

Public Document Pack

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



**Belfast
City Council**

MEETING OF THE CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room, City Hall on Wednesday, 8th May, 2024 at 5.15 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. Routine Matters

- (a) Apologies
- (b) Minutes
- (c) Declarations of Interest

2. Restricted Items

- (a) Vacant to Vibrant Scheme (Report to follow)
- (b) Update on Coach Parking and Hop-on / Hop-off Operators (Pages 1 - 10)
- (c) Belfast Zoo - Collection Update (Pages 11 - 16)

3. Regenerating Places and Improving Infrastructure

- (a) Request to Present - Belfast City and Region Place Partnership (Pages 17 - 20)
- (b) Department for Communities Correspondence - Regeneration Powers (Report to follow)

4. **Positioning Belfast to Compete**

(a) Belfast 2024 - Verbal Update

5. **Strategic and Operational Issues**

(a) 2024/25 Committee Plan and Associated Work Plans (Report to follow)

(b) Approval for 2 Markets at 2RA (Pages 21 - 22)

(c) Minutes of the Belfast Stories Working Group (Pages 23 - 26)

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6
of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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Subject:	Request to Present – Belfast City & Region Place Partnership
Date:	8 May 2024
Reporting Officer:	Cathy Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration and Development
Contact Officer:	Marie Miller, Marketing Manager, City Regeneration & Development

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p style="margin: 0;">If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <p style="margin: 0; padding-left: 20px;">After Committee Decision <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p style="margin: 0; padding-left: 20px;">After Council Decision <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p style="margin: 0; padding-left: 20px;">Some time in the future <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p style="margin: 0; padding-left: 20px;">Never <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Committee to receive a presentation from representatives of the Belfast City & Region Place Partnership at the Committee Meeting in June 2024.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Members are asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree to receive a presentation from representatives of the Belfast City & Region Place Partnership at the City Growth and Regeneration Committee meeting in June 2024.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Belfast City & Region Place Partnership (BCRPP), formerly Renewed Ambition Partnership (RAP), is a joint public-private initiative that is delivering a programme of work aimed at attracting inclusive investment for the delivery of regeneration, infrastructure, and a modern built environment for Belfast and the wider City Region.

3.2	The Belfast City & Region Place Partnership is supported by public, private and key anchor institution partners. Partners comprise of Belfast City Council, all Belfast City Region Deal partner Councils, Invest NI, Belfast Harbour, Translink, Housing Association representation, Queens University Belfast, and representatives from the local development community bringing forward regeneration and development projects.
3.3	The Partnership is governed via a Taskforce comprised of representatives of the public and private sector, including the Chief Executive and senior officers from Belfast City Council, and chaired by Joe O'Neill, Chief Executive, Belfast Harbour.
3.4	Members will recall that during the City Growth and Regeneration Committee on the 9 August 2023 they received a presentation from the RAP Taskforce which provided an update on the previous 2022 / 2023 programme of work and proposed approach to 2023 / 2024 programme. During this Committee meeting, Members agreed to approve extending the Council's participation within the Partnership Programme for 2023 / 2024 as part of a wider public-private approach.
3.5	The 2023 / 2024 programme commenced on the 1 September 2023 and is delivering a structured programme of work focussed on the key pillars of Research; Events; Advocacy and Engagement; and Communications aligned to securing investment and regeneration for Belfast, and the wider Belfast city region. The programme has included organising a Showcase event in Dublin; attendance at real estate conferences including UKREiif 2024 and MIPIM 2024; and advocacy and engagement activities. The 2023 / 2024 programme will end on 31 August 2024.
3.6	The BCRPP Taskforce has endorsed continuing the Partnership into 2024 / 2025; and the associated programme of activity is currently under development. It will continue to take the form of a pillared programme with a key objective of continuing to build awareness of the Belfast investment proposition aimed at attracting inclusive investment, creating employment opportunities and facilitating investor engagement to support the delivery of regeneration projects across the city, with a focus on creating the economic and social infrastructure/assets required to deliver inclusive sustainable growth.
3.7	From a Council perspective, this partnership is an important lever within our wider 'Position the City to Compete' proposition which seeks to build on the city's reputation

3.8	<p>as a unique destination for investment, tourism, development and supporting inclusive economic growth; and supporting delivery of housing-led regeneration and bringing forward strategic regeneration and development schemes to create a liveable and connected, vibrant and competitive city.</p> <p>Representatives from the Belfast City & Region Place Partnership Taskforce have requested the opportunity to present at a meeting of City Growth and Regeneration Committee in order to update Members on the current programme of work; and proposed 2024 / 2025 activities, including priority issues and objectives for the Partnership moving forward.</p>
4.0	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
5.0	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
6.0	<p>Appendices – Documents attached</p>
	<p>None</p>

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Subject:	Approval for 2 Markets at 2RA
Date:	8 May 2024
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director of Economic Development
Contact Officer:	Lisa Toland / Clodagh Cassin

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Some time in the future

Never

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes No

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update members on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seek approval for two external markets
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approve two external markets to take place in 2RA.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Belfast City Council has exclusive rights to hold markets in Belfast. Anyone wishing to operate a market or car boot sale within Belfast must apply to Council for permission.
3.2	The Markets Unit have received an application from Belfast Pride for a 'Crafted with Pride' market at 2RA. The date of the market is Saturday 21 July 2024 and it will run from 10am - 3pm. This is a one-off market to coincide with Belfast Pride Festival. The event supports local

