

Document Pack

**Democratic Services Section
Chief Executive's Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**



29th February, 2012

MEETING OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman / Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room (Room G05), City Hall on **Tuesday, 6th March, 2012 at 5:15 pm**, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully

PETER McNANEY

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. **Routine Matters**
 - (a) Apologies
 - (b) Minutes
 - (c) Declarations of Interest
2. **Land of the Giants - Presentation**
3. **Shaping Belfast**
 - (a) Belfast City Masterplan – Oral Update by Head of Economic Initiatives
 - (b) Consultation on Queen's Quay (Pages 1 - 12)
4. **Marketing Belfast**
 - (a) Christmas Lights and Signage (Pages 13 - 18)

(b) Belfast Tattoo - Request for Assistance (Pages 19 - 36)

5. **Neighbourhoods, Communities and People**

(a) Pride of Place Awards (Pages 37 - 44)

6. **Miscellaneous Item(s)**

(a) Waterfront and Ulster Halls Staffing Arrangements - Oral Update



Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Masterplan Update
Date:	Tuesday 6 March 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officers:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives ext 3463

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	<p>Purpose</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to update Members on the current position with regard to the Draft Masterplan and process following the Committee request for the opportunity to have individual Party briefings and additional time to respond to the circulated documents.</p>
1.2	<p>A verbal update in respect of the ongoing Party briefings was provided at the 22 February 2012 meeting (Appendix 1). This report seeks to summarise the comments received to date and outline the next steps in the proposed process for continued engagement and work to progress the development of the Masterplan.</p>

2	Key Issues
2.1	<p>The process of individual Party briefings has now been completed, although some parties have requested the opportunity to submit further detailed specific comments. As previously reported to the February Committee there were some common issues raised through the consultations with the individual parties which are summarised below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The need for further and sustained political engagement in the consultation and development of the Masterplan - The adoption of a phased approach to the process for the proposed consultation ensuring engagement with the Executive (Departments) prior to public consultation. - Clear alignment between the Masterplan and the Investment Programme. This should be then be enhanced through subsequent alignment with Government priorities following consultation. - The Masterplan should have a greater emphasis on the need for direct intervention in the more deprived areas or neighbourhoods to address unemployment and disadvantage.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The connectivity challenges should be highlighted with additional areas prioritised to ensure the centre city is integrated with and accessible to the surrounding neighbourhoods. - The neighbourhood hubs or clusters concept and their role or development alongside the focus on continued growth of the centre city area requires further clarification. <p>2.2 The Committee at the meeting on the 22 February 2012 sought clarification of a number of issues including the definition of poverty and the approach to the proposed engagement with the Executive. In relation to the reference to 'poverty', as referred to in the previously circulated Party Groups Feedback paper (Appendix 1), it was confirmed that this would follow the definition already agreed by this Committee. The Committee also highlighted the need for the Chair and Deputy Chair along with Party Leaders to lead the engagement with the Executive in respect of the Masterplan element of any ongoing consultation with the Executive or Ministers.</p> <p>2.3 The suggested approach to continued engagement with the Executive and broader consultation was outlined as a two stage process designed to address the first two points in the Party Groups Feedback paper. The wider process of engagement between the Council and Departments has been initiated and the first meeting has taken place with the DoE Minister and officials at which this issue was tabled along with other issues.</p> <p>2.4 The more detailed list of responses and issues raised in the briefings are captured in an appended document under the Strategic, Specific and General headings (Appendix 2). This document seeks to summarise the detailed feedback from the individual meetings and the subsequent Party submissions.</p> <p>2.5 It is proposed that the Consultants are requested to address the comments raised through a revision to the current draft document that will also take account of any issues arising from the engagement with the Central Government Departments. This editorial work would be carried out under their existing contract to develop a draft Masterplan document.</p> <p>2.6 It should be noted that the proposed two stage process for continued engagement with the Executive and broader consultation is beyond the scope of the existing consultancy commission. It is proposed that a further report is brought before the Committee to consider the next phases of the engagement and the initial finding in respect of those Masterplan recommendations that may require further exploration and additional consultancy support.</p>
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3	Resource Implications
3.1	There are no resource implications arising from this report.

4	Recommendations
4.1	<p>Members are requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) note the feedback received from the individual Party briefings and the intention to instruct the Consultants to incorporate the comments in a revised Draft of the Masterplan;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">(ii) endorse the clarification in relation to the reference to 'poverty', as mentioned in the Party Groups Feedback paper (Appendix 1), which it is confirmed would follow the definition already agreed by this Committee.(iii) note the commencement of the engagement activity with the Executive as the initiation of a two stage process designed to address the first two points in the Party Feedback paper; and(iv) note the proposal to bring a further report to Committee for consideration of the proposed engagement and any requirement of additional consultancy support to address the initial Masterplan recommendations.
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5	Decision Tracking
None.	

6	Documents Attached
Appendix 1- Party Groups Feedback paper circulated to the 22 February 2012 Committee	
Appendix 2 – Detailed list of responses and issues raised in the Party briefings	

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Appendix 1

Party Groups' Feedback

The individual Party Group Masterplan Briefings were scheduled for the 13th to 23rd February 2012.

The **PUP** meeting is scheduled for the 23rd Feb 2012. The previous meetings were: **SDLP** 13th Feb (JM); **UUP** 14th Feb (JM/ KS); **SF** 15th Feb (JM/ KS); **ALL** 15th Feb (JM/ KS); **DUP** 16th Feb (JM).

The parties have in addition to responding to the briefing have provided additional feedback through specific papers or summarised positions. The general responses have been positive but with the caveats that the emphasis may need to be adjusted and the consultation carefully managed in respect of the potential confusion with the Investment Programme and the need to ensure engagement with the Executive. There was also recognition that further work would be required as the review process, in some instances, could only identify potential issues or challenges not previously addressed.

This combination of general and specific commentary on the draft document will contribute to the modifications and revision of the Masterplan prior to consultation. In addition the more general and context related commentary has already begun to influence the process for the continued development and potential adoption of the plan.

There were some common issues raised through the feedback from the individual parties which are summarised below:

1. The need for further and sustained political engagement in the consultation and development of the Masterplan

Members highlighted the sustained approach to the development of the Investment Programme and the value of ensuring that engagement of Members is sustained through to public consultation.

2. The adoption of a phased approach to the process for the proposed consultation ensuring engagement with the Executive (Departments) prior to public consultation.

A two stage process is proposed with the first stage involving the Chair and Vice Chair of the Development Committee along with Party Leaders engaging with government Departments and Ministers with a view to securing their support for the Masterplan document. The second stage would comprise the broader public consultation on the basis of a shared agenda for the city.

3. Clear alignment between the Masterplan and the Investment Programme. This should be then be enhanced through subsequent alignment with Government priorities following consultation.

The modifications to the Masterplan should highlight the link to the Investment Programme, with the common principles reflected in both documents, to ensure connectivity between the strategies and clarity for the proposed

consultations. The broader engagement with the Government Departments should ensure alignment with the Executive priorities.

4. The Masterplan should have a greater emphasis on the need for direct intervention in the more deprived areas or neighbourhoods to address unemployment and disadvantage.

The feedback highlighted the desire for non-spatial 'programme' activity or imperatives to be reflected in the document especially in regard to the need to address or tackle poverty, deprivation and inequalities.

5. The connectivity challenges should be highlighted with additional areas prioritised to ensure the centre city is integrated with and accessible the surrounding neighbourhoods.

