

Workshop No.03

Sustainable Transport

potential development of a cross-border regional cycle route network

Workshop Format

1. Introductions
2. Context and Background to this workshop
3. Presentation by Gordon Clarke of SUSTRANS
4. Key Questions
5. Discussion and Ideas

What this workshop is really about?

- Providing information on cycle ways and greenways within the cross border region and some international experience
- Share knowledge and generate some ideas and new thinking around the topic
- Facilitate dialogue and conversation among the audience around the topic
- Allow the audience to participate and provide answers to some key questions and signposting for the future
- Provide feedback to main conference and send strong signals to local politicians and governments on both jurisdictions on this island regarding future development and funding

Border Development Corridor - The Need for Action

- History of underinvestment, back-to-back policy development, legacy of a troubled history, and weak regional development policies
- Hit hard by the economic crisis – unemployment in the southern Border Region rose from 14,100 in 2007 to peak at 37,200 in 2012 (McDonagh, 2013)
- Unemployment in the Strabane and Derry council areas the highest in Northern Ireland – respectively the 2nd and 3rd most deprived council areas (NI Multiple Deprivation Index, 2010)
- Border regional economy dependent on agriculture, manufacturing and construction – less on services and public sector – increasing urban-rural divide evident
- **Also an opportunity to capitalise on the economic, social and environmental assets of the Border region**

(Padraic Whyte, ICLRD/CCBS Technical Workshop 29/01/15)

Draft Solidarity Charter for Economic Revitalisation of the Irish Border Development Corridor

An Article on this Charter is available in the most recent publication (Volume 9) of the Journal of Cross Border Studies in Ireland. CCBS. 2014

"it represents the unified position of many people and organisations proposing action to capitalise on the economic, social and environmental assets of the Irish Border region and to redress the economic disadvantages that have accrued in the area from decades of underinvestment, back –back policy development and the legacy of our troubled history"

Purpose

"..is to articulate the shared position of a wide range of organisations in the Border Development Corridor who are coalescing around a defined number of high level themes for the economic revitalisation and sustainable development of their area"

Support, Roll out and Adoption of the Charter

Q2 / Q3 of 2015 to allow the new Councils in Northern Ireland time to become established, embedded and time to consider the Draft Charter. It is anticipated and expected that the Draft Charter will be formally adopted by all Councils in the Border Region

Charter key Aims

1. Critical Infrastructure
2. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)
3. SMEs with Export Potential
4. Agriculture, Food and Fish Processing
5. Tourism and Recreation
6. Low Carbon, Energy Saving and Renewables
7. Diaspora

Shared Services Pilots

1. Tourism - Greenways and Cycle Routes
2. Emergency Planning



**Cross-Border Greenways and Cycle Routes on the Island of Ireland:
A review of policies and future opportunities in the development of a
regional network**

Literature and Policy Review

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December 2014

Key advocacy documentcont.

