Y
Rother 004E	Rye (E#22)	SE	Rother	Y	N	Y	Rural	N
Bristol 003C	Lawrence Weston (E#23)	SW	Bristol	-	Y	N	Urban	Y
Bristol 056A	Old Market Quarter (E#24)	SW	Bristol	-	Y	N	Urban	Y
West Dorset 006B	Bridport (E#25)	SW	Dorset	Y	N	Y	Urban	N
Weymouth and Portland 008E	Portland (E#26)	SW	Dorset	-	Y	Y	Rural	N
Birmingham 083B	Balsall Heath (E#27)	WM	Birmingham	-	Y	N	Urban	Y
Birmingham 083B	Beeches Boothes & Barr (prev. Perry Barr) (E#28)	WM	Birmingham	-	Y	N	Urban	Y
Wolverhampton 015C	Heathfield Park (E#29)	WM	Wolverhampton	-	Y	N	Urban	Y
Telford and Wrekin 005C	Donnington and Muxton (E#30)	WM	Telford and Wrekin	-	Y	N	Urban	N
Telford and Wrekin 022D	Madeley (Shropshire) (E#31)	WM	Telford and Wrekin	-	Y	N	Urban	N
Doncaster 014D	Armthorpe (E#32)	YH	Doncaster	Y	N	N	Urban	N
Doncaster 034B	Edlington (E#33)	YH	Doncaster	-	Y	N	Urban	N

Doncaster 037B	Rossington (E#34)	YH	Doncaster	-	Y	N	Urban	N
Doncaster 004d	Stainforth (E#35)	YH	Doncaster	-	Y	N	Urban	N
Leeds 018C	Alwoodley (E#36)	YH	Leeds	-	Y	N	Urban	N
Leeds 085A	Holbeck (E#37)	YH	Leeds	-	Y	N	Urban	Y
Leeds 017F	Horsforth (E#38)	YH	Leeds	Y	N	N	Urban	N
Leeds 003B	Otley (E#39)	YH	Leeds	Y	N	N	Urban	N
Leeds 097F	Oulton and Woodlesford (E#40)	YH	Leeds	Y	N	N	Urban	Y
Rotherham 029E	Dinnington (E#41)	YH	Rotherham	-	Y	N	Urban	N
Rotherham 029E	Maltby (E#42)	YH	Rotherham	-	Y	N	Urban	N
West Lindsey 004F	Gainsborough Town Council (E#43)	YH	West Lindsey	-	Y	N	Urban	N
West Lindsey 004C	Morton (E#44)	YH	West Lindsey	Y	N	N	Urban	N
Kingston upon Hull 031A	Newington (E#45)	YH	Kingston upon Hull, City of	-	Y	N	Urban	Y

Annex 2: Scotland sample

Table a: Scotland sample (including unavailable options)

