

Lisburn City Council
**ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**



Lisburn City Council
**ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**
Annual Progress Report 09/10

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Other Resources

www.lisburncity.gov.uk

www.investlisburn.com

www.lisburninnovation.com

www.castlegardenlisburn.com

www.visitlisburn.com

www.lisburnccm.co.uk



2009
PROGRESS REPORT
2010



LISBURN
CITY COUNCIL

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Acknowledgements

“

The Council has a key role to play in improving the economic performance of the City particularly in the current economic climate and against ever increasing public sector budgetary pressures”

FOREWORD

The Council continues to play a key role in improving City competitiveness and economic performance.



Councillor Jenny Palmer
Chairman, Economic
Development Committee
2009-Present

» *Lisburn City Council through its Economic Development Unit delivered an integrated programme of support in 2009-2010 with the aim of assisting local business growth and sustaining existing jobs, new job creation, promoting investment and development opportunities, physical regeneration, rural development and developing the local tourism product and sector.*

The Council has been delighted with the level of engagement and support from all local stakeholders this year, which is reflected in the number of quality initiatives delivered and actual outputs achieved.

Under the theme Business Competitiveness, the Economic Development Section funded and delivered eight dedicated business support programmes which assisted seventy six individual projects and supported businesses to identify new sales, explore international trade opportunities, streamline manufacturing processes, increase R&D activity and investment in innovation, and expand their businesses using franchising. In addition over one hundred businesses have participated in the new Lisburn Entrepreneurs Network (LEN), which provides networking and information on a range of key business issues. Outputs to date include assistance for companies to enter five new markets, three of which were international, £91,000 actual new sales generated with over £2.3 million of anticipated new sales over the next eighteen months.

Tourism continues to be an economic driver for the local area with estimates from the Northern Ireland Tourist Board suggesting that some 4.9 million trips, (including 4.4 million trips made by visitors from within Northern Ireland), 118,320 bed-nights and £15 million tourism revenue were generated into the Lisburn local economy during 2009. A number of exciting new tourism business opened their doors during 2009 and 2010 including a number of accommodation providers, tourism attractions and activity providers.

The Council remains committed to the regeneration of the City Centre and the wider Lagan Corridor. During the period of this report it has worked with others to maximise the economic and environmental opportunities along the Lagan Corridor and wider city centre area.

Rural Development has seen the establishment of Lagan Rural Partnership which in its short history has approved funding of £271,500 to a wide range of rural based projects. This has included projects involved in farm diversification, business creation, rural tourism, rural heritage and the development basic rural services.

The Council has also successfully applied and secured external funding from the EU and other Government Departments to support economic development initiatives and thus maximising the impact of local rates. £1.03 million has been identified to deliver business support projects as part of the EU Sustainable Competitiveness Programme for NI 2007-13 and match funded on a fifty-fifty basis by the Council over the next three years. The Colin Gateway Project has secured £3.1 million of funding, from Department for Social Development (DSD).

The Council recognises the role played by partner organisations over the past twelve months, working with the Council to implement and deliver projects which will secure the long term sustainability of the city economy, and which enable projects such as the exciting new city centre Masterplan to come to fruition.

I acknowledge the work carried out by the Economic Development Committee last year, whose valuable support has contributed to many of the successful projects outlined.

I look forward to working with the Members of the Economic Development Committee and Council Officers in the delivery of a high quality Economic Development Service over the forthcoming year. The Council has a key role to play in improving the economic performance of the City particularly in the current economic climate and against ever increasing public sector budgetary pressures. The Council is committed to maximising the available resources and effectively targeting these where they are needed most for the benefit of businesses, communities and rate payers alike.

Lisburn City Council Economic Development Unit

With a 2009-2010 operational budget of £2.16 million the Economic Development Unit is part of the Council's Environmental Services Department, which employs 24 and consists of four specialised functions; Business Competitiveness, Tourism Development, City Regeneration and Rural Development.

Key activities of the unit include:

- Business development; investment promotion; job creation
- City centre management, CCTV
- Strategic infrastructure and capital development; regeneration
- Tourism development & marketing the City as a visitor destination
- Tourist visitor servicing
- Regeneration of Lisburn's Lagan Corridor
- Rural Development

Continuous Improvement activities undertaken by the Economic Development Unit demonstrate the Council's commitment to ensuring value for money and quality in all aspects of the Economic Development Service and compliance with all Section 75 Equality legislation.

BUSINESS *Competitiveness*

Council Helps Drive Local Business Competitiveness

» *Lisburn City Council is committed to increasing the size and the competitiveness of the City's private sector. With a proven track record of funding quality business support programmes which are responsive to local business needs, the results speak for themselves:*



Alderman Jim Dillon, Phillip McCallen and Jenny Palmer (Innovation Networks Programme)



Cllr Palmer and Jim Stringer, Precision Group (Innovation Networks Programme)

Innovation Networks Programme

The Innovation Networks programme aims to place innovation and research at the core of local business development activity. Sixteen local companies worked with the University of Ulster and the South Eastern Regional College to grow their business through increased levels of investment in R&D, by identifying and developing appropriate new technologies, new processes, new systems and new products that added value, and improved overall business competitiveness and profitability. The project also enabled businesses to have access to the world class research and new technologies developed by the University of Ulster staff which will provide opportunities to launch new commercially viable products and enter new markets. A dedicated programme website can be accessed at www.lisburninnovationnetworks.com



Gary Boyd, Norspace, with Councillor Jenny Palmer and Alderman Jim Dillon (Competitive Edge Programme)

Competitive Edge Programme

This dedicated sales development programme aims to increase awareness amongst local companies of the benefits of undertaking a structured planned approach to the development of sales and marketing activities, resulting in the identification of new markets, new customers and new sales, and development of their supply chain. Twelve local businesses were recruited, with 63 sales meetings arranged, £46,700 of actual new sales, quotations submitted worth £76,700, and future sales identified worth in the region of £166,000.



