

## OPPORTUNITY NEWRY EVENT HOSTED IN DUBLIN

On 6th November, a select number of key business representatives from the Greater Newry area hosted an event in Dublin entitled 'Opportunity Newry'. The aim of the event, which was organised by Parker Green International, was to give prospective investors from the Republic of Ireland an insight into one of Europe's newest thriving cities and to exemplify Newry as an alternative investment location. Over forty high profile companies from Dublin attended the business breakfast seminar, held at Dublin's 5 star Shelbourne Renaissance Hotel, to listen to industry experts from the public and private sector highlight the benefits of having operations in both jurisdictions, North and South of the border. The seminar was hosted by Parker Green's Managing Director, Dr. Gerard O'Hare and included contributions from four astute and highly respected business professionals from Northern Ireland. The Keynote speaker was Mr Alastair Hamilton, CEO of Invest NI, Northern Ireland's economic development agency. He focused on the all Ireland economy and the benefits of investing in the North. Dr. Conor Patterson, President of Newry Chamber of Commerce & Trade and CEO of Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency, focused on the city of Newry, its strategic location, its young skilled workforce and what it offered to the potential



Speaker Panel : Padraic O'Kane, Alastair Hamilton, Feargal Mc Cormack, Dr. O'Hare and Dr. Patterson

investor. Mr Padraic O'Kane, Managing Director of the Sancian Hospitality Group, which owns Fire Restaurant at the Mansion House in Dublin and RED Brasserie in Newry, discussed his decision to invest in Newry and RED Brasserie's success to date. The final guest speaker, Mr Feargal Mc Cormack, Managing Partner of FPM Chartered Accountants in Newry focused on business practice, financial incentives and taxation. Speaking after the event, organiser and host, Dr. O'Hare said: "We may be in a recession but we need to be prepared for the upturn. We felt that now was the time to proactively market Newry as a centre of excellence for inward

investment so that Irish companies can create a 'win win' situation. Newry offers a strategic location to service Northern Ireland, the UK and further afield, while its border location allows businesses to stay close to their central southern hub. Attendance at today's event shows there is a real business appetite for this proposal and we are looking forward to doing business with many of the attendees in the near future." This informative event was also supported by Stakeholder Communications, Norbrook Laboratories, Glen Dimplex, Invest NI and Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency.

## PGI WELCOMES SLOVAKIAN GUESTS



PGI representatives, Newry City Mayor, John Feehan, (3rd from the left) and Slovakian guests

In October, Parker Green welcomed Slovakian guests from Trnava city to our Head Offices in Newry. Ing.arch. Milan Horák, Head of Urban Development and Concepts Department at Trnava Municipality and Ing. Jozef Pobiecky, Deputy Mayor of Trnava were in Northern Ireland to attend the Investor's Round Table 2009 event at the Waterfront Hall, Belfast, of which Dr. O'Hare was a guest speaker. We decided to welcome them to our offices primarily because Trnava City is the loca-

tion of Trnava Park, our proposed flagship mixed use development in Central & Eastern Europe, which is due to commence construction after Christmas. Their visit gave us the opportunity to establish initial relations with two key authoritative and influential figures from this city, these relations will then continue to be nurtured throughout the development process and beyond. Following on from their visit to Newry, our two guests were accompanied by two of our Central & Eastern

European employees to the Investor's Round Table 2009 event in Belfast. The aim of this event was to promote Slovakia as an ideal investment and business destination to the prospective Irish investor. In accordance with the World Bank and IMF surveys, Slovakia will belong to the fastest growing economies in Europe after credit crunch recovery. GDP growth for 2010 is predicted to achieve 3% with further dynamic economic growth in the years to come. Speakers at this event included Cllr. William Humphrey, who opened the event and Mr Dusan Novotny, a Slovakian councillor and Head of the Trade & Economic section of the Slovak Embassy. Dr. O'Hare also addressed the audience, speaking about his personal experience of doing business in Slovakia with the development of Parker Green's Trnava Park development. Mr Jan Telensky, MD of Aqua City Resort, Slovakia, spoke on Investment Opportunities in the Tourism Sector in Slovakia, before the Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic for Northern Ireland, Mr Tom Sullivan closed the event.