



Killybegs Fishermen's
ORGANISATION LTD.

PRESS RELEASE

24th November 2011

250 JOBS TO BE CREATED IN THE KILLYBEGS REGION OVER NEXT THREE YEARS
High Level Jobs Initiative Group delivers on its mandate

Minister Simon Coveney launched the report yesterday evening produced by the High Level Group¹ on Job Creation in the Killybegs Region. The Minister had tasked this Group to on the 3rd June to produce a report in short timeframe of three months, to identify without any increase in public expenditure, the actions required to deliver a job creation initiative across five key areas namely: seafood, ancillary services, offshore supports, tourism and marine leisure and green/Economy-renewable energy. The Minister set a target of 250 jobs to be created over the next three years in the Killybegs region.

Sean O'Donoghue, Chair of the Group, commented after the launch:

"The Group has delivered on its mandate of clearing identifying the actions required to deliver 250 jobs in the Killybegs region over the next three years. We set about our task in a determined, focused and co-ordinated fashion from July through to September. I am very confident that the concrete initiatives identified in this concise report will redress the significant job losses that Killybegs has suffered in recent years." He added: "The new integrated approach developed across the five key sectors has already proven its worth with almost 80 of the 250 jobs already announced mainly in the seafood processing sector. In addition the Group has also identified additional job opportunities beyond the 250 jobs target, at least another 100 jobs but these are more likely to come to fruition beyond the three years time span set for this initiative."

The Group has identified in the report a number of constraints that are impacting negatively on job creation in the Killybegs region. It has also put forward solutions to these and cautioned that if these remain unresolved they will impact on the job creation outcomes. One particular issue highlighted is the Killybegs harbour management, with the Group recommending to Minister Coveney that a Killybegs Harbour Management Committee be established without delay.

The Group is of the firm view that the integrated approach developed across the five key sectors with a private and public sector mix was vital to delivering on its mandate of job creation initiatives in the Killybegs region. The Group believes that it is important that this integrated approach developed remains in place over the next three years to assist in the delivery of the implementation of this worthwhile initiative.

ENDS

¹ Members of the High Level Group are:

Sean O'Donoghue, Chairman , Chief Executive, Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation Ltd
Seamus Neely, County Manager, Donegal County Council
Jason Whooley, Chief Executive, Bord Iascaigh Mhara
Paul Hannigan, President, Letterkenny Institute of Education
Jim Parkinson, Representing Offshore and Ancillary Services
Niall O'Gorman, Representing Donegal Fish Merchants Association
Cecil Beamish, Assistant Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine
Conor Fahy, Regional Director, Enterprise Ireland

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