Peter Blair and Jonny Boomer, A&B Pneumatics, with Cllr Palmer (Netherlands Trade Development Programme)

Netherlands Trade Development

To date the Council has had great success in the Dutch marketplace assisting 50 local companies to access this key international market and identify new strategic alliances



Councillor Palmer with David Craig, Craigs (Netherlands Trade Development Programme)

and partnerships over the past nine years. The most recent programme in March 2010, was very successful, and worked with seven local businesses who collectively have indicated expected new sales worth 1.7 million euro over the next eighteen months as a direct result of participating on the programme.

The Council is also a founding member of the NI-NI Dutch Trade Network which every year hosts up to four business networking events, including an annual trade dinner which was held at Custom House and two editions of the network newsletter, NI-NL Biz which is distributed to 2,000 businesses and support organisations. Further information on the network can be accessed at www.NI-NL.org.

Allen Johnston and Neil Conlon, Blue Sky Renewables



Central & Eastern European Trade Development

This programme provides a practical approach to support local businesses to trade in Central and Eastern Europe. The 2009 programme assisted eight businesses to target new business opportunities in Poland and Slovakia, as part of a five day trade mission. The companies participated in a total of 56 sales meetings, and 3 networking events, with twenty four new partnerships identified at this stage as well as actual sales worth £44,000, and anticipated new sales worth £740,000 within 12 months.



Colin McMurtry, 3D Pix, with Councillor Palmer



Lee-Anne Daly, Aquababes NI, with Cllr Palmer (Franchise Your Business Programme)

Franchising Programme

This programme is a joint venture between Lisburn City Council and Belfast City Council, and contained two distinct strands aimed at supporting franchising. The programme aimed to stimulate entrepreneurship levels through the creation of 8 new franchise businesses, and the creation of new employment opportunities as well as providing 4 local businesses with the skills and expertise to improve the overall competitiveness and profitability of their business operations through developing a franchise model, two of which have already sold their first franchise.

currently available to companies in the world today. These businesses are also benefiting from mentoring support from qualified Lean and Design consultants in order to implement projects and explore new design concepts and sustainability options to improve their overall business efficiencies.

Advanced Industry Materials Saving Programme (AIMS)

This programme is currently working with small local manufacturing firms to assist them to increase productivity, profits and the sustainability of their business operations. To date 3 Lisburn companies have participated on a number of workshops which focused upon the concept of Lean Manufacturing, proven to be the most effective productivity enhancing technique



Cllr Palmer with Mark Smiley, Cutting Industries, a participant on the AIMS programme

Graduate Into Business

This unique programme aims to assist both aspiring and existing entrepreneurs, through a range of tailored support based on individual entrepreneur needs including business idea development, mentoring, and dedicated networking events, aimed at improving graduate entrepreneurship levels throughout the City, thus capitalising upon the vast wealth of local talent, and promoting local economic growth. To date the programme is working with thirty local graduates and has held a successful Fly or Die event, a Lisburn version of Dragons Den which saw five graduate businesses battle it out for a £1,000 prize be used in the development of their business.

Investors In People Group Scheme

Investors in People (IiP) helps organisations of every size and sector to compete and succeed through improved people performance. The unique Lisburn IIP group Scheme recently assisted five local businesses to work towards and achieve this recognised quality standard, equipping them with the necessary skills to develop key internal management practices within their business and adopting a commitment to continuous improvement.

Lisburn Entrepreneurs Network (LEN)



LEN is a new local network and discussion forum for small businesses based in Lisburn. Facilitated by Lisburn City Council, LEN offers free monthly networking events and practical information sessions aimed at addressing key business issues and promoting local business



Fly or Die 2010 winner Victoria Miller of Molly's Parlour, with judges Cllr Jenny Palmer, Andrew Robinson of Boomer Industries and David Raymond of Kiang

development. The Council recognises that business networks provide an excellent platform for companies to meet, share experiences and best practice and to learn about key areas of business management and advice of direct relevance to their business and to date in excess of 100 local businesses have benefited from attendance at a LEN event.

Business Awards 2009

Lisburn City Council was proud once again to act as main sponsor for the third Lisburn City Business Awards in 2009, giving due recognition to the hard work and dedication of local companies. With a new streamlined online application process the standard of applications was exceptional, testament to the calibre of companies located in the City. The Gala Awards night was a great success, which saw local companies compete across 12 individual award categories.



Cllr Palmer presents William Patterson, The Plough Hillsborough, with the Best Eating Establishment Award at the Lisburn City Business Awards 2009



Celebration of Success, June 2010

Celebration of Success

Forty local businesses as well as delivery agents and Elected Members attended the annual Business Celebration of Success event which was hosted by the Council in June. This event gives recognition to the many business successes which have been achieved by local companies over the last twelve months through participation on a wide range of Council funded SME development programmes.

