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# LOCAL INCLUSION POLICY

## BELFAST

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Belfast City Council is in the process of developing a new focused approach to social inclusion and tackling poverty. This work, which is to be finalised in 2010, will synthesise the work carried out by the Council on social inclusion outlined in a variety of Council documents, for example in the [Community Support Plan](#), [Good Relations Strategy](#) and [Neighbourhood Regeneration frameworks](#) into one stand alone policy document.

At regional level, social inclusion policy is described in [Northern Ireland's Anti-poverty and Social Inclusion Strategy](#). Although city authorities will make reference to it, the local inclusion and anti-poverty strategy will further specify the problems at local level and means to tackle them. Belfast City Council will also build on the recent work in relation to scoping the poverty levels experienced by citizens in the city. The strategy notes the persistence of place in the historical and geographical patterns of poverty levels within urban neighbourhoods. It also identifies those populations which are at most risk to experiencing poverty.

This work will place Belfast City Council at the forefront of combating exclusion as no other local authority in Northern Ireland has created such a policy framework. The main focus at the local level is to deliver Council services through an equitable manner in order to meet requirements set out in [Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998](#). This Act makes it illegal to discriminate against persons on the basis of their race, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, political persuasion, whether or not they have dependents and whether or not they have care responsibilities.

Belfast City Council has also led an annual review process of the city's performance known as 'State of the City'. [Work commissioned](#) over the past four years has identified areas on which the city must focus and work in partnership to ensure a better quality of life for all.

If you have an example of a good practice that you would like to include in the database, please send an email to [caroline.greene@eurocities.eu](mailto:caroline.greene@eurocities.eu).

