

A Role for Gateways in Progressing Cross Border Collaboration

The Letterkenny Derry/ Londonderry Gateway

Michael McLoone, County Manager, Donegal County Council

John Meehan, Deputy Town Clerk, Derry City Council

ICLRD CONFERENCE

23rd January 2009

Outline Structure

- NW Region: An analysis of the current situation
- Spatial Planning and Development Strategies
- Gateway Initiative: Key Recommendations
- North South Collaboration: Delivery mechanisms and enablers

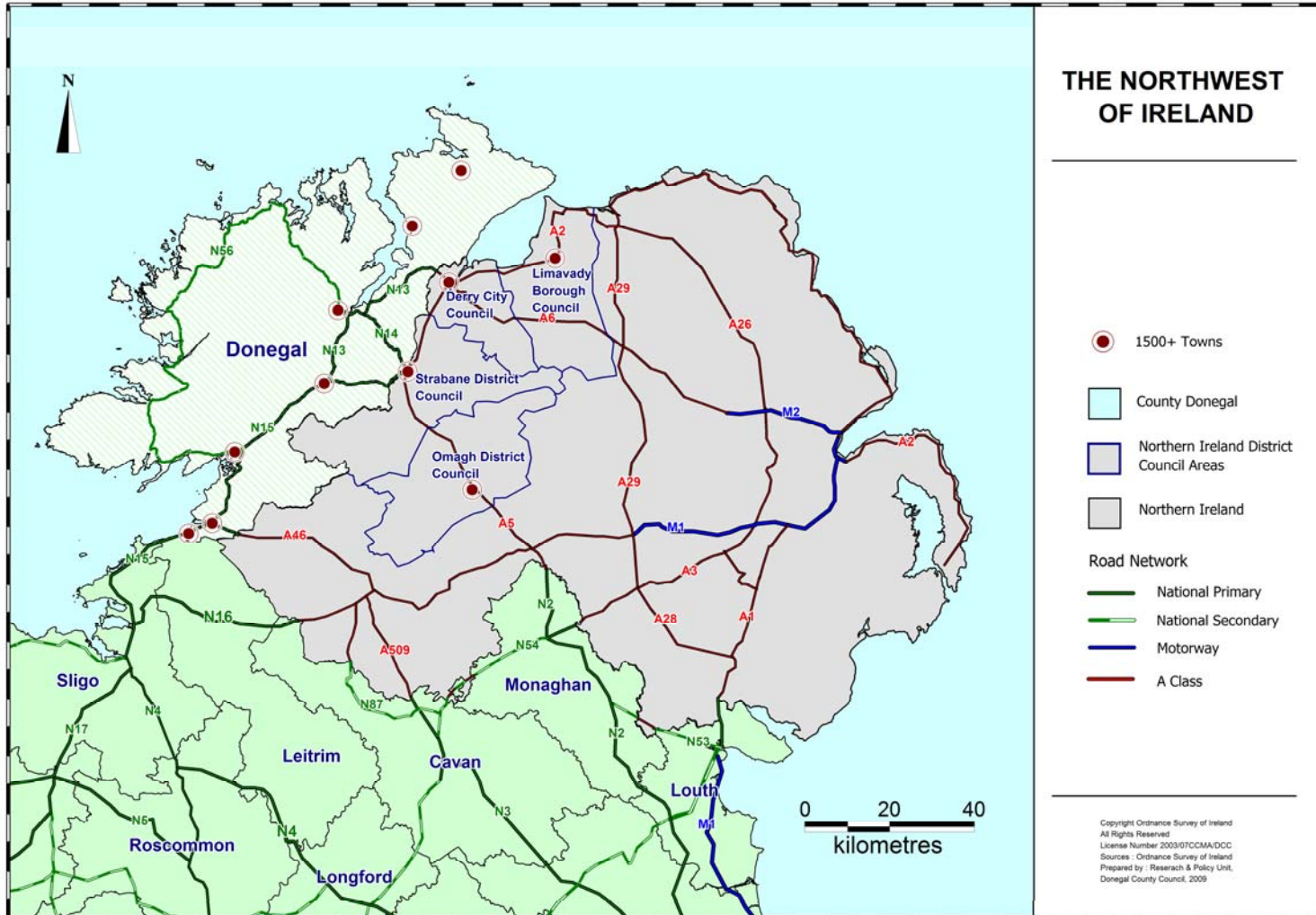
NW Region: An Analysis of the Current Situation

NW Region: An Analysis of the Current Situation

An Introduction to the North West:

- Total population of NW Region 328,919 persons in 2006 (catchment population of Derry/Letterkenny Gateway)
- Population in County Donegal is 147,264 persons in 2006 (Letterkenny is the largest urban centre in County Donegal)
- Derry Londonderry 4th Largest City on Island of Ireland and Second largest urban centre in NI (108,002 people)
- NW Regional hub – economic, transport, cultural, tourism
- Growing cross border catchment - >300,000 people
- Abundant natural resources
- Long history of cross border co-operation and sectoral collaboration

NW Region- Centres of population



Population

	<i>Pop 1991</i>	<i>Pop 2006</i>	<i>Pop Chg 1991 -2006</i>
<i>Derry</i>	97,597	108,002	10.7%
<i>Donegal</i>	128,177	147,264	14.9%
<i>Limavady</i>	29,606	34,504	16.5%
<i>Strabane</i>	36,164	39,149	8.3%
<i>North West</i>	291,544	328,919	12.8%
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	1,607,295	1,720,464	7.0%
<i>Rep of Ireland</i>	3,525,717	4,239,848	20.3%

Population Density

	<i>Square Km</i>	<i>Pop 2006</i>	<i>Population per Sq Km</i>
<i>Derry</i>	380.5	108,002	283.8
<i>Donegal</i>	4860.9	147,264	30.3
<i>Limavady</i>	586.4	34,504	58.8
<i>Strabane</i>	861.7	39,149	45.4
<i>North West</i>	6689.5	328,919	49.2
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	13576.5	1,720,464	126.7
<i>Rep of Ireland</i>	70273.08	4,239,848	60.3

Age Structure

	<i>Under 25 years</i>	<i>25-59 years</i>	<i>60+ years</i>
<i>Derry</i>	41%	46%	14%
<i>Donegal</i>	39%	45%	17%
<i>Limavady</i>	39%	48%	14%
<i>Strabane</i>	38%	46%	16%
<i>North West</i>	39%	45%	15%
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	36%	46%	18%
<i>Rep of Ireland</i>	37%	47%	15%

Source: NISRA 2002; CSO 2002

Economic Activity

<i>Top Employment Sectors</i>	
<i>Derry</i>	Education, Health & Social Service; Manufacturing; Wholesale , Retail & Repairs
<i>Donegal</i>	Construction; Wholesale & Retail Trade; Health & Social Work
<i>Limavady</i>	Education, Health & Social Service; Manufacturing; Wholesale , Retail & Repairs
<i>Strabane</i>	Education, Health & Social Service; Manufacturing; Wholesale , Retail & Repairs

