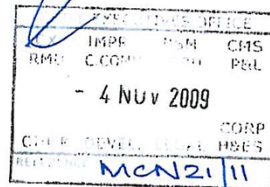


o TQ
o Cath Qtr
o Gaelt Qtr



Peter McNaney
Chief Executive Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast



3 November 2009

Dear Peter,

I would like to invite Belfast City Council to take part in two important conferences in Belfast and New York aimed at showcasing the new Belfast through its three leading quarter initiatives, the Cathedral-Library Quarter, the Port-Titanic Quarter, and the Gaeltacht Quarter. Council participation could be via the provision of speakers or in another form you suggest.

On the back of the successful Gateways to Tomorrow conference in Boston on 8-9 October, hosted by our sister paper The Irish Echo (see www.belfastmedia.com/boston), the Belfast Media Group and Irish Echo now plan to convene two major conferences in Belfast and New York.

The first conference, Belfast of the Quarters will take place on 24-25 March 2010, over three sites: the Cultúrlann in the Gaeltacht Quarter (opening reception and first session); the Harbour Commission Office (plenary on 25 March) and the University of Ulster city centre campus (concluding plenary).

The City Council, of course, has a important contribution to make to our discussion into how the City of the Quarters can positively impact on our most disadvantaged areas and also on how the Quarters can be joined up to drive Belfast's progress.

A sister conference highlighting the same transformational projects will be convened in New York on 9 and 10 June by the Irish Echo under the banner, New York-New Belfast. This will give us an opportunity to forge links of commerce, culture, education and friendship with New York and spotlight the exciting dispensation being created by these key developments in Belfast. The New York conference will open on 9 June, the plenary will take place on the 10th followed by the third annual Ireland-US Top 30 companies awards sponsored by KPMG. It's my hope that we could facilitate meetings for the

Friends of Belfast network around the conference — something we did successfully for ILEX, Port of Londonderry and Derry City Council during our Boston conference — and perhaps help to revitalise that important grouping.

Among those individuals and groups who have agreed to support this initiative are the University of Ulster, Howard Hastings, Terence Brannigan (chairman of CBI), David Gavaghan, the Presidents Club, the Gaeltacht Quarter Board, the Cathedral Quarter Steering Committee and I meet the Port of Belfast this week to enlist their assistance.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this proposal with you and your team.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. O. Muilleoir', written over a large, hand-drawn oval shape.

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir
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