

Stage 1:

Integrated Development Framework

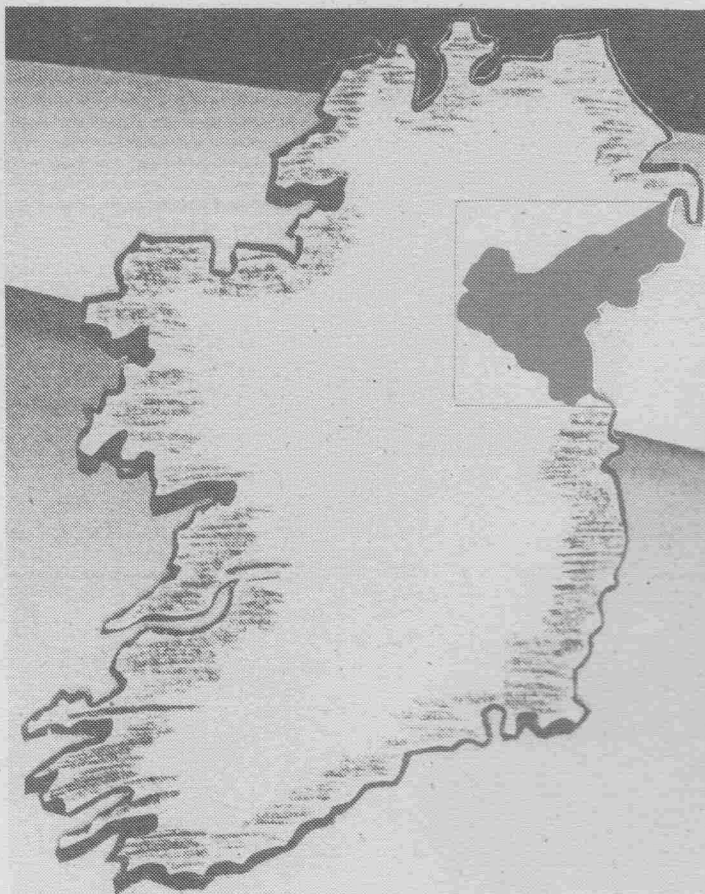
for the **North East Border Region**

June **1994**



Prepared with contributions from individuals, community groups, networks and statutory agencies in the region by an ad-hoc drafting group.

Supported by co-operation of the University of Ulster, Jordanstown and St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, INTERREG Education and Development Programme and the East Border Region Committee.



PREFACE

The purpose of this Stage1: "Integrated Development Framework for the North East Border Region" is to bring together development proposals from a range of sources in one document as a contribution to integrated development in the region. Development is a dynamic process therefore we see this document a Stage 1 in a process leading to a strategic plan for the development of the region. We see this document as a snap-shot of the proposals and development possibilities identified in the region at this time. It is imperative, we feel, to present this document to advance the preparation process for the next round of EU structural funds and EU Initiatives (INTERREG) this year. We accept that this document is not totally inclusive or comprehensive, but it does reflect the large number of proposals sourced from the voluntary and statutory sector¹. If the document stimulates agencies (Governmental and Non-Governmental) to further develop their proposals for inclusion in Stage 2 then it will serve a valuable purpose. However we (the ad-hoc drafting group for this document²) expect that this framework will be a reference document for development in the region and will become a foundation on which projects will be built for the development of the region. We also expect that this document prepared, on our own initiative and in our own time, will stimulate others to progress the preparation to **Stage 2** and ultimately to a **Strategic Plan** for the region.

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Chapter 1

Introduction and Background

Background

As an outcome of informal discussions at a range of seminars, conferences and meetings over the last number of months it has emerged that an overall cross border approach would give the region a distinct advantage in relation to INTERREG 2 and other Cross border/European funding possibilities. During 1994 a number of intra and inter county structures and two cross-border community group structures(Networks) were put in place. From contact between networks and due to concurrent closer working relationships with and between statutory agencies it was opportune to initiate work on a cross-border strategic plan for the development of the North East Region. At a meeting including representatives from all parts of the region it was agreed that a strategic plan should be prepared bringing all the proposals for the region together in an integrated framework. It was further agreed that as the universities (University of Ulster, Jordanstown and St. Patrick's College, Maynooth) were active in cross border initiatives, they would jointly promote the development of the regional framework.

The universities called a meeting of a range of people³ to determine interest and support for the idea. The meeting, held in Dundalk on May 27th 1994, agreed the following:

1. To request submissions from individuals, community groups and statutory bodies for inclusion in the framework;
2. That people present would make contact with a wide network of agencies, groups and individuals inviting contributions;
3. That a template for project submission would be prepared;
4. That an ad-hoc drafting committee be made up of individuals who would have the skill and vision for such a task;
5. To draft the North East Border Region Proposal.

As a result of the meeting:

- A mandate was given to begin the preparation of the framework;
- A list of statutory agencies, community groups and individuals who may be interested in contributing to the framework was compiled;
- An explanatory leaflet and a proposal format and project checklist was prepared and sent to all listed(See Appendix A);
- Submissions were received(See Appendix B);
- The ad hoc drafting group read all submissions and met for two days (June 28th and 29th) to prepare the first draft;
- The draft was sent to all who attended the original meeting and a follow up meeting was held in Dundalk on August 5th where suggested amendments were received by the ad hoc drafting group and plans for a launch were discussed.

The Proposal

The long term aim is to prepare a strategic plan for the development of the North East Border Region as a backdrop to individual, community, sectoral and public agency submissions for future

funding programmes. This proposal, the first step in a longer process, is to:

Prepare a framework worked up from reports, submissions, outlines, and detailed plans being prepared/prepared by the individuals, community groups, sectoral groupings and public agencies. The plan would be drafted by a drafting group made up of individuals identified as having the skills suitable for this task.

Detail of the Framework

The formulation of the framework recognises the innovations being undertaken by individuals, groups and agencies in the region but is not a business plan for projects. Project promoters will submit their projects for funding as usual, however the provision of a background framework will enhance the potential of each project as it will be placed in the context of the overall development of the region. The formulation of a framework does not prevent, in any way, the development of new projects or their prospect of funding under a range of initiatives.

The framework is not a funding proposal or in no way attempts to advance particular projects for funding.

The outcome of this process is a framework document for the region, one which is a contribution to the integrated inter-regional development of this region. Therefore, the formulation of a framework for the North East Border Region is the first step in a process of strategic planning.

The framework would be a response to calls at a number of recent conferences for an innovative approach to preparing for INTERREG 2.(Refer to Conference Report, January 1994).

Chapter 2

The North East Border Region: Physical, Social and Economic Description.

It is not the intention of this section to exhaustively describe the North East Border Region, rather to give the reader unfamiliar with the region enough background to understand the thrust of the framework.

Regional Profile

The North East Border Region comprises Counties Louth and Monaghan in the Republic of Ireland and parts of Counties Down and Armagh (primarily Newry & Mourne District Council and Down District Council areas) in Northern Ireland. The area contains significant centres of population, Dundalk, Drogheda, Newry, Downpatrick, Newcastle, Monaghan, Armagh, Clones, etc. and is economically very significant. The region is traversed by the two major roads, the M1 becoming the A1 in Northern Ireland and the A5 becoming the N2 in the Republic of Ireland. The region is crossed by the Belfast-Dublin rail line, the Ulster canal and the Newry Canal. An important land mark is the border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland that creates a social and economic barrier to co-operation and development. (See Map 1)

The region is diverse in natural attributes as a result of geological formation and weathering. Soil types are predominantly Rolling Lowland in Counties Louth and South Down (Acid Brown Earths) except for the Mourne Mountain Range and the Cooley Peninsula (Lithosols and Outcropping Rock). South Monaghan and South Armagh has rolling hills of Dry Drumlin Organic soils (Acid Brown Earths). Mid & North Monaghan and Mid Armagh are characterised by Wet Drumlin soils (Gleys and Grey Brown Podzolics). Land use is dictated by soil type. In general the drumlin soils are difficult to work and unproductive. The Brown Earth soils are productive and free draining providing good crop yield potential. The Lithosols and Outcropping Rock is unproductive waste land inhospitable even to most animals. (See samples of soil maps)