Business Information Seminars

The Council maintains regular contact with local businesses and aims to promote and host a series of seminars and workshops throughout the year designed to provide local businesses with advice and information on a wide range of business topics of relevance to their business. Seminars and events held recently include a Dobbies Meet the Buyers event with fifteen local businesses meeting with key buyers from Dobbies, a breakfast seminar with local members of the Quarry Products Association, a web development workshop with ten local businesses, sixty businesses attended a meeting of the Business Leaders Forum, which will develop into a more strategic entity later in 2010, a Credit Crunch Seminar in partnership with Invest NI and sponsorship of the annual Lisburn Business Education Partnership Careers Fair.

E- BUSINESS SERVICE

Local businesses are now able to receive regular updates direct from the Economic Development Unit on new Council supported business development initiatives, as well as details of forthcoming business events and local business features, to date in excess of 500 local businesses are currently benefiting from this free business information service.

Integrated Marketing Campaign

Lisburn City Council funded and delivered a new cost effective marketing campaign promoting the City of Lisburn as a visitor and shopping destination across Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland markets. Using the new 'Lisburn ...The City for Life' strapline and brand, an effective mix of TV, radio, billboard, press advertisements and online promotional tools were developed which helped to achieve a 53% overall campaign awareness in the target markets, with 39% of respondents in an independent survey influenced by the campaign to visit Lisburn.



Stephen Mullan (Economic Development Unit) and Councillor Palmer view the online directory

TOURISM *Development*



Tourism continues to be an economic driver for the local area with estimates from Northern Ireland Tourist Board suggesting that some 4.9 million trips, (including 4.4 million trips by residents from Northern Ireland), 118,320 bed-nights and £15 million tourism revenue being generated into the Lisburn local economy by international visitors during 2009.



Proms in the Park 2009 - Noel Thompson, BBC, Sir James & Lady Jeanne Galway, Stephen Cairns of 1st Old Boys Silver Band, Wayne Marshall, Conductor, The Mayor of Lisburn City Council, Cllr Allan Ewart, Soprano Rebekah Coffey & Peter Corry

400th Anniversary year for Lisburn

2009 was also a significant year for the Council as it celebrated the 400th Anniversary of the formation of Lisburn, (formerly know as Lisnargarvey). With this in mind, a number of new events/ projects were created to mark this special year.

Probably the largest profile event staged for the 400th Anniversary Celebrations was the hosting of the BBC Proms

in the Park, at the Hillsborough Castle in September 2009. Some 7,500 people enjoyed the spectacle on one of the most glorious nights of the summer, with Sir James Galway and the Ulster Orchestra the main performers. This was then broadcast to over 8 million viewers throughout the whole of the United Kingdom.



Proms in the Park 2009



Glen Ross at the UK Strongest Man Competition

Other events supported in 2009 by Tourism Development as part of the 400th Anniversary Celebrations were the Hillsborough's Taste of Summer, with a number of family orientated events, included music and entertainment staged at the Hillsborough Fort, All Ireland Strongman Competition, with the ten strongest men from all of Ireland competing for 2 places to be at the UK Strongest Man Competition later that year. Also the Hillsborough Oyster Festival received increased funding to theme the event around the 400th Anniversary Celebrations and finally a Christmas Skating Rink was brought in to Castle Gardens, Lisburn for a 3-week period over Christmas and the New Year.



Winners of the 400th Anniversary Photographic Competition

The Tourism Development team was responsible for a number of the projects including a new internet game, that depicts (in a fun animated way) the formation of Lisburn through 400 years of history to present day. The great fire of 1707 is illustrated, right up to the Queen's Golden Jubilee Year in 2002 and the awarding of City Status. Other projects included a photography competition for amateurs of all ages, with a historic/ modern theme to all the entries. The winning photos were then framed and show cased in the Island Arts Centre for 6 weeks in August 2009.

Tourism Website – www.visitlisburn.com

An improved dedicated tourism website was launched in March 2009 at [visitlisburn.com](http://www.visitlisburn.com). This included podcasts, an introductory video of the area, media image bank and e-newsletters sent out monthly. The website continues to be the catalyst for promoting all tourism activity in the City of Lisburn with links to all attractions, activities and events in the Council area. An extensive accommodation portfolio is now available on the site with links to over 60 accommodation providers within the City. The website continues to receive an increasing number of successful website views (3,333 per month in August 2010) and unique visitors served (2,931 per month in August 2010). The website continues to be improved in an effort to ensure that Lisburn encourages the maximum number of people to explore and plan a visit to the City of Lisburn.

Tourist Information Centres

The Council's dedicated Tourist Information Centres in Hillsborough Courthouse and Lisburn Square continued to serve visitors needs across a range of services, including providing advice and free literature, booking accommodation, Bureau de Change and selling tickets for local events. During 2009 over 100,000 enquiries from visitors and locals were handled by staff.

The current staff complement has significant expertise in marketing, customer care and the NI tourism industry. Further to this, some staff have language skills, IT experience, event experience and presentation skills that are used across a variety of projects.

Visitor Services Outreach Programme

The Visitor Services team continue to play a vital role in tourism outreach programmes to local communities on the local tourism offering.

During 2009 a number of outreach programmes took place including securing Leger Coach Tours continue to stop at Hillsborough Tourist Information Centre as a rest stop. The TIC staff meet and greet the visitors, provide a tour of the area, and distribute information as required. These tours are now scheduled with one per month for the remainder of the year.

Another outreach programme includes a 'Shopping Centre Roadshow', that included Drogheda (Scotch Hall Shopping Centre), Monaghan (Monaghan Shopping Centre), Newry, (Buttercrane Shopping Centre), Enniskillen (Ernside Shopping Centre), and Derry (Foyleside Shopping Centre).