The link in the diagram between the core and the surrounding city needs to emphasise the importance of the neighbourhoods and accessibility. In addition to the diagrammatic changes need to consider the emphasis on public transport, barriers, international linkages (Port /Airport), rapid transport and the links to neighbourhood hubs.

6. The neighbourhood hubs or clusters concept and their role or development alongside the focus on continued growth of the centre city area requires further clarification.

The parallel development of the neighbourhoods and direct investment in communities was highlighted as an important element of the investment programme and the Masterplan needs to ensure clarity around the definitions and roles of the neighbourhood elements.

Appendix 2

Issues

Strategic

- The launch of the MP at the same time as the IP and other initiatives could create confusion
- The principles of the IP must underpin the MP to provide connectivity between the strategies
- The lack of prior consultation with relevant Government partners and could create a disconnect - further consultation required.
- Master Plan (MP) should have come before the Investment Package (IP)
- Need greater emphasis on connections to Centre from surrounding areas
- Concerned that consultative process for the Draft MP has not been as conducive to building political consensus, in contrast to that involved with the IP
- A public launch without collective ownership could lead to static as opposed to a dynamic partnership process with other bodies.
- The Masterplan is generally a little light in detail
- Not enough emphasis on public transport/rapid transport – disjointed timelines – needs to be more specific and clear
- Sequential development of N'hood hubs – hubs not particularly developed - query re North Foreshore
- Learning City – very focussed on universities – need to build up linkages with universities on early years under- achievement
- Connect to recent Council strategies re Tackling Poverty and Inequalities and Removing Barriers (Peace Walls paper through Good Relations/S,P&R)
- Concern that the Masterplan in placing all its economic recovery eggs in the QUB-city centre-Titanic Quarter axis

Specific

- A more explicit emphasis on direct intervention in deprived areas to tackle unemployment and disadvantage
- Spelling errors for correction i.e. Shaftesbury and Shankill
- Re-examine executive summary – currently misleading in terms of what is in the entire document

- Include Castle Street/Divis Street access as connectivity to the West and consider other gateways to the city centre including Lower Newtownards Rd/Short Strand while linking the Markets to the city centre and to the river
- Absence of Ravenhill development from the document
- Concerns regarding UU campus proposal and parking / transport implications
- Look at international linkages – Harbour/ Port – currently disjointed
- Diagrams miss the connections from the two arcs of neighbourhood developments into the City Core/ corridor
- Lack of tying down of projects for North Belfast
- Figures 9 and 11 on pages 56 and 58: re-colour
- Support for City Centre Housing – shared housing development is not reflected (p46)
- Potential for the addition of Gilpin site (Sandy Row) - to be included on list
- Development of green space (p65) population driver is not coming through clearly enough to increase the population growth
- The City Centre approach to development of apartment blocks would be better focussed on a community/ neighbourhood location as they would be better utilised in these area.
- More detail on direct intervention in jobs and communities
- Wording of neighbourhood areas needs addressed to highlight employment and regeneration nodes
- Wording on Page 53 of document (4.3 Neighbourhood City -3rd paragraph, 2nd sentence) be amended to read “additional to physical development projects”
- In the summary document a series of Neighbourhood Projects are listed. Some of these appear here but don't appear in the long list in the Investment Package. Moreover, there is no mention of this list in the main Masterplan 'Review document.

General

- What objectives have been met from the 2004 Master Plan
- What are the actions points/next practical steps arising from the latest Draft Masterplan
- There needs to be a consistent and persistent lobby group from BCC

engaging with the Executive in terms of resource allocation on key issues such as those highlighted in the Draft Masterplan

- Dept take points onboard and to update document accordingly and to report back to Party Group
- Ensure all parts of the City and its people are catered for
- Organise joint meeting with Central Government Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and Party Group Leaders + Chairs of SP&R and Dev Cttees
- Action zones need to be set up across the whole City to deal with issues such as young males leaving school without qualifications
- Welfare Reform needs to be mentioned
- Central corridor is not the only driver of the City

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Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Queen's Quay Draft Masterplan
Date:	6 March 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officers:	Keith Sutherland, Planning and Transport Unit Manager, ext 3578

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Department for Social Development (DSD) recently published for public consultation a draft Masterplan for the Queen's Quay area. The Document can be viewed using viewing the DSD website: http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/consultation-queens-quay-belfast-draft-masterplan
1.2	Queen's Quay is located on the eastern bank of the river Lagan and is bounded by the M3 flyover to the north, the Queen's Bridge to the south, the river Lagan to the west and the Station Street Flyover to the east. See Appendix 1 for a map of the 1.3 hectare area.
1.3	The Masterplan consultation document prepared by DSD contains an analysis of the area, the main regeneration principles and the options for its future development.
1.4	Following consideration of any consultation responses DSD propose that the adopted Masterplan will set out guidance on the proposed range, mix and location of uses for the Queen's Quay area. DSD may use the adopted Masterplan to formulate further development briefs to guide how parts of the site will be developed in the future.
1.5	The Queens Quay area has been the subject of various proposals going back to the Laganside Concept Plan in 1987. A development brief was issued for this area in 2005, however, neither Laganside Corporation nor DSD were able to proceed with developing this area at that time. The development of Queen's Quay is considered key to stimulating regeneration of the 'shatter zone' that lies to the east of the site.

1.6	Appendix 2 contains a draft Council response to the Masterplan for consideration by Members.
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2	Key Issues
2.1	The Department for Social Development (DSD) is seeking to promote the regeneration plans for Queen's Quay in recognition of the potential to build on the significant recent developments that have taken place including: Titanic Quarter; Obel; The Boat; and Victoria Square.
	<i>Masterplan Proposals</i>
2.2	The draft Masterplan contains a number of proposals and identifies a phased approach to how the preferred development of the site could be envisaged.
2.3	The mixed use proposal in the document would if fully developed result in an 18 storey (4 star) hotel; 278 Residential units; and 8,000 sq m of leisure uses.
2.4	A key assumption taken in the Masterplan is that the Station Street flyover is removed. It should be noted that planning approval for removal of the flyover was granted in 2007 but is now approaching its expiry date. The removal would obviously require the rationalisation of the existing highway network in the area
2.5	The draft Masterplan for the site proposes a land mark tower which would offer views across the city and incorporate the zip-line, which has been installed in this area previously as part of charity events, on a permanent basis.
2.6	An upgrade to the weir crossing, public realm improvements, and an urban park beneath the motorway bridge are all included in the proposals and as part of the phased approach the sites awaiting development will be available for public use for example, parks and exhibition space.
	<i>Key Issues for BCC</i>
2.7	The Queen's Quay site is in a key location between the City Centre and Titanic Quarter, however, in its current physical state the area acts less as a connection and more as a barrier to movement. In this context the Council would welcome the DSD focus on what is a pivotal waterfront area, being traversed by increasing numbers as the City Centre, Waterfront Hall and Titanic Quarter continue to develop.
2.8	Short term improvements to this site should address the neglected nature of the area through improved signage and more effective maintenance of the built environment and street furniture in the areas adjacent to the Weir. In addition short term actions to remove graffiti around the bridges and flyover could enhance the environment for existing users.
2.9	The draft document identifies the strategic importance of the site in terms of major roads, bus routes and the existing cycle network. However there is no reference to or recognition of the proposed rapid transit routes recently identified by the Department for Regional Development in their preferred route options paper.
2.10	The CITI Route preferred option runs adjacent to the Queens Quay site using the Queen Elizabeth Bridge, Queen's Quay and Queen's Road into Titanic Quarter, and returning to the city centre via Station Street, Bridge End and Queens

