

LISBURN CITY AND CASTLEREAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

THURSDAY 20 NOVEMBER, IRISH LINEN CENTRE LISBURN

1. What makes your area unique?

- North/South corridor
- Proximity to countryside/green fields/clean air
- Lagan Canal
- Low unemployment
- Pockets of deprivation
- Most jobs for Castlereagh people are in city centre
- The both positive and negative impact of Sprucefield on Lisburn Town centre
- The existence of a Rural Development Partnership between Lisburn and Castlereagh
- Educational facilities
- Strategic location – airport access
- Low rates and good public services
- Only operating Linen facility
- Home to the inventor of the Ferguson tractor
- Castlereagh Ice Bowl
- Centres of Excellence – Badminton/Gymnastics/Basketball/Hockey
- Maze

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

- Use the natural and built environment to encourage tourism
- Need for more hotels/accommodation
- Need to encourage more Small Medium Enterprises
- Improved transport links from more rural areas
- Enterprise train stop at Lisburn
- Expansion of Westway through Lisburn
- Decentralise office locations
- Develop the distribution industry
- Develop night time social activities
- Re-open navigation on Lagan
- Development of Maze

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

- Good levels of skills base – schools, vocational & academic
- Opportunity to develop provision of skills through the colleges
- New Ministry Of Defence Medical Centre
- Links between college and local business & industry
- Need skills to develop tourism industry

- Good manufacturing base

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

- Flexibility in planning allocations within industry types
- Expansion of Rural Strategy Forum
- Links between Lisburn and Castlereagh colleges
- Tourism links with nearby Boroughs
- Castlereagh's links with Newtownards
- Maintaining links but not losing identity
- Forge links between rural and urban economies
- Improved links with the International Airport

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

- Issues with closure of services in Lagan Valley Hospital
- Lot of older people
- Accessible transport for older people and rural areas
- Healthcare across boundaries
- Access to education
- Need for social housing for singles and older people