A Contracting National Economy

		2008	2009
Output	GDP (Gross Domestic Product)	-2.4%	-3.9%
Prices	CPI (Consumer Price Index)	4.2%	-2.0%
Labour market	Unemployment (ILO (000s))	136	207
	Employment Levels (ILO (000s))	2,107	1,991
	Unemployment (% of Labour Force)	6.1%	9.4%
Public Finance	General Government Balance (€ m)	-12,885	-18,246
Interest Rates	ECB Interest Rate	2.50	2.00

Labour Market in County Donegal

Labour Market Indicator	Source	County Donegal	State
Numbers in the Labour force	(Census, 2006)	65,092	-
Labour Force Participation Rate	(Census, 2006)	57.2%	62.5%
Numbers at work	(Census, 2006)	56,670	-
Unemployment Rate (%)	(Census, 2006)	12.9%	8.5%
Number on Live Register Dec 2008	(CSO, 2008)	15,264	291,363
Chg in Live Register Dec 07 – Dec 08	(CSO 2008)	+6157 (+68%)	+120,987 (+71%)

Labour Market in Derry City Council Area

Labour Market Indicator	Source	Derry City Council Area 2007	Northern Ireland 2007
Working Age Economic Activity 2007	DETI	47,000 (65.8%)	794,000 (73.4%)
Total Working Age Employment 2007	DETI	44,000 (61.7%)	761,000 (70.3%)
Economically Inactive	DETI	24,000 (34.2%)	288,000 (26.6%)
Claimant Count (December 2008)	DETI	3,575 annual change 35.3%	35,816 annual change 57.9%

North West – Education & Research Excellence

Derry: University of Ulster: Magee Campus

- **4,000 students**
- **World class research in Intelligent Systems, ICT and Engineering**

Coleraine: University of Ulster

- **5000 students inc Business & Management, computing faculties**
- **Internationally renowned for biomedical sciences**

Derry/ Strabane/ Limavady: North West Regional College (NWRC)

- **A pool of 28,000 students in full or part time study**
- **Centre of Excellence in Software Engineering**

Donegal: Letterkenny Institute of Technology (LYIT)

- **2000 students,**
- **Specialisms include Computing and Business**
- **College of Tourism Killybegs**

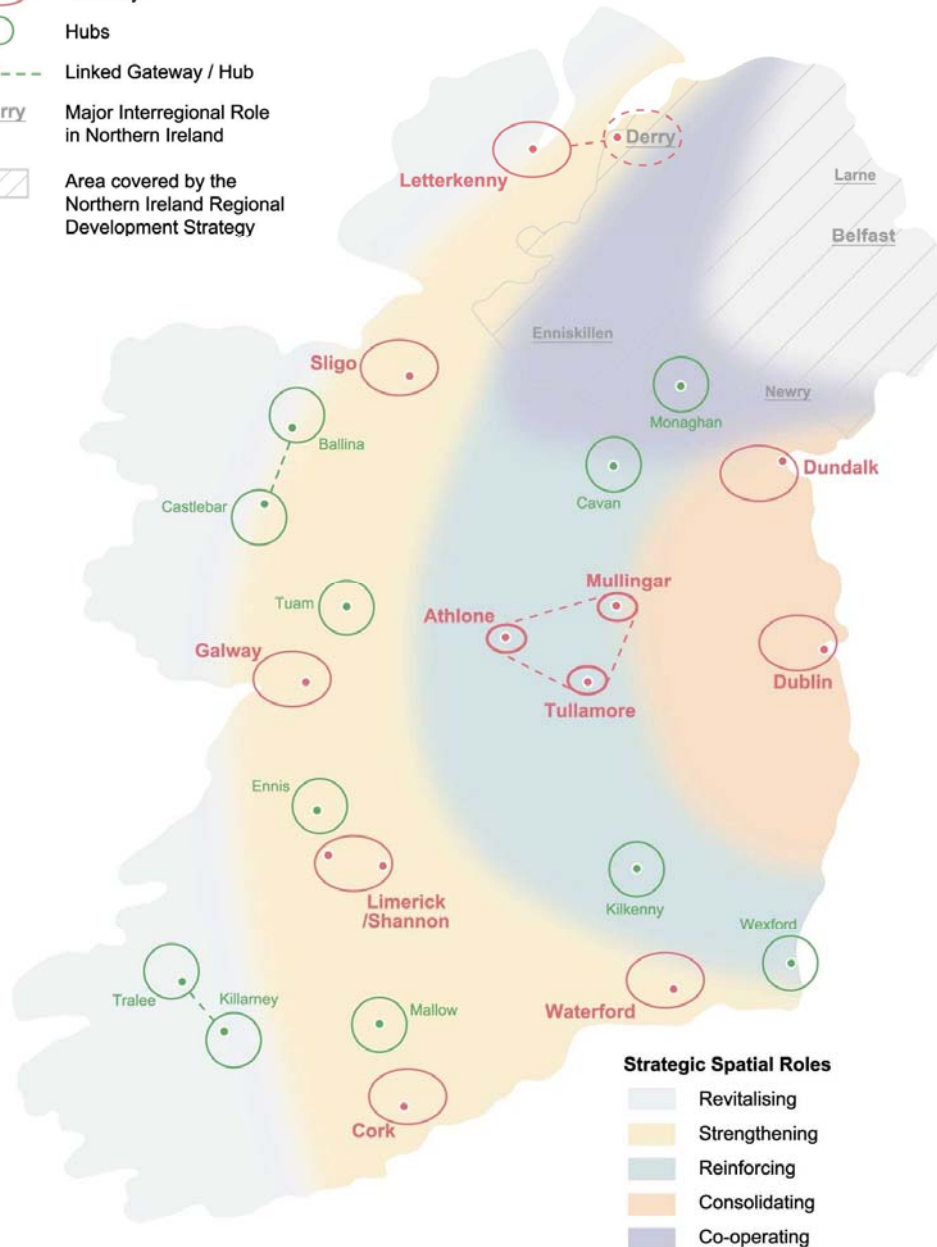
NUI Galway

- **Outreach campus at Gweedore, County Donegal**





-  Gateways
-  Hubs
-  Linked Gateway / Hub
-  **Derry** Major Interregional Role in Northern Ireland
-  Area covered by the Northern Ireland Regional Development Strategy



Regional Planning Guidelines for the Border Region – Regional Strategy

The Regional Planning Guidelines build on the provision of the NSS described above. Importantly they also detail a multi-level sub regional settlement strategy involving:

- Development of a linked Letterkenny/Derry Gateway
- Urban strengthening of identified medium and small sized towns
- Urban support for towns and villages in proximity to Gateways
- Support for smaller towns and villages
- Urban support for towns and villages within the Gaeltacht
- Identification of towns with special functions, e.g. Lifford

County Donegal Development Plan 2006-2012

Donegal County Council is the Planning Authority. It resolved to make the County Development Plan (CDP) 2006 - 2012 on 11th July 2006 subject to a number of modifications. The new policy became effective on 8th August 2006 in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000.

