

## **ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**FRIDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2008**

**HILTON HOTEL, TEMPLEPATRICK**

### **1. What makes your area unique?**

- Environmental assets such as Lough Neagh and Belfast Lough
- International Airport situated within the area
- Proximity to Belfast City region
- Established railway corridors and motorways
- University of Ulster Jordanstown (UUJ) located in area with associated socio-economic benefits
- Cultural/heritage assets

### **2. How can this be developed to give a competitive edge to your area?**

- Identify and develop a niche market
- Improve infrastructure to regional assets
- Strengthen vocational links with UUJ
- Un tapped potential with Antrim being the only town positioned on Lough Neagh
- Develop a Sub Regional Park on Lough shore (Lough Neagh) and establish a Project Team to manage and oversee it
- Modernise Nutt's corner as a Strategic Employment Location
- Natural mineral resources eg lignite
- Limited wind power potential in Newtownabbey Hills

### **3. What skills underpin your area's businesses and how can these be improved to attract new business and encourage economic growth?**

- Pharmaceutical skills linked with local employer
- Agriculture and Horticulture skills developed at Greenmount College
- Research & Development facility at UUJ.
- Development of high tech clusters at Mallusk Enterprise Park

### **4. What opportunities might exist to co-operate with nearby towns/areas to improve your area?**

- Adopt a co-operative /collaborative approach.
- Develop an aviation strategy concentrating on improving public relations of airport and transport/ rail links with Belfast city centre
- Strengthen tourism links particularly with tourist operators to "sell" the area.
- Exploit proximity to Belfast

**5. Are there any particular equality or health issues in your area that need to be considered?**

- Encourage greater equality of opportunity in education as a high percentage of students are transported to Magherafelt due to school closure
- Potential for integrated school in the area
- Need to build sustainable communities
- Needs of ethnic minorities