Appendix 2

Definition of Liveability

Belfast does not have an agreed definition of "liveability" either for the City Centre or its neighbourhoods. Cities have chosen to define liveability in various ways. For example:

> *"Liveability is the sum of the factors that add up to a community's quality of life—including the built and natural environments, economic prosperity, social stability and equity, educational opportunity, and cultural, entertainment and recreation possibilities".*

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Partners for Livable Communities
Washington DC

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The term "liveable" city has emerged over the past three decades as part of a surge in discourse on two inter-related ideas, "the future of cities" and "future cities", generating themes and associations of specific phrases such as:

- **Smart Cities** typically refers to enhanced city systems which use data and technology to achieve integrated management and inter-operability, but can also take on wider meanings to reflect social and political forms of smartness;

- **Sustainability and Sustainable Cities** tends to focus on cities designed to minimise environmental impact, and is often associated with low-carbon consumption;

- **Intelligent Cities** is an idea sometimes used interchangeably with 'smart cities', although some of its origin can be traced to the idea of 'virtual cities' in the 1990s. Often 'intelligent city' is used to describe the use of communication infrastructure and digital spaces to strengthen local innovation systems, solve problems and create more responsive public services;

- **Liveable Cities**[1] is a discourse that typically centres on how cities manage growth effectively, to ensure that commuting, the cost of living and the urban environment all meet rising citizen expectations (*note: The discourse on liveable cities described above has a different starting point in the Belfast context in that the city centre has experienced significant depopulation over the last fifty years*);

- **Resilient Cities** is a concept growing in use, and has taken on a dual meaning. It is used both in reference to a capacity to withstand external environmental and social 'shocks', but also in relation to an area's economic adaptability and agility. It has both strong technical and engineering dimensions, but also can refer to qualities that individuals in a city ought to possess or acquire.

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[1] What are Future Cities? UK Government Office for Science, June 2014