

Appendix 6: Draft Public Realm Analysis and Vision for Linen Quarter and Western Quarter – Summary of draft proposals

Linen Quarter

- 1.0 The overall vision for Linen Quarter is to redefine the area so that it becomes the city's prime business destination. To achieve this, the document sets out proposals to:
 - i. **Enhance the arrival experience** by creating a strong and clear sense of arrival at the new Transport Hub; improving crossing points to draw people into the city across Great Victoria Street; and improving the connections with the City Hall;
 - ii. **Develop new street typologies** so that they respond to movement patterns; enhance pedestrian experience; support activity and create a better link between building activity and street environment ;
 - iii. **Create new focal spaces** by redefining Blackstaff Square to act as a positive gateway into the Quarter and draw the surrounding businesses into the space and introducing a new central space within the Linen Quarter that can be a place to dwell and a focus for activity and events;
 - iv. **Make the most of the unique building stock** by assessing building quality and suitability for different uses; investigating complementary uses that can help expand the offer within the Quarter and encouraging flexibility and adaptability;
 - v. **Provide a framework for new buildings** by highlighting the significant components for new buildings and setting parameters to help reinforce character and identity.

Western Quarter

- 2.0 The overall vision is to re-brand Western Quarter to make it a vital and integral part of the City Centre To achieve this, the document sets out proposals to:
 - i. **Connect the Quarter to surrounding parts of the city** by making effective linkages with neighbouring areas; enhancing the connection through Castle Court shopping centre and proposing the introduction of a new east-west link extending Fountain Lane;
 - ii. **Extend street life and activity:** by proposing the introduction of new buildings at a greater density which repair the broken street grid and bring added vitality to streets and spaces; encouraging different uses to extend hours of operation; improving shopfront design and reducing dependence on solid roller shutters;
 - iii. **Introduce a greener link along Queen Street** by extending pavements to promote pedestrian movement; re-balancing the street environment in favour of pedestrians and introducing tree planting;
 - iv. **Re-establishing and reinforcing the role of Castle Street** by establishing a range of uses that can create a positive sense of arrival into the city centre
- 3.0 The document will also provide advice on a palette of materials to inform specific public realm proposals within the Linen and Western Quarters such as those referred to in 1 (iii) above and the public realm aspects of other development proposals in each area.