County Monaghan is characterised by a landscape of low drumlins (county of the little hills) interspersing good and poor land in small fields with wet areas and small areas. This drumlin belt stretches in fact from County Monaghan to Strangford Lough. The Ulster Canal runs through County Monaghan (Clones, Smithborough and Monaghan town) on the journey from Upper Lough Erne to Lough Neagh. County Louth is a lowland area of rolling plains with the seacoast on its east side passing on to County Down. Its main upland area is the Cooley mountains on the Cooley peninsula. The Newry & Mourne District Council area borders the Republic of Ireland and contains parts of counties Armagh and Down. This area consists of two upland areas separated by the Newry valley. Each upland area is fringed by rolling plains. To the east occupying much of South Down are the Mourne mountains while the western half of the district is dominated by the Slieve Gullion Ring Dyke. Down District incorporates much of the AONB featuring the Mournes and Slieve Croob and extends on the northern side to the shores of Strangford Lough. Designations e.g. AONB and ASSI have led the Department of Agriculture (DANI) to develop a policy that emphasises the need to achieve a balance between the promotion of successful agri-food industry and the conservation and enhancement of the environment. Farmers who partici-

pate in the ESA Scheme are rewarded for managing and enhancing the country side, its landscape and wildlife habitats and retaining its rich heritage. There are also a number of designated conservation areas such as the Model Village of Bessbrook in South Armagh, Castlewellan, Killyleagh and Strangford in Down District.

The region has a population of 334,785 divided as follows:

COUNTY	POPULATION 1991
Down District Council	58,008
Newry & Mourne District Council	82,943
Armagh District Council	51,817
County Monaghan	51,293
County Louth	90,724
Total	334,785

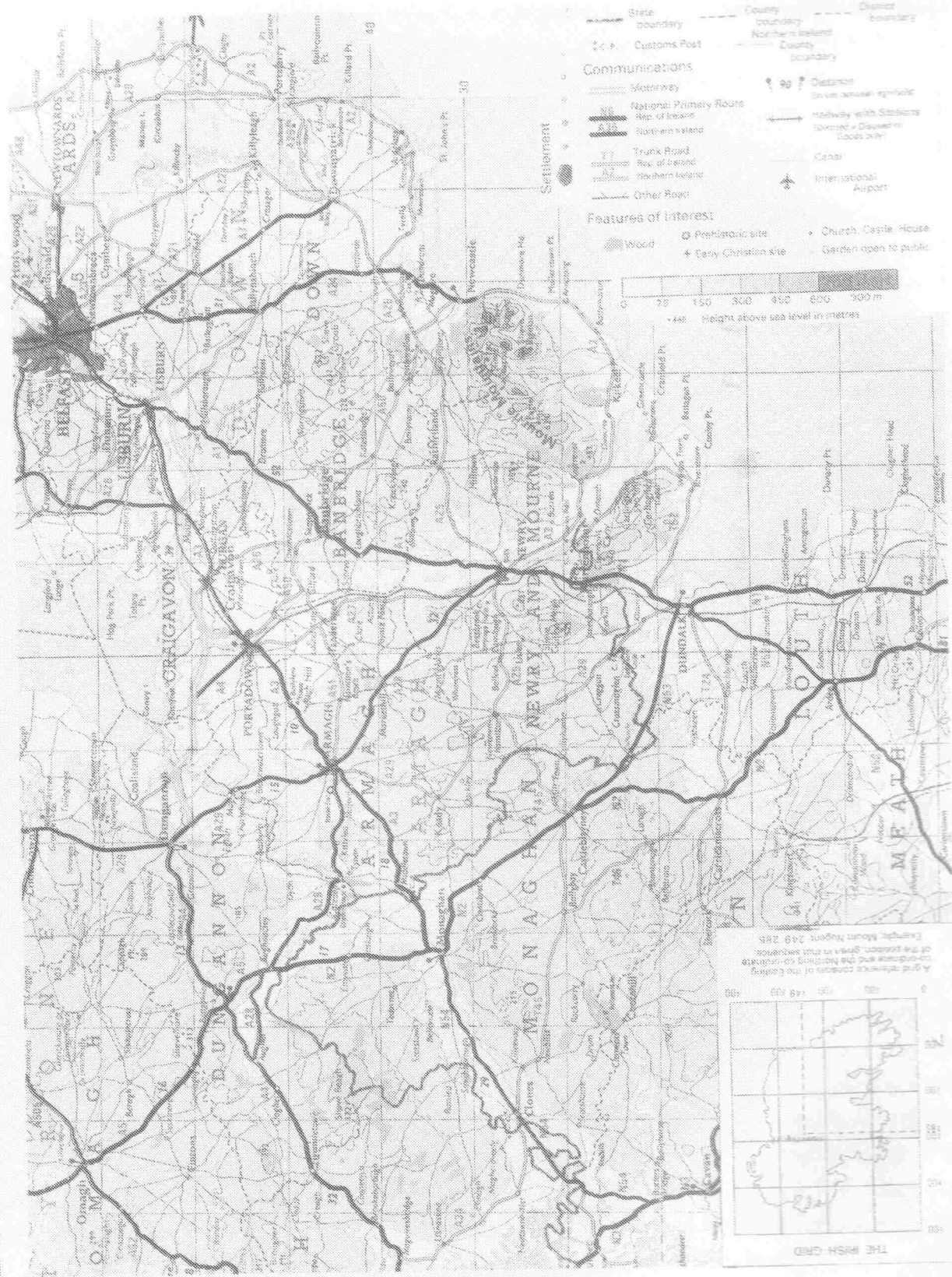
The populations of both counties Louth and Monaghan are growing but the indications are that rural district electoral divisions (DEDs) of County Monaghan are losing people or at best remaining static. In County Louth there are a small number of DEDs with a population decrease most of the county and particularly Drogheda and Dundalk have had an increase in population. The population density (persons per hectare) is lower in County Monaghan indicating the greater rurality of Monaghan. However farm size is greater in County Louth compared to Monaghan, reflecting the better quality soils and more extensive farm practices. In contrast with the larger land holdings County Louth has relatively higher levels of unemployment compared to Monaghan reflecting the entrepreneurial nature of people in County Monaghan. County Louth is a more urbanised county compared to County Monaghan but the rates of elderly dependency (the number of old persons per adult) is higher in County Louth compared to County Monaghan. County Monaghan has higher levels of youth dependency than County Louth.

The Newry & Mourne District Council area has a population of 83,000, 61,000 of whom live outside the town of Newry. There is a projected population rise for the area of 10,000 by 1999. It is the fourth largest district in terms of population following Belfast, Derry and Lisburn. As elsewhere in Northern Ireland the population of Newry & Mourne is increasing at a rate of 0.5% per year providing a relatively young population (28% under 15 years). The increasing population has led to an increasing labour supply and an unemployment rate of 18.3% (April 1994 figures) which is the second highest in the province (average 13.2%). A breakdown of the figures within the district shows that the ward of South Armagh have the highest rates of unemployment with Newtownhamilton, Crossmaglen and Silverbridge being the highest. The South Armagh and South Down area is for the most part rural and designated as "disadvantaged". With approximately an average of 24% male unemployment and an increasing level of female unemployment and underemployment in the area, there is a recognition of the need for self help to retain the growing population. The provision of employment opportunities has been encouraged by a range of statutory and community organisations. The development of a significant number of voluntary particular interest agencies has improved the quality of life for those experiencing greatest disadvantage in the community through play groups, social clubs for the elderly, the less able bodied, etc.

The area covered by Down District Council is, at 65000 hectares, the 7th largest of Northern Irelands 26 District Council areas accounting for 4.6% of the total landmass of Northern Ireland. It is the 10th most populous at 3.7% and at 9.1% growth over the decade 1981-1991 has shown a rate of growth of population over 3 times the Northern Ireland average. Unemployment runs at almost exactly the Northern Ireland average but Down District has several pockets of higher than average deprivation. It shares a decline in agriculture and related activities with the rest of the ragion. Its economy has a growing dependance on tourism and the establishment of growth-oriented SMEs.