	Bridge.
2.11	In addition to the CITI Route the 'next best' option for the EWAY route utilises the Newtownards Road and the Queen Elizabeth Bridge to the south of the Queen's Quay Site, meaning that two of the three rapid transit routes initially proposed will be running adjacent to the Site.
2.12	The final Masterplan for this area must integrate the consideration of this major city development into the proposals for preferred development. The rapid transit route in addition to enhancing access could be a mechanism to kick-start development of this site.
2.13	The Masterplan makes the key assumption that the removal of the Station Street flyover will take place, based on an existing planning approval. However until the feasibility studies are completed, and agreement has been reached, the deliverability of this aspect of the overall scheme must be questioned. The document should provide alternative development options for the site which do not rely on the removal of the Station Street flyover and incorporate proposals for rapid transit. There is also limited consideration of the connectivity for cyclists and pedestrians to the surrounding areas.
2.14	The consultation document includes a new boardwalk and improvements to the weir along with design proposals for buildings that overhang the river edge. The Council is disappointed that the draft Masterplan has given no consideration to proposals for a new lock at this location. The lagan corridor features in both the draft Belfast City Masterplan and recently published Investment Programme and discussions have been ongoing in relation to the studies and potential along the Lagan. See Appendix 3 for the draft DSD Design Concept.
2.15	The Council would propose that the significant opportunity to add a new lock at Queen's Quay is included in the final Masterplan and that the preferred developments identified do not prejudice development of a new lock at this location.
2.16	Appendix 2 contains a full draft response for consideration by Members.

3	Resource Implications
	None

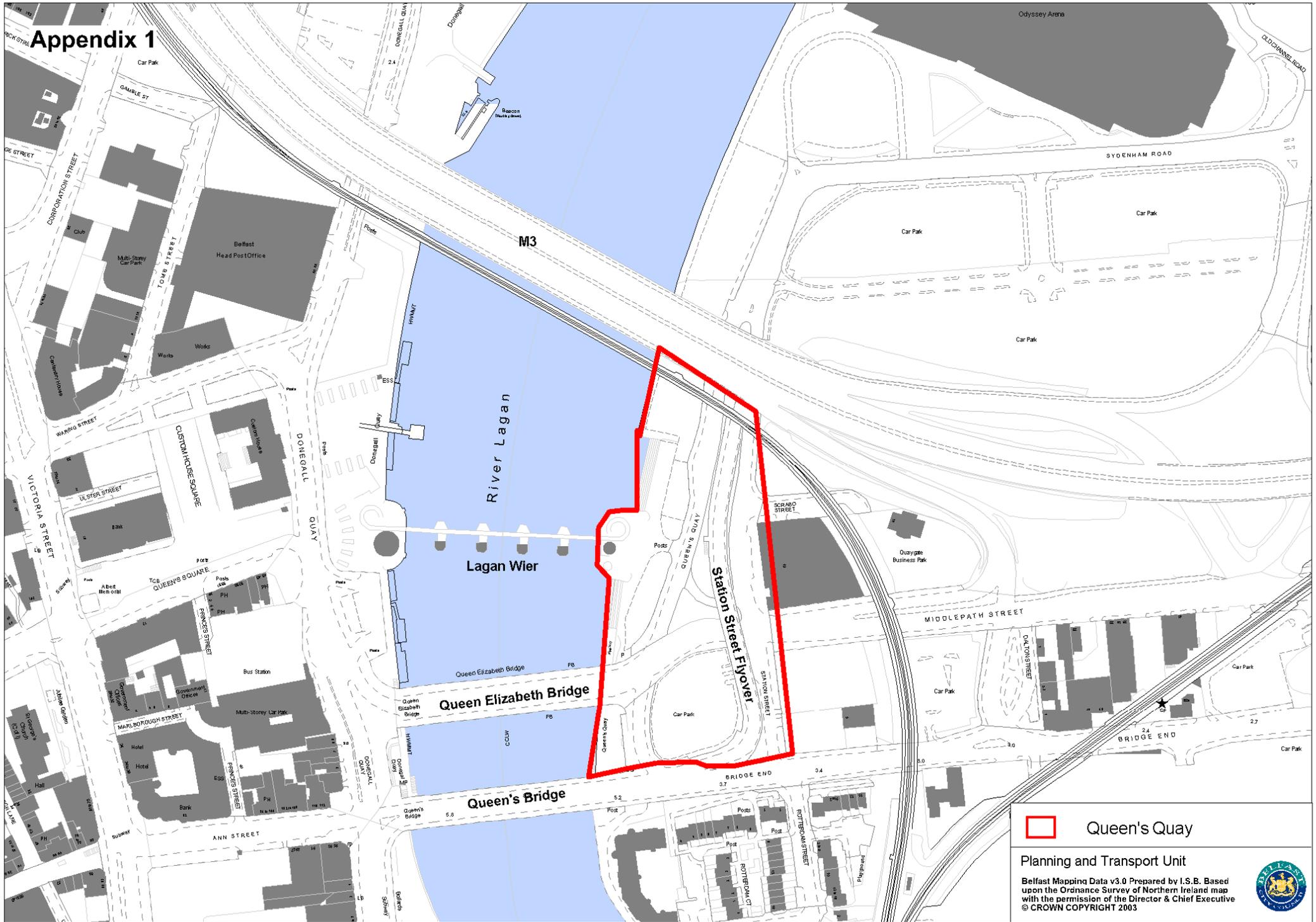
4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
	None

5	Recommendations
	Members are requested to consider the draft Belfast City Council response in Appendix 2 and agree a final response to be sent to the Department of Social Development

6	Decision Tracking
	An agreed Council response will be submitted to the DSD by the 31 st March 2012.

8	Documents Attached
Appendix 1: Map of the Queens Quay area Appendix 2: Draft Belfast City Council response. Appendix 3: Design Concept	