Presentations on the local tourism product to different groups takes place every year, with the following presented to during 2009: Ulster Guiding Association, Senior Citizens Centre, students to Travel and Tourism BTEC Diploma, Open Door Club (OAP Group), Brownlee Primary School and Information evening for migrant students.

The team will also exhibits at all major events within the area and selected other events.

Out of State Marketing

The Council continues to be a member of the Belfast Metropolitan Area Regional Tourism Partnership, managed by Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau. This organisation

continues to deliver destination marketing in international markets, and visitor servicing at key gateway locations into Northern Ireland including George Best City Airport, Belfast International Airport and the Belfast Welcome Centre.

The Council is represented at all exhibitions attended by Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau including the largest consumer travel show in Europe – World Travel Market each November in London. A Service Level Agreement is in place to maximise the benefits to the City of Lisburn that includes attendance at a number of international exhibitions, presence in a selection of visitor guides, allocation of space on the website, and much more. A number of the City of Lisburn attractions, accommodation providers, activity providers and conference destinations are also currently members of Belfast Visitor Convention Bureau.

New Visitor Attractions

Lisburn has benefited from the opening of many new attractions, attracting more people to the City. A few of these include:



Drumbo Park Greyhound Stadium

Drumbo Park Greyhound Stadium has contributed to Lisburn City's night-time economy with improved facilities. A luxurious glass fronted licensed restaurant is situated on site along with hot food, tote stations and bars on both levels.

www.drumbopark.com

Murloc Angling and Rural Pursuits is a new fishery sitting alongside a 5-acre lake solely dedicated to fly fishing. This project received funding from Lisburn Leader Ltd (BSP).

www.murlocangling.com

Mill Yard Equestrian Centre is a small family run livery yard situated outside Anahilt near Hillsborough.

www.mill-yard.co.uk



Alderman Jim Dillon and Councillor Jenny Palmer at World Travel Market, in London

Sandy Bay Marina is a new 60-berth marina opened on the shores of Lough Neagh, which has generated interest in an often overlooked picturesque part of Northern Ireland.

www.sandybaymarinaloughneagh.com



Sandy Bay Marina

Harry Ferguson Memorial Gardens is a dedicated memorial garden. Harry Ferguson achieved international fame with his invention of the Ferguson 3-point linkage system. This system still forms the basis of almost every tractor made today. He was the first Irishman to build and fly his own aeroplane and he also achieved considerable success in the motor



Directors from Lisburn Leader Ltd visit the newly opened Harry Ferguson Memorial Gardens

rating and motor cycling fields. The Memorial Gardens include landscape gardens, off street parking, interpretative signage, and lifesize bronze sculpture of Harry Ferguson. The project was funded by Lisburn Leader Ltd (BSP), Lisburn City Council, Harry Ferguson Celebration committee, and Harry Ferguson (Virginia) Supporters Club.

www.harryfergusonmemorial.com



Unveiling Harry Ferguson plaque to commemorate 100th Anniversary of First Flight in Ireland with Harry Ferguson's granddaughters Sally Flemming and Caroline Best



All Ireland Autograss Series event at Maghaberry Race Track

Tourism Small Grant Assistance

The Tourism Development section continues to work with smaller one-off events such as the Ferrari Club of the Netherlands. The Council hosted over 40 Ferrari drivers as the group of Dutch drivers raised funds for the 'Make a wish Charity'. Other events funded throughout 2009 included Association of Old Vehicle Club Summer Run, NI Vintage Motorcycle Club Run, Military Mayhem at Hillsborough Fort, All Ireland Autograss Series, Hillsborough Ploughing Match, Hillsborough Flower Show, Triumph Club Classic Cavalcade, Drumming Event at Giants Ring, Dromara Vintage Car Club Run.



Over 40 Ferraris displayed as part of the Ferrari Club of Netherlands trip to Northern Ireland



All Ireland Autograss Series event at Maghaberry Race Track

Events portfolio

A large number of different events continue to be showcased in the City of Lisburn on an annual basis catering for all tastes and having something for everyone. These events bring substantial tourism revenue, trips and bed-nights to the area that contributes to the local economy.

Events staged in the Council area in 2009 included: National Countrysports Fair, Garden Show Ireland, Lisburn Half Marathon, 10k and Fun Run, Summer Festival of Racing, All Ireland Pipe Band Championships, Ulster Grand Prix Bike Week, Hillsborough Oyster Festival, and NI Festival of Racing.

Down Royal Racecourse reception

In November 2009, Down Royal Racecourse was honoured with a reception hosted by Lisburn City Council, recognising the significant service of all those who contribute to making it such a major success and attraction in the Council area. In the last 10 years considerable success has been achieved at Down Royal Racecourse with the growth in the ever popular NI Festival of Racing and Summer Festival of Racing. Further to this is the significant improvement in facilities with new stands, corporate facilities and entrance turnstiles all unveiled in June 2009. Some of those people thanked included the Chairman and Board of Down



Down Royal Racecourse directors and officials recognised by Lisburn City Council for contribution to local tourism



Sponsors of the Lisburn Roundabout scheme launched in 2009



National Countrysports Fair

Royal Racecourse, Manager, office staff and the grounds staff who have all contributed considerably in different ways.

Roundabout Sponsorship

As part of the Council's plans to improve the look at a number of key gateways into the City, sponsorship was sought to improve and maintain selected roundabouts. The Tourism section sought sponsorship from the private sector for the maintenance of these roundabouts.