The implications are that the counties and districts of the North East Border Region differ in a number of comparisons but are united in having development needs for employment and social services for youth, aged, etc. and in the fact that all are border counties/districts. Social service development and enterprise promotion require further development in order to provide a quality environment to the population. It is with this aim in view that there is advantage in these counties-being designated as a border region rather than individual counties or districts. Development initiatives should seek to develop the potential of the region (interregional and transnational) and to minimise the sense of isolation felt in a border area.

The North East Border Region does not have a very strong tradition of community development but there have been significant local development initiatives in recent years. The level of local group formation, local development training, co-operation with statutory training and development agencies and the number of innovative projects being undertaken by local groups and individuals has increased very significantly. Funding mechanisms through the EU and the International Fund for Ireland (IFI) have acted as an impetus for the spread of economic developments, which in many areas were led by the community sector. In recent times local and regional networks have developed, enabling community groups to implement economic and social development initiatives at inter-regional and cross-border levels.





Broad Physiographic Divisions	Soil Association	
	Nos.	Principal Soil
Mountain and Hill	1	Peaty Podzole (75%) ¹
	2	Peaty Gleys* (70)
	3	Blanket Peat (75)
	4	Lithosols and Outcropping Rock (70)
	5	Blanket Peat (High level)
Hill		Brown Podzolics (80)
		Rendzinas (15) with Outcropping Rock (75)
		Brown Podzolics (80)
		Brown Podzolics (80)
		Grey Brown Podzolics (75)
		Gleys* (90)

Broad Physiographic Divisions	Soil Association	
	Nos.	Principal Soil
Rolling Lowland	12	Acid Brown Earths (70%) (Coarse texture)
	13	Acid Brown Earths (70)
	14	Acid Brown Earths (75)
	15	Brown Podzolics (60)
	16	Acid Brown Earths (80)
	17	Acid Brown Earths (80)
	18	Podzols (70)
	19	Acid Brown Earths (70)
	20	Brown Podzolics (80)
	21	Gleys (75)
	22	Gleys (75)*
	23	Lithosols (80)
	24	Blanket Peat (Low level)

Broad Physiographic Divisions	Soil Association	
	Nos.	Principal Soil
Drumlin (Wet Mineral and Organic Soils)	25	Gleys (50%)*
	28	Gleys (50)*
	27	Gleys (85)*
Drumlin (Drier Mineral and Organic Soils)	29	Grey Brown Podzolics (80)
	28	Acid Brown Earths (75)
Flat to Undulating Lowland (Mainly dry Mineral Soils)		Grey Brown Podzolics (70)
	31	Minimal Grey Brown Podzolics (80)
	32	Degraded Grey Brown Podzolics (50)
		Shallow Brown Earths and Rendzinas (80)
		Minimal Grey Brown Podzolics (70)
		Grey Brown Podzolics (80)
		Grey Brown Podzolics (80)
	37	Grey Brown Podzolics (75)
	38	Grey Brown Podzolics (75)
	39	Gleys** (90)
		Gleys* (80)
Flat to Undulating Lowland (Mainly wet Mineral and Organic Soils)		Gleys* (75)
	42	Gleys* (80)
		Gleys (50)
	44	Basin Peat

Chapter 3

Stage 1: Integrated Development Framework.

Introduction

Agriculture & Natural Resource Development

The area is a contrasting mix of soil types, and physical and geographical aspects as outlined in chapter 2. The varying forms have given rise to differing land usages. As the area is largely rural the people have depended on the land to sustain their families and the land has been the overriding influence on the type of enterprise developed. Industrialisation has facilitated a range of industries to evolve that have added value to the production from the land or serviced the primary production enterprises. It is notable that the area has had relatively little proliferation of natural resource usages other than agriculture. Participation as a member of the European Union has introduced a formative force in the use of natural resources. The productive capacity of the land has been capped and margins from farming relative to the consumer price index have dropped. The viability of the family farm has come under pressure leading to the need for off-farm employment, alternative farm enterprises or migration off-farms leading to rural de-population.

In addition to providing a clean environment for the tourist to enjoy it is imperative that further effort is expended to develop initiatives that will:

1. Retain the maximum number of farming families on viable family farms;
2. Optimise the efficiency of agricultural/horticultural/forestry/natural resource enterprises;
3. Seek to develop farm based enterprises to provide income earning opportunities to those "at risk" of migrating out of farming and out of the area;
4. Promote opportunities for off-farm employment and part time employment that will be accessible to the rural based and farm family population;
5. Promote projects and education with the theme of "The farmer as protector of the rural environment";
6. Optimise the uptake of environmental schemes and Common Agricultural Policy support schemes by the farming community.

This can be achieved with a double edged sword (A double edged trowel is a better simile) approach. One edge is to create "new" employment possibilities by maximising the potential of employment to service natural resource industry and by seeking to add value at every opportunity to the farming sector. This could include on-farm conservation products and the development of innovative food products. The second edge is the retention of the maximum number of viable farm families on family farms.

Due to new European legislation regarding quotas and the number of fishing days allowed, the once strong fishing industry is now in serious decline. Initiatives like the Fishing Villages Programmes and PESCA attempt to deal with the problems caused by this decline but much more needs to be done to restore the industry to its former position.

Enterprise & Economic Development

There are relatively high levels of unemployment in the region but there are three significant factors that must be addressed in long term development. Firstly, long term unemployment has become a trap ensnaring a large percentage of the unemployed. This gives a sense of depression and hopelessness. Secondly, there are areas of concentrated unemployment particularly in centres of population e.g. Drogheda, Dundalk, Newry, Armagh, Castleblayney, Monaghan, Carrickmacross, Clones, Downpatrick and Ballynahinch and in areas of high density housing. There is also deprivation and high unemployment in many remote rural areas. Thirdly there is significant hidden unemployment in the form of underemployment, women in the home, government sponsored training schemes and out migration/emigration masking the real unemployment levels.

In keeping with world trends levels of employment in manufacturing have "collapsed" since the early 1970's with a particular decline in traditional industries such as textiles and heavy engineering.

The region has a number of advantages in relation to employment including:

Location: The region is traversed by the main European route (01, Larne-Rosslare) and the parallel rail line.

Relatively good infra-structure of road rail, ports, telephone and post. However there is a danger that by concentrating infra-structural development on the main Dublin-Belfast corridor outline parts of the region will be comparatively disadvantaged.

Education and Skill levels: The region has a relatively well educated and skilled workforce.

Service infrastructure: The region has good research and development facilities, easy access to assistance to small businesses and support for the tourist industry. The region offers excellent opportunities for potential inward investors.

Tourism, Heritage & Recreational Development

Tourism (Tourism, Heritage, & Recreational Development) has in recent years been of vital importance to the national and local economy. Quality tourism retains the ability to substantially increase employment and foreign exchange earnings. Tourism could provide a major economic boost to the region with the potential to double the number employed in the industry over the next 5 years.

The region has a number of advantages for the development of tourism:

1. Beautiful and varied countryside including spectacular mountains, sea, coast, lakes, rivers and undulating countryside;
2. An immediate catchment area between Belfast and Dublin in excess of two million people;
3. A rich pre-historic legacy stretching from New Grange through to Navan Fort and on out to Downpatrick with large numbers of Dolmens, Megalithic tombs, souterraines and the like;
4. A living history including famous battles, events and personalities in Irish history;

5. Many historical settlements such as Carlingford, Armagh, Downpatrick etc. and many historical and architecturally significant buildings such as Castleward and Castleleslie;
6. A mythological treasure surrounding the Fainna, Cu Chulainn, Queen Meabh, the Tain;
7. A Christian tradition and history in the lives of St. Patrick, St. Dymphna, St. Brigid;
8. A rich literary and cultural tradition of poetry, prose, music, storytelling, Irish language;

There are also disadvantages in the region in relation to tourism, heritage & recreational development:

Seasonality: The tourist season is concentrated in July and August.

