



## The Need

How does housing link to sustainable regeneration? How can local people help solve local problems? How can seeing interconnections and better partnership working improve Housing development and Neighbourhood Management? These are some of the questions that we wanted to answer with the Regen-IT learning-simulation (serious game). Regen-IT needed to shed light on these issues, to make them relevant and 'real' and most importantly to bring partnerships and communities together.

## Complexity to Clarity

Regen-IT was developed in partnership with Sefton Borough Partnership and Sefton Neighbourhood Renewal Fund for use in workshops to improve skills and knowledge in the field of regeneration. It has been recently updated in partnership with Sheffield Hallam University.

Regen-IT models the life of a borough with 5 neighbourhoods. Teams play the role of a Local Authority (People & Places), Housing Developer, Housing Association, Neighbourhood Managers and the LSP. The partnership need to regenerate the borough and also provide affordable housing. Feedback is given through the main menu, overall scores, report screens and GIS maps.

Regen-IT brings **clarity to a complex problem**. Delegates "experience" the real-world; where they see the 'big picture', understand cause and effect, and develop win-win solutions. Our approach makes issues real, relevant, and manageable.

## Proven Learning Approach

Blending the best of traditional and interactive learning, the approach has been used in over 450 workshops; successfully training more than 6,000 people.

Example uses of Regen-IT:

- **Liverpool First** - LAA engagement.
- **Berrybridge Housing** - Board away day.
- **Sefton Borough Council** - Commissioning Events.
- **Cheshire Housing Partnership** - Partnership building.
- **Sheffield Hallam University** - Affordable Housing Event.
- **CDHT** - Team building & Awareness of Neighbourhood Management.
- **HCA** - Internal Training and Single Conversations (Cumbria, Nottingham & Milton Keynes).

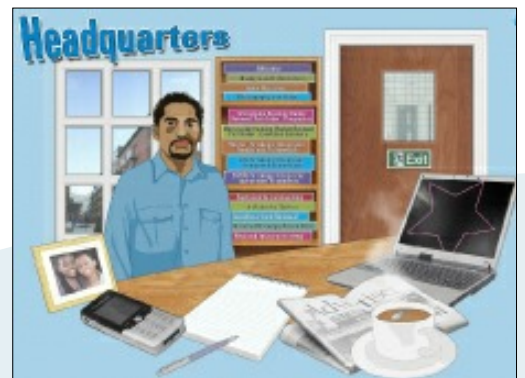
**"How quickly people became engaged and involved, and gained valuable experience of how complex regeneration is"** - James Hill, Executive Director, Berrybridge Housing

**Inspiration (motivation to act) + Simulation (how to act) = Improved Decisions.**



"This Government trusts people to take charge of their lives and we will push power downwards and outwards to the lowest possible level, including individuals, neighbourhoods, professionals and communities as well as local councils and other local institutions."

**Department of Communities and Local Government: 'The Localism Bill'.**



Regen-IT requires six teams to take responsibility for the regeneration of neighbourhoods in a virtual community. They have to deal with the differing issues of crime, transport, health, community well being, poverty, unemployment, housing, and the environment. Regen-IT has been delivered in housing associations, local council commissioning events and LAA engagement programmes. Regen-IT is recognised by the Homes & Communities Academy.



## Key Objectives:

- Improve decision-making and problem solving in housing and regeneration issues.
- Understanding the issues in terms of cause and effect rather than silo perspective.
- Encouraging a partnership approach to tackling housing and regeneration issues.
- Consider how housing and regeneration interleaves with mainstream funding and services.
- Improving the implementation of affordable housing and sustainable regeneration.
- Understand the need to build strong and prosperous communities.

## Real World Improvements

With clarity comes real world improvements. Evaluation of our programmes highlight improvements in 3 areas, which translate into **improved decisions**.

- **Strategic Thinking** – Understanding the key driver and needs. Does a particular decision help us get closer to our goal?
- **Joined-up Thinking** – Understanding cause and effect provides perspective, reduces the chance of perverse outcomes, and increases the likelihood of win-wins.
- **Collaborative Working** – Working with stakeholder groups and partners improves decision-making by allowing organisations to benefit from the 'wisdom of the crowd'.

**"Useful and transferable. Enjoyed the 3 hours, went quickly"**  
- Mike Coburn, Neighbourhood Management Service, Liverpool CC

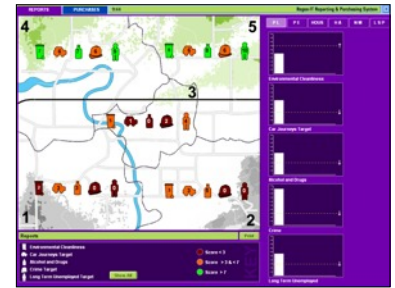
- We have helped support partnership working in local authorities.
- We have broadened the design input into the local area improvements.
- We have helped housing associations with board member away days.

## Who Might Benefit from a Regen-IT Workshop

- Housing Associations / Registered Social Landlords.
- Neighbourhood Managers.
- Local Partnerships and Community Groups.
- Local Authorities (Planning/Housing/Regeneration).
- Neighbourhood and community groups (engagement and consultation).
- Private Sector (Consultants/Developers).

***Do you want an innovative approach to housing and regeneration?***

\* Regen-IT is accredited by Homes & Communities Agency Skills & Knowledge.



Over 99% of delegates have rated our workshops good or very good. Long term evaluation has identified better collaboration and decision-making; leading to significant savings.



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**... and let learning ripple *through* your organisation**