Consent from DRD Roads Service for the sponsor's signs was granted with the following sponsors listed in 2009: K & E Enterprises, Seymour Dugan, The Plough Restaurant, Phillips Fireplace's, Salon Solutions, and Shellard Tiles. It is planned that additional roundabouts are secured for sponsorship and maintenance in 2010.

RURAL *Development*

The Council is the Lead Administrative Council tasked with the delivery of an £8.7 million rural grant scheme that will provide opportunities for significant social and economic investment in the Council areas of Lisburn, Castlereagh and Belfast.



Pictured at the completion of his facility to school horses is Jim Allen, Moira Equestrian Centre, Right of picture. Also pictured from L-R, Peter Shortt, Rural Development Officer, Mr Paddy Allen, Equestrian Centre Manager and Cllr Allan Ewart.

Lagan Rural Partnership

Lisburn City Council has been integral in the establishment of Lagan Rural Partnership, a newly formed Joint Council Committee that will act as the delivery agent for the 'Rural Life' axis of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Fund in the rural areas of Lisburn City Council, Belfast City Council and Castlereagh Borough Council.

The new fund will invest £8.7 million to improve the prosperity and quality of life of people living in rural areas by supporting a wide range of activities. These include farm diversification, support for business creation and expansion, encouragement of tourism activities, village renewal,

improving access to basic rural services and the development and conservation of rural heritage.

The Joint Council Committee is a body of elected representatives from all three Council areas tasked with overall responsibility for the delivery of the programme. The Committee is also supported by a Local Action Group that also includes elected members and representatives from the social and economic sectors within the area. The Local Action Group is responsible for promoting the programme and assessing potential applications and making recommendations to the Joint Council Committee.

Lisburn City Council is the Lead Administrative Council to the



L - R, Cllr Allan Ewart, Chairman of the Local Action Group and Cllr Ann Marie Beattie, Castlereagh Borough Council, Chairman of the Joint Council Committee, pictured at the launch of Lagan Rural Partnership's website. Also pictured Padraic Murphy, Rural Development Manager.

Partnership and provides all the key secretariat services related to programme delivery. The Council also has the majority representation on both the Joint Council Committee and the Local Action Group.

To coincide with the launch of the programme, the Partnership developed a new website www.laganruralpartnership.com. This has proven to be a valuable promotional tool for the fund and it provides a user-friendly portal to access further information and to download application packs for the fund.

Farm Diversification

The Farm Diversification measure provides support to members of farm households who wish to diversify into non-agricultural activities. Capital grants are available at 50% and are capped at £50,000. The measure also provides grant aid for technical support, bespoke training and marketing support.

The Partnership approved funding to 5 projects up to the value of £105,000 to to develop new farm diversification initiatives or expand on existing ventures. This comprised of funding for

two equestrian eventing projects, a wedding venue facility, an embroidery enterprise and an online trading and marketing website. Subject to receipt of statutory approvals (e.g. planning permission), a further £313 580 had also been approved for eligible projects in this period.





Business Creation & Development

Business Creation & Development

The Business Creation and Development measure provides support to existing non farm based micro enterprises or social economy businesses or to individuals or groups wishing to set up a new micro enterprise. The grant available is similar to that of the farm diversification measure but for social economy/community organisations the grant rate is increased to 75% at £50,000.

The Partnership approved funding to 4 projects up to the value of £33,000 in this period. This comprised of funding for an equestrian training facility, a dog grooming enterprise, an innovative photography business and a feasibility study into a community centre expansion scheme. A further £187,000 had also been approved to projects subject to statutory approval.

Encouragement Of Rural Tourism Activities

The Rural Tourism measure provides support for new and existing tourism providers to develop, promote or expand tourism activities and infrastructure. The grant available is capped at £50,000 at 50% for the private sector and 75% for the social economy/community sector. Grants are also available from £50,000 - £250,000 for the promotion of larger scale strategic rural tourism resources in the area.

The Partnership approved funding to the value of £15,000 to Lagan Canal Restoration Trust to develop a Guidebook

for the Lagan Canal and £46,000 to Lagan Valley Regional Park to improve access to the Giants Ring site and the installation of a visitor monitor device.

Basic Services For The Economy And Rural Population

The Basic Services measure offers service providers and community based organisations to develop innovative, tailor made solutions that meet service provision needs at a local level. Similarly to the Rural Tourism measure, grants are available up to £50,000 and from £50,000 - £250,000.

The Partnership approved funding to the value of £24,500 to Lisburn City Council to establish a pilot initiative to install free-standing Internet Kiosks (Public Access Points, PAPs) in three rural settlements across Lisburn, to provide free "touch-screen" Internet access to Council services and a wide range of other online

public information and interactive services. The Partnership also approved funding to the value of £48,000 to the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust to deliver a volunteer befriending service to improve the quality of life of older residents living in isolated areas of rural Lisburn.

Village Renewal And Development

The Partnership have designated £1.2 million to invest in the village regeneration schemes over the period of the fund. The Village Renewal and Development measure will be delivered in three phases:

Phase 1: Village Scoping Study to select circa 6 eligible rural villages to benefit from the scheme.

Phase 2: The development of circa 6 integrated village regeneration plans to inform Phase 3.

Phase 3: Commencement of capital regeneration improvement schemes as informed by completed village regeneration plans.

It is envisaged that the measure will be initiated in 2010 – 2011.



