



Subject:	Belfast Waterfront Framework – Waterfront Tour Request
Date:	11 th September 2024
Reporting Officer:	Cathy Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration and Development
Contact Officer:	Sean Dolan, Senior Development Manager, City Regeneration and Development

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

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

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

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 No

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to advise Members that the Waterfront Task Group has submitted a request to invite Members of the City Growth and Regeneration and the members of the Planning Committee to attend a walking and boat tour of the Belfast Waterfront Framework area. The visit will include an overview of the Framework, an update of progress to date and a boat tour along the downstream element of the framework area to provide a strategic overview of the area.</p>
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Agree to attending the tour and presentation of the Belfast Waterfront Framework area II. Agree to Council Officers attending the proposed Waterfront Task Group study visit to Copenhagen.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>As reported to the CG&R Committee in October 2023 a Waterfront Task Group was established to develop a focused approach to the Belfast waterfront, aligned to the A Bolder Vision key move 'Embracing the River'. The Task Group, chaired by BCC Chief Executive and consisting of Maritime Belfast Trust, Belfast Harbour Commissioners, Titanic Quarter Ltd, DfC, DfE, Tourism NI, Odyssey Trust and DEARA commissioned a detailed analysis of the waterfront area from the Ormeau Road Bridge to Thompsons Dock.</p>
3.2	<p>Consultants, Schulze + Grassov undertook a detailed analysis of over 10km of the waterfront, compiling analysis on the completed and pending developments, as well as identifying the catalyst opportunities and gaps in infrastructure to maximise the social, economic and environmental opportunities that exist along the waterfront. This work also undertook to identify the existing and proposed projects emerging from within the adjacent communities, and to identify catalyst opportunities to connect these projects and the local communities to the wider education, employment and leisure facilities along the waterfront corridor. This work was carried out in consultation with a range of stakeholders including local communities through online surveys and a dedicated charrette style design workshop. In addition, a specific Waterfront Neighbourhood Network has been established to build relationships and support ongoing engagement with the Task Group. The network will be asked to nominate two representatives to sit on the Task Group going forward to ensure representation and feedback.</p>

3.3	Members of the CG&R Committee received a presentation on the Framework in October 2023 and approved the Belfast Waterfront Framework (as attached in Appendix A).
3.4	Correspondence has been received from the Waterfront Task Group inviting Members of this Committee to attend a presentation on the progress of the Belfast Waterfront Framework, followed by a boat tour along the lower Lagan waterfront area providing an overview of the of the proposals included within the Framework and to receive an update on the work of the Maritime Belfast Trust in preserving, developing and promoting the Maritime Mile. Representatives from Maritime Belfast Trust, Belfast Harbour Commissioners and Titanic Quarter Ltd will be in attendance along with Officers from BCC. The tour is planned to take place in October and, pending agreement Maritime Belfast Trust will engage with Democratic Services to organise a suitable date.
3.5	The Waterfront Task Group are proposing a study visit to Copenhagen in November 2024 for members of the Task Group and members of the Waterfront Neighbourhood Network. The study visit will explore best practice examples of a leading waterfront city in terms of how the city engages with the water's edge, how the public realm integrates art and maritime heritage, and how the area engages and connects to the local communities and the wider city. The trip will be subsidised by Maritime Belfast Trust reducing the costs for organisations to c£550 per attendee for travel, accommodation and food. Members are asked to approve the attendance of the BCC Chief Executive and up to two officers on the study visit.
4.0	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>No additional financial or resource requirements are associated with this paper. Any costs included within the paper are included within existing budgets.</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>Appendix A – ‘Embracing the Belfast Waterfront’ framework summary document.</p>