Sustainability: The small scale nature of most projects results in an inability to source adequate investment for marketing and product development.

Marketing: At present there is inadequate marketing of the region as an entity.

Training & Education for Integrated Development

The experience of the INTERREG funded Inter-University Partnership Community Development, Training and Education Programme (University of Ulster and St Patrick's College, Maynooth were working in the North East Border Region until June 1994) identified the following obstacles to local development from the experience of working with community groups and individuals:

Confusion, a lack of clear and precise information, isolation from decision makers, a lack of funding, access to provision and a need for imaginative thinking are some of the issues surrounding education and training in the North East Border Region.

The following expands on some of these issues:

1. There is much confusion regarding the education and training systems at all levels on either side of the border amongst those both inside and outside the system. There is currently a confusing mix of agencies and funding arrangements for adults wishing to access all aspects of education and training. Added to this, there are layers of bureaucracy and regulations regarding funding and entitlement. The confusion deters adults taking up education and training opportunities. It is vital that providers, voluntary and statutory market their provision from a "client-centred" and not an "organisation-centred" perspective. Clear, precise and simple information is necessary. This information will then have to be available in a location to enable easy access.
2. The variety of agencies and the number of government departments in both states has led to a centralisation that confuses and disempowers local communities.

Education and training providers in the area needs to offer an outreach programme in order to meet the needs of rural communities. This is important for all members of the community but especially for women. Isolation, poor public transport and the lack of childcare prohibit women in rural area accessing provision. The

exclusion of many women from the "live" register and therefore excluding them from training and education programmes has to be urgently addressed. Women are vital to the regeneration of rural economies, whether through caring jobs, agriculture, tourism, catering and food, craft or other community enterprises, they need encouragement, support and resources. Quality and high standards require training and education. The provision of supports for women's education e.g. crèche facilities are urgently required. The local community, with support, could respond to this need .

3. Independent advice and guidance should be available so that those wishing to avail of training and education can do so. Appropriate counselling will enable the correct provision for particular needs to be decided and learners will not be encouraged onto courses to meet the enrolment targets of the providers. Given the increasing number and competition amongst training and education providers, this is essential if confusion, disillusionment and a waste of resources are to be avoided and adults are to be encouraged to improve their skills, confidence and knowledge.
4. The skills for local development training have been built up among some innovatory organisations but there is no mechanism by which this local expertise can be accessed for the benefit of local development. Consultants and trainers are more regularly parachuted in at high cost to assess community needs and provide training. Sometimes the resultant programmes are testament to the consultants/trainers lack of understanding of the community. This can be addressed.

Local Development Strategies

The North East Border Region is one which experiences many difficulties in terms of social and economic marginalisation which brings about a lack of confidence in the community. Additionally investment in the area has been slow to filter through to the community. For these reasons this framework is addressing the issues of Local Development Support Structures.

The concept of self-help, which is inherent in many parts of the region, has been stimulated by the opportunities which the local authorities and government agencies have presented to the community. This process has assisted the formation and development of many organisations and the development throughout the region of a significant number of regional networks which have operated on a cross-border basis. This process is now at a stage where further growth must endeavour to foster groups in the community, who might otherwise not engage in community development. Such groups will require encouragement and capacity building to become effective.

The support of local development is a slow process and one which, experience has shown, must

operate at a pace which the community governs. A practical mechanism which has been suggested is that a phased approach for community development be implemented alongside realistic time scales so that the needs of the community can be set in the context of longer term planning. Such a process would be prioritised according to the needs identified by the community, then gradually working towards more ambitious plans. The process could be applied in a range of community situations such as rural housing estates, women's groups and other marginalised groups, and successes would motivate others to follow this route..

Section 1: **Agriculture & Natural Resource Development**

- 1.1. This region is renowned for its natural beauty and rurality, but this could easily be lost without sensitive conservation. Therefore we propose that one of the themes for the North East Border Region should be "Farmers as Conservers of the Environment" To achieve this aim, a complete and integrated package of measures that combine viability with conservation, starting with awareness and education and going on to well research and supported conservation projects are required.
- 1.2. DANI and TEAGASC should be resourced as pro-active providers of information and counselling to target farmers in the region. Opinion leading farmers in the region would be targeted to form farmer groups who would go on to develop conservation projects and promote rural community awareness. Ten advisors should be allocated by DANI and TEAGASC jointly for this task. These advisors would work as a team inter-regionally.
- 1.3. The advisory and training service would designate one sub-office in each county as a rural conservation resource centre. The centre would support conservation officers who would work in partnership with conservation organisations in the region.
- 1.4. The advisory and training organisations in association with the voluntary and other statutory organisations would support the establishment of a national conservation centre as an example of cost effective conservation measures using a range of ecological locations in the region.
- 1.5. Farmers in the region would be advised on methods of maximising income from EU and national conservation schemes.
- 1.6. Conservation agencies would liaise with the enterprise and training agencies to ensure adequate provision of training and services (Complementary input suppliers

and conservation contractors) to supply services generated and required.

- 1.7. Rural advisory and training organisations would identify (using a range of pre-determined and grounded criteria) farm families "at risk" of becoming non-viable in farming. These families would be assessed as potentially viable or non viable and the families would be targeted with intensive counselling, advice, training and support. The provision of such services would come from a range of support agencies operating in a co-ordinated manner. Two advisors would, after special training, be designated to work with these "at risk" families.
- 1.8. Specify one or more enterprise centres in the region as Food Development Centres with professional support staff to develop food products from natural resources of the region. The centre(s) would receive support from the local food processing co-operatives/companies in establishing product development and marketing.
- 1.9. Crafts should reflect the natural environment of their origin. Therefore the initiatives in craft development (referred to later) should source and develop crafts from local, natural raw materials.
- 1.10. Opportunities for tour guides, provision of rural accommodation and tourist services, and amenity tourism should focus on the people who are living in the region and particularly those who are in need of supplementary income to keep their family in the region.
- 1.11. Farm women and young people on family farms are disadvantaged in terms of services and isolation. It is essential that they do not become more disadvantaged as margins from family farms are squeezed and viability reduced. Both youth and women on farms should be targeted for social and educational outlets. Existing voluntary organisations are already very active in cross border activity, however the viability of the provision of services to women and youth in rural areas is declining as population declines. This framework should ensure that these services are maintained and there is a stronger integration between the social service and economic training and development aspects of the programmes.
- 1.12. A natural environment facilitates healing. This region because of its experience of conflict and division is well placed to assist those in need of healing. A number of areas in the region, particularly those close to mountains and water(sea, lake or river) such as Kilkeel, Newcastle, Clogherhead, Castleblayney, Shantonagh, etc. should seek to establish community caring facilities and centre for the impaired, the traumatised and the sick. All such healing centres should provide services from holistic healers and opportunities for working with the soil.

Section 2: **Enterprise & Economic Development**

- 2.1. Income supplement through part time work and home based or community based employment will be a significant sector in the future.
- 2.2. Industrial employment will not return to its position of most significant employer in the region in the foreseeable future. Employment initiatives will come from service employment, tourist related employment, alternative industry, diversification schemes, development of small businesses and community employment.
- 2.3. The North East Region needs a marketing initiative. A cross border joint regional marketing company/co-op would.
 - Market products from the region
 - Attract inward investment
 - Market tourist and leisure services
- 2.4. The region would benefit from a development company/co-op that would integrate the needs with the opportunities transmitting them into optimum benefit well distributed over the region. The challenge of the creation of this company/co-op would be an expression of inter-regional co-operation in terms of its management/board structure and its method of working. There is need for an "Ideas Pool" in the region that will pro-actively search out enterprise ideas, distill ideas into feasible projects, and then support development through the prototype to the final product and marketing stage.
- 2.5. A network of serviced industrial sites and incubation units for start up, small and medium sized enterprises is needed throughout the region. Such units should:
 - Be located in both urban and rural areas off the main transport corridor.
 - Centres should be jointly managed by a board made up of the local community and the state agencies responsible for encouraging enterprise, with balance for determination in favour of the community;
 - Community run enterprise Centres should be part of the network with the same supports and management structure.
- 2.6. There is need for at least two specialised food development centres in the region that will provide quality kitchens and facilities to develop new and innovative food products from local raw material. The centres would be connected to the national food centres or IDB and other regional food centres, would be supported by the major food processing co-operatives or companies in the region, and would have on-line and locally available expertise.

