

# **NEWRY CITY AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER, SLIEVE DONARD HOTEL, NEWCASTLE**

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

- Natural environment and heritage
- Strategic Location – Belfast Dublin Cross Border Corridor
- Coastal Region
- High proportion of Start Up Businesses (Innovation)
- Good broadband connections – homeworking opportunities
- High employment area
- Strong community infrastructure
- Not reliant on public sector
- Success of Mourne identity

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

- Development of a tourism strategy for the sub-region
- Development of transport links - bus and rail
- Relocation of jobs from Belfast
- Connectivity between Downpatrick and Newry
- National Park
- Public/Private partnership investment
- Distinctive branding
- Encourage local investment
- Upgrade of tourism accommodation
- Good broadband could be developed to encourage working from home

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

- Fishing and agricultural skills
- Gaps produced by the loss of migrant skills
- University linkages
- Cross Border university status
- Restructuring of education to reflect RPA
- Creating better quality jobs
- Open port links with ROI (Warrenpoint and Carlingford)
- Develop linguistic skills to improve hospitality/tourism industry
- Link education curriculum with job skills required

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

- Rethink public service provision with sharing of public service on a cross border basis, ie local health, education, universities
- Relocation of public sector jobs
- Opportunity of tourism from Dublin
- Carlingford Lough asset
- Niche tourism eg golf
- Links with Moyle (Causeway Coast) and Fermanagh (the lakes)

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

- Isolation of elderly in rural areas impacting on health
- Hospital facilities
- Closure of rural schools and facilities