

## TQ Work

### Aim:

To maximise the employment, education and skills opportunities arising from the development of Titanic Quarter, for all Belfast communities.

### Background:

- Meetings held to date: 24 February; 23 March; 16 June & 22 September 2010.
- Members include the private sector (Titanic Quarter Ltd; Premier Inn; Harcourt Construction and Patton Group); public sector (Council; Belfast Metropolitan College; Construction Skills, Department for Employment and Learning (champion), Strategic Investment Board; Equality Commission) and the community and voluntary sector (Titanic Watch, North Belfast Partnership and Local Employment Intermediary Service).

### Achievements:

- **Social clauses** –Ongoing work with developer to meet social clauses for LTU and apprentices.
- **Harcourt Development NI** – 4 work placements provided in Titanic Signature Building.
- **Premier Inn** – 50+ people assisted to obtain employment. Application process was accommodated via the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) jobs and benefits office network. 1300 application forms were issued and 750 interviews took place over a 3 day open recruitment event. 100 individuals were invited back to second interview and 22 unemployed people secured full time employment.
- A combined **Bridge to Employment and HARTE (Hospitality and Retail Training for Employment) Programme** was designed to help unemployed people find work by providing training that is relevant to the employment opportunities offered by Premier Inn. 6 unemployed persons have secured full time employment.
- DEL has also funded the **Job Assist Centres** (JACs), the community-based employment service based in the west of the city to undertake a pre-employment programme for those furthest removed from the labour market, helping them develop the skills required by Premier Inn.
- **Chef Open Day** – hosted for Premier Inn and 6 attendees secured full time employment.
- **Citigroup** – experiencing skills shortages on the high end ICT side (100 vacancies). DEL, in partnership with Invest NI and Citigroup have rolled out a skills academy for 40 trainees. This commenced on 12 August and will run for 12 weeks. Considering collaborative initiatives to address this.
- **Northern Ireland Science Park** – Skills shortages being experienced in the ICT sector. Considering collaborative initiatives to address this.
- **Titanic Quarter Ltd** – An opportunity currently exists with Titanic Quarter Ltd for a graduate building surveyor with a degree in Quantity Surveying, Civil Engineering or Property Management. This opportunity is an initial 6 month work placement and the successful applicant will work on the newly developed Arc Apartments.

**Issues:**

- **Social Clauses** –Given that social clauses are relatively new in public contracts, it is taking significant work to verify those target groups benefiting from social clauses.
- **Access** – access to and from the site is becoming a major concern for the TQ Work group.

## **TQ Housing**

### **Aim:**

To ensure appropriate balance in housing provision on Titanic Quarter.

### **Background:**

- Meetings held to date: 12 August, 2010.
- Members include: DSD (champion), DOE, NIHE, TQL, BAPs, Titanic Watch and Council

### **Achievements/Issues:**

- Members are encouraged by the concept of achieving mixed tenure housing in single development and community representatives are fully supportive of providing a shared space and a neutral city centre.
- The group is making an assumption that up to 250 units could potentially be earmarked for social housing. A condition in the original planning agreement is that a minimum of 15% of the residential accommodation shall be allocated for affordable housing of which a minimum of 10% shall be allocated within Phase II. The remainder (5%) may be in offsite locations in the Belfast Metropolitan Area.
- A key issue for the group is that there are no opportunities for the provision of social and affordable housing in Phase I (476 apartments to be complete by end of year) and therefore, until market conditions improve and Phase II commences, the only work the group can complete at this stage is preparatory work:
  - seek clear information on the precise planning conditions that relate to the provision of social and affordable housing in Titanic Quarter in Phase II,
  - seek a clear definition on what is meant by social and affordable housing and
  - explore with Titanic Quarter Ltd's architects the potential location of social and affordable residential units on site, and where possible off site locations might be.
- The group is keen to see that social/affordable housing units will be pepper potted throughout Phase II and will be indistinguishable from the private housing units in each block
- The group may consider site visits to models of good practice to help realise the potential for Titanic Quarter e.g., Dublin Docklands or Leith.

## TQ Access

### Aim:

To maximise connectivity and linkages to Titanic Quarter, ensuring that it is readily accessible to all.

### Background:

- Meetings held to date: 26 August; 14 October, 2010
- Members include DOE (champion); DRD (Roads Service, Rapid Transit and Translink); TQL, Council, Titanic Watch, BAPs, BCCRD, BHC and SIB

### Achievements:

- The group recognises the issue of accessibility is a significant challenge in an environment of ever diminishing public expenditure and is presently establishing the baseline position with regards accessibility and transportation provision at Titanic Quarter.
- An aspiration is to maximise the potential of the site within the context of the broader regeneration of the city with this new part of the city being integrated and accessible to all. In addressing the accessibility an important consideration has to be the future residents/communities within the development area and ensuring connectivity in respect of the local needs and access to the wider city.

