

DERRY CITY AND STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Friday 5 December at University of Ulster Magee Londonderry

1. What makes your area unique?

- Location – centre of North West
- Economic centre
- Derry Airport
- Available workforce
- Border region with urban centre
- Railway link to Belfast
- Young population
- Attractive
- 2 names – Derry/Londonderry
- Desire for change
- European North Atlantic Region
- Arts & culture and heritage
- Shared heritage
- River & walls
- Links to Donegal and the west
- Passion for area
- Architecture
- Planned development
- Strong voluntary & community sector
- University – research
- Port

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

- Strong education infrastructure
- Port & airport, road & rail – completion of infrastructure
- Parks – culture – quality of life
- University links to business start-up and hospital - expansion
- Government policy needs to be geared towards Derry
- Holistic approach to –tourism, marketing, retail development
- Support for Small Medium Enterprises
- Develop Research & Development
- Develop confidence & leadership
- Strategic land supply
- Locate a major public sector department- only one senior civil servant in NW
- Development of hotel sector
- Port – transatlantic link
- Improve western corridor linkages

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

- Recognition and reinforcement of value of education
- Engineering
- Technology
- Arts – creative industry
- Basic skills for age 25+
- Life skills and lifelong learning
- Co-ordination skills for plans and education
- Improved equality of opportunity
- Re-skilling unemployed

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

- Policies need to reinforce regional position and allow co-operation
- Links with Letterkenny on waste management and health provision
- Strabane – RPA
- Close links with London & Dublin – Irish Society & trade missions
- Promote shared services
- Homogenous cross border region
- EU region – more connection to Euro
- Devolution of planning powers

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

- Health provision
- Dentists
- Regional Health Authority – cross border basis
- Lone parent opportunities & support
- Fuel poverty
- Perception in terms of religion to jobs and education