The CDP is the main vehicle for implementing the NSS and the Regional Planning Guidelines in County Donegal

The CDP reserves routes for key infrastructure, e.g. 110kv electricity line, gas routes, etc

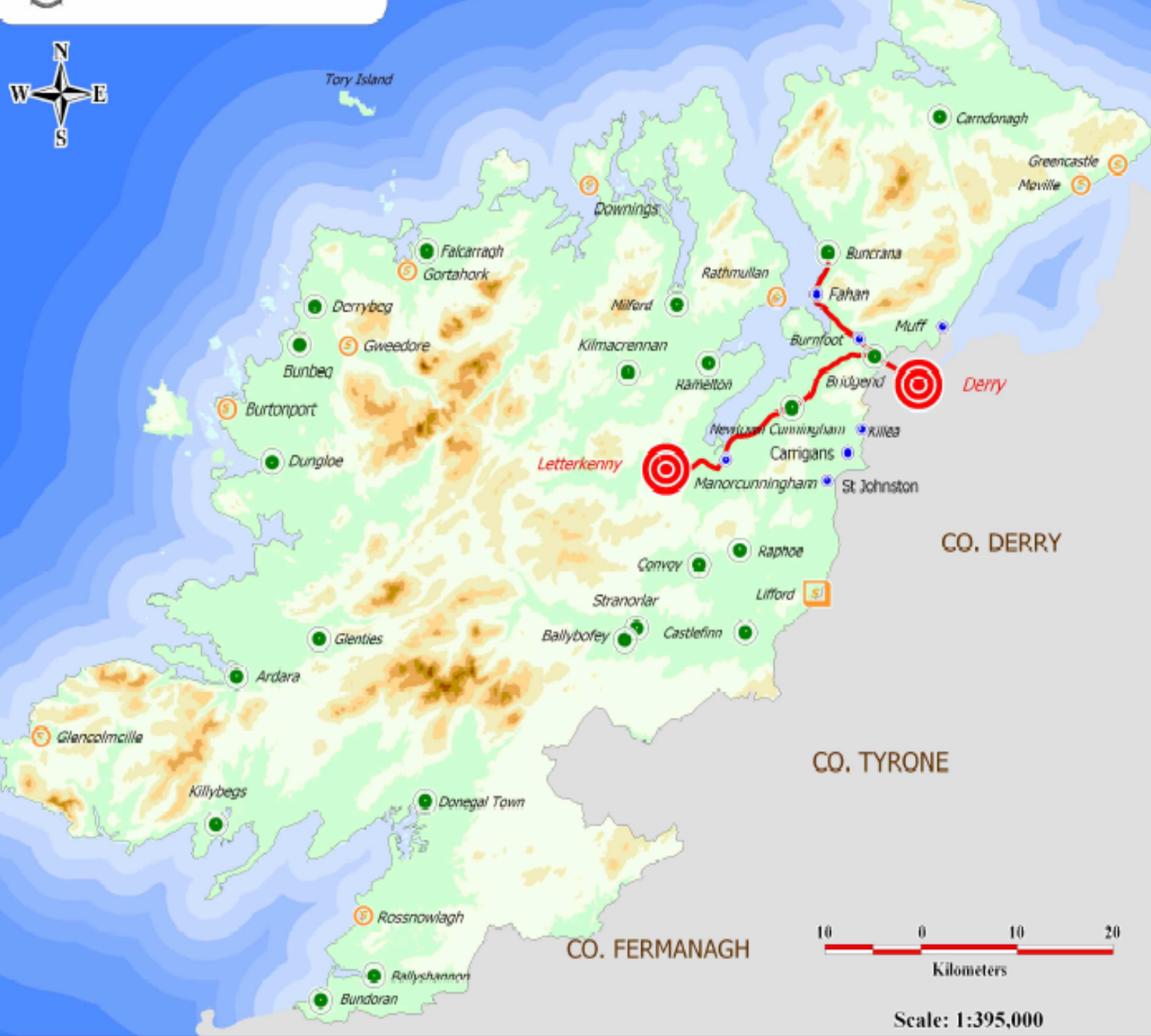
The new plan sets out the objectives and policies of Donegal County Council in respect of the spatial strategy, transport & communications, employment generation and enterprise development, housing, environmental services and protection, natural resource development, the built & natural heritage, tourism and the Gaeltacht, culture, sport & recreation.

County Donegal Development Plan 2006-2012 Objectives

1. The creation of a **vibrant and fully functioning Letterkenny – Derry linked Gateway** as the principal driver for the development of the region.
2. The creation, through urban strengthening measures, of a **strong urban structure at the sub-gateway level**, which would consolidate the development of the Gateway as well as ensuring that the benefits of the spatial policy are spread evenly throughout the County.
3. The **management of growth** in close proximity to the linked gateway, through urban support measures.

County Donegal Development Plan 2006-2012 Objectives

4. The creation of **vibrant rural areas**, which are key drivers of a changing rural economy, by providing support for rural villages and rural communities.
5. The **protection and enhancement** of the unique cultural and linguistic resource of the **Gaeltacht** through a process of urban strengthening, urban support and rural support.
6. Safeguarding the role of **centres with special functions**: such as Lifford, Moville, Greencastle, Burtonport, Rossnowlagh, Downings, Rathmullan, Gaoth Dobhair, Glencolumbkille, and Gortahork.
7. Letterkenny & Environs Development Plan 2008-2014 has been out for public consultation (closing date 6th Jan 2009).



LEGEND

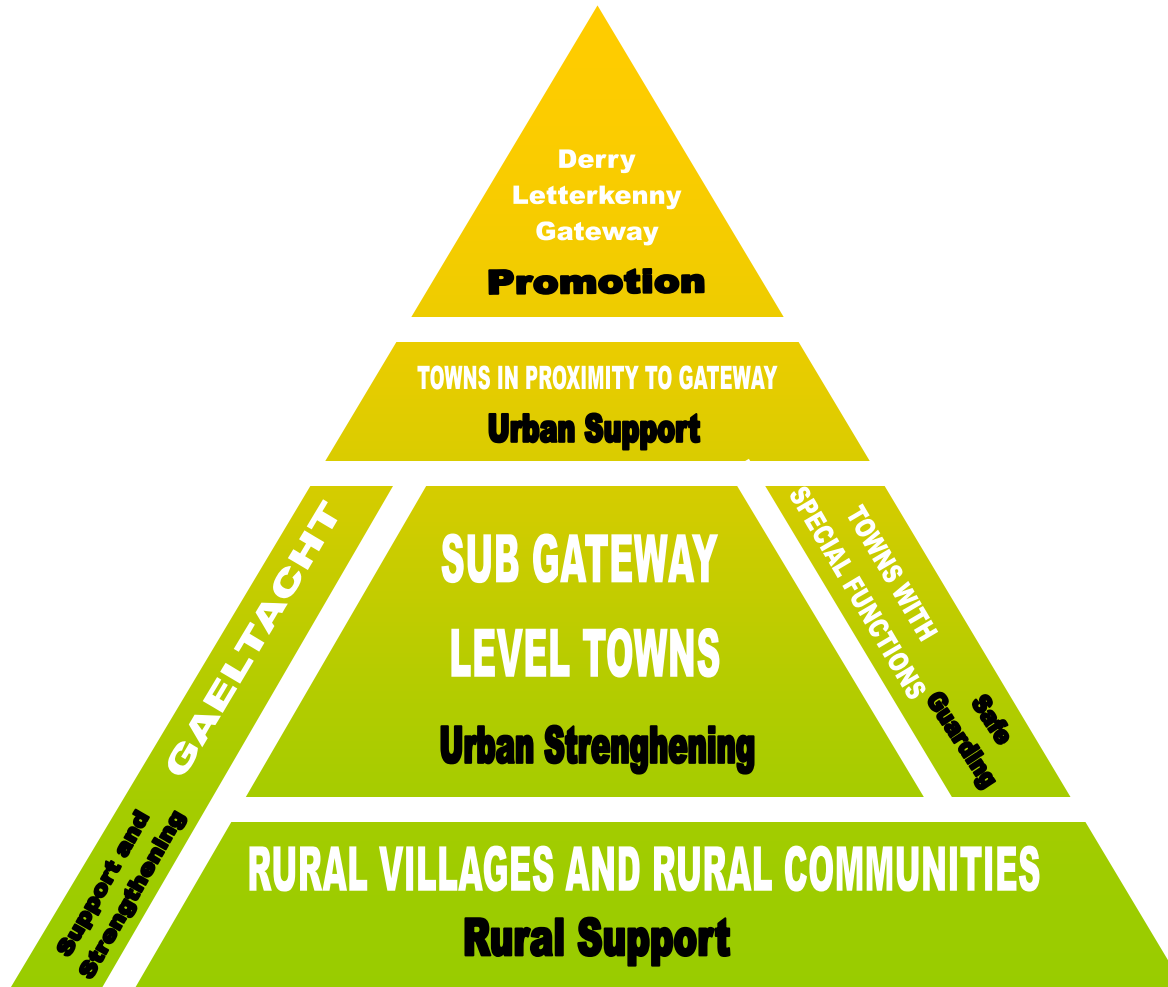
-  Gateway
-  Letterkenny - Derry Corridor
-  Towns for Urban Strengthening
-  Towns for Urban Support in Proximity to Gateway
-  Towns with Special Functions
-  Centre of Governance



