

Public Document Pack

**Democratic Services Section
Legal and Civic Services Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**

Meeting of Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

In addition to those matters previously notified to you, the following item will also be considered at the meeting to be held at 9.30 am on Friday, 19th April, 2024.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

3. Matters referred back from Council/Motions

- (f) Response received from Linen Quarter Bid re Trademarket Belfast's request to take over land at Bankmore Square (Pages 1 - 6)

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Belfast
City Council

Subject:	Response received from Linen Quarter Bid re Trademark Belfast's request to take over the short-term lease of a portion of land on Bankmore Square
Date:	19th April, 2024
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, Interim 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"/>								
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input type="checkbox"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. 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 matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime 									
<p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 5%;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never	<input type="checkbox"/>
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After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>								
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>								
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>								

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To note the correspondence received from Linen Quarter Bid.
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 15th December, 2023, it was agreed to write to the Linen Quarter BID to outline the Council's support in regard to Trademarket Belfast's request to take over the short-term lease of a portion of land on Bankmore Square.
3.2	The Committee is advised that a response has been received from Mr Christopher McCracken, Managing Director, Linen Quarter Bid.
3.3	In his response he advises that he is delighted that the City Council approved planning permission last night for two major developments on the Dublin Road, the Kainos HQ and QUB student accommodation. These flagship developments are a vote of confidence in Belfast City Centre and will help kickstart wider regeneration on Dublin Road and southern Great Victoria Street. LQ BID are delighted to support both major anchor institutions as they develop these exciting schemes.
3.4	Unfortunately, this means that the lease for Trade Market will expire as planned on 31 July 2024. LQ BID have actively supported Trade Market since inception, including providing a grant of £5,000 for a new mural, lending our professional PR support to secure positive press coverage, and running successful events within their space to boost footfall. However, we recognise the facility was always designated as a meanwhile use and are grateful to Kainos for generously enabling the use of their land in the first place.
3.5	As you are aware LQ BID has a short-term lease to operate the adjacent Bankmore Square as a public green space until March 2025. However, we are not permitted to transfer this lease, so any requests from third parties would initially be a matter between the landowner (the Department for Infrastructure) and the potential applicant. LQ BID will fully consider any request

3.6	<p>from the Department to surrender or modify our lease prior to its expiry, but to date no such request has been received.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.7	<p>None associated with this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 – Response from Mr Christopher McCracken, Managing Director, Linen Quarter Bid</p>

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Sara Steele
Democratic Services
Belfast City Council

Your Ref: SP&R 15.12.2023 SS/JT

17 April 2024

Dear Sara,

Thank you for your note of 24 January 2024.

We are delighted that the City Council approved planning permission last night for two major developments on the Dublin Road, the Kainos HQ and QUB student accommodation. These flagship developments are a vote of confidence in Belfast City Centre and will help kickstart wider regeneration on Dublin Road and southern Great Victoria Street. LQ BID are delighted to support both major anchor institutions as they develop these exciting schemes.

Unfortunately, this means that the lease for Trade Market will expire as planned on 31 July 2024. LQ BID have actively supported Trade Market since inception, including providing a grant of £5,000 for a new mural, lending our professional PR support to secure positive press coverage, and running successful events within their space to boost footfall. However, we recognise the facility was always designated as a meanwhile use and are grateful to Kainos for generously enabling the use of their land in the first place.

As you are aware LQ BID has a short-term lease to operate the adjacent Bankmore Square as a public green space until March 2025. However, we are not permitted to transfer this lease, so any requests from third parties would initially be a matter between the landowner (the Department for Infrastructure) and the potential applicant. LQ BID will fully consider any request from the Department to surrender or modify our lease prior to its expiry, but to date no such request has been received.

I hope this helps clarify the matter and thank you again for your enquiry.

Yours sincerely,



Christopher McCracken

Christopher McCracken
Managing Director
Linen Quarter BID

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chris@linenquarter.org