

## SS NOMADIC MILESTONE 5 - PREPARATION FOR FULL RESTORATION

### Background

The Nomadic Charitable Trust was set up by the Department for Social Development in December 2006 to co-ordinate fundraising efforts to restore the SS Nomadic.

The Nomadic Trust has made rapid progress with fundraising over the last few months with over £4 million being raised. The Department for Social Development is confident that the restoration project will achieve the stages one and two of the restoration by the centenary of the SS Nomadic on 30 May 2011.

### New Arrangements for the Nomadic Charitable Trust

As the Nomadic moves into the construction phase of the project a review has been carried out making organisational structural changes to best deal with the new challenges and make it 'fit for purpose'. The review has considered a range of issues such as, models for the workings of a new Charitable Trust, formation of a Project Restoration Board to take forward the restoration, ownership of the vessel and, the financial arrangements that need to be put in place to underpin the new arrangements. A new organisational chart is attached. The new organisational chart has now been ratified by the greater majority and it will allow the Trust to continue to discharge its restoration oversight and it will give a key role to the new Project Restoration Board.

The new arrangements will attempt to bring on-board individuals and groups, whose interests are currently not represented on the Nomadic Charitable Trust. This hopefully will be achieved through the formation of a new group called the Friends of Nomadic Trust (FONT). This group has now been set up with over 10 members and the inaugural meeting took place on 19 April 2010.

### Work Plans and Costings etc

The following funding has been secured to date.

<b>Funders committed to date</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Peace III Shared Space funding	£2,227,000
DSD funding (including purchase price)	£540,516
NI Tourist Board	£500,000
Titanic Quarter Limited	£191,292
Belfast Harbour Commissioners	£214,292
Belfast City Council	£250,000
Ulster Garden Villages	£200,000
NI Tourist Board Tourism Innovation Fund (to be confirmed pending economic appraisal)	£40,312
National Historic Ships	£2,000
Institute of Directors	£7,000
<b>Total to date</b>	<b>£4,172,412</b>

The estimated cost of the restoration project is £5-7million. With part 1 of the Conservation Management Plan completed in July 2009, Heritage Lottery Fund has

accepted an application for £2.5million (to include capital works on the restoration of Hamilton Dock) with a target date of early June 2010 for submission of Round 1.

### **Project Management Update**

Work continues with the second part of the Conservation Management Plan. This will be finalised by the end of October 2010. The Trust has agreed the following sequence of works to the Nomadic:-

1. Cleaning and painting
2. Steelworks
3. Outfitting

The contract for cleaning and painting of the exterior of the hull has been awarded to Jack Tighe Ltd an experienced ship, shot blasting, specialised coatings and industrial Painting Contractors. The contract cost is £159k and commenced on Monday 15 March and will be completed by 30 April 2010. Funding has been secured for this part of the contract.

The steelwork contract is currently being specified and will be tendered at the end of April 2010. It is envisaged that the estimated costs of the steelwork / superstructure contract will be in the region of £850k to £1 million and will take six months to complete. Again funding has been secured for this contract through a cocktail of funding awarded by SEUPB Peace 3 and Northern Ireland Tourist Board.

The Trust is receiving specialised professional support from Frazer Nash Consultancy (FNC) and it is envisaged that the outfitting contract will commence on completion of the steelworks / superstructure, estimated to be end of October 2010. This contract will take approximately one year to complete with the vessel being completely restored in as an authentic manner as possible, to her configuration as at 31 May 1911 (i.e. the day the ship departed from Belfast). Public access to the vessel will be allowed in May / June 2011, to celebrate the vessel's centenary and for visitors to observe the restoration work on-going. Funding is still required for the 'outfitting contract'. It is hoped that the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund will be successful and fund this element as well as the Hamilton Dock restoration.

Documentation for the 'strip out' contract is being prepared and the Trust continues to liaise with the National Historic Ships, the Heritage Lottery Fund and other major funders to ensure that any other work proposed is carried out to the highest standards and does not compromise the heritage of the ship.

The overall condition of the ship is still good with the daily inspections of both it and Hamilton Dock still being carried out.

### **Marketing the Nomadic and building effective relationships**

DSD and the Nomadic Charitable Trust have been actively pursuing and maintaining effective relationships within Titanic Quarter and the Titanic Signature Projects and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board in order to maximise their impact on the SS Nomadic. The Belfast Harbour Commissioners and Titanic Quarter Ltd have provided the Hamilton Dry Dock as a base for restoration (£400k) and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board has provided funding of £500k towards the restoration project. DSD and Belfast City Council are in discussions with DCAL and other stakeholders in considering the way forward in developing a maritime heritage strategy for Belfast

with regard to assets such as Nomadic and HMS Caroline. It is important that SS Nomadic is given prominence within this.

### **Key milestones**

The original business plan set out five key milestones for the release of funding. These are;

Milestone	Status	Funding
Milestone One - Nomadic opens for visitors from April 2007 - 2009	Achieved	£50,000 of Belfast City Council funding received
Milestone two – Development of Concept Plan	Achieved	£50,000 of Belfast City Council funding received
Milestone three – Develop and implement overall business strategy and fundraising strategy	Achieved	£50,000 of Belfast City Council funding received
Milestone four – Conservation Management Plan	In Progress Phase 1 complete	£50,000 of Belfast City Council funding received
Milestone five – Preparation for full restoration	Achieved	Final draw down of £50,000 requested from Belfast City Council

### **Role of Belfast City Council**

Belfast City Council will continue to be represented on the Nomadic Charitable Trust within the Project Restoration Board. Current representatives include Councillors Michael Browne and David Rodway and Kerrie Sweeney.

Belfast City Council is currently working in partnership with Northern Ireland Tourist Board and Department of Social Development to develop a Belfast Maritime Heritage Strategy which will support the investment into Nomadic by ensuring connectivity between all key maritime assets, and maximizing the opportunity presented by 2012 and the Titanic Centenary.

The Nomadic Charitable Trust has confirmed that the SS Nomadic should be fully restored by 2012.