Appendix 1

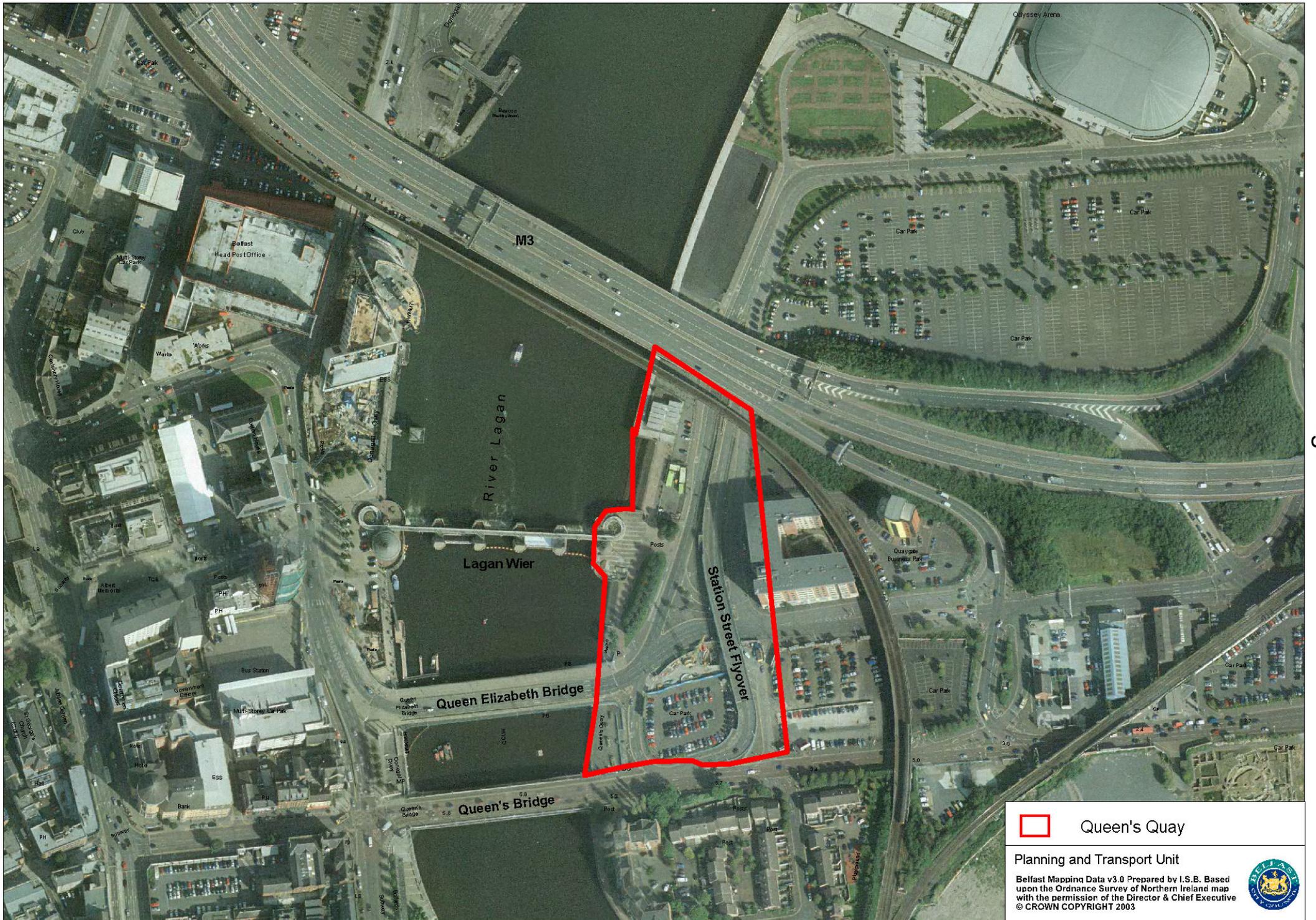


 Queen's Quay

Planning and Transport Unit

Belfast Mapping Data v3.0 Prepared by I.S.B. Based upon the Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland map with the permission of the Director & Chief Executive © CROWN COPYRIGHT 2003





 Queen's Quay

Planning and Transport Unit

Belfast Mapping Data v3.0 Prepared by I.S.B. Based upon the Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland map with the permission of the Director & Chief Executive © CROWN COPYRIGHT 2003



Appendix 2: Draft Response**Draft Belfast City Council Response to Queen's Quay Draft Masterplan Document**

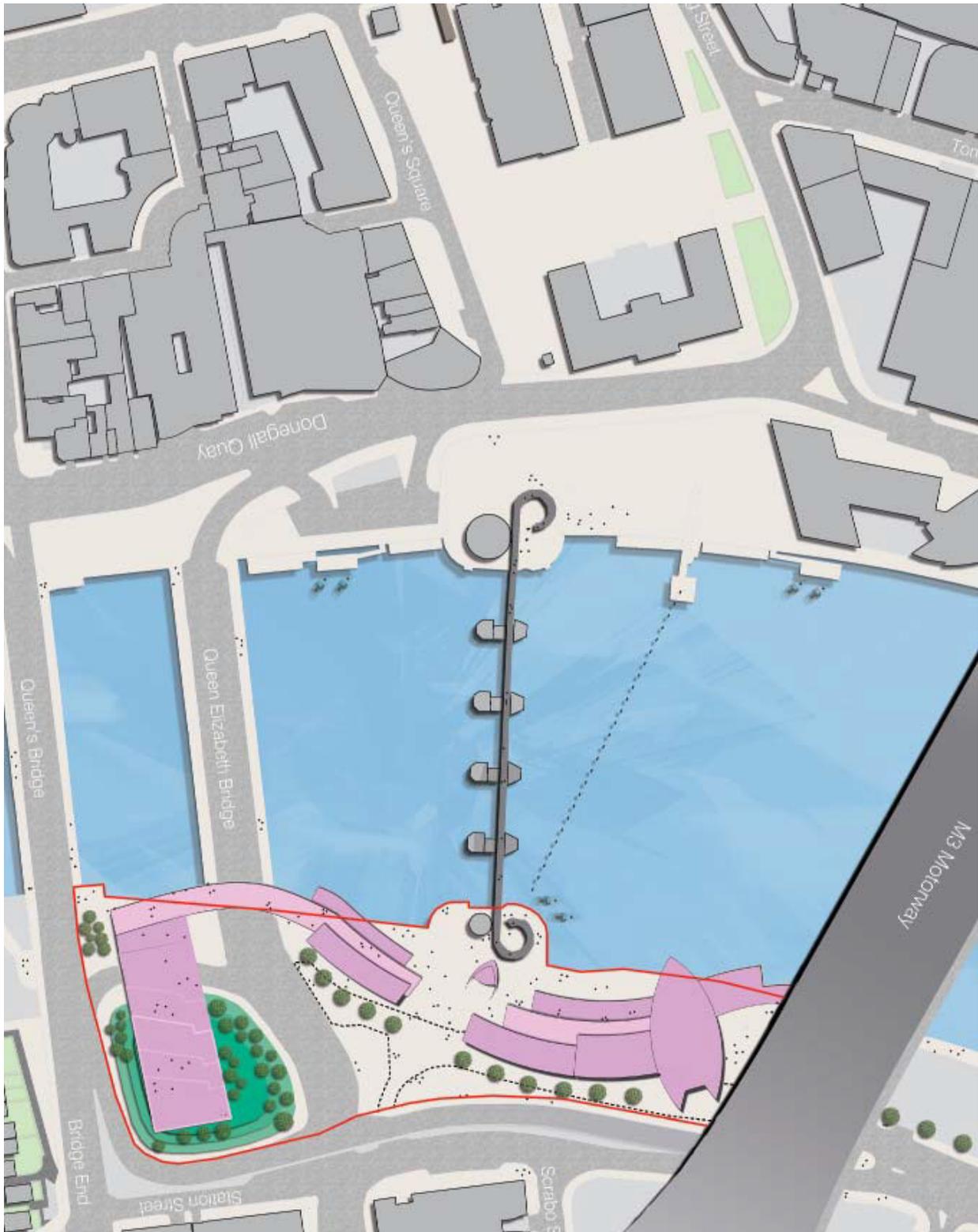
	Introduction
	This document is a response from Belfast City Council to the Department of Social Development relating to the public consultation on the 'Queen's Quay Belfast Draft Masterplan Document'.
	Belfast City Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the draft Masterplan proposals for this strategically important site.
	The Queen's Quay site is in a key location between the city centre and Titanic Quarter, however, in its current physical state the area acts less as a connection and more as a barrier. In this context the Council would welcome the DSD focus on what is a pivotal waterfront area, being traversed by increasing numbers as the City Centre, Waterfront Hall and Titanic Quarter continue to develop.
	The Council acknowledges the past difficulties experienced in bringing development of this site to fruition and welcomes the progress the draft Masterplan represents. The Council has considered the content of the draft Masterplan and identified a number of issues in the response below.
	The Site
	The Queen's Quay site is located in an important location to act as a pivotal connection between not only the Titanic Quarter and City Centre but also between the East of the City and the City Centre. Obvious physical constraints to the site include the River Lagan, M3 Motorway bridge, and the Station Street flyover. The numerous car parks in the area contribute to the experience of disconnection when travelling through the area.
	The site currently suffers from poor environmental quality and a feeling of disconnect towards the rest of the city particularly in an easterly direction, identified in the consultation document as the 'Shatter Zone'.
	Short term improvements to this site should address the neglected nature of the area through improved signage and more effective maintenance of the built environment and street furniture in the areas adjacent to the Weir. In addition short term actions to remove graffiti around the bridges and flyover enhance the environment.
	To the south west of the site, on the western side of the river, sits the Waterfront Hall which is the subject of a funding bid by the Council to develop a £20million extension for provision of dedicated conference and exhibition facilities. This will help strengthen Belfast's offer to this market and further develop this wider waterfront area into a key location in the City Centre.
	Connectivity
	The draft document identifies the site's strategic importance in terms of major roads, bus routes and the existing cycle network however there is no reference to the proposed rapid transit routes recently identified by the Department for Regional Development in their preferred route options paper.
	The CITI Route preferred option runs adjacent to the Queens Quay site using the Queen Elizabeth Bridge, Queen's Quay and Queen's Road into Titanic Quarter, and

