

Londonderry Port and Harbour Commissioners Business in the Community / Ulster Business Article

Business Objective

Londonderry Port and Harbour Commissioners is a public trust port established by statute in 1854. In 2003 the Commissioners set out their strategic vision for the port over the next five years.

This vision set out to double the trade and turnover of the port within the life of the plan. The Commissioners have invested c£12m in new infrastructure and have attracted c£50m of private capital expenditure to the region by way of a new Oil Terminal and a Fish Protein Facility.

The port aims to play a full role in the regional economy and establish the port as a gateway to the entire North West of Ireland.

Society Benefit

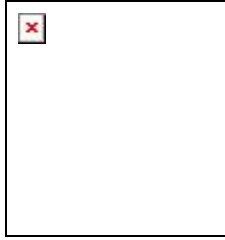
The port is an integral part of the regional economy and the growing success of the port is attracting significant inward investment. This is facilitating an increase in employment numbers, with the port employing 50% more staff now than in 2003. The inward investment projects are also creating new job opportunities with up to 200 new posts.

The port is involved in other aspects of the community by sponsoring events on the river Foyle such as the recent Celtic Maritime Festival and the Foyle Regatta. Also the port has established a wildlife and conservation area in conjunction with the local primary school within the port land. This project will develop over the coming months. Work is also ongoing with the RSPB to protect the birds inhabiting the Foyle while at the same time allowing the port to continue its operations.

How Does It Work?

There are several key elements to the Port's growing success:

- Drawing up of a clear development plan with set targets for growth
- Working with local business, council, statutory and community organizations



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- Placing all of this work in the broader context of developing the north west economy

The Impact

As a body created by statute the Commissioners have an over arching responsibility to ensure that the port is maintained for future generations. By developing against an agreed strategic framework, the Commissioners ensure that the port thrives for the benefit of the region and all our stakeholders.