Philip Bell, Bailey's Mill, one of the first recipients to receive a letter of offer from Lagan Rural Partnership for his countryside directory and trading website www.countrygateway.com. Also pictured from L - R, Gareth Evans, Axis 3 Manager, DARD, Cllr Anne Marie Beattie (Castlereagh) and Cllr Allan Ewart (Lisburn), both Lagan Rural Partnership.

Conservation And Upgrading Of Rural Heritage

The Rural Heritage measure offers new and existing groups the opportunity to promote and implement projects that will help to preserve and upgrade natural and built environment. The Partnership has designated £350 000 to invest in the measure. Potential project promoters will be encouraged to apply to the standard grant scheme at £30,000 but there will also be a significant focus to encourage applicants to apply to the strategic grants scheme offering grant aid between £50,000 to £250,000.

It is envisaged that the Partnership will have approved its first application for funding under this measure in 2010 – 2011.



A participant takes part in the first Eventing competition to be held at Moira Equestrian Centre since the development of the new course.

REGENERATION Programme

The Council remains committed to the regeneration of the City Centre, the wider Lagan Corridor and other areas across the City. During the period of this report it has worked with others to maximise the economic and environmental opportunities along the Lagan Corridor and wider regeneration sites.

City Centre Regeneration

Lisburn City Centre Masterplan

In February 2009, in partnership with Lisburn City Council and Lisburn City Centre Management, the Department for Social Development commissioned consultants to produce an inspirational Masterplan for Lisburn City Centre. The purpose is to provide a framework for the promotion, timing and implementation of regeneration and investment schemes in the city centre, and to capitalise on its inherent assets.

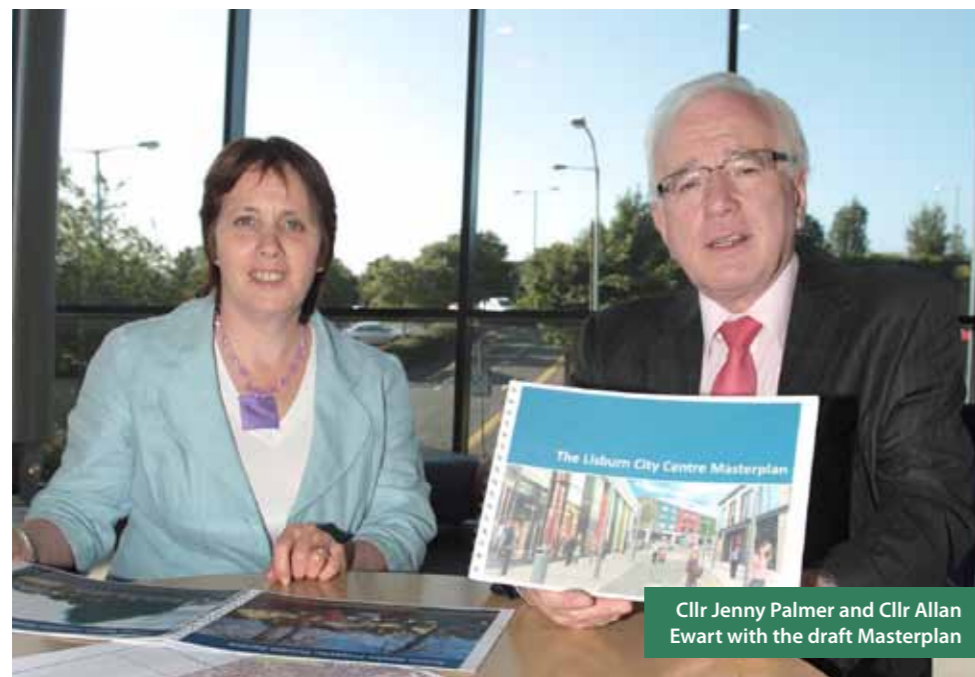
The principal aim of the masterplan is to identify how the full economic potential of the City Centre can be realised, through

setting out a clear vision and framework for investment in the future. In headline terms the masterplan contains a series of proposals for:

- 600,000 sq feet of new development
- Up to £260m of new private sector investment
- The creation of 2,800 new jobs (gross)
- The addition of £28m of GVA annually to the local economy

Given the City Centre's close proximity to the Lagan the plan includes details of linking the two through a network of pedestrian walkways and green spaces. Laganbank Quarter is a major riverside mixed use development proposed as part of the plans. This will effectively extend the new Linenhall Street business district to both sides of the river. Elements of the public realm proposed include a river boardwalk, new pedestrian footbridge and moorings. The final Masterplan document will be completed in the Autumn of 2010.

In January 2009, the Department for Social Development and Lisburn City Council appointed consultants from the Paul Hogarth Company to prepare a Traffic Impact Assessment and Transportation Plan to support the Masterplan and take into account future development in the greater Lisburn area. This study is due to be completed in the



Cllr Jenny Palmer and Cllr Allan Ewart with the draft Masterplan

autumn of 2010.

Colin Gateway Environmental Improvement Scheme

Funding has been secured through DSD for a £3.1 million environmental improvement scheme on the Stewartstown Road. The Colin Gateway Environmental Improvement Scheme, managed by Lisburn City Council in partnership with the Colin Neighbourhood Partnership and DSD, will focus on the Stewartstown Road, commencing at the Teeling Roundabout along the Stewartstown Road to the Cutts roundabout. It is the primary route for travel into the Colin Neighbourhood as well as the route for travel into both Belfast and Lisburn.