	returning to the city centre via Station Street, Bridge End and Queens Bridge. The future development of this site must have cognisance of the proposed CITI Route and the potential benefits rapid transit can bring to areas along the route, yet the draft Masterplan does not make any reference to the potential impact rapid transit could have on the site insofar as investment opportunities or impact on road infrastructure.
	In addition to the CITI Route the 'next best' option for the EWAY route utilises the Newtownards Road and the Queen Elizabeth Bridge to the south of the Queen's Quay Site, meaning that two of the three rapid transit routes initially proposed will be running adjacent to the Site.
	The final Masterplan for this area should reflect the potential for this significant city development in its proposals for preferred development, both in the orientation of the proposed buildings and for the permeability of the site. The rapid transit route could be the mechanism to kick-start development of this site which in the past has struggled to attract development.
	The Masterplan makes the key assumption that the removal of the Station Street flyover will take place, based on an existing planning approval. However until the feasibility studies are completed, and agreement has been reached, the deliverability of this aspect of the overall scheme must be questioned.
	Considering the existing planning approval for the removal of the flyover is approaching its conditioned expiry date the final Masterplan should provide alternative development options for the site which do not rely on the removal of the Station Street flyover and incorporate proposals for rapid transit.
	There is also limited consideration of the connectivity for cyclists and pedestrians to the surrounding areas particularly to the residential area to the south of the site.
	The 'inward concave design...encouraging people to look away from the noisy and harsh environments....' described in the consultation document appears to have little regard to the existing permeability issues currently faced by east-west movements in this area and turns its back on the 'shatter zone' located further to the east. A preferable design would aim to ameliorate the impacts of the existing transport infrastructure whilst encouraging movements into, and through, this site in an east-west direction as well as a north-south direction.
	The development proposals must take account of the existing walking and cycling routes throughout the site. A better connection to the walking trail to the south of the site along the eastern bank of the river, including a pedestrian crossing would improve access and contribute to the wider permeability of the waterfront area.
	Development Concept
	Maximising the development potential of the site as a strategic link is a welcome element of the DSD vision for the area as are the aims to create a quality public realm with improved connections. The design concept must fully incorporate the theme of permeability for cycling, walking and public transport within and through the site.
	Greater consideration should be given to the quantum of similar uses already proposed for this vicinity. Proposals exist for the Scirocco site, City Quays on the west bank of the river, Titanic Quarter, and the land adjacent to the Odyssey complex all of which contain high numbers of residential units. The draft Masterplan proposals and the suggested density must be considered in this context. Whilst the Council

	acknowledge the proposed phased development of the site, uncertainty for developers through over-supply of mixed-use land should be avoided.
	Short term action to secure public realm improvements could be achieved in this area, particularly around the pedestrian access from the weir. We would strongly recommend the public realm improvements of Phase 1 are implemented as soon as possible.
	The Council would support more flexibility in the proposed uses to allow for viable alternative schemes to be developed for this site. A Masterplan which identifies potential developments is welcomed but the content should not prejudice the planning process of other suitable proposals on this site.
	The Council are concerned that the 'inward concave design' proposed in the Masterplan will reinforce the shatter zone to the east of the site and not address the challenge of the M3 and other bridges.
	The final design concept should recognise the increasing amount of cycling infrastructure in the area, for example the national cycle network, the comber greenway, and the cycle lanes being installed along the Sydenham Road and re-opening of Fraser Street and facilitate further cycle movement through the site. Belfast City Council would advocate the inclusion of cycle considerations in development proposals which including cycle access and safe cycle parking.
	The site is located within the Belfast City Centre Fringe Area of Parking Restraint in the draft Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan and the Council would suggest that provision of parking at this site is kept to a minimum in consideration of the city centre location and proximity of existing transport options (Bridge End Rail Halt, Laganside Bus Centre, Central Station) along with the proposed rapid transit routes outlined previously.
	The new cross harbour pedestrian and cycle bridge must be developed with involvement of key stakeholders including Belfast Harbour Commission, the Odyssey Trust, Belfast City Council and DSD. The design of this bridge must not limit or prohibit the use of this part of the river Lagan.
	Provision of a New Lock
	The consultation document includes a new boardwalk and improvements to the weir along with design proposals for buildings that overhang the river edge. The Council is disappointed that the draft Masterplan has given no consideration to proposals for a new lock at this location. The lagan corridor features in both the draft Belfast City Masterplan and recently published Investment Programme and discussions have been ongoing in relation to the studies and potential along the Lagan.
	Belfast City Council had an economic appraisal undertaken in 2009 which concluded that the restoration of the Lagan would contribute to an investment which would drive the City's tourism/recreational and hospitality industries, and result in increased visitor numbers to Belfast, increased visitor spend and the creation of jobs. The development of the Lagan could stimulate further development of water-side properties, particularly in the tourism, hospitality, recreation and leisure sectors. The real economic impact of proposals to restore the Lagan Navigation would not be captured solely by projected lock receipts and mooring income, but would be realised by Belfast's wider tourism, health and well being activities, recreational and hospitality industries in terms of visitor spend, job creation, increased tourism

	expenditure/associated multiplier effects etc. Belfast City Council expects the reopened Lagan navigation would have a number of economic benefits, and according to the 2008 Lagan Gateway Scoping Report the impact of visitor expenditure on the opening of the entire Lagan Navigation (Lagan weir to Lough Neagh) could be £2.1m per annum which could support 60 full time equivalent jobs.
	BCC has plans to undertake a number of restoration and development works that would facilitate the reopening of 9km of the Lagan from Belfast Harbour to Lock 3 at Shaw's Bridge.
	The £7bn Titanic Quarter phased development includes the development of the Abercorn Basin into a busy marina a development that will attract boat and river users up the River Lagan. The Lagan Weir currently acts as a barrier preventing navigation up the river dependent on the gates being lowered and certain tidal conditions as Belfast embraces its maritime heritage and seeks to build on the past the need for a new lock at Queen's Quay to bypass the Lagan Weir ought to be a part of the restoration of the Lagan.
	A fully navigable Lagan could facilitate the creation of an all island East-West waterway, allowing boat users to travel from Belfast Lough to Limerick via the Ulster Canal, the Shannon- Erne waterway and the Shannon. This is dependent on the reinstatement of the Ulster Canal. Boats would also be enabled to travel north to Coleraine via Lough Neagh and the Lower Bann navigation and west to Belleek via the Ulster Canal and Erne Waterway.
	The Council believes that the restoration of the Lower Lagan as proposed by the 2009 economic appraisal and 2008 scoping study would mark a key milestone in the campaign to reopen the entire lagan navigation and would play a significant part in raising the profile of the waterway's restoration potential and ultimately the creation of an all Ireland network.
	The Council would propose that the significant opportunity to add a new lock at Queen's Quay is included in the final Masterplan and that the preferred developments identified do not prejudice development of a new lock at this location.
	Conclusion
	Belfast City Council welcomes the creation of a Masterplan for the Queen's Quay area that promotes an animated waterside area with improved environmental quality, suitable developments, and pedestrian links to surrounding areas.
	This response identifies a number of issues which the Council believe should be addressed before the final Masterplan is published.
	Our main concerns include the lack of recognition of the proposed Rapid Transit routes; the absence of the potential for a new lock; and the absence of alternative options which do not rely on the removal of the station street flyover.
	There is an emphasis throughout the document on pedestrian connectivity but provision for cycling infrastructure through the Queen's Quay area could be incorporated into the design to a greater extent with clear connectivity to the surrounding area including a connection to the existing path to south of the site.
	The Council is pleased to have the opportunity to comment on this important Masterplan and would be happy to further discuss any of the issues contained within this response with DRD officials

