5 Measuring Success

5.1 Baseline Information – The Starting Position

To measure the impact of Neighbourhood Renewal, it is important to have local baseline statistics which can be used to measure improvement.
The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency has recently developed a Geographic Information System of neighbourhood statistics. It will use information from the 2001 Census and a wide range of administrative statistics on the social, economic and environmental aspects of local life. When available, this information will be enormously useful to understand the current situation and monitor the changes that will result from Neighbourhood Renewal. This will be supplemented by baseline information developed for each Neighbourhood Renewal Area. Necessary information will be gathered by undertaking "neighbourhood surveys" that will identify the most pressing issues that concern people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods. DSD has begun the process of developing baseline statistics for each of the 12 neighbourhoods selected under Peace II and will learn much from the process that can be channelled into Neighbourhood Renewal.

5.2 Monitoring Outputs and Outcomes
Meaningful targets will be agreed within the context of the Neighbourhood Action Plans and set for every Neighbourhood Renewal Area. The Neighbourhood Partnership Boards will be responsible for monitoring their own activities and providing information on how they are performing against their targets to DSD on a regular basis. DSD will collect data on the results, both outputs and outcomes achieved in all of its target neighbourhoods, and regularly channel this information to the Ministerial Group. Annex 3 lists some of the output indicators which are currently used by regeneration programmes in Northern Ireland and which might be used by individual Neighbourhood Renewal Areas. The list is not definitive, and alternative or additional output indicators can be used in individual Neighbourhood Renewal Areas to reflect their individual circumstances and needs.

As well as knowing what is happening in each individual Neighbourhood Renewal Area, the overall effect the Neighbourhood Renewal approach is having on tackling deprivation in Northern Ireland needs to be measured. Therefore, the Strategy sets a number of high level targets for Neighbourhood Renewal at a regional level that are also germane to an individual area. These are set out in Annex 4.

Since the purpose of the Neighbourhood Renewal approach is to tackle deprivation by integrating the work of all government departments and agencies, as far as possible, the targets taken for Neighbourhood Renewal are from those already included in new TSN Action Plans, Public Service Agreements and Service Delivery Agreements. If additional targets are needed, these will be agreed by all Departments at the Ministerial Group and included into their Departments’ new TSN Action Plans, Public Service Agreements and Service Delivery Agreements.

5.3 Action Plan Milestones
In order to monitor progress, a series of key milestones will be built into Neighbourhood Action Plans for each Neighbourhood Renewal Area. These milestones will allow progress against output and outcomes measures to be determined and also allow information to be gathered on how formation of structures is going. This latter aspect will be of particular significance early in the Strategy implementation.