

# PEOPLE, PLACE AND PROSPERITY

## INVESTMENT SYMPOSIUM

EMPOWERING  
NMD

A DECADE OF  
OPPORTUNITY

### 10:30 am Welcome

Wendy Austin

A veteran journalist and broadcaster with 45 years of experience, Wendy is renowned for her distinctive voice and has presented numerous programs for BBC Northern Ireland and nationwide.



### 10:32 am Opening Addresses

Councillor Pete Byrne, Chair, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
First Citizen of Newry, Mourne and Down district, Pete represents Slieve Gullion and plays a key role in promoting regional business, cultural, and economic development.



### 10:35am – 10:45am Ministerial Address

Minister for the Economy, Dr Caoimhe Archibald  
Recently appointed Economy Minister, Dr Archibald is an MLA for East Derry~Londonderry with a strong academic background in molecular biology and a commitment to public service.



### 10:50am – 11:35am Panel Discussion 1: Creating Economic Prosperity

Discussion exploring entrepreneurial journeys, economic prosperity, insights on business growth, and perspectives on regional economic advantages.



**Marie Ward**

Chief Executive,  
Newry, Mourne  
and Down  
District Council

CEO of Council leading critical investment partnerships, Marie is driving key regional projects through the Belfast Region City Deal and chairs SOLACE in Northern Ireland.



**Laura O'Hare**

Logistics  
Director, Collins  
Aerospace

Logistics Director at Collins Aerospace, Laura has progressed through various roles since joining the company in 2007, bringing extensive industry experience.



**Anastasia Desmond**

Senior  
Economist,  
Ulster University  
Economic Policy  
Centre

Senior Economist at Ulster University, Ana specialises in regional development and labour market analysis, with a focus on evolving work patterns post-pandemic.



**David Conway**

Chief Executive,  
Louth County  
Council

Newly appointed CEO of Louth County Council with over 20 years of leadership experience, David has been instrumental in urban renewal and economic development.

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### 11:35am Showcase Video Introduction and Reflections

Introduced by Wendy Austin

### 11:40am - 12:25pm Panel Discussion 2: Innovation and Digital Regeneration

Exploring digital innovation, regeneration strategies, and the role of technology in regional economic growth.



**Steve Orr**  
Chief Executive,  
Catalyst

CEO of Catalyst and Fellow of the Irish Academy of Engineering, Steve brings extensive innovation and technical talent management experience.

**Janet Burns**  
Business  
Development  
Director, BT

BT's Business Development Director with over 30 years of experience across multiple divisions in the telecommunications sector.

**David Quinn**  
Executive  
Director, Belfast  
Region City  
Deal, Queen's  
University Belfast

Executive Director of Belfast Region City Deal at Queen's University Belfast, driving transformational innovation programs and leading significant technological development initiatives.

**Adrienne Hanna**  
Founder and  
Chief Executive,  
Right Revenue

Founder of Right Revenue, Adrienne leverages 20 years of revenue management expertise to help independent hotels optimise their pricing strategies.

### 12:25 pm - 12:55 pm Expert Speaker Presentation

Mark Kelly, President, AI Ireland

A globally recognised AI strategist and podcast host, Mark provides cutting-edge insights into emerging technologies for FTSE 100 companies.



### 12:55 pm Launch of Criteria for Investment Programmes: Grade A Office and Hotel Development

Conor Mallon, Director, Newry Mourne and Down District Council



### 1pm Closing Remarks

Councillor Pete Byrne, Chair, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

### 1 - 2 pm Lunch and Networking