Appendix 3 Design Concept



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Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	City Hall Christmas lighting and signage
Date:	6 March 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officers:	Gerry Copeland, City Events Manager, ext 3412

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	<p>The purpose of the report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update Members on plans for City Hall festive lighting for the Christmas period in 2012 and to seek approval for these plans. - To seek approval from Members for a review of the internal delivery process on the installation, maintenance and storage of the festive lighting. The suggestion to Members would be that this process would be moved to Properties and Projects Department, with reporting being moved to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, alongside the finances for this matter for the period 2013/14 onwards.
1.2	<p>The rationale for this proposal is based on the fact that the installation, maintenance and overall management of the festive lighting is now entirely managed by the Properties and Projects Department staff.</p>
1.3	<p>In addition any future design changes would require 'sign-off' by the Policy and Resources Committee as the Development Committee do not oversee the management of City Hall.</p>

2	Key Issues
2.1	<p><u>BCC Festive Lighting Remit</u></p> <p>The Council's City Events Unit is currently responsible for the festive lighting on City Hall, the installation and lighting on the main Christmas and for the pealighting on the trees within the grounds of the Hall. The Council does not manage the festive lighting in the city centre, which is overseen by Belfast City Centre Management and the Belfast Chamber of Trade.</p>

2.2	<p><u>Details of the Planned Festive Lighting for 2012</u> It would be proposed that the lighting for 2012 would be based on the final 2011 layout with pealighting on the trees to north of the grounds; rope, stars and lighting curtains on the north façade. There would be two 'Happy Christmas' signs and no 'B festive' signs. One of the 'Happy Christmas' signs would be installed over the east entrance to the building and the other on the main north entrance. Photographs of this lighting scheme, from 2011, are shown in Appendix 1.</p>
2.3	<p><u>Additional Signage</u> The Council now has in its possession an Irish language sign (Nollaig Shona), which was supplied by An Culturlann at no cost. In 2011 this was positioned above the east entrance of City Hall and Officers are now seeking guidance on the installation of this sign in 2012.</p>
2.4	<p><u>City Hall Christmas Tree & Lighting (external only)</u> The procurement of the above items are managed via the City Events Unit with significant input from BCC colleagues in Parks and Leisure and Properties and Projects departments. It would be proposal to Members that this is item is also transferred to, along with the above matters, to Properties and Projects Department in 2013/14.</p>
2.5	<p><u>'B Festive' Signage</u> Members are asked to note that Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce have written to express their concern at the removal of the 'B Festive' signage and have requested that Members reinstate this item.</p>

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u> In 2011/12 the total cost of the entire lighting and festive signage was £43,000. This cost includes the removal of the 'B festive' signs and the installation of the new Happy Christmas & Nollaig Shona signs on the east wing of City Hall.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> If Members agree the transfer of responsibility would go to Properties and Projects Department. This would not take place until the new financial period of 2013/14 year.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	<p>As with all major civic events, public events like the above have the potential to bring together people from a wide range of backgrounds and therefore promote good relations in the city.</p>

5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>Members are asked to give guidance in regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City Hall festive lighting for the Christmas period in 2012 inclusive of Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce's request to reinstate the 'B Festive' sign on City Hall

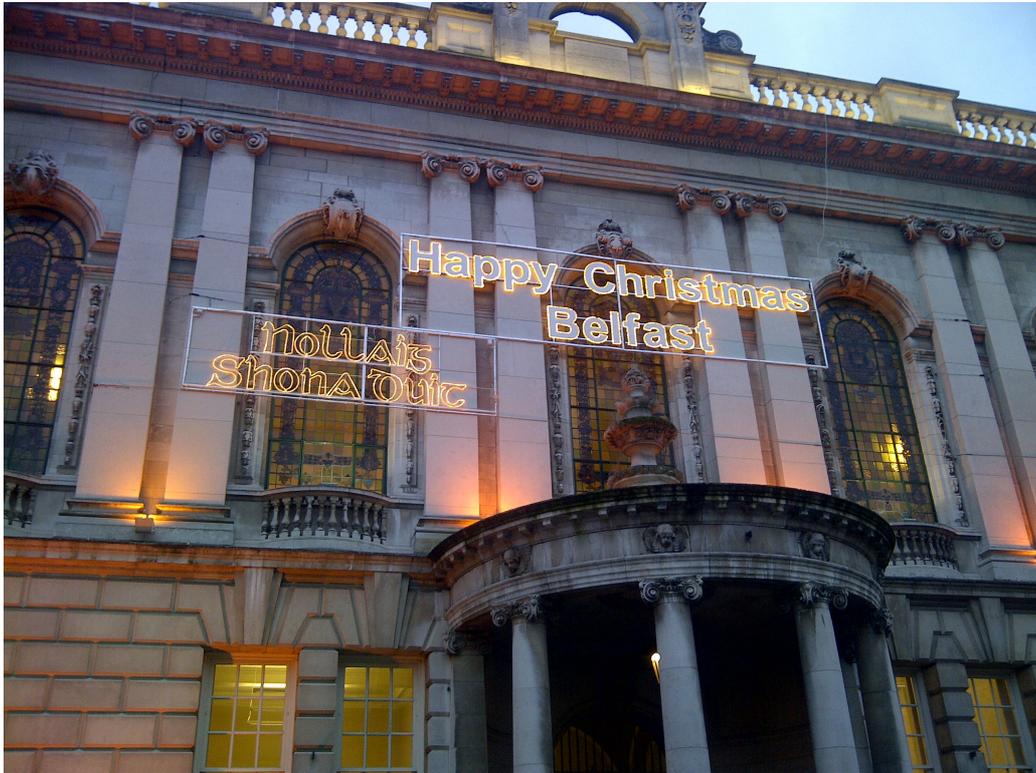
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Approve that a review of the internal delivery process on the installation, maintenance and storage of the festive lighting. The suggestion to Members would be that this process would be moved to Properties and Projects Department, with reporting being moved to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, alongside the finances for this matter for the period 2013/14 onwards.
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6	Decision Tracking
<p>If approved Officers will monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the project and provide post-project details as part of the Department's annual review. These outcomes will be presented to Members as part of the City Events Unit key performance indicators.</p>	
<p>Timeline: March 2013 Reporting Officer: Gerry Copeland</p>	

7	Documents Attached
<p>Appendix 1 – Images of 2011 Christmas festive lighting at City Hall</p>	

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Appendix 1 – Images of 2011 Christmas festive lighting at City Hall



Belfast 2011

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Public consultation results on the Community Support Plan 2011 to 2014
Date:	6 th March 2011
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Catherine Taggart, Community Development Manager, ext 3525

