

Appendix 1

Cathedral Quarter Steering Group

In 2008 DSD, working closely with Belfast City Council, Belfast City Centre Management 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 allow 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. CQSG currently includes:

Paul McErlean, MCE Public Relations Ltd, CHAIR
Anne Mc Reynolds, The MAC
Conor Shields, New Belfast Community Arts Initiative
Heather Floyd, Community Arts Forum
Prof. Kerstin Mey, Interface, University of Ulster
Paula McFetridge, Kabosh Theatre Productions
Will Chamberlain, Belfast Community Circus
Mark Finlay, Barnabas Ventures
Sorcha Wolsey, The Merchant Hotel
Ken Patterson, Belfast Cathedral
Rita Harkin, Ulster Architectural Heritage Society
Carol Ramsey, Department of Social Development
Carolyn Mathers, Belfast City Council
Andrew Irvine, Belfast City Centre Manager
Patricia Freedman, Cathedral Quarter Development Manager

The Steering Group has met monthly since September 2008 to map out an appropriate and sustainable strategy for future development that not only revitalises the area but also safeguards its unique personality as an historic and cultural quarter. The 13 members of CQSG is divided into 5 sub groups, to look at the arts and cultural activity, land use and built environment, development of the strategy, marketing, and lobbying of key stakeholders.

Each sub group meets separately, consults appropriate external stakeholders, and makes proposals back to the larger group to be included in the overall strategy. As the strategy began to take shape a public forum was held for businesses, organisations and other residents of Cathedral Quarter to discuss the 'direction of travel'. Over 80 people attended two sessions in The Black Box on the 19th of May raising some additional issues and providing invaluable feedback. Workshops and consultations by sector are taking place at this time and a second public forum will take place later in the autumn.

Through the land use and built environment sub group, CQSG has commissioned RPS Consulting to do a traffic study that looks at ways of establishing pedestrian priority and calming traffic in the area. The findings of that report are being incorporated into the draft strategy. Over the past few months CQSG took the lead in organising the highly-successful Culture Night event on the 25th of September which attracted 15,000 visitors and showcased what Cathedral Quarter has to offer.

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