Plan / Code	Details	Link / note
Ruchill and Possilpark, Glasgow (S#1)	Community Plan, 2017	This plan has emerged from several charrettes and other activity, including the Hamiltonhill charrette identified in the <i>How to Guide to Local Place Plans</i> . https://www.glasgowcpp.org.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=39190&p=0
[East Pollokshields, Glasgow]	Charrette, 2016	No plan to review that can be found – work fed into Glasgow CC LDP preparation
Alexandria, West Dumbartonshire (S#2)	Town Centre Masterplan, 2021	Various consultations fed into the masterplan. https://www.nickwrightplanning.co.uk/my_uploads/alexandria_TC_masterplan_Oct21_low%20res.pdf
[Three Towns, North Ayrshire]	Locality Action Plan, 2023/24*	https://northayrshire.community/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Three-Towns-Locality-Action-Plan-2324.pdf [*Not included in content review, this is not a CLP in our terms. More akin to a parish plan, many important actions related to community activity, not the built environment]
West Kilbridge, Seamill and Portencross, North Ayrshire (S#3)	Local Place Plan, 2024	https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/Documents/CorporateServices/LegalProtective/LocalDevelopmentPlan/LPP-WKCC.pdf
[Mill o’Mains, Dundee City]	Community Regeneration Masterplan, 2007	https://www.dundee.gov.uk/service-area/city-development/planning-and-economic-development/development-plans-and-regeneration/mill-o-mains-regeneration-area [*Not included in content review, investigation suggests not a CLP – produced by a Housing Association.]
Catrine, East Ayrshire (S#4)	Community Action Plan, 2017-2022*	https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/Resources/PDF/C/Catrine-Action-Plan.pdf
Cumnock, East Ayrshire (S#5)	Community Action Plan, 2016-2021	https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/Resources/PDF/C/Cumnock%20Community%20Led%20Action%20Plan.pdf
New Cumnock, East Ayrshire (S#6a)	Community Regeneration Masterplan, 2014-2019	https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/Resources/PDF/N/New-Cumnock-Regeneration-Masterplan.pdf
Ochiltree, East Ayrshire (S#7)	Placemaking plan, 2019	https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/Resources/PDF/P/Placemaking-Plan-Ochiltree.pdf
Catrine, East Ayrshire (S#8)	Placemaking plan, 2019	https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/Resources/PDF/P/Placemaking-plan-Catrine.pdf
Newmilns and Greenholm, East Ayrshire (S#9)	Placemaking plan, 2018	https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/Resources/PDF/P/Planning-SG-Placemaking-Newmilns.pdf
[New Cumnock, East Ayrshire (S#6b)]	Placemaking plan, 2020	https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/Resources/PDF/P/Placemaking-Plan-Action-New-Cumnock-14-07-20.pdf
Dalrymple, Skeldon and Hollybush, East Ayrshire (S#10)	Placemaking plan, 2020	https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/Resources/PDF/P/Placemaking-Plan-Action-Dalrymple-Skeldon-Hollybush-14-07-20.pdf

Auchinleck, East Ayrshire (S#11)	Placemaking plan, 2023	https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/Resources/PDF/P/Placemaking-Auchinleck.pdf
Darvel and Priestland, East Ayrshire (S#12)	Placemaking plan, 2023	https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/Resources/PDF/P/Placemaking-Darvel.pdf
[Alva, Clackmannanshire]	Community Action Plan consultation, 2015	Note: 2015 plan no longer online; 2024 plan launched in January 2024 but not online
Clackmannan, Clackmannanshire (S#13)	Community Action Plan, 2015-2020	https://www.coalfields-regen.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Clackmannan-Community-Action-Plan-2015-2020.pdf
Dollar, Clackmannanshire (S#14)	Community Action Plan, 2016-2021	https://localenergy.scot/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Dollar-communitiy-action-plan.pdf
Menstrie, Clackmannanshire (S#15)	Community Action Plan, 2017-2022	https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/sites/default/files/2021-02/Menstrie_CAP.pdf
Muckhart, Clackmannanshire (#16)	Community Plan, 2017	http://muckhart.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Muckhart-Community-Plan_2017.pdf
Tillicoultry, Coalsnaughton & Devonside, Clackmannanshire (S#17)	Community Action Plan, 2017-2022	https://e-voice.org.uk/tillicoultry-coalsnaughton-devonside-community-council/assets/documents/action-plan
Tullibody, Cambus and Glenochil, Clackmannanshire (S#18)	Community Action Plan, 2018-2023	https://www.coalfields-regen.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Tullibody-Community-Action-Plan-2018-2023.pdf
Foxbar, Renfrewshire (S#19)	Local Place Plan, 2018	https://nickwright-planning.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/my_uploads/Foxbar-Local%20Place%20Plan-22%20Oct%202018.pdf
Cambuslang, South Lanarkshire (S#20)	Town Centre Strategy, date of final adoption unclear	https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/13569/a_strategy_for_cambuslang_town_centre.pdf
Kirkfieldbank, South Lanarkshire (S#21)	Community Action Plan	https://www.communityactionlan.org/files/KFBActionPlan(11_12_2020)Final.pdf
Woolfords, Auchengray & Tarbrax, South Lanarkshire (S#22)	Community Action Plan, 2018-2023	https://scottishcommunityalliance.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Web-Friendly-CAP.pdf
Carstairs Junction, South Lanarkshire (S#23)	Community Action Plan, 2020-2025	https://www.communityactionlan.org/files/CAL/Carstairs_Junction/C_JCAPFINAL.pdf
Sandford & Upper Avondale, South Lanarkshire (S#24)	Community Action Plan, 2020-2025	https://www.communityactionlan.org/files/CAL/Sandford/SANDFO RDANDAVONDALECommunityPlan-compressed.pdf
Lesmahagow, South Lanarkshire (S#25)	Community Action Plan, 2019-2024	https://www.communityactionlan.org/files/CAL/LesmahagowCommunityLedActionPlanFINAL.pdf

