



Comhairle Ceantair  
**Lár Uladh**  
**Mid Ulster**  
District Council

## **MID ULSTER**

Position Paper Three – Addendum  
**Employment and Economic Development**

- 1.0 The purpose of this paper is to consider the 2014-based population projections for Northern Ireland which were published on the 25th of May 2016 by NISRA. The below figures in red have been updated to reflect these revised figures for Mid Ulster. Please refer to below table.

Population projections		
Mid Ulster NISRA 2014- for Mid Ulster		
	2015	2030
16-64	91,564	99,322
65 & over	19,595	30,384

\* Working age and pensionable age populations based on state pension age (SPA) for given year.

- 1.1 In January 2014 the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment with the Department for Employment and Learning published *Enabling Success - Driving social change through economic participation: a strategic framework to tackle economic inactivity*. The goal for the strategic framework is to contribute towards a stable and competitive employment rate of over 70% by 2023 through a reduction in the proportion of the working age population classified as economically inactive. That document defines working age as 16– 64. In order to calculate the number of jobs needed is not easy as there is no uniform data source. Therefore it is necessary to make a number of assumptions which are set out in the step by step approach below:-

Assumption 1:	NISRA 2012	NISRA 2015
Population aged 16-64 in 2015 (NISRA 2012 projection)	= 91,368	91,564
Assumption 2:		
The economic activity rate remains at 67% (Census 2011) for the 16-74 age group can be applied to the 16-64 age group	= 61,216	61,348
Assumption 3		
The 70% DETI DEL target is applied to the 16-64 age group	= <del>63,958</del>	64,095
Therefore,		
<i>The number of jobs need in 2015 (Assumption 3 – Assumption 2)</i>	= 2,742	2,747
Assumption 4		
Population aged 16-64 projection 2030	= 99,574	99,322
Resulting in an increase	= 8,203	7,758
Assumption 5		
The DETI 70% target of the rise of 16-64 will be economically active	= 5,742	5,431

## Assumption 6

The number of jobs needed to be created before 2030

(Assumption 3 + Assumption 5)

~~=8,484~~

8,178

- 1.2 In light of the new population projections published by NISRA in 2016. We must firstly look at the revised population projection figures for 2015 and 2030 and apply them to the methodology as set out above, this results in a reduced jobs requirement to just under 8200 opposed to the original target of 8500.
- 1.3 Upon further examination of the above methodology and assumptions, the total jobs required, assumption 5, uses the target rate of 70% of the working population (aged 16-64) as set by DETI and applies this to the year 2030. This target was set for 2023 in the DETI publication. The methodology does not take account of a potential rise in this target to allow for the 7 years between 2023 and 2030. If we took account for the potential rise in this target over these year in would result in a need for further jobs creation.
- 1.4 Another factor that must be considered is the proposed changes in the retirement age. Between 2012 and 2018, Statutory Pension Age (SPA) will change from 65 years for men and 61 years for women, to 65 years for both sexes. Then between 2019 and 2020, SPA will change from 65 years to 66 years for both men and women. This will continue past 2030, the next change between 2034 and 2046, SPA will increase in two stages from 66 years to 68 years for both sexes. This is based on SPA under the 2011 Pensions Act. These changes will increase the 'working age' population and have been taken into account by NISRA when projecting 'working age population' by 2030.
- 1.5 In response to the updated population projections by NISRA, the decision to proceed with the original minimum target for job creation in Mid Ulster by 2030 of 8500 can be justified when taking the above factors into account.