Annie Armstrong (Colin Neighbourhood Partnership), Paul McCormick (Economic Development Unit), Harry Maher (Belfast Regeneration Office) and Cllr Palmer

The Stewartstown Road in its current form presents a number of challenges due to the amount of traffic, the topography and the lack of building frontages. The prominent position of this road is reflected poorly in terms of overall layout, ad-hoc development, untapped economic potential, presentation of commercial premises, and attractiveness for residents, businesses and visitors alike.

The purpose of the planned environmental improvement scheme is to enhance the physical character of this area and will include changes to the roundabouts, new street lighting, new footpaths, street furniture, and wider landscaping.

The £3.1 million environmental scheme is currently at the design stage with work to commence on the ground towards the end of 2010.

Lisburn City Centre Management

Lisburn City Centre Management (LCCM), a partnership organisation, continues to deliver the city centre management function through an integrated programme of initiatives on behalf of the Council and the



local private sector. Projects and initiatives include those that encourage investment; increase footfall in the city centre and promote the city centre as a vibrant location for visitors and business.

Lisburn Commerce Against Crime (CCTV Scheme)

The Council continues to make a major financial contribution to the Lisburn CCTV system, part of a city wide effort to co-ordinate information on crime. The scheme is managed by Lisburn Commerce Against Crime (LCAC) and also supported by the Police Authority of Northern Ireland and through contributions from the local business sector. In 2009 LCAC launched the new CityWatch crime prevention scheme which was developed to deter and detect thieves by proactively monitoring the movements and activities of known or suspect criminals throughout the city. The 50 Members are connected to each other and the City's public space CCTV system via a Radiolink system. The scheme has also purchased 3 new CCTV cameras which will be installed later in 2010 bringing the total to 32 cameras located throughout Lisburn City Centre, Moira, Hillsborough and Dunmurry.

Lisburn Historic Quarter

Work continued on the delivery of Lisburn Historic Quarter development strategy to realise the areas potential to become a vibrant, dynamic environment for local community and business interests alike. A number of initiatives and events were delivered throughout the year which have assisted in raising the profile of this unique area of the City Centre and leading to increased visitor numbers and new investment in the area.

Lisburn Historic Quarter Arts Group is an organisation made of local artists from various backgrounds. The group, in partnership with Island Arts Centre and the Council's Economic Development Unit, take a creative approach to urban regeneration through devising and co-ordinating a range of cultural and arts activities within the Historic Quarter. The popular Art on the Rails event continued to run every Saturday throughout the summer with many artists coming along to display and sell their work directly to the public.

Lisburn for Weddings Business Cluster managed by Lisburn City Centre Management continues to operate as a strong network with membership now increased to 24 businesses offering a broad range of services to anyone organising a wedding. The events and marketing initiatives have included a refreshed look to their website, attendance at wedding fairs, hosting of their own wedding fair in Lisburn and marketing materials produced to strengthen their brand. The businesses have reported an increase in business specifically as a result of marketing and initiatives related to their membership of the cluster.

Bridge Street Townscape Heritage Initiative managed by Lisburn City Centre Management through the Bridge Street Partnership is into the second phase of delivery. Since

phase two commenced the project has seen the complete renovation of two properties with another eight projects due for completion in 2011, bringing new commercial space and residential properties to this important historic area of the City. This phase is funded through grants from a number of public sector organisations including Lisburn City Council, Planning



Art on the Rails at Castle Gardens

Service, Northern Ireland Housing Executive along with Heritage Lottery Fund and the private sector property owners attracting a total investment amount of £1.7m.

Castle Gardens continues to see an increasing number of visitors every year since the restoration project was completed in 2008. The Gardens are open for the public to enjoy 364 days of the year with two Park Rangers on site to look after the maintenance and security for visitors to enjoy this beautiful location in the heart of the city. Education staff based at the Lisburn Museum deliver a wide ranging education programme offering workshops, lectures, tours and educational outreach activities to schools and community groups. The venue has also hosted a number of successful events during the past year including a Midsummer Fayre, Wildlife Days, Farmers Markets, Craft Workshops and other local community events. For the second year running the gardens were successful in achieving the Green Flag Award an important accolade given to parks and open spaces that provide a high quality green space to all its users.



Castle Gardens is awarded the prestigious Green Flag Award

Lagan Corridor Regeneration

Lagan Navigation Trust

Work continues towards the re-opening of the navigation along the Lagan Canal from Belfast to Lough Neagh.

The Lagan Canal Trust has now been established following the formation of the partnership between four local authorities: Belfast, Castlereagh, Lisburn and Craigavon. These local authorities, along with the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, the Ulster Waterways Group and the Inland Waterways Association of Ireland, have agreed to collaborate in a partnership approach to progress the re-opening and revitalisation of the Lagan Canal and its immediate corridor.



Work has been completed to formally set up the company and development of a restoration strategy for the Trust is underway. The objectives of the partnership are to achieve the restoration and revitalisation of the entire length of the Lagan Canal and its corridor in ways which conserve and enhance the built and natural heritage, maximise recreational and tourism opportunities, involve and benefit the local communities and their visitors, and contribute to the local and regional economies. The formation of this partnership strengthens previously ad-hoc agreements and offers opportunities to apply for funding packages and grants not currently available to the individual organisations. The Trust has a dedicated website which can be found at www.lagancanaltrust.com

Lagan Valley Regional Park

Lisburn City Council continues to support the work of the Lagan Valley Regional Park (LVRP) along with partners Belfast City Council and Castlereagh Borough Council and other government agencies and departments. After a successful application to the Heritage Lottery Fund a grant offer was made under the Landscape Partnership Programme for a wide ranging package of projects to be delivered throughout the park. One of the projects included in this programme is a scheme developed for a riverside park at Millbrook Huguenot in Lisburn. The scheme now has full planning permission and the design is being finalised along with consultation with the local community to enable the plans to be taken forward during 2010 – 2011. The scheme will see the development of a new riverside park with improved links and pathways, habitat restoration and new entrance features.