Cupar and Country, Fife (S#26)	Community Action Plan Research Report, 2023	https://www.cupardevtrust.org.uk/Index.asp?MainID=30734
Elie and Earlsferry, Fife (S#27)	Community Place Plan, 2019	https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3.spanglefish.com/s/37739/documents/going-forth-community-place-plan-july-2019.pdf
Glenrothes West, Fife (S#28)	Report and Action Plan, 2019	https://www.fife.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0032/278663/Golden-Glenrothes-Glenrothes-West-Action-Plan.pdf
[Lochgelly, Fife]	Community Action Plan, 2016-2021	Appears no longer to be online
Buckhaven, Fife (S#29)	Spatial Masterplan, 2019	https://www.pas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Buckhaven-Spatial-Masterplan.pdf
Crail, Fife (S#30)	Local Place Plan, 2023	https://crailmatters.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/crail-local-place-plan-18-12-23.pdf
Largo Area, Fife (S#31)	Local Place Plan, 2023	https://largocommunitiestogether.org.uk/placement-plan/

Annex 3: Wales sample

Table a: Wales review 'sift' list

Area name / LPA	No. of CLPs	Place Plans adopted as SPG	Emerging CLPs	Notes / issues (factors to promote or demote shortlisting)	No. of LSOAs in 10% most deprived (% of LSOAs in LA)
Blaenau Gwent Council	0	0	0		6 (12.8%)
Bridgend County Borough Council	0	0	0	Other CLPs: Porthcawl Placemaking Plan	6 (6.7%)
Caerphilly County Borough Council	0	0	0	At least 10 Town Centre Action Plans	11 (10%)
Cardiff Council	0	0	0	n.b. Cardiff Council's Head of Planning is supervising a PhD on Place Plans	39 (8.2%)
Carmarthenshire Council	0	0	0	At least two planning and development briefs	5 (4.5%)
Ceredigion Council	6	6	0		1 (2.2%)
Conwy Council	2	1	1		4 (5.6%)
Denbighshire Council	1	1	0		7 (12.1%)
Flintshire Council	2	0	0		3 (3.3%)
Gwynedd Council	0	0	0		2 (2.7%)
Isle of Anglesey Council	0	0	0		1 (2.3)
Merthyr Tydfil Council	0	0	0		8 (22.2%)
Monmouthshire Council	0	0	4		0 (0.0%)
Neath Port Talbot Council	0	0	0		14 (15.4)
Newport Council	0	0	0		23 (24.2%)
Pembrokeshire Council	0	0	0		4 (5.6%)
Powys Council	5	4	0		1 (1.3%)
Rhondda Cynon Taff Council	0	0	3		27 (17.5%)
Swansea Council	0	0	0		17 (11.5%)
Torfaen Council	0	0	0		3 (5%)
Vale of Glamorgan	1	0	2	Barry Town Council undertaking Place-making Plan	3 (3.8%)
Wrexham Council	0	0	1		6 (7.1%)

