



## **Belfast – healthy city**

*Barriers to implementing policy*

### **David Stewart**

We do have disadvantages as well. We are tied in resource terms through the Barnett Formula which is a way that money is allocated to Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland that is, we believe working now not to our favour. It's just not really taking into account differences in the deprivation patterns here across from England, so there is a resource issue.

Another disadvantage is the fact that we have a wide range at present of public bodies and they're not working within the same boundaries. So we have recently had published the outcome of a very comprehensive review of public administration structures in Northern Ireland, and this in fact is going to lead to a major change right across the public sector and in effect we think this will lead to greater opportunities for working collaboratively across sectors. For example, we're moving down from twenty-six district councils to seven new council areas. The seven new council areas are to be co-terminous with the commissioning sub-structures for the Health Service and we will have a single education body which will then, can work closely with the health, so I think we have the potential of actually building on a much more coherent structure