

## 4<sup>th</sup> April 2017 Stakeholder Event – Tourism Briefing

### Tourism Background:

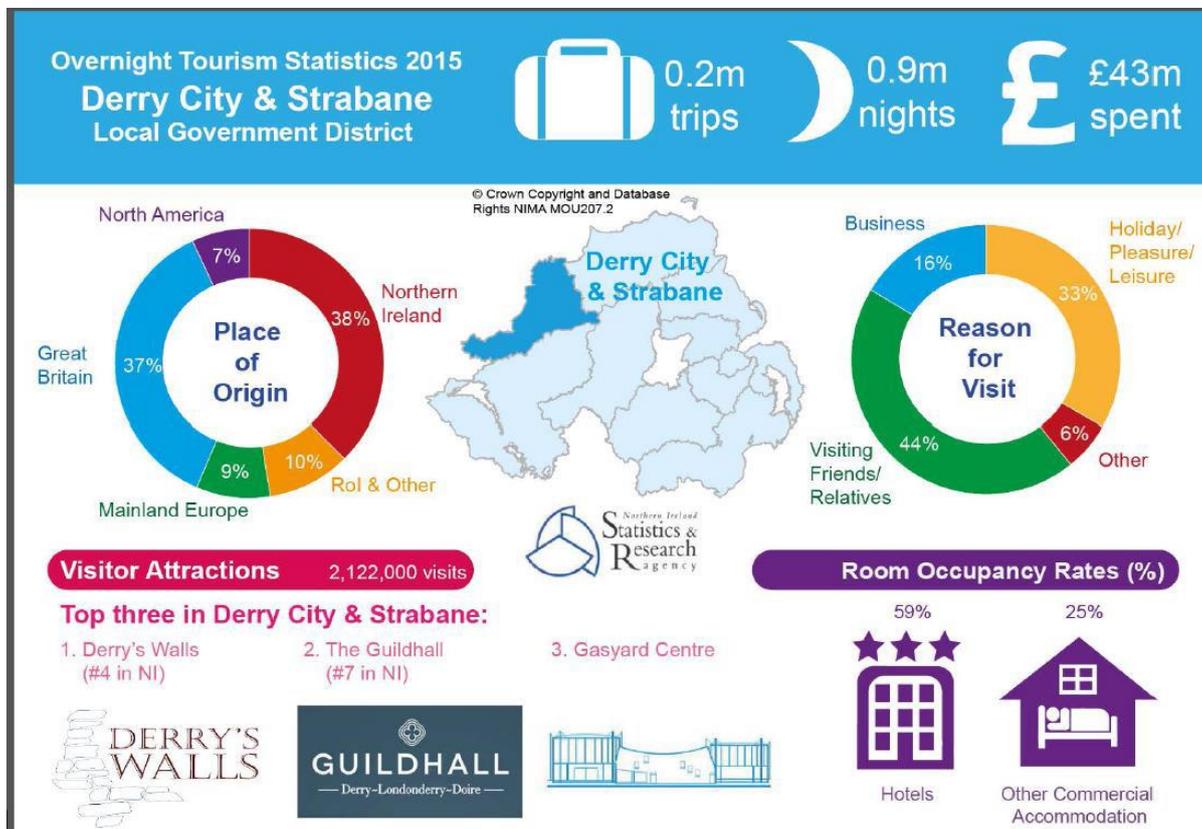
The LDP needs to look at how we can seek to facilitate and develop tourism in the District but also ensure that its location and scale will not impact on our built and natural environmental assets. Rather than simple aspirations, it can be brought about through careful land use planning and policies.

### Why is Tourism so important in our District?

- Economic Growth
- Employment opportunities
- Maximises our wealth of environmental and heritage assets, waterways, landscapes and built heritage
- Health benefits to be gained from exploring the Districts tourist assets

**District Statistics** The latest research from ELMS for Derry and Strabane Local Government District show:

- 4,227 tourism jobs in Derry & Strabane LGD - 8% of total employee jobs
- This LGD attracts a higher proportion of European/North American overnight trips than each of the other LGDs except Belfast.
- Derry & Strabane LGD has the second highest proportion of overnight business visitors (just behind Belfast LGD) and the fourth lowest proportion of overnight holiday trips of all the LGDs.
- Derry & Strabane has the third largest number of hotel bed-spaces (after Belfast and the Causeway Coast & Glens) and the second highest hotel bed-space occupancy of all the LGDs.



