



<b>Subject:</b>	Liveability: City Centre Living - Update on study trip and Members' workshop
<b>Date:</b>	13 September 2017
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nuala Gallagher, Director of City Centre Development
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<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
<b>After Committee Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>After Council Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Some time in the future</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Never</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>
<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the proposed study visit to London to look at examples of good practice in terms of city centre housing developments and wider issues around City Centre Living.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Note date and purpose of the study visit to London</li><li>• Note date of follow-up workshop on city centre living</li></ul>

3.0	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p data-bbox="280 226 440 255"><u>Background</u></p> <p data-bbox="280 277 1471 510">In March 2017 the City Growth and Regeneration Committee received an update on work underway to identify the key issues around liveability and increasing the residential population in the city centre. In May 2017 Members discussed the importance of addressing the needs of families living in the city centre and noted that a workshop on the issue of city centre living would be held at a future date.</p>
3.2	<p data-bbox="280 580 1471 757">At the City Growth and Regeneration Committee on 9 August 2017 Members agreed to undertake a study visit to London to examine good practice in terms of city centre housing developments. <b>It was agreed that one Member from each of the six main parties would attend the study trip that is scheduled for the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of October 2017 to London.</b></p>
3.3	<p data-bbox="280 882 1471 958">Following the study visit the workshop on city centre living is scheduled to take place on <b>23 October between 12-2pm in the Lavery Room. All Members are invited to attend.</b></p>
3.4	<p data-bbox="280 1034 424 1064"><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p data-bbox="280 1086 1471 1507">The importance of increasing the residential population in the city centre and fostering a high quality city centre living experience is a key policy in the Belfast City Centre Investment Strategy. This is reinforced in the Belfast Agenda and the Local Development Plan, particularly the importance of providing quality, mixed housing developments with homes in a range of sizes and tenures and advancing approaches to delivery such as Living Over the Shops and adaptive reuse. Alternative forms of financing and development models, such as co-ownership, PRS, among others, as well as exploring how Section 76 may best be used to ensure provision of green space, facilities and services to serve future residents also needs consideration.</p>
3.5	<p data-bbox="280 1588 1471 1821">Beyond housing, a wider understanding of city centre living takes in the sum of qualities of a place that contributes to a community's quality of life. The concept of liveability has developed a currency in recent years and whilst there are a range of definitions within the literature on urbanism and city development there are key elements that are consistently identified and include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul data-bbox="296 1843 507 1973" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="296 1843 507 1872">• Employment</li> <li data-bbox="296 1895 448 1924">• Housing</li> <li data-bbox="296 1946 408 1975">• Food</li> </ul>

<p>3.6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Open Space</li> <li>• Social infrastructure</li> <li>• Transport</li> <li>• Walkability</li> </ul> <p>These qualities may vary and linked to the perceptions of residents, workers and visitors. Currently, council does not have an agreed approach to or definition of city centre living but there are a number of strands of work that are currently being undertaken by different areas within the Council. In particular, the Local Development Plan is producing evidence to support the proposed growth options and is a key piece in creating a viable and sustainable approach to city centre living.</p>
<p>3.7</p>	<p>The study visit on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of October and follow up workshop on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October provide an opportunity to develop a wider understanding of city centre living and foster a shared understanding and approach. The visit will provide an opportunity to examine examples of mixed tenure and density as well highlight the quality design and wider liveability elements such as public realm, the provision of social infrastructure and models of sustainable development. Since there are already areas of council that are taking forward aspects of liveability within the context of city centre living, representatives from Planning and Place will take part in both the study visit and workshop to ensure shared learning and a collective approach. The City Centre Development team recognises that there are other partners in council that will need to be included to maximise resources and effort and engagement with external partners such as the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, the Department for Infrastructure and the Department for Communities is ongoing.</p>
<p>3.8</p>	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Any resource implications associated with this report will be met from the approved budgets.</p>
<p>3.9</p>	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>There are no Equality or Good Relations implications at this time and will be kept under review.</p>
<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>None</p>