

16 September 2011

Alderman Christopher Stalford, Chairman  
Councillor Conor Maskey, Deputy Chair  
Development Committee  
Belfast City Council  
3rd Floor, Adelaide Exchange  
24-26 Adelaide Street  
Belfast  
BT2 8GD

Alderman Stalford and Councillor Maskey,

On behalf of the Cathedral Quarter Steering Group (CQSG), thank you for the opportunities we have had over the past year to engage with the Development Committee regarding development of the Cathedral Quarter. CQSG is a stakeholder-led initiative, supported by DSD to develop a five-year plan for the regeneration of the Cathedral Quarter area.

The draft Cathedral Quarter Development Plan was disseminated for public consultation in March 2011. The Plan calls for the establishment of a Cathedral Quarter Trust to drive further development of the area as a welcoming cultural quarter in the city centre based on equity, diversity and interdependence for all cultural traditions. The proposed Trust's four strategic priorities will be:

- To support the Cathedral Quarter as a centre for the arts and creative industries
- To support the growth of the mixed-use economy in Cathedral Quarter
- To generate high levels of public participation
- To build and maintain a supportive infrastructure

CQSG hopes to launch the Cathedral Quarter Development Plan with your support in the next couple of months and establish the Cathedral Quarter Trust to drive it forward. At this time we would like to invite you as Chair and Deputy Chair of the Development Committee to participate in CQSG and become founding members of the Cathedral Quarter Trust.

The membership of the Trust will follow the model of CQSG, which has worked well. Since its inception in 2008, CQSG has included:

Barnabas Ventures, Mark Finlay,  
Belfast Cathedral, Ken Patterson,  
Belfast Circus School / Festival of Fools, Will Chamberlain

Belfast City Council, Carolyn Mathers, Shirley McCay  
Community Arts Forum, Heather Floyd  
Department for Social Development, Carol Ramsey (advisory)  
Kabosh Theatre Productions, Paula McFetridge  
The MAC, Anne McReynolds  
MCE Public Relations/Royal Exchange Ltd., Paul McErlean, CQSG Chair  
The Merchant Hotel, Sorcha Wolsey,  
New Belfast Community Arts Initiative, Conor Shields  
Ulster Architectural Heritage Society, Rita Harkin,  
University of Ulster, Kerstin Mey, Peter Walker, Alastair Adair  
Belfast City Centre Management, Andrew Irvine, (advisory)  
Cathedral Quarter Development Manager, Belfast City Centre Management, Patricia Freedman,  
(staffing)

With some additions the proposed membership structure for CQT will be:

- CQ Stakeholders to include Arts (4), Business (2) Heritage (1) Cathedral (1), University of Ulster (1) local resident (1)
- DSD (1)
- BCC – Development. Committee Chair & Deputy Chair or designees (2)
- ACNI/DCAL (1)
- NITB/DETI (1)
- BCCM (1)
- BVCB (1)

Your participation will help ensure that Cathedral Quarter lives up to its tremendous potential to enhance our city. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Paul McErlean, Chair  
Cathedral Quarter Steering Group