## **LDP Obligations**

In preparing the new LDP, we have to look at other documents legal and policy context and considerations of what the LDP is required to do and can include, in relation to tourism in the District.

### **The Regional Development Strategy 2035**

- recognises tourism as a key element underpinning sustainable economic growth in Northern Ireland.
- Regional Guideline 4 (RG 4) seeks to promote a sustainable approach to the provision of tourism infrastructure to:
- Promote a balanced approach that safeguards tourism infrastructure while benefiting society and the economy.
- Improve facilities for tourists in support of the Tourist Signature Destinations.
- Encourage environmentally sustainable tourism development.

**Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS)** was published in September 2015.

The recent SPPS is the single most important document in guiding the requirements/content of the LDP.

- It states that in preparing Local Development Plans (LDPs) councils shall bring forward a tourism strategy, together with appropriate policies and proposals that must reflect the aim, objectives and policy approach of the SPPS, tailored to the specific circumstances of the plan area.
- The aim of the SPPS in relation to tourism development is to manage the provision of sustainable and high quality tourism developments in appropriate locations within the built and natural environment.

### **Planning Policy 16 Review and Options:**

The existing policies within PPS 16 are felt to be largely effective. That said, there is some scope to tailor specific policies to take account of local circumstances. Planning Policy Statement 16: Tourism sets out planning policy for tourism development, including the main forms of tourist accommodation and tourist amenities. In addition the PPS provides policy for the safeguarding of tourism assets from development likely to adversely impact upon the tourism value of the environmental asset.

The LDP will review our current policy and consider what scope there is for amending the policies. Further exploration of the policies could consider e.g.

- Should there be policy for specific areas of tourism development or land designated in the District that require further promotion and exploration?
- Should there be land designated for conservation in an attempt to preserve the tourism resources, landscape or heritage of the plan area?

**Rural Tourism** extends beyond the City and into an expansive rural hinterland that is host to a collection of tourism attractions covering a number of different themes including a rich and diverse natural and built heritage, activities, attractions and accommodation. These assets provide the ideal setting for a range of activities such as walking, cycling, mountain biking, fishing and other outdoor sports. The rural area is situated within a natural setting comprising of the Faughan Valley, Eglinton Historic Plantation Village and the Sperrin Mountains AONB.

### **Prompts for table discussions**

- What would be your tourism vision for the District?
- Do you consider the existing tourism planning policies are adequate?
- Should we zone specific tourism areas, flagship sites to expand and grow our tourism economy?
- Are there any tourism issues with rural and urban areas?
- Should we restrict tourism growth in areas that need special protection?

## **Possible Tourism Options**

**Option 1 – identify flagship sites for attractions and accommodation**

**Option 2 – Build upon existing supply**

**Option 3 – Constrain development, protect tourism assets**

## **What should be our main objectives for the LDP?**

- We need to have sustainable tourism in an environmentally sensitive manner.
  - We need to contribute to the growth of the regional economy through tourism growth.
  - We need to ensure tourism development is appropriate in nature, location and scale in our settlements and rural areas.
  - We need to ensure a high standard of quality and design for all tourism development.
- 
- We need to understand what our key natural and built tourism attractions in the urban and rural areas are and how we can safeguard them in a sustainable manner for future generations.
  - The LDP also has a role in securing high quality design and landscaping and integrating tourism provision with the necessary infrastructure.
  - Economic Gain The Local Development Plan needs to consider zoning can be explored to include for e.g. riverfront development; rural opportunities; accommodation and attraction development sites.
  - The LDP should consider how best to facilitate the growth of sustainable tourism. This will be tailored to the needs and assets of our District and we will engage with relevant stakeholders.

The aim of this Planning Policy Statement (PPS) is to manage the provision of sustainable and high quality tourism developments in appropriate locations within the built and natural environment. The objectives of this Planning Policy Statement are the same as the SPPSs regional objectives. There are 8 policies in PPS 16:

1. TSM 1 Tourism Development in Settlements
2. TSM 2 Tourist Amenities in the Countryside
3. TSM 3 Hotels, Guest Houses and Tourist Hostels in the Countryside
4. TSM 4 Major Tourism Development in the Countryside – Exceptional Circumstances
5. TSM 5 Self Catering Accommodation in the Countryside
6. TSM 6 New and Extended Holiday Parks in the Countryside
7. TSM 7 Criteria for Tourism Development
8. TSM 8 Safeguarding of Tourism Assets