Table b: sample plans - Wales

Plan / Code	Details	Link / note
Towyn & Kinmel Bay (W#1)	Place Plan / SPG 2023	LDP44 Towyn and Kinmel Bay Place Plan (conwy.gov.uk)
Bay of Colwyn Town Council (W#2)	Place Plan 2024	Colwyn Place Plan Community Conwy / Deprived area – part of the area is within the 20% most deprived
Mold (W#3)	Town Plan 2017	Mold Town Plan 2017 (flintshire.gov.uk)
Penyffordd (W#4)	Place Plan 2017	Penyffordd Place Plan 2017 (flintshire.gov.uk)
Newtown & Llanllwchaiarn (W#5)	Town Plan 2021	Newtown-Place-Plan-V5-Adopted-26.7.21.pdf
Hay-on-Wye (W#6)	Town Plan	Town Plan (haytowncouncil.gov.uk)
Welshpool (W#7)	Town Plan 2017	S45C-921052812020 (welshpooltowncouncil.gov.uk) / Deprived area – part of the area is within the 20% most deprived
Crickhowell (W#8) (Brecon Beacons NP)	Community Plan /SPG 2017	Approved-Crickhowell-Community-Plan-ENGLISH.pdf (beacons-npa.gov.uk) /
Llanspyddid (W#9)	Village Plan 2020	https://bannau.wales/wp-content/uploads/Llanspyddid-Village-Plan_Draft_200925_final-6-1.pdf
Rhuddlan (W#10)	Town Plan 2020	Cynllun-Tref-2020-2023.pdf (rhuddlantowncouncil.gov.uk)
Llandysul (W#11)	Place Plan 2019	https://www.cynnalycardi.org.uk/activities/theme-3-projects/ceredigion-place-plans-ceredigion-county-council/
Tregaron (W#12)	Place Plan 2019	https://www.cynnalycardi.org.uk/activities/theme-3-projects/ceredigion-place-plans-ceredigion-county-council/
Lampeter (W#13)	Place Plan 2019	https://www.cynnalycardi.org.uk/activities/theme-3-projects/ceredigion-place-plans-ceredigion-county-council/
Cardigan (W#14)	Place Plan 2019	https://www.cynnalycardi.org.uk/activities/theme-3-projects/ceredigion-place-plans-ceredigion-county-council/ Deprived area - part of the area is within the 20% most deprived
Aberaeron (W#15)	Place Plan 2019	https://www.cynnalycardi.org.uk/activities/theme-3-projects/ceredigion-place-plans-ceredigion-county-council/
Aberystwyth (W#16)	Place Plan 2019	https://www.cynnalycardi.org.uk/activities/theme-3-projects/ceredigion-place-plans-ceredigion-county-council/

Annex 4 – Northern Ireland Sample

Table a: Northern Ireland review ‘sift’ list

Area name / LPA	No. CLPs	Other activity	Notes / issues (factors to promote or demote shortlisting)	NIMDM rank of most deprived SOA (low no. most deprived)
Antrim & Newtownabbey	1 CP (updated)	7 CP fora + 2 NRAs	142,565 people in 72 SOAs in total: Antrim and Newtownabbey(external link opens in a new window / tab) LA have created 7 place shaping fora to feed into the Community Planning partnership. Community plan published July 2017. A new draft Plan was published March 2024: ANBC-Community-Draft-Action-Plan-2024.pdf (antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk) plus Rathcoole neighbourhood renewal RATHCOOLE NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP (antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk) and Grange neighbourhood renewal Dunclug Action Plan (antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk)	84/890 (10%)
Ards and North Down	1 CP	1 NRA	162,714 people in 7 electoral areas and 86 SOAs. One neighbourhood renewal area (Bangor). Generally an area which is less deprived but most deprived SOAs were: Portaferry 1, Kircubbin 1, Portavogie 2, Carrowdore 1, Carrowdore 2, Killinchy 1, Killinchy 2 and Lisbane 1. 2022 ‘Big Plan’ Community Plan: Ards and North Down ‘The Big Plan’(external link opens in a new window / tab) With notable headings of interest to the project. Part 5 explains the role of the CPP. The Bangor NRA Bangor Area Profile 2022 (communities-ni.gov.uk) covers 3 SOAs and is known as the Kilcooley neighbourhood partnership: Kilcooley Vision and Action Plan 2023 24.pdf (ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk)	71/890 (10%)
Armagh Banbridge & Craigavon	1CP 2 PP	4 NRAs	Population of 218,656 across 87 SOAs. Four NRAs. Community Plan: Delivering our Community Plan 2016-2020 - Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council (armaghibanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk) Armagh Place Plan 2022: https://www.armaghibanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/resident/armagh-place-plan/ Banbridge Place Plan: Banbridge Place Plan - Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council (armaghibanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk) The four NRAs are: Brownlow, Lurgan, Portadown and Callanbridge.	61/890 (10%)
Belfast (N,S,E,W)	1 CP (the ‘Belfa	15 NRAs (2022)	Population of 345,418; Total SOAs = 174 50 of 100 the most deprived SOAs in NI Belfast(external link opens in a new window / tab)	2/890 (10%)

