REVITALISING BORDER REGIONS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

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Future of Cross-Border Cooperation

1. The ICLRD: Who, What
1. Spatial Planning

1. Place-making / Place-shaping
1. Role of Collaboration....

1. Place-based Leadership....

(Source: Prof. Robin Hambleton)
2. Key Ingredients to Revitalising Border Regions....

- Place-making / Place-shaping
- Collaboration
- Place-based Leadership

2. Revitalising Border Regions - Context

- Predominantly rural - dispersed population and distance from major urban centres.
- Diverse region – challenge for cohesive planning?
- A physical border of 270+ crossings – currently open
- Also other borders
- Decade + of economic decline, austerity
- High unemployment, out-migration
- Service rationalisation
- Stagnant places – hollowing out of town centres
- Brexit
2. A Region in Transition

Irish border region is a region in transition BUT…..to where?

**Pluses**
- NPF – Clear emphasis on ‘working with our neighbour’
- Greater alignment of function since local gov. reform
- *Framework for Co-operation*
- Alignment of policies; tightening of hierarchy
- Shared commitment to town/village renewal & rural revitalisation
- Silver economy

**Negatives**
- No government in NI – refresh of RDS required
- (Re)emergence of silo-working; weakening of connections
- A shared tool under-used
- Plans, Strategies …more plans
- Reduced funding resources; plus growing emphasis on spend NOW! (or tomorrow at latest)
- Ageing population as problem

3. Key Ingredients to Revitalising Border Regions....

• **Place-making / Place-shaping**

• **Collaboration**

• **Place-based Leadership**
3. Place-making / Place-shaping: The Place Standard

- the environment in which we live
- the people that inhabit these spaces
- the quality of life that comes from the interaction of people and their surroundings

Creating Places (2013)

(Source: Lawlor, 2018)

The Themes & Questions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Question</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moving Around</td>
<td>Can I easily walk and cycle around using good quality routes?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Transport</td>
<td>Does public transport meet my needs?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Traffic And Parking</td>
<td>Do traffic and parking arrangements allow people to move around safely and meet community needs?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Streets &amp; Spaces</td>
<td>Do buildings, streets and public spaces create an attractive place that is easy to get around?</td>
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<td>Natural Space</td>
<td>Can I regularly experience good quality natural space?</td>
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<td>Play &amp; Recreation</td>
<td>Do I have access to a range of spaces and opportunities for play and recreation?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facilities &amp; Amenities</td>
<td>Do facilities and amenities meet my needs?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work &amp; Local Economy</td>
<td>Is there an active local economy and the opportunity to access good quality work?</td>
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<td>Housing &amp; Community</td>
<td>Does housing support the needs of the community and contribute to a positive environment?</td>
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<td>Social Interaction</td>
<td>Is there a range of spaces and opportunities to meet people?</td>
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<td>Identity &amp; Belonging</td>
<td>Does this place have a positive identity and do I feel I belong?</td>
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<td>Feeling Safe</td>
<td>Do I feel safe?</td>
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<td>Care &amp; Maintenance</td>
<td>Are buildings and spaces well cared for?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Influence &amp; Sense of Control</td>
<td>Do I feel able to participate in decisions and help change things for the better?</td>
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(Source: Lawlor, 2018)
3. Revitalising Border Regions: Consider Rural 3.0
3. Revitalising Border Regions – Digital Connectivity

4. Key Ingredients to Revitalising Border Regions....

• Place-making / Place-shaping

• Collaboration

• Place-based Leadership
4. Collaborative Modelling in Irish Border Region

- Newry & Mourne/Louth Local Authorities Memorandum of Understanding (2010/2011)

4. Collaboration amongst Stakeholders
5. Key Ingredients to Revitalising Border Regions:

• Place-making / Place-shaping

• Collaboration

• Place-based Leadership

5. Place-Based Leadership: The Case of the North West
5. Place-Based Leadership: The Case of the North West

- This largely rural border region is a place of opportunity
- It can be central to harnessing the major global opportunities and meeting the challenges of the 21st century.
- Role of place-making as a core goal for the region….capitalising on existing local strengths
- Local government as key drivers of this
- Collaboration is happening to ensure those opportunities are maximised…but where the coherence/overview?
- As the transition of this region continues, is there a more strategic role for the local government networks?

6. Concluding Comments
Thank You!

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