Lagan Branch – Inland Waterways Association Of Ireland

The Lagan Branch of the Inland Waterways Association of Ireland has continued to provide information sessions, events and work-parties connected to the Lagan Navigation supported by Lisburn City Council. The branch members remain committed to the regeneration of the Lagan Canal and its surrounding environment. They continue to promote recreational activity along the Lagan both on and off the water with a varied events programme throughout the year.

The branch have now developed their own website which can be found at <http://lagan.iwai.ie/index.html>

Future Strategic City Wide Developments

Former Hilden Mill Development

In December 2009, the NI Environment Minister gave outline planning approval for a major development to be created at the former Barbour Thread Mill site near Lisburn City Centre. There is a strong desire within the development plans to include a large element of riverside development to assist in the delivery of the 'vital renewal of the Lagan Corridor'.

The project will involve converting the listed parts of the factory in Hilden and demolishing other buildings. As well as 600 homes the scheme is due to include offices and light industrial units. The plans also include a leisure complex with a museum focusing on the history of the linen industry, to acknowledge the city's association with the industry which made Lisburn renowned throughout the world for decades, while a riverside bar/restaurant, a gym, crèche, café and retail space are also planned. It is hoped that the existing canal and river bridges will be restored/ replaced improving access in and around the area.

The £100m scheme will help generate jobs as well as improving public amenities along the River Lagan, providing a modern living and working environment that can reflect the historical importance of the site.

Blaris

In early 2010 the Planning Service approved a major development plan for the Blaris area on the outskirts of Lisburn City Centre, which could see the major development in the West of Lisburn in the next ten years.

The proposals cover 400 acres of land between Sprucefield and Knockmore and will see major residential and business development on the site. The development includes plans for some two million square feet of business and commercial uses

with potential to accommodate over 4,000 new jobs, as well as the potential to provide up to 3000 new houses.

There are also plans for a neighbourhood centre to provide community services, a school and a 120 bedroom 4 star hotel. The developers also plan to open up the southern bank of the River Lagan to create a 75 acre riverside park.

Maze

Over recent months an agreement on the future of the Maze Prison site a 360 acre brownfield development site has been reached by the NI first and deputy first ministers, Peter Robinson and Martin McGuinness. The long-awaited proposals include the construction of an EU-funded Peace Building and Conflict Resolution facility. It is also thought the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society will move to the site.

If approved by the Assembly, a development corporation for the site will be set up to oversee and manage the regeneration at the site. The Council hopes to work with the new development corporation in the strategic planning for this project and also to progress plans to link the site to the River Lagan to provide a waterway connection that will link the site with a water-based network clearly offering many associated benefits to the local and wider community.

Rural Village Regeneration

Lisburn City Council as lead council, in partnership with Castlereagh Borough and Belfast City Councils, are developing plans to deliver a Rural Village Renewal Scheme in the villages throughout the rural Lagan area.

In the development of a rural strategy for the NI Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 for the Lisburn, Belfast and Castlereagh rural areas a tour took place of the eligible area to look at the physical state of the villages. Along with this a programme of liaison with public service deliverers, community groups and the public consultation process as part of the development of Lagan Rural Partnership's Rural Development Strategy 2007-2013 has confirmed that villages in the region vary greatly in terms of need. It is intended that in late 2010 consultants will be appointed to facilitate an appropriate scoping study along with implementation plans for the villages and recommend the way forward for the Rural Village Regeneration Scheme.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Council would like to acknowledge the following for direct funding support to projects, 2009-2010:

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
Department of the Environment
Department of Employment and Learning
Department for Social Development
European Union (under Sustainable Competitiveness Programme 2007-2013 administered through Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment)
Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Northern Ireland Tourist Board

The following organisations assisted in the delivery of the projects during the period 2009-2010.

BBC NI	JK Events
BDP Planning	Lagan Valley LeisurePlex
Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau	Lagan Valley Regional Park
Bridge Street Partnership	Lestas Consulting
BMAP Team	Lisburn Business Education Partnership
Colin Neighbourhood Initiative	Lisburn City Centre Management
COMET	Lisburn Commerce Against Crime
Daddy Productions	Lisburn Enterprise Organisation Ltd
Department of Culture Arts & Leisure	Lisburn Jobs & Benefits Office
Department of Employment & Learning	Lisburn Strategic Partnership
Down Lisburn Trust	National Countrysports Fair
Down Royal Racecourse	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Full Circle Management Consultants	Northern Ireland Tourist Board
Garden Show Ireland	Northern Ireland Trade Consultants
Harry Ferguson Celebration Committee	Northern Ireland - Netherlands Trade and Export Society (NI - NL)
Heritage Lottery Fund	Ortus Business Development Agency
Hilden Brewing Company	Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
Hillsborough Oyster Festival Committee	South Eastern Regional College
Lisburn Historic Quarter Partnership & Sub Groups	Tourism Project Team
Inland Waterways Association of Ireland	Ulster Waterways Group
Invest Northern Ireland	University of Ulster
Irish Linen Centre / Lisburn Museum	Vocational Training Project Team
Island Arts Centre	Voluntary Services Lisburn