	st Agen da'		15 NRAs: Neighbourhood Renewal Area Profiles 2022 - Belfast Department for Communities (communities-ni.gov.uk)	
Causeway Coast and Glens	1 CP	0 NRA 24 VRPs	Population 144,246; 72 SOAs, no NRAs. Less deprivation than many. Community Plan 2017 and reviewed 2022 Community Planning - Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council (causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk) Have used 'Village Renewal Plans': Village Renewal - Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council (causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk)	197/890 (not top 20%)
Derry City & Strabane	1 CP	5 NRAs	Population 150,679, across 75 SOAs Most deprived SOAs is East Derry plus Creggan central 1, Crevagh 2, Foyle (third most deprived by SOA), Strand 1; The Diamond. Community Plan: Derry City & Strabane - Your Council (derrystrabane.com) The 5 NRAs Derry City - Outer North, Outer West, Triax, Cityside, Waterside and Strabane, see: Derry City & Strabane - Community (derrystrabane.com)	1/890 (10%)
Fermanagh and Omagh	1 CP	2 place shaping plans / 2 NRAs	Population 116,835 and 49 SOAs with 2 NRAs Less deprivation than most Community Plan in 2017: Fermanagh and Omagh 2030 Community Plan(external link opens in a new window / tab) 2 NRAs which have also produced Place Shaping Plans in: Omagh: Omagh Place Shaping Plan 2035 – Fermanagh & Omagh District Council (fermanaghomagh.com) and Enniskillen: Omagh Place Shaping Plan 2035 – Fermanagh & Omagh District Council (fermanaghomagh.com)	44/890 (10%)
Lisburn and Castlereagh	1 CP	0 NRA	Population of 51,447 across 67 SOAs Least deprived area in NI overall. No NRAs present. Community Plan 2019-2024: Lisburn and Castlereagh(external link opens in a new window / tab)	118/890 (20%)
Mid and East Antrim	1 CP	1 NRA	Population 138,773; 59 SOAs Community Plan 2017: Mid and East Antrim 'Putting people first'(external link opens in a new window / tab) One NRA in Ballymena: Neighbourhood Renewal Mid and East Antrim Borough Council	85/890 (10%)
Mid Ulster	1 CP	1 NRA	Population of district 147,392 across 65 SOAs. Community Plan in 2017: Mid Ulster(external link opens in a new window / tab) One NRA at Coalisland & Dungannon: Neighbourhood Renewal Mid Ulster District Council (midulstercouncil.org) Village Plans used in c50 settlements: Village Plans Mid Ulster District Council (midulstercouncil.org)	167/890 (20%)
Newry, Mourne and Down	1 CP	2 NRA 1 PB exercise	Population of 183,846 in 84 SOAs South Down second lowest proportion of SOAs in top 10% of NIMDM with 2 NRAs. Community Plan 2017:	70/890 (10%)

		<p>Newry Mourne and Down NRA in Newry: neighbourhood renewal newry(1).pdf (newrymournedown.org) Downpatrick NRA: neighbourhood renewal downpatrick.pdf (newrymournedown.org) The Council ran a Participatory Budgeting initiative called ‘Communities Leading Change’ Developing DEA level activity</p>	
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Table b: NI Plan Sample