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Through its Community Support programme the Department for Social Development (DSD) offers support to all of Northern Ireland's local authorities to deliver Community Services that ' <i>... strengthen local communities, increase community participation and promote social inclusion through the stimulation and support of community groups, community activity and local advice services.</i> '
1.2	Under the programme DSD made £3,435,293 available to Belfast City Council for the period 2008 to 2010 and a further £1,584,286 for the period 2010 to 2011. This represents a contribution of approximately 23% to the Community Services' total annual budget.
1.3	To be eligible for funding each council must prepare a Community Support Plan (CSP) that describes how it will deliver community services in support of the programme. A Belfast City Council draft Community Support Plan for 2011 to 2014 was approved by Development Committee in April 2011. (This followed delays on the part of DSD in confirming its submission requirements and procedures).
1.4	Members should note that DSD have already issued a contract to the council for our 2011/12 CSP prior to its submission to them. The contract was subject to the submission of monitoring returns, budgets estimates, the draft plan, and a commitment to complete the twelve week public consultation.
1.5	Members agreed to a twelve week public consultation on the plan to run in parallel with the consultation on the council's draft Community Development Strategy. (A re-drafted Community Development strategy and equality screening are currently being prepared and will be presented to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in March 2012).

1.6	The structure and content of the draft CSP was greatly informed by work and evidence emerging from the council's draft Community Development strategy. In the development of both documents officers held pre-consultation workshops for Members, community development staff in the council; with thematic co-ordinators (including those with responsibility for Equality, Older People, Children and Young People, Good Relations); and with Policy Officers.
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2	Key Issues
2.1	<p>The twelve week public consultation on the draft document included the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All party briefings for Members - Workshops with officers from across the council including the thematic co-ordinators and the policy officers group; - Substantial analysis of the wider socio-economic and policy context; - Direct mailing to over 300 organisations from the community and voluntary sectors including all community grant recipients; - Mailing copies of the document and a questionnaire to all organisations on the Section 75 list and two briefings to the council's Equality Consultative Forum; - Presentations to the Belfast Area Partnership Boards; the twelve Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships; and Youth Forum; - We held five public workshops in north, south, east and west Belfast, which were advertised in the media, and an additional workshop for representatives of the statutory sector. - The document and questionnaire were also available for download from the council's website.
2.3	There was broad support for the CSP and its contents and a number of organisations identified opportunities for joint working with the council on a number of areas. There were no equality issues raised during the consultation. Officers worked with the council's Equality Officer to finalise an equality screening on the planned CSP. The recommendation, based on the results of the consultation, is that the CSP be screened out and not subjected to a full equality impact assessment.
2.4	Following approval by Members the results of the consultation, together with the screening decision and the final draft of the CSP will be submitted to DSD as part of the requirements of their contract.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	There are no additional resource implications over that agreed in budget estimates.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	Following the twelve week public consultation and discussions with the Council's Equality Officer, the evidence suggests that the plan has no substantial equality impact and has been screened out. It will not require a full Equality Impact Assessment.

5	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is asked to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Agree to the decision to screen out the CSP and not carry out a full Equality Impact Assessment, and;2. Agree to the submission of the CSP to DSD to finalise the contractual requirements under their Community Support programme.

6	Decision Tracking
Further to Committees consideration of the report: Time line: March 2012 Reporting Officer: Catherine Taggart	

7	Key to Abbreviations
CSP: Community Support Plan DSD: Department for Social Development	

8	Miscellaneous
The draft CSP is available for download at: http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/communitysupportplan or from Democratic Services on request.	

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Pride of Place Cities Competition 2012
Date:	March 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Cate Taggart, Community Development Manager, ext 3525

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Pride of Place competition has been supported by Belfast City Council for a number of years. For the past 3 years following committee approval, Community Service Officers have taken the organisational lead in the selection and preparation of entrant groups.
1.2	The Pride of Place competition is a prestigious all Ireland competition with a high profile throughout the island of Ireland, President Mary McAleese and Stormont ministers both have attended the prize giving.
1.3	Established in 2003 and hosted by Co-operation Ireland, Pride of Place is an all-Ireland competition which aims to recognise and celebrate the vital contributions that community groups make to society. The competition focus is on people coming together to shape, change and enjoy all that is good about their area. It gives community groups the opportunity to showcase specific pride initiatives, whether social, environmental or heritage-related, which will have long lasting and positive impacts on their society.
1.4	Each year, several categories are defined and entries invited; all entrants must be nominated by their local authority. In previous years, entrants nominated and sponsored by Belfast City Council have enjoyed considerable success. Winners are announced at a high-profile awards ceremony, hosted by a previous winning council, each autumn.
1.5	In 2009 we entered 4 groups; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - North Belfast Women's Initiative and Support Project - Failte Feirste Thair - Wandsworth Community Centre - Star Neighbourhood Centre

<p>1.6</p> <p>1.7</p> <p>1.8</p> <p>1.9</p>	<p>The North Belfast Women’s Initiative won their Category and Failte Feirste Thair came second in theirs.</p> <p>In 2010 we entered 4 groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hannahstown Community Association - Forum for Action on Substance Abuse - Artability - Taughmonagh Community Forum <p>The Forum for Action on Substance Abuse won their category.</p> <p>In 2011 we entered the following 4 groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finaghy Crossroads Project – Category – Community Enhancement. - Heart Project – Category – Community Health Initiative. - Suffolk Lenadoon Interface Project – Category –Sport in the Community - Donegall Pass Community Forum –Category – Population over 1.000 <p>The Heart Project were runners up in their Category Donegall Pass Community Forum won their Category.</p> <p>All the groups nominated to date have given positive feedback and have experienced tangible benefits from their association with the competition. These include an increased sense of pride, motivation to continue their commitment to provide excellent community facilities and programmes and increased recognition for their interventions from their local community.</p> <p>The 2012 award Ceremony will be on the 3 & 4 November with the venue still to be decided. This year there are two population categories, three single issue categories with designated themes and the housing estate category. There is an extra award to mark the 10 years the competition has been in existence and only applies to previous winners.</p>
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<p>2</p> <p>2.1</p> <p>2.2</p>	<p>Key Issues</p> <p>The Service has identified four suitable groups who have the attributes to compete strongly on behalf of the City:</p> <p><u>Bridge Community Association</u> in the 1000 plus population Category – Based in East/South, Belfast Bridge Community Association provides a wide range of activities and services to the whole community including; tackling social isolation and promoting better health and community safety among older people and vulnerable adults including the provision of a telephone contact service; training and personal development of marginalised young people; youth development and activities programme; good relations and interface work with the Short Strand community; advice outreach services; and a playgroup.</p>
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2.3	<p><u>Suffolk Community Forum</u> in the Theme Category of Community Gardening. - Suffolk Community Forum is based in West Belfast and has been pioneering in developing, promoting and lobbying for Community Gardens as a way in which local communities can build up capacity, skills and partnerships. The innovative Suffolk Community Garden brings together people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds to grow fruit vegetables and flowers and to encourage healthy lifestyles and recreational activity. It promotes self help, volunteering and sharing knowledge and skills. The successful Community Garden enterprise at Suffolk along with its sister project at Glen Community Centre was recently awarded the West Belfast Environmental Project 2011.</p>
2.4	<p><u>North Belfast Senior Citizens Forum</u> in the Theme Category of Older People's Participation in the Community. NBSCF is based in North Belfast and is an organisation representing the interest of 30 older people's groups throughout North Belfast. They seek to promote the interest and well-being of older people in north Belfast without distinction of age, gender, race, political or other opinion.</p>
2.5	<p><u>Upper Andersonstown Community Forum</u> in the Category of Housing Estate. Upper Andersonstown Community Forum is based in West Belfast and is a dynamic and inclusive organisation providing opportunities for local residents to become actively involved in raising the quality of life for the Upper Andersonstown Neighbourhood through community and economic regeneration. It provides a range of services including child care, afterschools, youth services, employment, training and education, volunteer support and disability. The Forum is represented on the local Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership and the West Belfast Partnership Board ensuring that the neighbourhood has a voice and can make an impact on strategic decisions affecting the area and West Belfast.</p>
2.6	<p><u>Special Category for previous Winners</u> . This is to mark the 10 years the Cities competition has been in existence. The criteria the nominees will be judged on are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moving towards self-sustainability - Significant growth and development since winning the award - Benefit to Community
2.7	<p>The following groups have won in their categories since Belfast City first entered the competition 10 years ago.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballysillan Ardoyne Community Garden Project (2004) • Council's Community Awareness Team from Cleansing Contracts (2004) • Lagan Legacy (2005) • Welcome Trust West Belfast (2006) • Newtownards Road Women's Group (2006) • Greater Village Regeneration Trust (2007) • Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group (2008) • Engage With Age East/South (2008) • North Belfast Women's Initiative & Support Group (2009) • Forum for Action on Substance Abuse (2010) • Donegall Pass Community Forum (2011)