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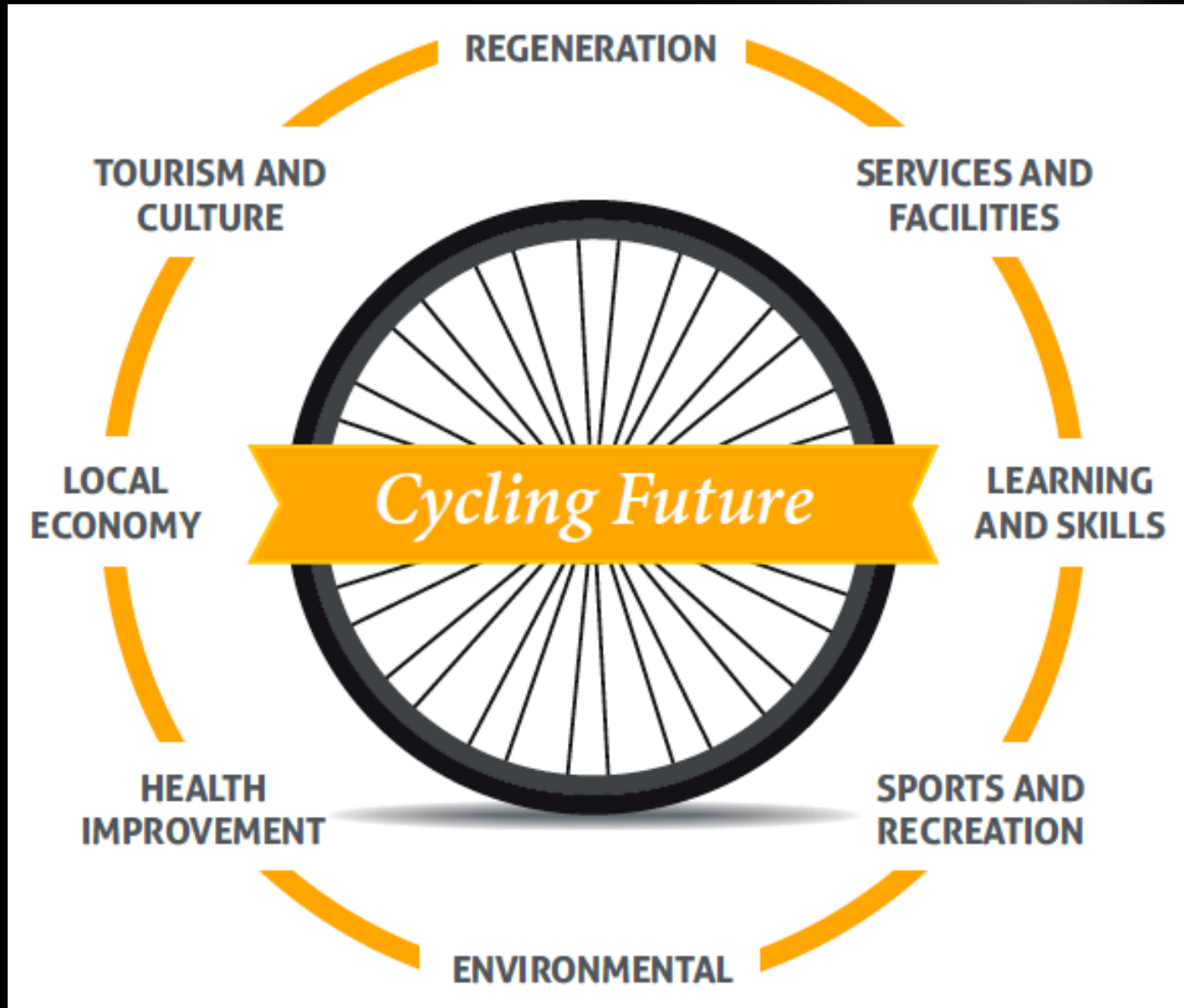
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Seven key recommendations within Report

