



membership resources

# **Discussion forum**

***Where to now for regeneration and local growth?***

[www.apse.org.uk](http://www.apse.org.uk)

# Jobs and employment

- The Antrim and Newtownabbey Alternative Jobs Fair 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018
- Offered residents the opportunity to speak to 60 employers about over 1,000 local vacancies and to access employment support from 21 organisations.
- Attracted 1,704 visitors, and 98% of employers being very satisfied or satisfied with the fair
- The Jobs Fair was organised through the Community Planning Outcome Delivery Group for Economic Prosperity following feedback both from this Group and the Councils Economic Think-Tank.
- Managed and hosted by Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, in partnership with the Department for Communities

# Business support

- The Ards and North Down BOOST Programme offers an innovative and meaningful opportunity for businesses with growth potential to explore issues relevant to them, receive expertise to improve current practices and plan for sustainable growth.
- Participants able to access key business information, carry out a self-assessment, be signposted to local programmes of support and receive help in the development of plans for improved performance across key business growth areas.
- ✓ A cumulative increase in turnover of £1,785,803.03 (across a total of 41 companies) – an increase of 31%
- ✓ 35 jobs created since June 2016
- ✓ 15 companies have commenced exporting since joining the programme
- ✓ An average increase of 27% in Knowledge and Skills
- ✓ 20 collaborative partnerships formed

# Digital transformation

- Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon driving digital transformation,
- Jobs growth across the digital sector has been strong in recent years. The sector has grown fastest across all 11 Councils between 2013 + 2015 and in terms of job creation by a considerable margin (up +73% vs. NI 13%).
- The Digital Sector's reach is wider than just the 'sector' itself. Estimates show that 41% of the Digital economy jobs exist in 'non-digital' industries, such as financial + health services, and the public sector.
- The catalyst for defining the Borough as 'Open for Business' across all business sectors, has been led through the delivery of a Digital strategy, positioning us as a key driver for growth and most importantly appointing a high profile global digital ambassador.



## Development of third sector / coops

- Belfast City Council's Go Social programme helps to overcome the low entrepreneurship levels in the city whilst also addressing social issues. Delivered by Work West which is a local enterprise agency but works closely with local stakeholders.
- Tailored support to those wishing to set up a social enterprise or cooperative and to existing third sector organisations.
- A three year programme and engagement is currently under way with ERDF and Invest NI to support its expansion and further development.
- To date, over 100 individuals/organisations have engaged with the programme; 27 new social enterprises and cooperatives have been established and 49 jobs have been created.



# Skills

- Mid Ulster
- Development of 30 Partnerships  
Colleges, universities and local businesses
- Designed to address the skills gap and local economic growth

## **Lots of good stuff but.....?**

- Has regeneration has become a loaded or contested term?
- Transforming towns and cities is compelling but is it cosmetic rather than sustainable?
- Big renewal projects promise a new beginning for rundown neighbourhoods

# Regeneration: Making it local?

- Are developers willing to compromise?
- Will developments allow existing communities to take on and grow the project?
- People need to occupy spaces that aren't necessarily going to deliver high value so will these 'rights' be preserved in agreements?
- Affordable housing? Avoiding 'antiseptic' developments?
- How do you balance housing and business growth against the need for shops, offices, community spaces, retail, arts and leisure?
- How do we prevent leakage from the local economy?



# **NEW MUNICIPALISM**

Delivering for local people and local economies



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