

Conference Report Sheet

Councillor Name	Aine Clancy
Conference/Seminar Name	One Region One Vision
Conference/Seminar Topic	Challenge the consensus & explore the impossible future
Venue/Location	The Model, Sligo
Date (s) of Conference	December 8 th

Brief Summary

- The Speaker opened the conference emphasising that Rural Ireland is far from dead & has the potential to become an economically powerful region.
- The panel recognized that different Rural areas have different needs & require different solutions depending on local assets & that Rural Ireland has the ability to become economically prosperous in its own right, with its key strengths of people energy & resources...instead of ushering in its demise we should see Rural Ireland as a region with huge untapped potential & a capacity to lead the emergence of vibrant new economies.
- Kevin Thompstone discussed developing an Atlantic Economic corridor to promote more balanced regional development. The economic corridor is key to supporting enterprise growth & job creation in the western part of the country.
- Enterprise Ireland & the IDA have a renewed focus on investing & supporting enterprises at regional level. Both of these agencies will continue to focus on supporting job creation in the Western region.
- Emphasis was also on the diversity and range of Ireland's unique & natural heritage which is rooted in rural Ireland & in communities. The protection & promotion of our natural & built heritage assets will help to maintain & generate employment & revenue for rural Ireland through cultural & heritage tourism. These assets have the potential to bring much needed economic & employment opportunities to rural communities. Continue to significantly invest in National Parks & Nature Reserves will greatly contribute to the tourism industry in Rural communities.
- The roll out of the National Broadband plan to bring high speed to the Western region is vital to economic sustainability. Investment in transport links through a review of services. Support for regional Airports & investment in Rural infrastructure i.e Flood relief & other land management measures to protect our rural infrastructure was also discussed in relation to sustainability.

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Recommendations

1. Bring high speed broadband to ever premises in Ireland through the role out of the National Broadband Plan
2. Improve Rural transport links
3. Implement Flood relief measures
4. Grow & attract enterprise & jobs through the implementation of the 8 regional action plans for jobs.
5. Develop Atlantic economic corridor
6. Support Farm & Fishing incomes through CAP payments
7. Support Rural job seekers through Intreo offices & initiatives such as social inclusion & community activation programs.
8. Ensure Rural communities to meet the needs of the Labour market & to encourage innovation & maximize assets.
9. Support sustainable jobs to through sustainable jobs through targeted rural tourism initiatives: Key marketing initiatives such as Irelands Wild Atlantic way,
10. Develop & promote our natural & built heritage through investment & development (see above)

Declaration

I certify that I attended the above-mentioned Conference/Training Seminar.

Signed by

Date

Aine Clancy

9th April 2017