Scale: 1:395,000

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County Donegal Development Plan 2006-2012 Spatial Strategy



THE SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Centres with Strategic Role for Employment and Services

Major Regional Cities

Belfast Metropolitan Area

Londonderry-City of the North West

The Towns

Main Hubs

Local Hubs

Rural Community Potential

Regional Gateways

International/ European Port

Ports

Belfast International Airport

Airports

Major Inter-Regional Gateway Role

Trans-Regional Development Linkages and Opportunities

Regional Strategic Transport Network

Key Transport Corridors

Link Corridors

Trunk Roads

Railways

Strategic Natural Resource

Major Tourism Development Opportunity

Belfast Metropolitan Area Green Belt



Other key National/Regional Development Policies and Strategies

- **National Development Plans 2000-2006 & 2007-2013**
- **Towards 2016: Ten Year Framework Social Partnership Agreement**
- **Northern Ireland Programme for Government 2008 – 2011**
- **Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2008 – 2018.**
- **Regional Transportation Strategy for Northern Ireland 2002-2012**
- **North West Gateway Initiative Announcement in 2006**



Gateway Initiative: Key Recommendations

Review Status of North-West Gateway Initiative (NWGI)

In May 2006 at a meeting of the British Irish Inter-Governmental Conference (BIIGC), Ministers agreed to a North West Gateway Initiative (NWGI), comprising:

- A **non statutory integrated spatial planning and development framework** focussing on the Derry-Letterkenny gateway and the four local Council areas of Derry, Strabane, Limavady and Donegal;
- An examination of the **potential for joint investment** in key infrastructure projects;
- **Joint analysis and actions by agencies** in areas such as trade and investment promotion, tourism, skills/training, further and higher education, innovation and business development; and
- **Better co-ordination of public services** notably in health, education and information services.

Need to Approve the NWGI Non Statutory Planning Framework

Both Governments and the British-Irish Inter-Governmental Conference (BIIGC) now need to **agree and endorse the new statutory spatial planning and development framework** for:

“the Derry-Letterkenny Gateway and the four local Council areas of Derry, Strabane, Limavady and Donegal”

as the **overarching vision** for the high level integration of a large range of plans and strategies prepared by a multiplicity of stakeholders on both sides of the border.

Re-align Sectoral/Stakeholder Strategies to Over-Arching Vision

Both Governments and the BIIGC **need to review**, within the overarching vision, the **current range of sectoral investment priorities, programmes and policies**, including inter-alia:

- Key joint physical infrastructure projects
- Key joint strategies for promoting indigenous enterprise and inward investment
- Key joint initiatives for investment, promotion and marketing of new/existing major/iconic tourism attractions

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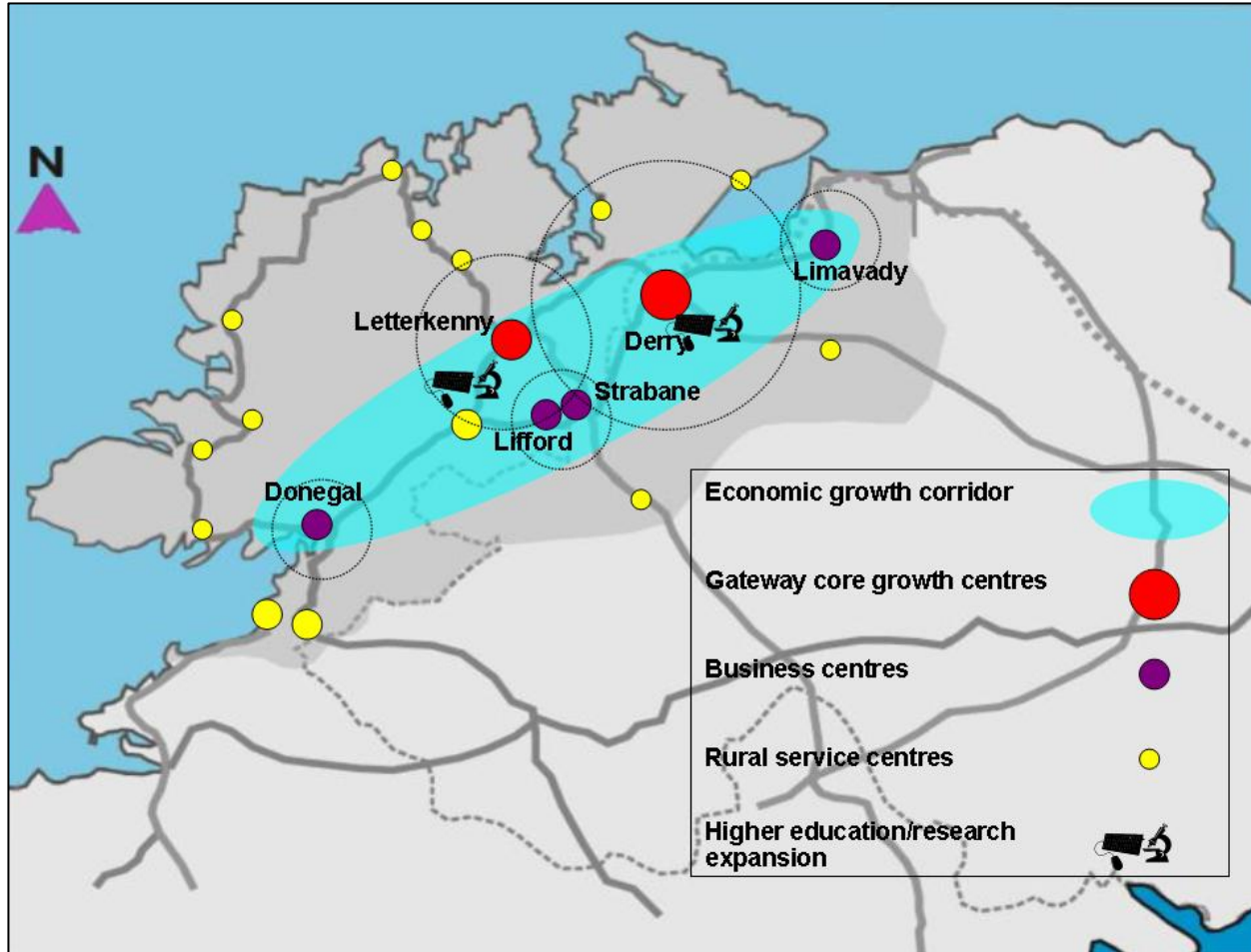
Re-align Sectoral/Stakeholder Strategies to Over-Arching Vision