CLP example / (LPA)	Details	Link / note
NI#1 Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	Community Plan 2017 Local - authority wide	https://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/resident/community-planning/
NI#2 Omagh and Fermanagh	Community Plan 2017 - Local authority wide	https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/services/communityplanning/
NI#3 Mid and East Antrim	Community Plan 2017 - Local authority wide	https://www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/downloads/Putting_People_First_-_The_Mid_and_East_Antrim_Community_Plan.pdf
NI#4 Newry, Mourne and Down	Community Plan 2030 Local authority wide	https://www.newrymournedown.org/media/uploads/community_plan_livingwelltogether_apr_17.pdf
NI#5 Ards and North Down ‘Big Plan’	Community Plan 2019 Local authority wide	https://www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/the-big-plan
NI#6 Banbridge (Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon)	Place plan 2024	Banbridge Place Plan - Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council (armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk) NIMDM rank from: #120 (The Cut SOA) - to #806 meaning a mixed area
NI#7 Omagh (Fermanagh & Omagh)	Place shaping plan 2022	Omagh Place Shaping Plan 2035 – Fermanagh & Omagh District Council (fermanaghomagh.com) NIMDM rank from: #46 (Lisanelly 2 SOA)- to #529
NI#8 Enniskillen (Fermanagh & Omagh)	Place shaping plan 2023	Enniskillen Place Shaping Plan 2035 – Fermanagh & Omagh District Council (fermanaghomagh.com) NIMDM rank from: #44 (Devenish SOA) to #466
NI#9 Armagh Place Plan (Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon)	Armagh Place plan 2022	https://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/resident/armagh-place-plan/ NIMDM from #61 (Callan bridge SOA) to #521
NI#10 Coalisland & Dungannon (Mid Ulster)	Coalisland NRA Action Plan 2014	Neighbourhood Renewal Mid Ulster District Council (midulstercouncil.org) NIMDM - #92
NI#11 Mid Ulster Community Plan	Local authority wide	https://www.midulstercouncil.org/MidUlsterCouncil/media/Mid-Ulster-Council/Community%20Planning/COMMUNITYPLAN-2017-10-Year-Plan-for-Mid-Ulster(10).pdf

<p>NI#12 Ballymena (Mid & East Antrim)</p>	<p>Ballymena NRA</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Renewal Mid and East Antrim Borough Council NIMDM (x4 SPAs): #85 (Ballee SOA); #110 (Ballykeel SOA); #91 (Moat SOA); #228 (Harryville SOA)</p>
<p>NI#13 Newry (Newry, Mourne & Down)</p>	<p>Newry NRA</p>	<p>neighbourhood_renewal_newry(1).pdf (newrymournedown.org) 9 'communities' in the NRA NIMDM from: #70 (Drumgullion 1 SOA); #75 (Daisy Hill 2 SOA); #93 (Ballybot SOA); #126 (St Patricks 2 SOA); #147 (Derrymore 1 SOA); #279 (Drumalane 2 SOA)</p>
<p>NI#14 Downpatrick (Newry, Mourne & Down)</p>	<p>Downpatrick NRA</p>	<p>neighbourhood_renewal_downpatrick.pdf (newrymournedown.org) NIMDM from: #106 (Cathedral 2 SOA); #115 (Ballymote SOA); #186 (Quoile 1 SOA); #599 (Audleys Acre SOA).</p>
<p>NI#15 Grange (Ballyclare) (Antrim & Newtownabbey)</p>	<p>Grange NRA</p>	<p>Grange neighbourhood renewal: Dunclug Action Plan (antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk) NIMDM - #324 (Ballyclare South 1); #732 (Ballyclare South 2); #489 (Ballyclare North 1); #571 (Ballyclare North 2)</p>
<p>NI#16 Kilcooley (Bangor) (Ards & North Down)</p>	<p>Bangor NRA - Kilcooley Action Plan 2018</p>	<p>Kilcooley neighbourhood partnership (x3 SOAs): Kilcooley Vision and Action Plan 2023 24.pdf (ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk) and building-capacity-to-support-transition-in-kilcooley-and-rathgill.pdf (cooperationireland.org) NIMDM – 3 SOAs from #134 (Conlig 3); #356 (Clandeboyne 3); to #702 (Clandeboyne 2) Prior plan: https://docslib.org/doc/2791559/kilcooley-vision-action-plan-2016-2018</p>