

How Do We Get There - The Role of Politics

- ⊗ **Peace - The Most Important Step**
 - » **Maximise the Synergies of Peace**
 - » **Rationalise & Redirect Public Expenditure/Public Agencies**
 - » **Eliminate Diseconomies of Division**
- ⊗ **Economic Benefits of Greater Equality/Social Cohesion**
- ⊗ **Vital Role of Governance**
 - » **Accountability- Democratic Deficit**
 - » **Collective/Participative Decision Making - Collective Responsibility for the 'State We're In'**
 - » **Reinvent Political Relationships**
 - » **Significance of a Civic Forum**

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Good News/Bad News

- 1990-1995, GDP per head increased from 78.2 per cent to 83 per cent of the UK average.
- Manufacturing output rose by 16.6 per cent between 1990- 1996 (3.3 per cent UK)
- Employees in employment increased by 6.6 per cent between 1990-1995 (fall of 3.1 per cent in the UK as a whole)

But

- Key industries continue to compete on the basis of low costs
- Large segment of employment is concentrated in low technology industry and low-grade services
- Core sections of the unemployed remain stubbornly in the long-term category
- Downbeat Predictions from Coopers & Lybrand

What Kind of Economy?

- **No substitute for Competitiveness, but what kind of competitiveness?**
- **Competitiveness - the result of competition or co-operation?**
- **Reduced Public Sector Dependency, but for all sectors?**
- **A Regional or an All-Island Approach?**
- **An Economic or an Integrated Social & Economic Development Programme?**
- **A low/Paid - Low Skill Labour Force or sustained investment in Human Resources?**
- **A weak European Region or the 'Fastest Growing' European Region?**

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