- **Key joint initiatives for workforce/labour market development, development of further/higher education and building innovation and R&D capacity through education/industry links**
- **Key objectives for co-ordinating plans for joint development of regional public services e.g. in health, education, information**
- **Key policy issues impacting on the promotion of trade and investment in the region e.g. taxation policies, monetary/exchange rate policies, etc.**

Re-alignment of Economic Development Strategy

- ***Economic Development Strategy***
 - Linked Business/Industrial Development Zones
 - Education / employability & skills
 - Research, Innovation, capacity & expertise
 - Building sufficient capacity to attract R&D Funding
 - Excellent business environment – transportation & communications linkages and infrastructure
 - Other centres in the urban growth corridor (Donegal Town – Limavady)
- ***Labour Force Strategy***
 - Skills development (Workforce Development Forum)
 - Linkages 3rd Level institutions & Industry

Economic Development^[1]

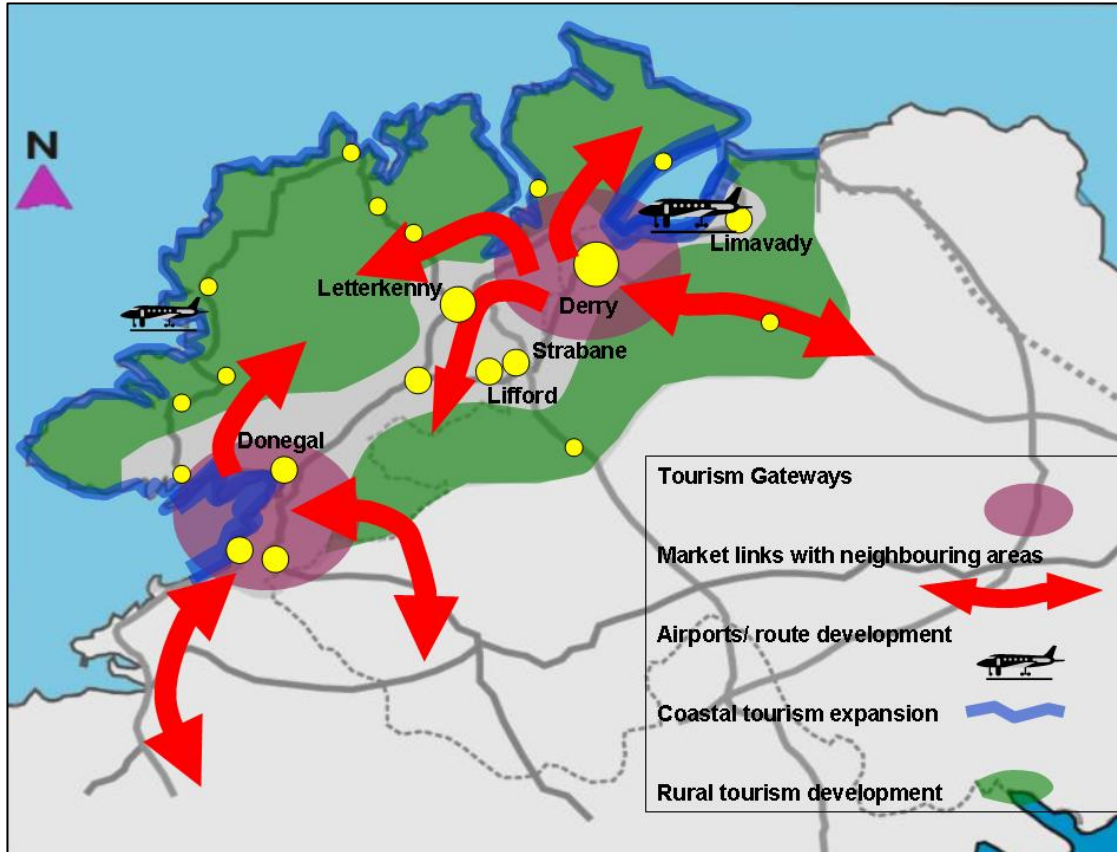


[1] North West Gateway Initiative Spatial Framework Draft Final Report May 2007

Re-alignment of Tourism Development Strategy

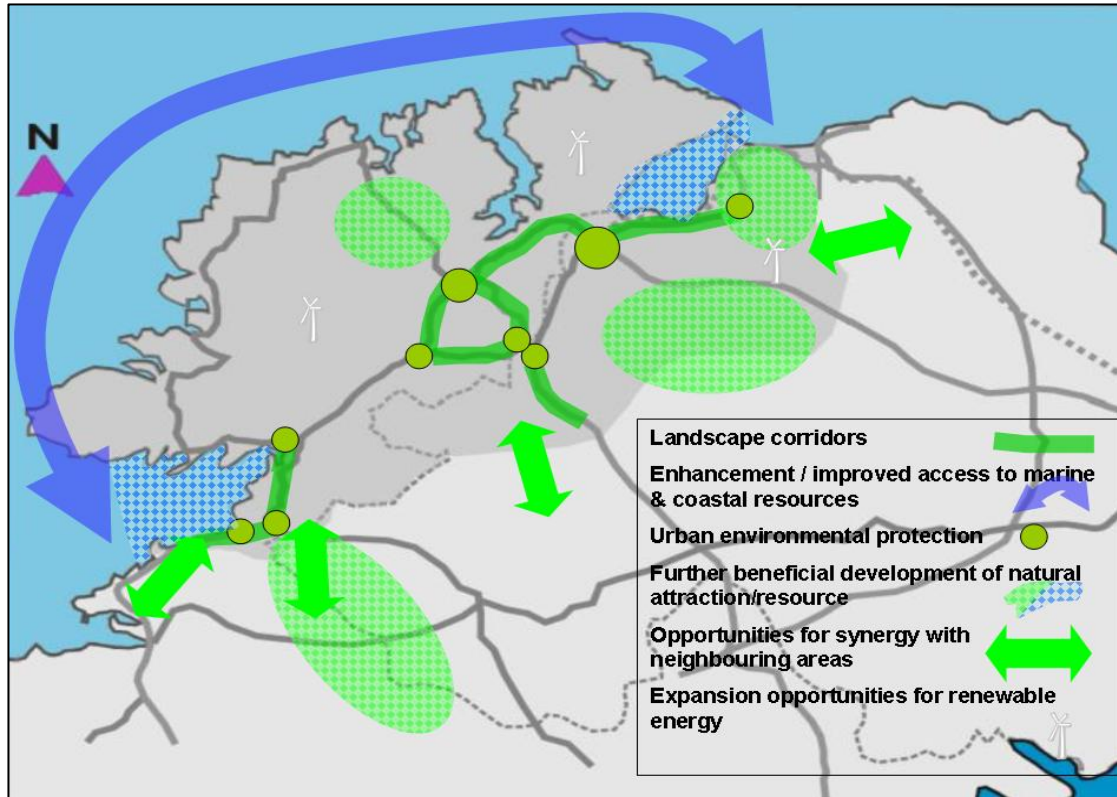
- Development of NW region as a visitor and tourist destination
- Development of major tourism attractors
- Main clusters of visitor attractions (existing and new facilities)
- Significant investment through Interreg IVA Programme Tourism measure
- High quality transport links
- Coastal tourism expansion
- Protection and Management of high environmental quality

