

Place & Economy Department



Belfast
City Council

City Regeneration & Development

Your reference

Being dealt with by Miss D Kelly

Our reference

Email: kellyda@belfastcity.gov.uk

Date: 13 December 2023

Mrs. S O'Kane
Invest NI
Bedford Square
1 Bedford St
Belfast
BT2 7ES

Dear Susan

Strategic Policy & Resources Committee – Former Mackie's Site

We had previously been in touch in October of this year, which had been very helpful in terms of insight into the remit of the Invest NI Industrial Land and Property Services and consideration also of the INI lands at Forthriver.

I am writing to you in the context of a Strategic Policy & Resources Committee meeting decision. At its meeting on 24th November 2023, the Council's Strategic Policy & Resources Committee considered a report in relation to the potential targeted acquisition of land elsewhere in the city for housing regeneration purposes. In the round of discussion which followed, the Committee asked that the Council write to Invest NI seeking clarification on its future plans for the former Mackie's site.

I recognise that we had some discussion relating to these lands when we met but I would appreciate it if you could please consider this request from the Council's Strategic Policy & Resources Committee. If helpful I am happy also pick up in a meeting or telephone call.

Belfast City Council, Place & Economy Department, 9-21 Adelaide Street, Belfast BT2 8DJ

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cathy Reynolds". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long tail on the final letter.

Cathy Reynolds

Director, City Regeneration & Development

9th January 2024

Via email to: reynoldsc@belfastcity.gov.uk

Cathy Reynolds
Director of City Regeneration & Development
Place and Economy Department
Belfast City Council
9 Adelaide Street
Belfast
BT2 8DJ

Dear Cathy,

Strategic Policy & Resources Committee meeting 24th November 2023 – Forthriver Business Park

I hope all is well with you and that you had a most well-deserved break over the Christmas period.

Thank you for your recent correspondence on behalf of the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee regarding Invest NI's Forthriver Business Park (Former Mackie's Site).

We had previously discussed Invest NI's Property remit at our meeting in October along with Debbie Caldwell and Invest NI's International and Property Teams; we had outlined the opportunities for investment into the Park for businesses that meet Invest NI's client criteria and we had sought support from Belfast City Council in promotion of this land to prospective investors.

The lands that comprise Invest NI's Forthriver Business Park were acquired and developed with the intent they would be used for industrial purposes. The land has been developed as a business park and is held in support of economic growth. Invest NI continues to actively promote it to investors for this purpose. The consideration, development and/or promotion of housing sits outside our remit, and we would oppose the release of current industrial zoned land given the shortage of the same in the immediate vicinity. Invest NI has consistently reiterated this position and will continue to do so.

I hope this provides clarification on our position.

Yours sincerely,



Susan O'Kane

Regional Business Manager - East
Invest Northern Ireland