- 2.7. Enterprise centres should have a pro-active role in monitoring how business is performing, ensuring that the level of economic activity is retained (hold the jobs that are there) pre-empt structural amendments and in identifying new development and funding opportunities uncovered in the process of ongoing business. Enterprise centres would accommodate a network of information centres linked with a central point such as the Regional Development Centre and the Science and Technology Park, to access databases and information points. These centres provide an opportunity for providing courses and mentor workshops at a distance. The Information Centre should be linked to a European information point. Centres would be staffed by well trained skilled staff who are locally based.
- 2.8. Develop an Industrial Incentive Zone along the border.
- 2.9. Continued development and innovation of commercial ports in the region to cope with increased traffic (Warrenpoint, Greenore, Dundalk, Drogheda).
- 2.10. There is a strong fishing tradition along the coast of the region from Ardglass to Clogherhead. There should be a strategy for the development of fishing along the coast.
- 2.11. The region will continue to receive EU support until the year 2,000. Therefore it is proposed that an INTERREG Secretariat be established in the region to localise provision, control and monitoring of funding allocations and to address one of the great obstacles to effective INTERREG programme, the accessing of up-to-date simple information on EU initiatives.
- 2.12. There are plans for the development of a Science and Technology Park in Newry in association with the Regional Development Centre in Dundalk. This should be supported and should become an excellent resource in the area for research, development and technology. This park should complement the enterprise initiatives for the region, providing high quality services and facilities.
- 2.13. The region can contribute to care for the sick and the traumatised in a unique environment, complimented by holistic medicine. There is opportunity for initiatives in this area as described previously.
- 2.14. The continued development of the major road/rail network is important to industry and employment in the region. There is also a need, however, to improve infrastructure and access to all parts of the region so that development does not become concentrated on the narrow corridor along the Larne-Rosslare route. Innovative cost effective public or private transport initiatives should be encouraged. Intra regional courier systems, intra regional transport systems, transport hire between tow depots, hackney services and bicycle rental should be encouraged and facilitated.
- 2.15. There are serious gaps in the provision of connecting services between rail and road

networks in the region which mitigates against tourists or travellers who wish to combine both. Efforts are required for co-ordination. Some of the transport suggestions above apply here also.

2.16. Sign posting requires urgent attention. Outlying towns and villages are very poorly signposted especially from the main routes. County councils should accommodate community sign posting initiatives within laid down statutory standards. Sign posting initiatives should be innovative and an expression of the area.

2.17. There is opportunity for craft development in the region including:

- Development of retail outlets in Newry, Dundalk, Drogheda, Monaghan, Armagh and in Down district to cater for crafts produced in the region. These craft centres could be integrated with tourist information centres in some locations.
- Joint craft marketing as described in 1 above.
- Development of textile crafts that are unique to the region such as Clones Lace, Carrickmacross Lace, Linen, to name but some.
- Production of naturally dyed wools particularly from sheep in the Cooley and Mourne areas.

2.18. There are many opportunities for tourism related enterprise resulting in jobs:

- There is need for trained tour guides (part time/occasional/full time) such as those employed by the Carlingford Heritage trust. There is need for walking tour guides for Downpatrick, Newry, Dundalk, Drogheda, Monaghan and smaller centres with particular interest e.g. Tydavnet, to provide some guidance to the visit that is often spotted in town with a lost look on their face. There is also need for car tour guides to accompany tourist visiting the region.
- Agri-tourism; open farms, farmhouse accommodation, rural activity breaks, to name some examples.
- Additional self catering accommodation, caravan and camping facilities.
- Low priced hostel type accommodation through out the region.
- All weather activity centres.
- Special interest activities where a person with a special interest would host visitors on a pre-planned programme related to that activity.
- There are employment opportunities in the provision of training to the people who would host, accompany, guide or accommodate tourists to the region.
- Promotion of specialist activity holidays e.g. for the elderly, golfers, fishermen, etc.

2.19. There are several "care" areas where small or community businesses could be developed providing quality service for:

- Summer camps (Similar to traditional Irish course Summer camps but not language based)
- Development of children's parks, children's playgrounds and other appropriate facilities
- Etc.

Section 3:

Tourism, Heritage & Recreational Development

- 3.1. The region needs to develop an image that links the separate attractions to each other in a manner similar to the Ring of Kerry. Such a necklace of attractions within 50 miles of Dublin and Belfast airports would be a major boost to all tourist developments in the region. Of particular benefit would be the suggestion of a car ferry service across Carlingford Lough from Greenore to Greencastle and a bridge across Strangford Lough. Feeder transport services from Dundalk and Newry to Armagh, Monaghan, the Cooley peninsula and the outlying areas of Down District need to be developed, as does access for light aircraft (Bishops Court could meet this latter demand).
- 3.2. It is essential to introduce an number of key "magnet" attractions in the region that will attract international tourists into the area and encourage movement around the region. These would include Pre-historic Newgrange, Armagh(Navan Fort and Ecclestial history), Medieval Carlingford and St. Patrick's Heritage Centre in Downpatrick.
- 3.3. It is imperative to adopt a strategy that recognises the initiatives already undertaken. Therefore it is essential to identify on a regional basis developments that would compliment the existing or proposed neighbouring developments. An example is the re-introduction of jaunting car rides to and from Omeath to compliment the New Tain Holiday Village at Omeath.
- 3.4. The region must develop its attractiveness for "specialist tourism". The possibilities could be sectionalised. The following are examples of some specialisms:
- *Mythological History:* Cuchulainn and the Tain.
 - *Early Christian History:* Saul and Faughart.
 - *Hill walking:* Mournes, Ring of Gullion, Cooley mountains and Slieve Croob
 - *Golf:* Newcastle, Baltray, Greenore, Dundalk and Warrenpoint.
 - *Fishing:* Sea and lakes such as Ardglass, Kilkeel, Clogherhead and the Monaghan lakes.

- 3.5. The region needs to develop an infrastructure particularly in relation to accommodation for foreign bus tour parties. While this is a fast growing segment of the tourist industry, accommodation is not available in the region on a scale that would attract bus tours. The completion of the new hotel in Rostrevor, expansion of hotel facilities in Down and North Louth and investigation of the feasibility of facilities in Monaghan and Armagh are required urgently.
- 3.6. There is a need to develop "Tourism Centres" (Midlands-East Region; Regional Tourism Development Plan 1993-1997) There is one in Drogheda, but there is need for centres in Dundalk, Newry, Armagh, Monaghan and Downpatrick.
- 3.7. There is potential to develop the craft industry in the region. The need for a marketing structure has already been addressed in this framework. There is need to plan for the interaction of craft shops with tourist information points and the development of crafts unique to the region such as lace and linen.
- 3.8. All-weather facilities are essential for extending the tourist season in Ireland. The region has very few examples of all-weather facilities. However it is essential that a strategic approach is taken to all-weather facilities because of cost. Also the possibility of developing innovative theme and interest activities can often overcome the weather factor. Integrated planning of all-weather options should be undertaken by the regional marketing group and the provision of financial assistance should be channelled through the regional development company/co-op.
- 3.9. Eco-tourism provides considerable opportunity for expansion. The physical diversity of the region provides opportunities that could be developed hand in hand with land owners particularly small farmers. There is an interesting pilot project jointly organised between Louth County Council and Newry and Mourne District Council. The Philipstown Trust in North Louth have eco-tourism plans also. The Seeconnell Initiative could well be used as a model for the future development of other centres.
- 3.10. The provision of a network of nature trails for trekkers (auto/horse/rough cycling/running/walking) would be a distinct advantage for the promotion of outdoor recreation. There is need for an initiative that would combine the resources under public control with areas in private, local authority and community ownership. This initiative would be taken on a regional/cross border basis and on occasion would integrate with developments in surrounding counties. This initiative could be effectively co-ordinated by a regional development company/co-op (referred to above) with INTERREG support.
- 3.11. Linking the natural assets of the region there are possibilities of an "Eco Trail" as a tourist, educational and general amenity resource. The Ecology Centre at Julianstown, County Meath, Sonairte would be the first step in trail going on to the

horticultural centre at An Grianan, Termonfeckin, Slieve Gullion Courtyard, South Armagh to the Philipstown Trust in North County Louth and the Seeconnell Centre and then an option of combination of conservation and ecology themes related to:

- The Lake lands of South Monaghan and North Armagh
- The ecology projects of South Armagh
- The mountain conservation theme of the Mourne Mountains

3.12. There is great potential to focus themes (referred to earlier) and develop trails through out the region. A great deal of work has been done in trail development and is detailed in the "Midlands-East Region; Regional Tourism Development Plan 1993-1997" September 1992. Examples of trails are:

- St Patrick's Way
- The Tain Trail
- The Boyne Tour
- The Ancient monastic trail of the North East.
- The Ulster Way

3.13. The trails could be auto drive, cycling or walking trails. Trails should interlink and provide opportunity for variety and new interest. The trails need to be serviced by accommodation points of various accommodation levels, restaurants of varying price ranges, ancillary activities, e.g. equestrian treks, and cultural activities e.g. teach ceol, storytelling house.

3.14. Themes provide the tourist with opportunities for mixing information with adventure, acquiring a new skill, seeing a new area and meeting new people. Themes provide opportunity for bringing the visitor to live on a farm and work with the farm family, to complete bird counts on a lake, to investigate genealogy, or to follow an interest area such as religion in a new and experiential way. This region because of its early stage of development has the opportunity to plug into innovative theme tourism that is not available in other tourist developed destinations.

3.15. The region has a relatively unexploited potential for hosting conferencing in a situation that allows the conference delegate an unique experience within easy reach of Belfast and Dublin. There are also a range of opportunities for educational tours and hosting educational opportunities for foreign students.

3.16. The region needs to initiate, co-ordinate and further develop the presentation of Summer festivals, Summer and Winter schools, and cultural events that will provide the visitor with the opportunity of attending a local festival and experience part of the Irish culture. It is essential that the festivals/schools etc. be maintained at a very high standard. Some mechanism to encourage high standards needs to be put in place by regional authority.

- 3.17. Lakes and canals are important attractions for visitors. Access to lakes, services to lake users and guidance for optimum use of lakes needs to be provided for the visitor to encourage return visits.
- 3.18. The region needs a recognisable identity. This can be easily achieved through co-operation and co-ordination. Mythological figures provide a ready made opportunity for branding the area. It is essential for the regional marketing agency to bring the goodwill of the many communities on board and launch a brand that all people living in the area will feel a sense of belonging. It is important that the residents of the region and the Irish visitor does not feel that this is a brand and level of service for the foreign tourist only. There is a unique opportunity to capture the greatest resource of the region, the friendly nature of the people, into an opportunity for development in Tourism, Heritage, and Recreational Amenities.

Section 4:

Training & Education for Integrated Development

- 4.1. Integrated training and education should be promoted by exchange programmes between institutions and organisations, twinning exchanges between staff and students in schools and colleges at all levels. With educational exchanges being actively pursued throughout the EU, it seems obvious that a similar exercise entailing minimal cost, should be considered between neighbouring institutions. The benefits would show themselves in a greater understanding of the systems, curricula, qualifications and education for mutual understanding. Teachers would benefit from the sharing of good practice and it would be an interesting and rewarding part of staff development programmes. This has been piloted in the INTERREG S.E.L.B/V.E.C project and is to be welcomed and developed in other areas of the formal education system. An INTERREG secretariat, in partnership with a board made up of commercial companies, education and training institutions and local development organisations, would be pro-active in promoting twinning.
- 4.2. Schools and colleges need to be aware of, use and support the variety of educational resources that are developing within the area. History, science, environmental and ecology as well as leisure and sport education can be learnt through the interesting and imaginative facilities in the North East Border Region.
- 4.3. Information on the provision of training and education for adults should be provided at accessible but centralised venues such as community network centres, "one stop shops" and Adult Education offices. Information on adult education services should be available through touch operated I.T. (Information Technology) systems. It is recommended that in order to co-ordinate such provision and to put the required software in place that a regional adult education group is established with membership of adult education providers in each county, Aontas⁴ and EGSA⁵, the University of

Ulster and St. Patrick's College Maynooth, and voluntary organisations concerned with adult education is recommended.

- 4.4. An INTERREG office or EU centre based on the border would provide direct access to information regarding education and training programmes funded by Europe. The office would have IT links with community and agency based centres where people and groups could access information readily.
- 4.5. Support in the form of education and training for community groups engaged in economic and social development is essential. This has been borne out by the recent INTERREG funded research projects undertaken by St. Patrick's College Maynooth and the University of Ulster in the North East Border Region. Courses and programmes should be designed to meet the specific needs of communities and they must have ownership of the provision. The provision of education and training in a client centred way is viable if there is partnership with consortia or networks of groups to provide education and training to meet specific client needs and community centred programmes delivered locally. Education and training field workers should be appointed to work with community networks to: *Access the needs, provide the information, counsel and advice, and organise delivery.* Four field workers should be funded to work in the region with emphasis on working with cross border education and training programmes. The universities, who have a track record of working with community groups in the area, could optimise field workers' effectiveness through information sharing and could provide support and supervision services to the field workers.
- 4.6. Women should receive particular attention in the provision of education and training programmes in the region. The two universities active in the region should be commissioned to initiate innovative women's education programmes in conjunction with the cross border women's network. The regional adult education group should give priority to addressing the issues of provision for women's education needs.
- 4.7. With the interest and growth in tourist related enterprises and the single European market, interesting, innovative and accessible language learning programmes need to be developed for adults in the area. Language college proposals should be supported but there should be a requirement, supported by funding, for the provision of language training for the local population of the area.
- 4.8. The North East Border Region is an ideal location for the establishment of an institute/centre for the study of conflict and conflict resolution. This could offer a multi-faceted programme. It could provide facilities for:
 - Cross community groups, both North/South and Protestant/Catholic to engage in learning for mutual understanding.
 - People from other areas of conflict such as the former Eastern Block and the Middle East, an opportunity to explore conflict resolution in a setting that has "lived in" association with violence and conflict.

- A centre for training personnel both native and foreign who could then use their skills in other communities/areas in conflict.
 - University and other students and academics from Ireland and abroad could use resources and facilities to study and research related issues.
 - A mediation centre for groups and individuals experiencing conflict and/or violence.
- 4.9. A recent research and the number of reports highlight the need for development training for community groups active in community development. The areas of training requiring particular attention are: Pre- development training, Group work and participation, ideas generation, Business planning, Project management and Sustainable development. As can be seen from the appendix of this document community groups have many projects to enhance local development. There is always a capacity to improve the availability of competent community based training services with a local orientation and knowledge has not been available up to now. Consideration should be given to the establishment of a broadly based group that would address the following tasks:

- Respond to demands for training, support and information from community groups/individuals
- Be proactive in stimulating and motivating community development initiatives and be proactive in the provision of innovative training programmes to enhance the capacity of the communities to encourage local development.
- Co-ordinate the provision of training by trainers from outside the region
- Co-operate with statutory training initiatives
- It is recommended that this initiative be supported and funded as an enterprising tool to build the capacity of the area and provide a cost-effective sustainable source of training to individuals and community groups.

Section 5: **Local Development Strategies**

At present throughout the Region there are a significant number of agencies supporting community development and it would seem appropriate to establish a number of options which would complement one another's efforts:

- 5.1. The recently formed Women's Crossborder Network which has been established in the region has outlined as part of their remit the capacity building of women.
- 5.2. Where needed, training and community support networks, should be in a position to respond to the early developmental needs of upcoming groups. The local knowledge and support of such networks would enable communities who have not taken part in the process so far to start up with

more confidence, particularly groups whose initial interests are at a very early stage of development. In order for projects to be seen in a positive light it might be appropriate for the organisations to look to the future and develop a phased plan of improvement for the area in which they live.