Tourism Development^[1]



^[1] North West Gateway Initiative Spatial Framework Draft Final Report May 2007

Re-adjusting Environment Framework [1]

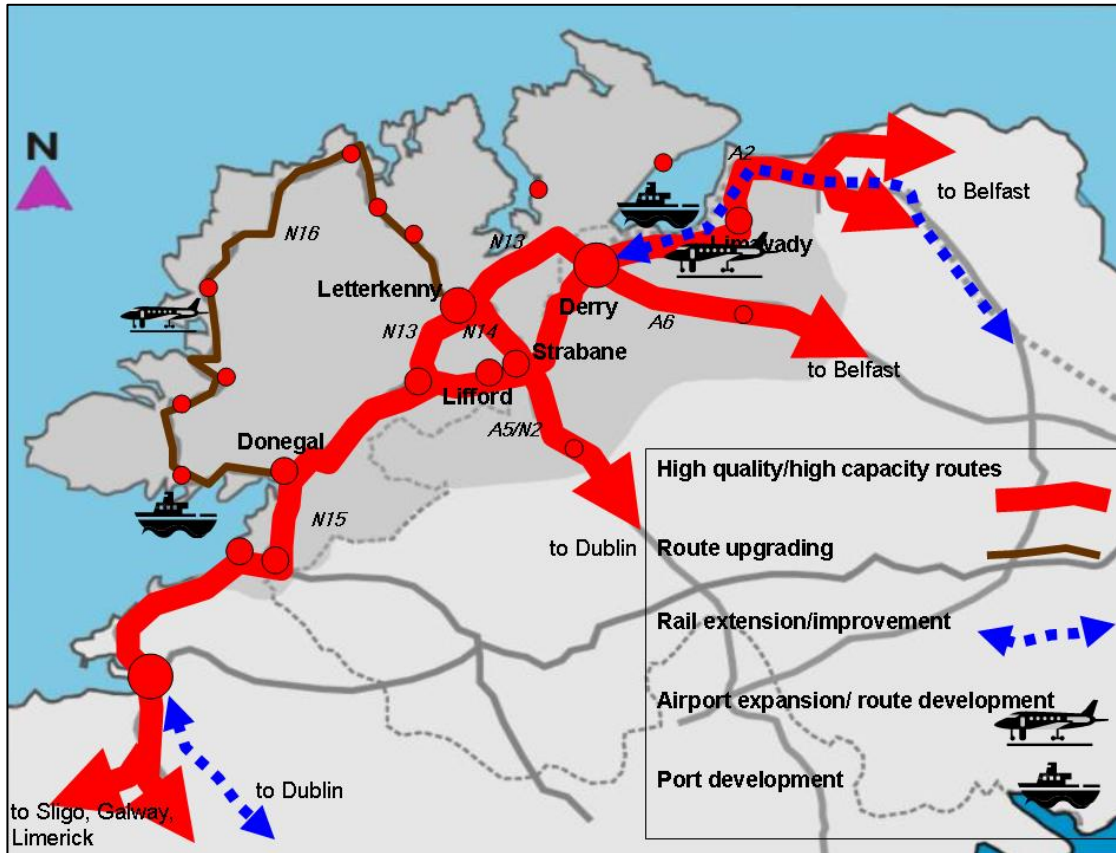


[1] North West Gateway Initiative Spatial Framework Draft Final Report May 2007

Re-alignment of Transport and Energy Development Strategy

- Connecting the Northwest – internal and externally
- North-south and East-west strategic routes
- A5 road infrastructure development & investment
- Road improvements, rail, regions airports
- High capacity telecommunications and energy infrastructure
- High capacity and consistent energy

Transport Infrastructure[1]

