

Chief Executive's Office		
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17 June 2011

Mr Peter McNaney
Chief Executive
Belfast City Council
Belfast City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS

Dear Peter

You will recall that one of the commitments given by Libraries NI, on completion of its Strategic Review of Library Provision in the Greater Belfast area, was to invest in the Library infrastructure in the City. I am writing to you now to inform you that we have followed through on that commitment over the past year by completing a number of major refurbishments. The investment in branch libraries is detailed below.

Whiterock Library	£496,000
Falls Road Library	£880,000
Shankill Library	£930,000

In addition, the stonework restoration project at Belfast Central Library has been completed at a cost of £938,000.

Regretfully the Budget 2010 settlement has resulted in a significant reduction in the availability of capital funding. It is highly unlikely, therefore, that any further capital investment will take place over the next 4 years. This is particularly disappointing since it means that the plans for Belfast Central Library, which were reaching a fairly advanced stage, have now had to be put on hold. We will continue, however, to take every opportunity to emphasise the importance of the Belfast Central Library project not only to Library services in the City but in Northern Ireland as a whole, as well as to the regeneration of the North West Quarter and to seek to secure funding to enable it to be progressed. The City Council's continued support would be welcome.

I trust that you will find this update informative. Libraries NI would be pleased to welcome any Member of the Council or its staff to come along and see the refurbished Libraries.

Yours sincerely



Irene M Knox
Chief Executive