- 5.3. In association with the support of community development there is a growing, recognised need for bringing formal education to the rural region and in particular the hosting of courses therein. An example of this type of provision could be the introduction of courses such as the Diploma in Continuing Education and Community Development.
- 5.4. The development of Information Technology in recent years has meant that rurally isolated areas need no longer feel disadvantaged because of lack of physical contact. Information Technology linkages for education and development could be employed by locally managed training units in association with Universities, to make the best possible use for those interested in the local community.
- 5.5. In addition, the whole experience of the region in self-help through community development and at another level, conflict resolution, has meant that the border community must recognise a number of unique qualities which have been developed so far on a relatively informal basis. It can be argued that in the pleasant and relatively calm rural surroundings of the NE Border region where significant reconciliatory work on an interdenominational basis has already taken place, should be the venue for future work in harmonising communities in conflicts whether they be from other parts of Europe or indeed from within Ireland. The aims of the Phillipstown Trust in County Louth, The Creggan Church of Ireland and the respective Community Relations Branches of the local Councils may be in a position to enter meaningful partnerships to bring such a theme forward.
- 5.6. Throughout the towns of the area in question there is some but still inadequate provision for the long term unemployed through Resource Centres. This does not apply to the rural setting where the problems may not appear to be as significant as they do in the urban area but in reality the problems are growing. There is scope for the provision of Resource Centres for the long-term unemployed and those in the community who are physically isolated (e.g. carers, women at home with young children) in the rural areas, whether such provision be on a part-time or full-time basis. Again such provision could be made available through existing organisations who service the urban areas in association or partnership with the rural agencies, through use of shared resources and facilities.
- 5.7. Perhaps one of the most significant factors in the development of any plans

for the Region is the provision of support and resources to help build an energetic, confident and enterprising community. A greater emphasis must be placed on encouraging local people to participate in decision-making processes. Resources must be directed to personal and self development, the provision of information and advice, as well as community leadership and training courses. It is further recognised that any funding proposals designed to encourage an effective contribution by the local community must include flexible child care and carers' support arrangements.

5.8. Whilst a number of different themes have been recognised, the importance of all strands being dealt with in a complementary way must be further explored to strengthen community development and to develop models which can be transferred relatively easily to other areas throughout Ireland and indeed Europe. To set this type of development in a "historical " context one only has to look at the number of "fact-finding" and information provision trips which the various organisations have hosted. Groups from all parts of Europe have made many visits to learn, among other things, of the various support networks which are in place at present in this region. It is important to recognise the benefits of what is essentially a two-way process whereby the NE Border Region can benefit from:

- Earning its way through consultation and teaching from experience
- Introduction of visitors to the area - visitors who will spend money and who will return on other occasions bringing others along
- In addition if this process is carried out in a professional way, it can be used to establish an area which is renowned in terms of providing meaningful and useful support to community development

Chapter 4: **The Way Forward for the North East Border Region.**

The foregoing has outlined a series of proposals for the development of the North East Border Region under four headings, forming a framework for the integrated development of the region. The proposals are a result of an overview of the region physically, economically and socially from a range of people who have worked at the coal face of development in the region, and a review of projects submitted as a result of an open invitation to individuals, community based groups and statutory agencies in the region. A number of clear directions for a way forward emerge:

- The region is diverse, rural and relatively under-developed.
- While the region is divided into a number of administratively separate units and stretches across national boundaries, there are a range of naturally occurring factors that indicate that it should be treated as one region.
- There is distinct social and economic advantage from the concept of this area as one region. It is because of the disadvantage imposed on the area by the nature of its division, that there is advantage in co-operation to achieve greater economic benefit. Should this happen there will be both social and economic benefits.
- The region should continue to receive special funding status to support economic and social development.
- The region now has the advantage of a number of network structures at community and statutory level and the experiences of a range of cross border projects. There is experience of working with the differing administrative structures North & South of the border. The region also has a number of cross border community networks and a range of plans for cross border and inter county development.
- The region should receive support for the setting up of a cross border, regional development co-op/company that would be a partnership between community leadership and statutory agencies and would co-ordinate social and economic regional development.
- There should be a similar regional structure for co-ordinated marketing of products of the region.
- The region should receive recognition by the setting up of a EU secretariat in the region, at a border position so that information dissemination and administration would be localised.
- The region should receive the capacity building support to enable people in the region to achieve their potential and become contributors to the development of the region rather than receivers of development assistance. The capacity building should start from within the region, building on the structures that are there.

- The region should receive the economic and social infra-structural support to put in place the required resources to enable the development of the region. The provision of infra-structure should proceed in tandem with capacity building and in partnership with statutory agencies and community networks. The infra-structural development should be sensitive to the structures already existing.
- Further efforts should be taken by regional leaders to bring the framework to Stage 2 and eventually to a strategic plan.

Project Submission Format

FORMAT FOR SUBMISSION OF OUTLINE GROUP & INDIVIDUAL PLANS FOR NORTH EAST BORDER REGION FRAMEWORK

Note: To be laid out as format with address, dates etc.

1. Project title;
2. Name & Address of project promoter(Group or Individual);
3. Project aims;
4. Briefly describe the project;
5. Is the project associated with any other project;
6. How many people will benefit from the project? Who are they?
7. Summary of costs or total costing;
8. Status of the project (Tick the appropriate one under A, B, C, D below)
 - A.
 - Idea only
 - Outline only
 - Detailed plan but no business plan
 - Business plan prepared
 - Project submitted for funding/support
 - Project started
 - Project ongoing
 - B.
 - Extension of existing project Yes
 - No
 - C.
 - Community Project
 - Individual Project
 - Group Project
 - Public sector project
 - Joint Project
 - D.
 - Cross Border Project Yes
 - No

List & Summary of Projects Received

1. **Callan Maretta, Philipstown, Hackballscross, Co. Louth**
 - 1.1. * Private tourist accommodation project.
2. **Callan Peadar, Philipstown, Hackballscross, Co. Louth**
 - 2.1. * Private shoe manufacturing project
3. **Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust**
 - 3.1. * Restoration of Taaff Castle
 - 3.2. * Development of Carlingford Harbour as amenity area
4. **Castleblayney Community Enterprise Ltd. C.C.E**
 - 4.1. * Discovery Centre.
 - 4.2. * Self Catering Accommodation Project
5. **Down District Council**
 - 5.1. * Craft Development and Marketing
 - 5.2. * Establishment of a Craft Centre
 - 5.3. * Craft Skills Audit and Training Programme
6. **Clougherhead Community Council, Co. Louth**
 - 6.1. * Re-furbishment of tennis court
7. **Collon Development Association, Co. Louth**
 - 7.1. * Trout Fishing Project
8. **Confederation of Community Groups, Newry**
 - 8.1 * Multipurpose Community Resource Centre at Cornmarket
9. **Conlon Mary, Channonrock, Co. Louth**
 - 9.1. * Private pitch and putt project
10. **Co-op Tech Society Ltd. Dunleer, Co. Louth**
 - 10.1. * Computer software and training co-op.
11. **Donnaghmoynne Community Development Council, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan**
 - 11.1. * Range of tourism development projects.
12. **Dromin Community & Rural Development Committee, Dunleer Co. Louth**
 - 12.1. * Heritage Walkway.
 - 12.2. * Re-furbishment of parish hall
13. **Dromiskin Tenants Association, Co. Louth**
 - 13.1. * House wall improvements on housing estate.
14. **Dundalk Employment Partnership**
 - 14.1. * Develop Enterprise Centre in town
 - 14.2. * Cross Border Business Forum [in conjunction with Newry & Mourne Co-op Ltd and Dundalk Development Centre.]
15. **Dundalk Racecourse Company Women's Group**
 - 15.1. * Develop Racecourse