2.8	Officers have conducted a preliminary assessment of the eleven groups using the three criteria above. Nine groups were discounted as they did not meet all three criteria. Two groups met the three criteria and are being put forward for the committee's consideration: Lower Ormeau Resident's Action Group (LORAG) and Greater Village Regeneration Trust (GVRT). Only one of these groups can be nominated for the Special Category Award.
2.9	<p><u>Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group</u></p> <p>Since winning the Pride of Place in 2008, LORAG has been instrumental in the redevelopment of Shaftsbury Recreational Centre, developing a strong social economy project and a unique model to deliver sports, health and community development activities within one community managed facility. The income generated by this project covers 80% of its running costs and 70% of salary costs. The project employs 14 full-time and 12 part-time posts. Future plans for the organisation include; community café, water sports provision and a gateway to tourism.</p>
2.10	<p><u>Greater Village Regeneration Trust</u></p> <p>GVRT is one of the key organisations driving regeneration in the South of the City. The trust owns and manages the Richview Regeneration Centre which was officially opened in April 2009 and provides access to space for community organisations and social enterprises, housing, amongst others, the Sure Start Village Children's Centre. GVRT are at the forefront of redeveloping the Village/Donegal Road area of south Belfast which is one of the most socially deprived areas in the city and work in partnership with key stakeholders to ensure that the views and needs of local people are built into the regeneration process.</p>
2.11	Committee are invited to nominate either LORAG or GVRT for the Special Category Award

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>The cost per entrant is £500 and 5 suitable entrants have been identified.</p>
3.2	Should the Members agree to enter the 2012 competition, it is proposed that the Council should pay the entry fees as well as the travel and accommodation expenses relating to the attendance of the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, the Director of Development (or their nominees) and the project officer, together with a maximum of three persons per external project (depending on the number of tickets allocated by Co-operation Ireland), at the awards ceremony.
3.3	The total cost is estimated at £5,500 including subsistence, travel and accommodation for one night; this would be funded from existing budgets.
3.4	<p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>There are no human resource implications resulting from this report.</p>

3.5	<u>Asset and Other Implications</u> There are no implications, with regard to Council assets or strategic planning, resulting from this report.
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4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	Organisations nominated for the Pride of Place Awards reflect the diversity of the city and will promote both equality of opportunity and good relations amongst nominees.

5	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is requested to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Select and approve either LORAG or GVRT for the Special Category Award 2. Approve the entry of 5 groups to the Pride of Place Award 3. Approve the attendance of the Chair, the Deputy Chair, the Director of Development (or their nominees) and the project officer, together with a maximum of three persons per external project (maximum twelve in total) at the 2012 awards ceremony and approve the payment of the entrants' fees, travelling, attendance and subsistence allowances in connection therewith.

6	Decision Tracking
	Timeline March to November 2012, Contact Officer : Catherine Taggart

7	Key to Abbreviations
	LORAG: Lower Ormeau Resident's Action Group GVRT: Greater Village Regeneration Trust (GVRT).

8	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1: Pride of Place Cities Competition 2012 – Categories Appendix 2: Assessment of Organisations for Special Award

Pride of Place Cities Competition Categories and Proposed Entrants 2012

1. Categories

- a. Self-Contained Geographic Communities (within cities). These will effectively be distinct, tangible communities within the city. The population categories for these communities are as follows:

1. under 1,000
2. over 1,000

The communities will be asked to demonstrate social responsibility under the following headings:

- How do we care for our vulnerable people (e.g. older people, young people, and the disabled and migrant workers)?
- How do we retain our culture and still be welcoming to new people?
- How do we protect our environment?
- How do we respect the built fabric of the community?
- How do we make links between the business community and your community?

b. Theme

1. Community Gardening
2. Older People's Participation in the Community
3. Cultural Tourism

For the themed categories, groups will be asked to demonstrate excellence in delivery of a local community service.

C. Non Population

6. Housing Estates (not population Specific)

D. Special Category

- 1 previous winner from the past 10years

2. Proposed Entrants

Request Committee to approve the 5 entries including the additional entry for the Special Category.

Pride of Place- Assessment Grid

Group	Moving Towards Self-Sustainability	Benefit to Community	Significant Growth and Development Since Winning Award
Ballysillan Ardoyne Community Garden Project		✓	
Council's Community Awareness Team from Cleansing Contracts		✓	
Lagan Legacy		✓	
Welcome Trust West Belfast		✓	
Newtownards Road Women's Group		✓	
Greater Village Regeneration Trust	✓	✓	✓
Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group	✓	✓	✓
Engage With Age East/South		✓	✓
North Belfast Women's Initiative & Support Group		✓	✓
Forum for Action on Substance Abuse		✓	✓
Donegall Pass Community Forum		✓	✓

Recommendations

The following two organisations meet the 3 criteria for the Pride of Place Award;

Greater Village Regeneration Trust

GVRT is one of the key organisations driving regeneration in the South of the City. The trust owns and manages the Richview Regeneration Centre which was officially opened in April 2009 and provides access to space for community organisations and social enterprises, housing amongst others the Sure Start Village Children's Centre. GVRT are at the forefront of redeveloping the Village/Donnegal Road area of south Belfast one of the most socially deprived areas in the city, working in partnership with key stakeholders to ensure that the views and needs of local people are built into the regeneration process.

Lower Ormeau Resident's Action Group

Since winning the Pride of Place in 2008, LORAG has been instrumental in the redevelopment of Shaftsbury Recreational Centre, developing a strong social economy project and a unique model to deliver sports, health and community development activities within one community managed facility. The income generated by this project covers 80% of its running costs and 70% of salary costs. The project employs 14 full-time and 12 part-time posts. Future plans for the organisation include; community café, water sports provision and a gateway to tourism.

Discounted

- Ballysillan Ardoyne Community Garden Project (2004)
- Council's Community Awareness Team from Cleansing Contracts (2004)
- Lagan Legacy (2005)
- Welcome Trust West Belfast (2006)
- Newtownards Road Women's Group (2006)
- Engage With Age East/South (2008)
- North Belfast Women's Initiative & Support Group (2009)
- Forum for Action on Substance Abuse (2010)
- Donegall Pass Community Forum (2011)