



Subject:	Response received from Department for Infrastructure re Trademark Belfast's request to take land over at Bankmore Square
Date:	23rd August, 2024
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Information relating to any individual2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime	
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

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1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To note the correspondence received from Department for Infrastructure.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the correspondence as set out in the report.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The Committee will recall that, at the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 19th April, 2024, it was agreed to write to Mr John O’Dowd, Minister for Infrastructure, to communicate the Council’s support for Trademarket moving to Bankmore Square as an important catalyst for local business activity and as a unique offering to tourists, and ask that the Department ask Linen Quarter BID to surrender their lease and award Trademarket the lease of Bankmore Square, with all the due diligence required, from July 2024 in order to protect jobs and reduce any disruption to their business and the dozens of small independent businesses which rely on Trademarket.
3.2	The Committee is advised that a response has been received from Ms Mary Toner, Lands Branch, Department for Infrastructure.
3.3	In her response she advises that” <i>the area of land in question is not surplus to the Department’s requirements. You are aware that the Department has already entered arrangements with another party (Linen Quarter BID) in respect of this land. The Department will not be seeking to terminate its licence agreement with Linen Quarter BID as there has been no breach of their obligations.</i> ”
3.4	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None associated with this report.
3.5	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Response from Department for Infrastructure.