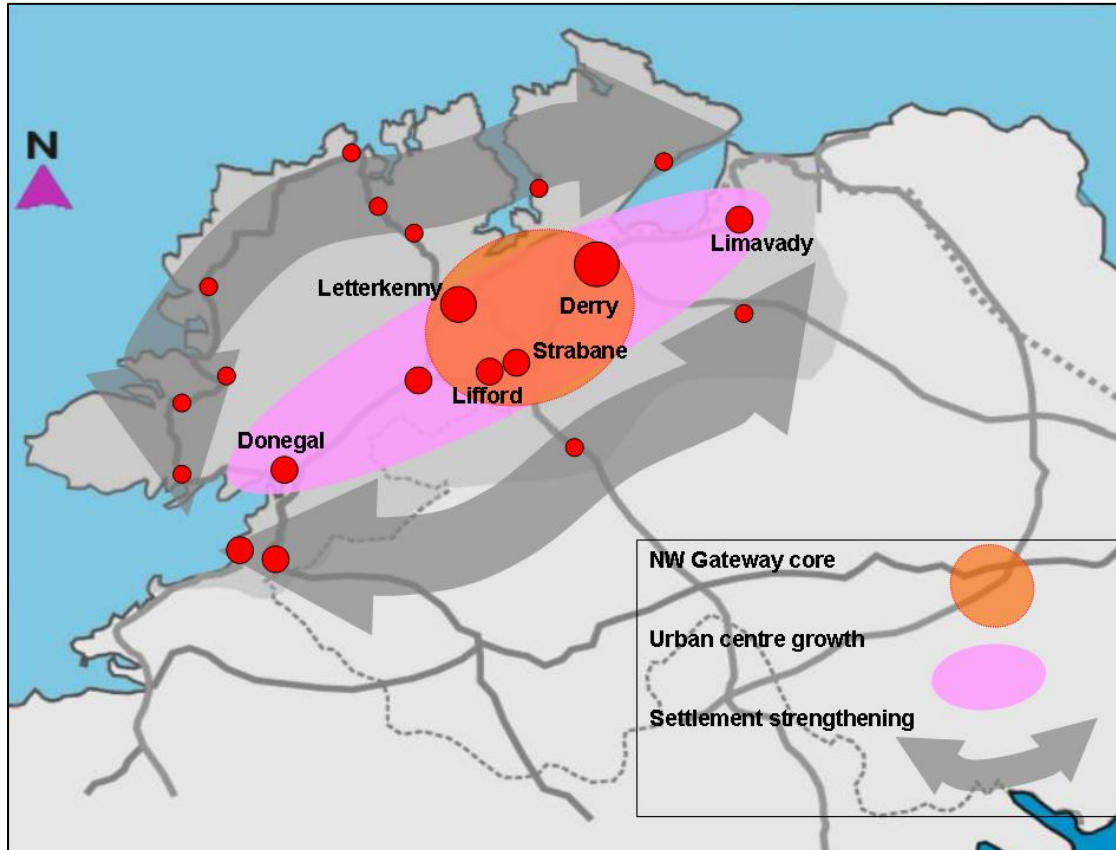


[1] North West Gateway Initiative Spatial Framework Draft Final Report May 2007

A North West Settlement Strategy

- Managing growth in a structured and balanced way
- Growing population – increased pressures on essential services
- Focusing the bulk of development on areas of greatest infrastructure capacity
- High quality living environments
- Focus on:
 - Regional Growth centres and regional services (health, education, social services and economic drivers)
 - Derry/Letterkenny; Strabane / Lifford and Limavady (c.330,000 population region)
- Concentrations on other development corridors & coastal routes
- A coherent strategy for the Region requires the Planners on both sides of the border to agree core development and settlement principles at the outset

A North West Settlement Strategy[1]



[1] North West Gateway Initiative Spatial Framework Draft Final Report May 2007

North South Collaboration: Delivery Mechanisms and Enablers

Key Components of a new Delivery System

Managing the **implementation** of a gateway development strategy:

- (i) **Government leadership** – joint Ministerial responsibility with high level support. Strategic Boards are required on both sides of the border working to shared agendas. This involves:
- (ii) Strengthened and reinforced County Development Board in Donegal functioning as a key strategic forum.
- (iii) The establishment of a strategy board for the Derry City Region mirroring its counterpart in Donegal.

Sectoral Collaboration: Enablers

○ Enabling Factors

- Availability of Cross Border Funding to underpin development: Interreg IVA, Peace III
- Institutional Framework/ Partnership Arrangements
- Designation of North West Gateway Status
- Natural Hinterland
- Historical Traditions of Cooperation
- Localised responses to local needs
- Critical Mass (increasing population)
- Abundant Natural Resources
- Infrastructure (Access, Social, Economic, Cultural)
- Access for N.Ireland to Eurozone

Existing Delivery Mechanisms

Existing Stakeholders need to network to review delivery mechanisms and adjust their strategies/spending plans to over-arching vision

- **Local Authorities/District Councils**
- **Donegal County Development Board**
- **Inter-departmental Working group for County Donegal**
- **Statutory Bodies (HSE, Health Trusts, 3rd Level Institutes, Education, Tourism, Enterprise)**
- **Local Strategy Partnerships (LSP)**
- **ILEX proposals “Strategy Board” Derry Londonderry**
- **NWRCBG (North West Region Cross Border Group)**
- **NW Workforce Development Forum**
- **North West Stakeholders Alliance**
- **NW Business & Technology Zone**
- **ILEX – Derry / Londonderry Urban Regeneration Company**

Prioritise Projects of Regional Significance

- **Enterprise/Infrastructure**

- North West Economic Partnership / Diaspora
- ILEX Flagship Regeneration sites: Ebrington Barracks – 26 acre site; Fort George – 14 acre site
- Local economic competitiveness programme Derry City Council (£4mn infrastructure for the creative, life sciences to 2013)
- North West Business and Technology Zone

Gateway Innovation Fund

Four overarching project proposals:

1. Urban Regeneration & Transport Project

- a) New regional transport interchange with a bus/coach terminus;
- b) Car parking linked to the interchange for a park and ride facility;
- c) The construction of 6.5km of walking/cycleways with services; and
- d) Regeneration work.

2. Science & Technology Research Facility

- A collaborative, cross border strategy built on science, technology and innovation
- Construction of a 3000 sq m Science and Technology Research Facility on the campus of Letterkenny Institute of Technology.

Gateway Innovation Fund

3. Gateway Incubation & Innovation Centre

- Greater levels of indigenous enterprise start-ups and development
- Centre will consist of a dedicated incubation and innovation centre of approx. 50,000sq ft based in the I.D.A Technology Park in Letterkenny

4. Flagship Tourism Project - Donegal Discovery Centre

- The Donegal Discovery Centre (“Tir na n’Óg”) is a themed regional tourist attractor.
- This flagship centre will be an integral element of the wider range of cross-border tourist products, which will be marketed as part of the ongoing cross-border tourism marketing initiatives.