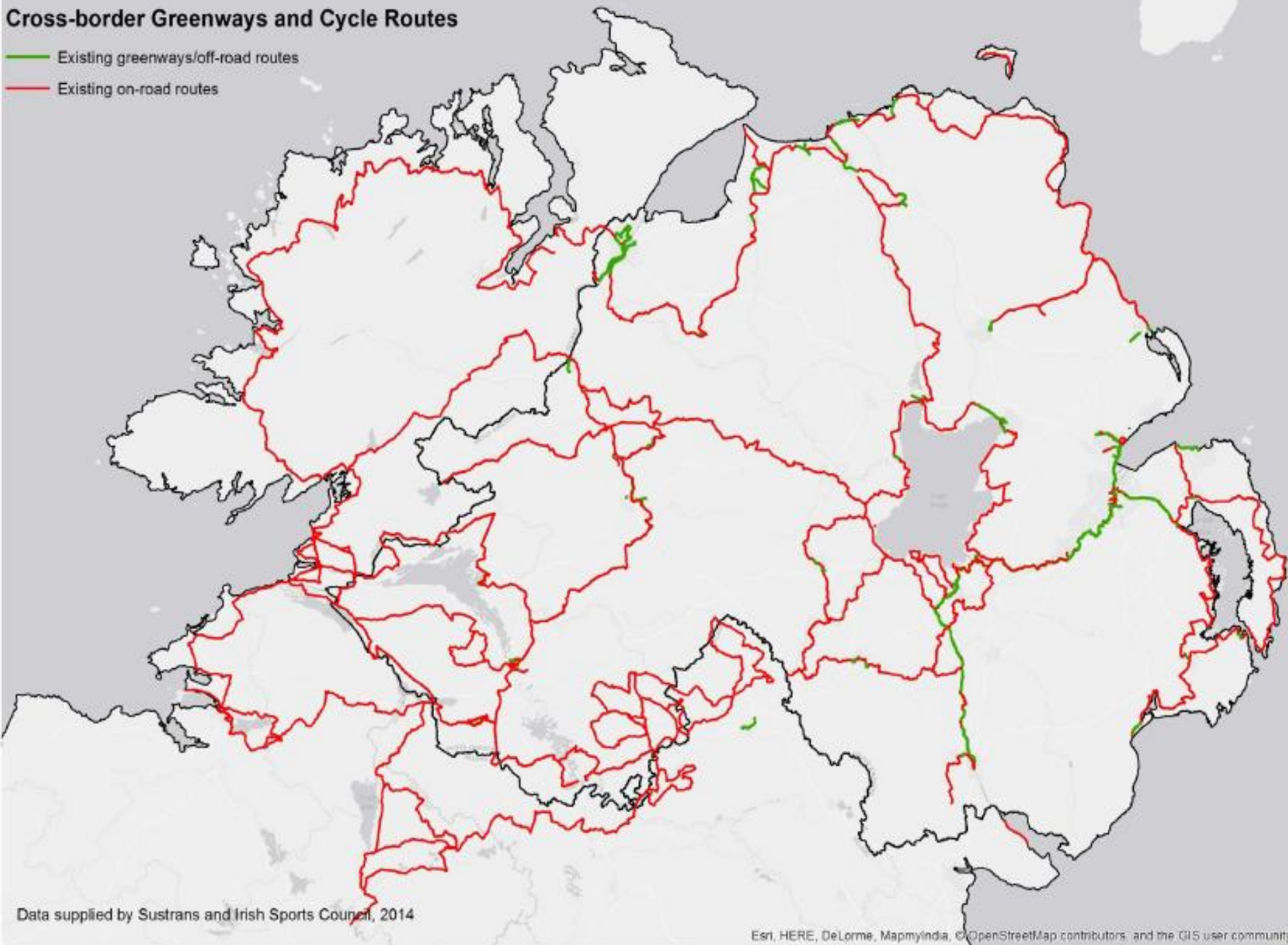
1. A master planning process for the long-term development of greenways and cycle routes in the Border region should be initiated to guide strategic decision-making.
2. Strategic coordination should be established to plan for, and implement, the development of a regional network of greenways and cycle routes on a cross-border basis.
3. More explicit policy references are required in national/regional level documents to support the master planning and implementation of cross-border cooperation in the provision of cycling infrastructure.
4. More explicit policy references are required in local authority level documents, particularly in Northern Ireland, to support the provision of cycling infrastructure on a cross-border basis.
5. An inclusive approach should be taken to defining strategic priorities and prospective outcomes in the development of a regional network of greenways and cycle routes on a cross-border basis.
6. Further research and engagement is needed on key issues pertinent to the development of greenways and cycle routes on the island of Ireland, particularly concern in innovative approaches to funding.
7. Key stakeholders in both jurisdictions should convene at the earliest opportunity to define priorities and determine an agreed course of action in the development of a comprehensive greenways and cycle route network in the Border region.

Wider benefits of Cycling.....



Cross-border Greenways and Cycle Routes

- Existing greenways/off-road routes
- Existing on-road routes



Data supplied by Sustrans and Irish Sports Council, 2014

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