

# **FERMANAGH AND OMAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**FRIDAY 14 NOVEMBER, VALLEY HOTEL, FIVEMILETOWN, COUNTY TYRONE**

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

- Outstanding natural beauty
- The lakes
- Border Region
- Growth in Small Medium Enterprises
- Largest geographical council area with smallest population
- Dispersed population
- Substantial individual business
- Access problems to services
- Low level of crime
- Remoteness
- People self-reliant
- Poor infrastructure
- Substantial small family owned businesses

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

- An integrated tourism strategy
- Promotion of green living
- Improved interconnectors to resources (physical and technology)
- New skills
- Potential to grow public sector
- Decentralisation of public sector jobs
- Wet weather facilities for tourists
- More Bed & Breakfast facilities
- Better signposting

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

- Entrepreneurship, engineering and construction skills
- Growth of Small Medium Enterprises
- Diversification and multitasking
- Adaptability
- Retraining
- Move from hard infrastructure to ICT
- Exploitation of start-up facilities and support
- Link to a 3<sup>rd</sup> level education
- Attract and retain graduates
- Improved broadband infrastructure

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

- Improved cross-border co-operation
- Maximise EU funding
- Improved links between industry and education
- Work with youth to build identity with the Region
- Attract people to live and work in the area
- RPA

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

- Access to specialised health services
- Access to basic health services (A & E)
- Ageing population
- Rural isolation
- Lack of social housing
- Government policies urban orientated and not properly rural proofed
- Good community relations but invisible walls
- Rural schools under threat
- Too cost focused and not enough on value