



STRATEGIC PLAN STATEMENT 2019 / 2023

Mission

To empower collective local intervention in the social economy space that creates more sustainable communities.

Strategic Goals

We will deliver against our mission by;

- Enabling community anchors to be present in more communities
- Working to support legislation that cements community rights and asset transfer
- Having members that are living and working the values of DTNI
- Achieving higher visibility and acknowledgment for our work
- Having an asset of our own that articulates our values

Overview

Community Asset Transfer (CAT) frames the work of DTNI and is funded through the Department for Communities. The NI Executives policy framework on CAT presents the Community, Voluntary and Social Enterprise sector with an opportunity to deliver local social and economic development outcomes. DTNI's wider advocacy on Community Rights and Community Wealth Building is supported by investments from Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and Friends Provident respectively.

Why DTNI?

DTNI was established ten years ago to bring together the interests of a number of community-based organisations who were seeking to promote their model of

community development and social enterprise, to cement and build upon progress they had made, to articulate a common voice for the values and work they were doing and to bring others on board. There was a defined need for a functioning resource in Northern Ireland replicating the Development Trust Networks established across the UK regions of Scotland, England and Wales.

We continue to evolve the profile of our work, to inform new policy thinking and programme interventions and establish new strategic partnerships. We seek to work in partnership across local and central government at all levels and strategically with the NI Local Government Association (NILGA) to develop our mutual interests associated with CAT, Community Planning, Community Rights and local economic development.

Core Development Priorities

DTNI is currently in a phase of growth and development with a core work programme focused on;

- *Community Asset Transfer: Community Rights: Local Economy: Participative Democracy and the Delivery of Public Services.*

We pursue a wider development agenda in support of the interests of its members including;

- *Sustainable Communities: Climate, Environment and Land Reform.*

DTNI trades commercially and pursues funding/investment with government and independent trusts and foundations with a direct interest in our core work.

This strategic plan provides a focus for DTNI to respond to democratic, social & economic marginalisation, poverty & inequality and the ever-increasing impact of external events like climate change. It provides a focus to engage and work with local authorities and central government to invest in local communities and facilitate its capacity to deliver meaningful social and economic change that includes the acquisition, management and ownership of assets. The plan acknowledges that the only way to achieve a consistent programme of sustainable local social and economic development is to enshrine the rights of communities in legislation and in Government policy.