	<p>entrepreneurs and small businesses in Northern Ireland, all showcased under one roof for one day only. Approx 30 stalls for shopping, crafts and food will take part in this market. Visitors will be able to purchase goods on the day.</p>
<p>3.3</p>	<p>Background</p> <p>This market is proposed for 2RA and will run as part of the Belfast Pride Community festival. The organisers are hoping to attract 30 traders. It is anticipated that these traders will be arts and crafts stalls. The organisers decided to do a market as part of Belfast Pride so that they could open it up to queer crafters. Crafters who may not feel comfortable displaying their products when they cannot be sure if the visitors will be LGBTQIA friendly. It was felt that this would be the perfect time, during the Belfast Pride festival, to showcase the crafters in their community where they could be sure of positive reactions from the buyers and not feel that they have to hide their identity.</p>
<p>3.4</p>	<p>The Markets unit have also received an application from Mud Ireland requesting a market licence for the Belfast Potters Market to take place in 2RA on Saturday 10th August 2024 from 10-5pm. It is anticipated that 40 of Irelands top potters will be gathered together to exhibit and sell their pottery on that date.</p>
<p>3.5</p>	<p>Background</p> <p>This is an annual event now and each year it has been held in a variety of different venues. The primary objective of the market is to showcase the amazing craft pottery industry in Northern Ireland. The market has grown in traders each year and continues to be a huge success.</p>
<p>3.6</p>	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>This market will bring a potential income to the council of £200.</p>
<p>3.7</p>	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>No specific equality/good relations implications. No negative impact on rural areas.</p>

Belfast Stories Working Group

Wednesday, 24th April, 2024

MEETING OF THE BELFAST STORIES WORKING GROUP

HELD IN THE CONOR ROOM AND
REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor Smyth (Chairperson); and
Councillors Bunting, de Faoite, Duffy and Maghie.

In attendance: Ms. W. Langham, Programme Director;
Ms. E. Henry, Strategic Lead;
Ms. N. McElroy, Programme Support Assistant;
Mrs. L. Holmes, Marketing & Communications
Coordinator; and
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

No apologies were reported.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 23rd January, 2024 were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Progress since the Last Meeting

The Chairperson welcomed Mr D. Berlin, Snohetta Architects, and Mr. P. Crowe, Todd Architects, to the meeting.

Together, Mr. Berlin and Mr. Crowe outlined that they were both excited to be partnering as the integrated design team for the major project. The Members were advised that the RIBA Stage 1 report had been submitted and that they were collectively working towards RIBA Stage 2, which was the concept design stage. It was envisaged that RIBA Stage 2 would be completed by the end of 2024.

It was reported that Ralph Applebaum Associates (RAA) had been appointed to lead on the development of the interpretive masterplan and content and stories related design for the whole site. The Members were advised that RAA was one of the world's

largest museum exhibition design firms, who had recently worked on the newly opened International African American Museum in Charleston, South Carolina.

The Members were advised that Gleeds, a property and construction consultancy, had been appointed to oversee the project management and design assurance.

The Programme Director and the Strategic Lead provided the Working Group with an overview of the engagement programme and targeted initiatives which would be undertaken in respect of story gathering. The Members were provided with an overview of the story gathering pilot project and of the successful Stories Network which had been held on 13th March, 2024.

During discussion, a number of Members stated that community consultation was key and the Strategic Lead outlined that they had been engaging with stakeholders across the city including neighbouring groups in Carrick Hill and the Shankill.

The Strategic Lead provided the Working Group with an overview of Augment the City, a project to explore the potential of immersive technology to effectively facilitate the gathering and holding of first person stories for future curation, presentation and publication.

It was reported that up to 1,200 jobs, direct and indirect, could be supported as a result of the project, including during construction. A Member requested that officers would work with their colleagues in the Economic Development Unit to ensure that the opportunities were communicated to those in the employment academies and through local schools, universities and colleges.

The Programme Director outlined that skills audits considering opportunities in construction, tourism and hospitality, and creative and digital technologies were being completed by the Belfast Region City Deal team. The Members were advised that officers were mindful to ensure that support was being considered in terms of neighbourhood tourism capacity building.

In response to a Member's query, the Strategic Lead reported that an important aspect of the wider benefits of Belfast Stories was the social value opportunities, including better jobs and skills, building ethical and resilient supply chains and promoting wellbeing for citizens. The Working Group was advised that an independent evaluator would support the Belfast Stories team to ensure an ongoing review of the benefits and outcomes with an evaluation report due by the end of 2024.

The Working Group thanked the officers and Mr. Berlin and Mr. Crowe for the update.

(Mr. Berlin and Mr. Crowe left the meeting at this point in proceedings)

Members' Communications Toolkit

The Members were presented with a draft Communications Toolkit, as had been requested at the meeting on 23rd January, 2024. The purpose of the Toolkit was so that Members could communicate the Belfast Stories project in a succinct way.

A number of Members stated that the section with the Frequently Asked Questions, at Appendix 2, was particularly useful.

The Working Group noted the contents of the Communications Toolkit and agreed to forward any feedback or questions which they felt should be included to the Belfast Stories team.

Noted.

**Next meeting(s) - including discussion
on a Members' Study Visit proposal**

The Programme Director advised the Working Group that the Belfast Stories Team proposed to arrange a 3 day and 2 night study visit to a variety of venues, possibly in Manchester, Liverpool and Chester, for the end of August, 2024.

The Working Group agreed, in principle, and agreed that the dates of the study visit would be agreed with the Chairperson and circulated in due course.

The Working Group further agreed that its next meeting would take place on the "Brink!" site, to be held at the end of July.

Chairperson

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