### Issues:

- **Rapid Transit** - Proposals are being developed for the Citiroute which would be part of the pilot network for Belfast, linking to routes in the East and West of the city.
- **Roads** - The provision of **Connsbank junction** is a planning condition of the overall Phase 2 development. The trigger for providing the junction is the implementation of one third of the Phase 2 development or the opening of the Titanic Signature Building (TSB). However, given the timescales involved in approval, tendering and construction it is now highly unlikely that the Connsbank junction can be delivered prior to the opening of the TSB in 2012.
- A planning application to remove the opening of the TSB as a trigger for the junction was received in May 2010, but further information is required to assess the transport issues involved.
- The outline approval for Phase 2 included a requirement to make improvements to the **M3 off-slip** at Sydenham Road before any part of the development became operational.
- The **M3/Sydenham Rd Junction** is currently considered capable of sustaining the traffic associated with Phase 1 of TQ and one third of Phase 2 and an element of future development traffic that does not use the Connsbank junction as its primary access. The current proposals to facilitate rapid transit on Queens Road and Sydenham Road will effectively remove a traffic lane in each direction significantly reducing the capacity of this junction. TQL will need to consider this when submitting their future proposals for public transport priority to the Planning Service for approval.
- Roads Service is also considering an application for development on the Odyssey car park.
- The road improvements along **Queens Road** associated with Phase 1 are largely complete and Roads Service has recently received details of the extension to these works associated with Phase 2.

## **TQ Space**

### **Aim:**

To create a memorable place at Titanic Quarter by providing an exciting public realm incorporating public art.

### **Background:**

- Meetings held to date: 11 October, 2010
- Members include TQL (champion), DCAL, DSD, PLACE, ACNI, MAG, BAPs, Titanic Watch, Council.

### **Achievements/Issues:**

- A network of open spaces and public realm will be provided as an integral part of the TQ development including:
  - i. A new area of open space will be opened by December 2010 at Abercorn Basin (in front of the Arc apartments) and will incorporate a new Marina within the Basin and new dock walls.
  - ii. The TSP (now to be branded Titanic Belfast) will be iconic in design and is due to open to the public at the end of the first quarter, 2012. The creation of a piazza around this building will act as a major public space for the city.
  - iii. The slipways of Titanic and Olympic will together create a high profile area of public realm.
  - iv. External and internal refurbishment of the Titanic tender ship, SS Nomadic, currently located in Hamilton Dock, will be completed in time for the opening of the Signature Project.
- The group has agreed to consider innovative approaches to engaging local artists in the public art masterplanning process, leading to a strong sense of community ownership and pride in the area and to use events and performance related art to maximise development impact and create a lasting legacy at Titanic Quarter.

## **TQ Outreach**

### **Aim:**

To maximise the engagement of Belfast's communities in the regeneration of Titanic Quarter.

### **Background:**

- A number of meetings have taken place between Council, TQL and the group 'champion' however the wider action group has yet to meet.
- Members include DSD (champion), BAPs, Titanic Watch, TQL and Council. It should be noted however that the BAPs and Titanic watch are full participants in the other workstreams and therefore fully informed on the work that is taking place elsewhere.

### **Achievements/Issues:**

- There is the potential for overlap between TQ Outreach and any future marketing and communications activity.
- The group may be collapsed into other groups as all work is essentially 'outreach' activity – that is, a horizontal priority rather than a stand alone group.
- To agree the best way forward, a meeting of all group champions will be hosted on 5 November to help determine the extent of their possible outreach activities.

## **TQ Tourism**

### **Aim:**

To maximise tourism opportunities arising from the regeneration of Titanic Quarter, linked to citywide tourism activities.

### **Background:**

- No group meetings held to date.
- Members include DCAL, BAPs, TQL, Titanic Watch and Council.

### **Achievements/Issues:**

- DETI have been asked to “champion” this group however the Deputy Secretary with responsibility for Tourism, David Thomson, has expressed concern about the potential overlap with an NITB led Product Development Stakeholder Group which is tasked with developing the potential for tourism growth arising from the Titanic Signature Product. This group is currently working under the auspices of the NI 2012 Programme Group chaired by the DETI Permanent Secretary. DETI have therefore proposed that any revision of the MoU reflects the existence of the NITB led group and the fact that it effectively fulfilling the role originally envisaged for the TQ Tourism Workstream.
- Additionally, Council, NITB and DSD are developing a Maritime Heritage Plan for Belfast as part of the Integrated Tourism Plan for the City to ensure that the TSP connects to the wider maritime heritage assets across the city. Consideration needs to be given as to how the actions emerging from this Plan will fit within the overall tourism development work programme.