

1. How will government maintain momentum in neighbourhood programmes that have ended?

Major Regen Funding Streams under previous Government

Selected funding streams	(£ million)	% total spend
RDAs	21,466	54%
EDRF	4,103	10%
NRF	2,925	7%
English Partnerships	2,536	6%
Revenue Support Grant	2,127	5%
NDC	2,043	5%
Supporting Partnerships	1,685	4%
Thames Gateway	850	2%
WNF	459	1%
EU Objective Fund 2	365	1%
HMR Pathfinders	331	1%
EU Objective Fund 1	305	1%
LEGI	296	1%
Street wardens, etc.	190	0%
Planning Delivery Grant	151	0%
Growth Areas	140	0%
Single Regeneration Budget	58	0%
Coalfield fund	16	0%
Total funding spend	40,047	100%

Current Regeneration Strategy: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/regeneration/pdf/1830137.pdf>

£750m for 'High Speed 2'
 £7.5bn Crossrail
 £4.5bn for new affordable homes,
 £2bn investment in the Decent Homes programme
 £1.4bn Regional Growth Fund
 £1.4bn of European Regional Development
 £500m investment to transform the Olympic Park
 £1.3bn Homes and Communities Agency and Regional Development Agency
Total: £19.35bn (not directly comparable)

Other Regeneration strategy options under development and announced:

- Localism Bill powers
- options to enable councils to retain locally-raised business rates
- amending the Community Infrastructure Levy
- neighbourhood planning pilots
- New Homes Bonus

The Local Growth White Paper <http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/economic-development/docs/cm7961-local-growth-white-paper.pdf> sets out that the approach

to growth is localist - putting residents, local businesses, civil society organisations and civic leaders in the driving seat and providing them with local rewards and incentives to drive growth and improve the social and physical quality of their area.

Central government's role will be strategic and supportive:

- reforming and decentralising public services
- providing powerful incentives that drive growth
- removing barriers that hinder local ambitions, and
- providing targeted investment and reform to strengthen the infrastructure for growth and regeneration and to support the most vulnerable

In addition Enterprise Zones are to be announced shortly

2. Can local authorities and social enterprises close the gap?

Local Enterprise Partnerships:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/local/localenterprisepartnerships/>

Local enterprise partnerships will be **locally owned, business-civic partnerships**, tasked with taking the strategic lead for economic growth in their area and creating the conditions for private sector growth. They will:

- provide a powerful voice of business in the planning system
- identify strategic economic priorities to guide infrastructure investment
- produce evidence to inform decision-making
- facilitate decision making on strategic planning

The day-to-day administrative costs of local enterprise partnerships are expected to be met by local partners. Partnerships will leverage in private sector investment or using shared incentive revenue streams to through local enterprise partnerships. Partnerships are also eligible to bid for the Regional Growth Fund worth £1.4 billion over three years.

3. Does the 'Big Society' have actual meaning and relevance?

Big Society is characterised as:

- **social action** – people taking an active role in our communities, engaging in positive social action, and helping others;
- **public sector reform** - public services open to new providers such as charities, social enterprises and private companies to make them more innovative, diverse and responsive to public need – not forcing them to use the state monopoly
- **community empowerment** - neighbourhoods in charge of their own destiny, and feeling able to shape the world around them – free schools, GP commissioning, elected police chiefs, LEPs, neighbourhood budgets

The Government will use through three methods to support this:

- **decentralisation of power and resources,**
- **transparency about decisions and spending**
- **new social finance – redistributing money and assets**

Decentralisation Framework