Prioritise Projects of Regional Significance

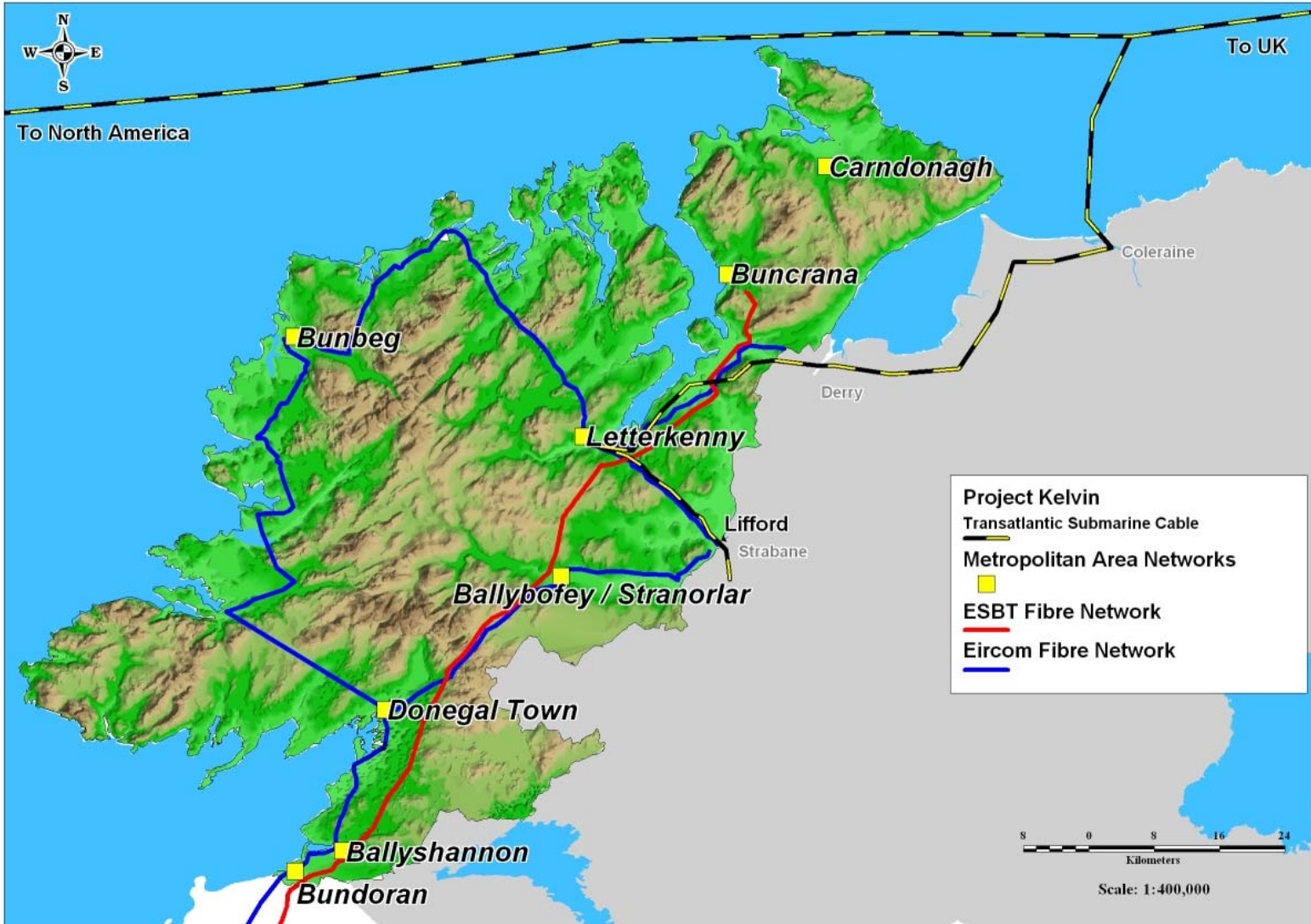
- **Access Infrastructure**

- City of Derry Airport (£20mn capital works since mid 2007)
- Donegal Airport
- Ferries (Foyle), Killbegs Sea Port, Greencastle, Derry etc
- Road improvements A6/ Derry – Dungiven dualling schemes; A5 Derry to Omagh dualling schemes; A2 dualling from Maydown to City of Derry Airport; County Donegal: Ballyshannon – Bundoran bypass (complete); Ballybofey –Stranorlar bypass at planning stage

- **Energy/Telecommunication Infrastructure**

- Project KELVIN (DETI/ DCMNR) Interreg IVA project
- Electricity
- GAS

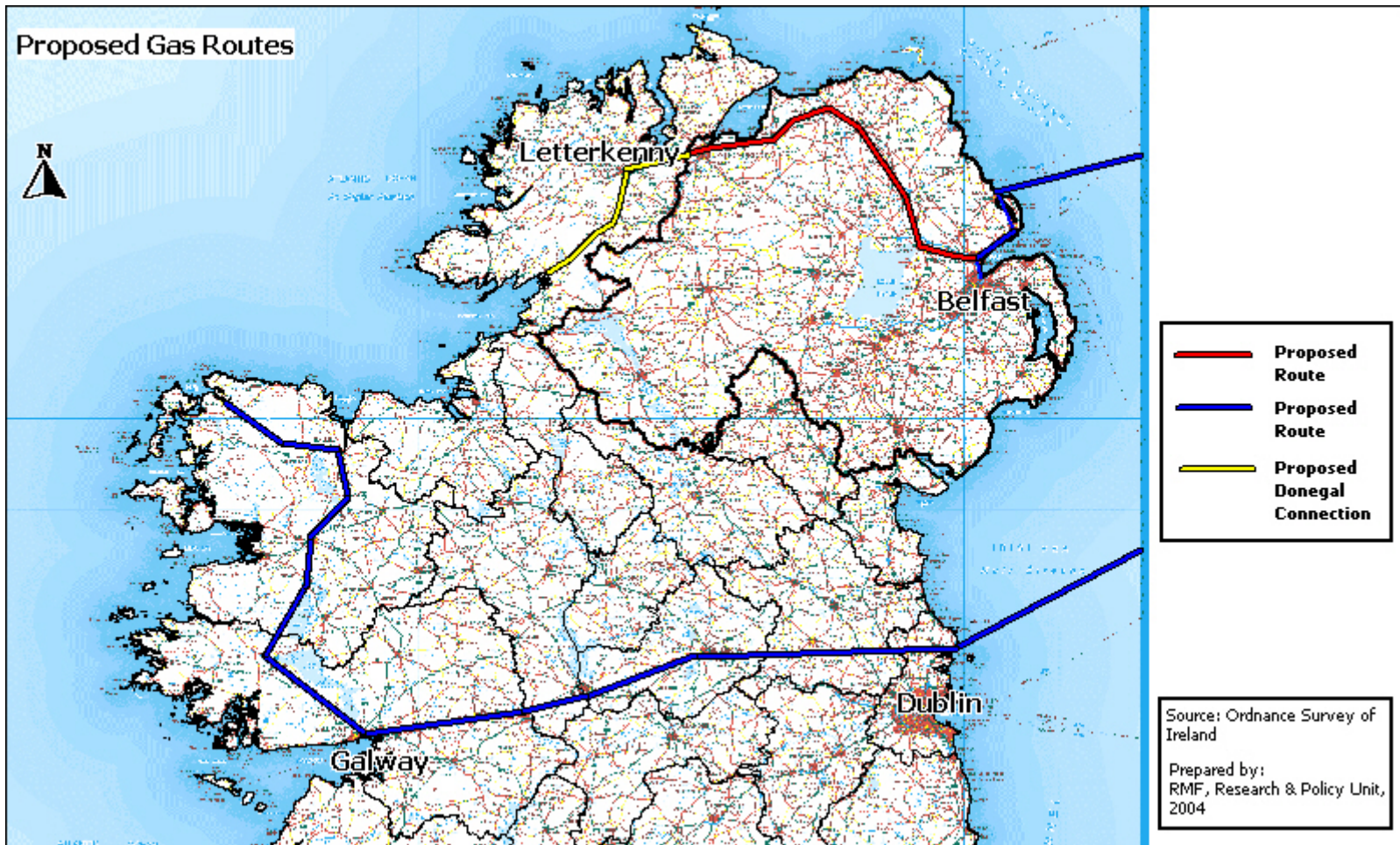
Donegal Fibre Telecoms



North West Electricity Networks



North West Proposed Gas Routes



Prioritise Projects of Regional Significance for Further Investment

- **Tourism**

- Historic Walled City - Signature Tourism Status – £20m investment, improved product growth in visitor numbers, further opportunities
- Foyle Ferries
- Atlantic Drift (Interreg IVA)
- Malin Head
- HEART Project
- Inch levels project (Interreg IVA)
- Sliabh Liag

- **Culture**

- Regional Cultural Centre
- Cross Border Mobile Library
- Public Art Trail
- Flight of the Earls
- Ulster Plantation

Derry Londonderry Walled City & River



Prioritise Projects of Regional Significance

○ Natural Resource Development

- SAIL West Project Marine & Water based Leisure Tourism (€6.2mn Interreg IVA)
- RESOURCE (Wave & Tidal) (Interreg IVA)
- Forest Link / BIO-Mass
- Walking & Trails Development (Interreg IVA)
- Non Food Crops (Interreg IIIA)

○ Social Inclusion

- Peace Footbridge Derry Londonderry Project
- St. Columbs park

Prioritise Projects of Regional Significance

- **Education**

- North West Gateway Strategic Alliance Project (LYIT & University of Ulster)
- Workforce Development/Skills

- **Health**

- CAWT
- Outcomes for Children
- Altnagelvin / Letterkenny Hospitals (Medical Imaging Centre)

A Role for Gateways in Progressing Cross Border Collaboration

The Letterkenny Derry/ Londonderry Gateway

Michael McLoone, County Manager Donegal County Council

John Meehan, Deputy Town Clerk, Derry City Council

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