



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Presentation from the Cathedral Quarter Steering Group
<b>Date:</b>	10 February 2010
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Shirley McCay, Acting Director of Development, ext 3459
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Kerrie Sweeney, Tourism, Culture and Arts Manager, ext 3586

### Relevant Background Information

Members will be aware that Laganside Corporation dissolved in July 2007. In 2008, the Department for Social Development (DSD), working closely with Belfast City Council, Belfast City Centre Management (BCCM) and key stakeholders, set up a Steering Group to develop and implement a 5 year Strategic Vision and Development Plan for the area. DSD committed funding to enable the Steering group to produce the Strategy and promote the area including the employment of a Cathedral Quarter Development Manager. The Cathedral Quarter Steering Group (CQSG) includes broad representation of arts, business, leisure, public sector and other stakeholders - please see Appendix 1 for details.

Members will be aware that the Cultural Tourism Strategy, 'Developing Belfast's Opportunity', details the aim to develop cultural tourism activity in the Cathedral Quarter. Belfast City Council have been actively involved in the development and promotion of the Cathedral Quarter as a cultural tourism destination through;

- infrastructure development in its support of venues such as the Metropolitan Arts Centre (MAC), Black Box, Galleries and the Oh Yeah Music Centre
- improving visitor servicing between the hospitality and cultural sectors through skills development workshops and familiarisation tours
- working collaboratively to enhance the quality of the visitor experience in the Quarter and development of branding
- promotion in partnership with BVCB and improving communication through initiatives such as [www.thecathedralquarter.com](http://www.thecathedralquarter.com)
- the development of new cultural products, such as Late Night Art, Music Tourism, Summer Sundays, Culture Night and the development of future Cathedral Quarter street trading.

**Key Issues**

Members will be aware that the Development Committee approved the opportunity to receive a presentation from the Chair of the CQSG, Paul McErlane, and Cathedral Quarter Manager, Patricia Freedman, of an overview of the draft 5 year Strategic Vision and Development Plan for the Cathedral Quarter. Please see Appendix 1 for further details. The CQSG have also written to Council to invite the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Development Committee (or to nominate two members as the Committee sees fit) to sit on the CQSG. Please see Appendix 2 for further details.

**Recommendations**

It is recommended that Committee consider whether the Chairman and Deputy Chairman or their nominees wish to be represented on the Cathedral Quarter Steering Group.

**Decision Tracking**

Further to agreement that the Chair and Deputy Chair or their nominees agree to sit on the CQSG.

Time line: March 2010

Reporting Officer: Kerry Sweeney

**Documents Attached**

Appendix 1: Cathedral Quarter Steering Group

Appendix 2: Letter from the Cathedral Quarter Steering Group Background