



Mr Craig Mealey  
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Your ref: CGR170725

Our ref: TOF-0756-2025

29 July 2025

Dear Mr Mealey,

### **Transfer of Regeneration Powers**

Your correspondence of the 17<sup>th</sup> of July to the Minister for Communities, Mr Gordon Lyons, MLA, advises of the Belfast Council's City Growth and Regeneration Committee's support for the collective work that had been undertaken to date in relation to the Belfast Place-Based Growth Proposition.

You also indicated that the Committee have requested an update on what consideration has been given to the transfer of regeneration powers to local government.

I have been asked to respond on behalf of the Minister setting out the current position. The most recent attempts to transfer additional regeneration powers to local government did not progress due to a lack of consensus, on the broader issue of local government reform, or on the content of the legislation itself.

Due to the time which has passed since the introduction of the last Regeneration Bill (2014), and the experience of recent initiatives in response to Covid-19 e.g. the Covid-19 Recovery Revitalisation and Small Settlements Programmes in partnership with DfI and DAERA, the cross-departmental nature of regeneration activities has been clearly demonstrated.

Any further transfer of regeneration powers would require a fundamental review of the position across several Departments, consideration by the NI Executive and the introduction of primary legislation. There are no plans to take this forward at this time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tony McKibben', written in a cursive style.

Tony McKibben  
Deputy Director  
Belfast Regeneration Directorate