16. **Dundalk Regional Technical College**
 - 16.1. * Enterprise Development Park.
 - 16.2. * Support for Small/Medium sized Enterprises.
17. **East Border Region Committee (Louth Co.Co., Monaghan Co. Co., Newry & Mourne D.C. and Down D.C.)**
 - 17.1. * Craft Development and Marketing Project
 - 17.2. * Marketing the East Border area
 - 17.3. * Carlingford Lough Car Ferry
 - 17.4. * Industrial Incentive Zone
18. **Education and Training, S.E.L.B. Drogheda, Louth & Monaghan V.E.Cs**
 - 18.1. * European Awareness,
 - 18.2. * Staff Development
 - 18.3. * Tourism Training
 - 18.4. * Leisure Industry Training
 - 18.5. * Community Art
 - 18.6. * Vocational Training for the Travelling Community
 - 18.7. * Craft Training.
19. **Farney Community Development Group, Co. Monaghan**
 - 19.1. * Carrickmacross Workhouse Project.
 - 19.2. * Tain Bo Cuailgne Trail
20. **Farney Employment Action Group, Co. Monaghan**
 - 20.1. * Pottery/Arts and Crafts Project
 - 20.2. * Tourist Information Office
 - 20.3. * Creche
 - 20.4. * Gun Club
21. **Inniskeen Enterprise Development Group Ltd. Co. Monaghan**
 - 21.1. * Drumerril Rock Art Project
 - 21.2. * O'Rourke's Mill Development Project
22. **Irish Country Women's Association, Termonfeikin, Co. Louth**
 - 22.1. * Tourist Amenity Project
23. **Knockbridge Development Association, Co. Louth**
 - 23.1. * Enterprise Centre
24. **Knockbridge Tidy Towns Committee, Co. Louth**
 - 24.1. * Stephenstown Pond Project
25. **Louth County Council**
 - 25.1. Clougherhead Harbour Development Project and other projects as outlined in submission to E.U Structural Funds
26. **McGreehan Matthew, Cooley, Co.Louth**
 - 26.1. * Private project, farm tourism
27. **Mulholland Eleanor, Ballintra, Inniskeen, Co. Louth**
 - 27.1. * Private project-children's activity centre
28. **North East Border Women's Network**
 - 28.1. * Womens Support, Advice and Information Centre.

29. **North West Louth/South East. Monaghan Development**
 29.1. * Tourism Promotion Project
30. **Philips Pat, Cornamuckla, Omeath, Co. Louth**
 30.1. * Private project for a pony trekking and jaunting car centre.
31. **Philipstown Trust Ltd., Co. Louth**
 31.1. * Organic flour milling/Baking project
 31.2. * Cross-Border Eco Tourism
32. **Regeneration of the Mourne Area Ltd. [R.O.M.A.L]**
 32.1. * Hilltown - Marketing plan for area.
 32.2. * Ballyholland - Folk Cottage/Coffee Shop and sustaining current festivals.
 32.3. * Kilkeel Development and River Valley Associations; Self-catering cottages and hostel development projects
 32.4. * Rostrevor - Harbour Development Project
 32.5. * Attical - Building a Community Centre
 32.6. * Longstone - Holiday Cottages Project
 32.7. * Rathfriland - Regeneration of town square.
 32.8. * Burren - Development and marketing of Heritage Centre.
 32.9. * The establishment of a Resource and Development Centre and
 32.10. * Community Development & Support staff for R.O.M.A.L. groups.
33. **Regeneration of South Armagh [R.o.S.A]**
 33.1. * Overall tourism and marketing plan for the area which will underpin and support the efforts of existing and new projects.
 33.2. * Crossborder tourism plan which has been devised by south Monaghan Network and RoSA.
 33.3. * Crossborder Training Plan devised by Castleblayney community Enterprise and RoSA.
 33.4. * Cullyhanna Women's Group - plans for an economic development project which will complement the efforts of the Cullyhanna Community Enterprise Group.
 33.5. * Bessbrook Development Company - plans to develop a range of visitor activities for the development of the village - based on a phased plan.
 33.6. * Slieve Gullion Courtyard Development Group - marketing strategy for the project which will encompass the whole Ring of Gullion.
 33.7. * Ring of Gullion Rural Tourism - Equestrian project which is community based.
 33.8. * Mullaghbawn Folk Museum - development of Craft Centre and telecottage.
 33.9. * Ti Chulainn - Cultural project which will expand and develop existing cultural projects/programmes which are already well-established in the area.
 33.10. * Jonesboro and Dromintee Enterprises - provision of economic space and trade exhibition centre.
 33.11. * Creggan - development of Church of Ireland grounds for tourism provision.
 33.12. * Belleeks - community economic development project.
 33.13. * Newtownhamilton - community economic development project.
 33.14. * Introduction of Tidy Towns competition paying particular attention to the smaller rural housing estates
 33.15. * Crossmaglen & District Development Co.- Renovation of property to provide workspace for self-employment

34. **Termonfeckin Development Group**
 34.1. * Renovation of community hall
 34.2. * Enterprise Centre
 34.3. * Children's Summer Camp
 34.4. * Tourism and Enterprise Project
35. **Truagh Development Association, Emyvale, Co. Monaghan**
 35.1. Approx. 26 projects related to tourism and economic development
36. **Togher and Annagassan Development Committee., Co. Louth**
 36.1. * River Walk Project
 36.2. * Viking Village
 36.3. * Harbour Development Project
 36.4. * Pedestrian walk/Strand Road Project
37. **Scoraiocht Lannleire, Dunleer, Co. Louth**
 37.1. * Cultural/Tourist Centre
38. **Monasterboice Development Association**
 38.1. * Improve amenities at archeological site
 38.2. * Nature Trail and Game sanctuary
 38.3. * Herb garden, visual aid centre and craft shop
 38.4. * Hostel type accomodation
39. **Clones Development Society**
 39.1. * Enterprise centre
 39.2. * Renovate and re-open the canal
 39.3. * Canal Stores Heritage Centre(Tourist Information Centre,
 audio-visual room)
 39.4. * Angling centre, angling school, craft centre and workshops
 39.5. * Town trail
 39.6. * Lace co-operative
 39.7. * Town renovation and development

Contact list

Attendance:

John Woods, *Carlingford Heritage Group*
 Margaret Harold, *Carlingford Heritage Group*
 Tommy Maguire, *Castleblyney Community Enterprise Centre Ltd. and Network of Community Groups in South Monaghan*
 Ann McGeeney, *Regeneration of South Armagh (RoSA)*,
 Mary Anne McGlynn, *Resource Centre for the Unemployed, Drogheda*
 Carol Lambe, *Inniskeen Development Association*
 Kevin Gartlan, *Farney Employment Group*
 Brian Keyes, *Farney Development Association*
 Margaret Andrews, *Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency*
 Liam Higgins, *Down District Council*
 John Butler, *Dundalk Employment Partnership*
 Gerry O'Toole, *Assistant County Development Officer, Monaghan*
 Gerry Duffy, *County Development Officer, Louth*
 Mary Murphy, *County Enterprise Board, Louth, and Resource Centre for the Unemployed, Dundalk*
 Joan Martin, *East Border Region Committee*
 Michael Curran, *International Fund for Ireland*
 Joe McNulty, *International Fund for Ireland*
 Marietta Farrell, *University of Ulster, Jordanstown (INTERREG)*
 Michael Kenny, *Centre for Adult and Community Education, St. Patrick's College, Maynooth (INTERREG)*

Apologies:

Newry and Mourne District Council
 Confederation of Community Groups, Newry
 Network of Community Groups (N. Louth)
 Network of Community Groups in South Down (ROMAL)
 Regional Development Centre, Dundalk

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¹ The document is based on the experience of people in the ad-hoc drafting group and the proposals received from individuals, community groups, networks and statutory agencies. Refer to Chapter 1 and Appendix 1.

² Refer to Chapter 1 for rationale and formation of the ad-hoc drafting group.

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County Enterprise Board, Louth
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