



Subject:	Inner North West Masterplan - Update and next steps
Date:	8 th August 2018
Reporting Officer:	Alistair Reid– Strategic Director Place and Economy
Contact Officer:	Callie Persic – Regeneration Project Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the engagement activities undertaken during the Inner North West (INW) masterplan consultation, provide a summary of the consultation feedback (Appendix 1), and set out the proposed next steps.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• note the recent INW consultation and initial summary findings and• note that a full consultation report and updated masterplan will be presented to committee for approval later this year.

3.0	Main report
3.1	<p data-bbox="260 264 421 293"><i>Background</i></p> <p data-bbox="260 315 1430 544">The 12-week consultation for the Inner North West (INW) masterplan began on 13 February 2018 and concluded on 8 May 2018. As outlined previously to committee, the Masterplan seeks to provide a framework to help shape emerging opportunities in this part of the city and ensure a more comprehensive approach to development of both public and private sector owned land.</p>
3.2	<p data-bbox="260 618 1430 745">The Inner North West Masterplan is underpinned by robust urban design principles that will help shape proposals coming forward and has at its heart, the intention to create a new city centre, mixed neighbourhood that:</p> <ul data-bbox="276 768 1401 1261" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="276 768 1401 853">• incorporates a mix of uses, including residential, commercial, retail and leisure, all integrated through a strong and cohesive public realm; <li data-bbox="276 869 1321 902">• takes into consideration the heritage of the area and the historic urban grain; <li data-bbox="276 920 1257 954">• reinstates the historically vibrant economy of the Inner North West area; <li data-bbox="276 972 1238 1005">• promotes ‘city centre living’, with its social and environmental benefits; <li data-bbox="276 1023 1094 1057">• strengthens the city centre’s urban fabric and streetscapes; <li data-bbox="276 1075 1401 1160">• supports and strengthens pedestrian connections within the city centre and to/from adjoining neighbourhoods; and <li data-bbox="276 1178 1366 1261">• delivers the ambitions of the Belfast Agenda, in line with the Local Development Plan.
3.3	<p data-bbox="260 1339 850 1373"><i>Engagement and communication programme</i></p> <p data-bbox="260 1391 1430 1469">Targeted pre-consultation engagement took place in September 2017 with representatives from:</p> <ul data-bbox="276 1491 863 1783" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="276 1491 863 1525">• Greater Falls Neighbourhood Partnership <li data-bbox="276 1543 515 1576">• Lower Shankill <li data-bbox="276 1594 512 1628">• Brown Square <li data-bbox="276 1646 467 1680">• Carrick Hill <li data-bbox="276 1697 595 1731">• Castle Street traders <li data-bbox="276 1749 675 1783">• Smithfield & Union Traders <p data-bbox="323 1805 1430 1933">Input from this pre-consultation, coupled with the feedback from the workshop with Members in November 2017, informed and shaped the final consultation document and council’s approach to engagement.</p>
3.4	<p data-bbox="260 2009 1430 2136">A focus on existing residents in the INW was an important feature of this consultation, and staff developed a new approach to support resident engagement. An architect-led walkabout of the masterplan area took place, which enabled local residents and business</p>

owners to get an in-depth understanding of the proposals as well as highlight what they saw as key issues for the area.

3.5 To encourage participation from local residents, the consultation drop-in venues were located across the INW area. In total, 16 different engagement activities took place, including presentations, 'drop-in' sessions to walkabouts and these were attended by approximately 225 people.

3.6 Meetings and/or presentations also took place with a number of private sector developers operating in the area and with the following groups and organisations:

Cathedral Quarter BID	West Belfast Partnership
Cathedral Quarter Trust	Shared City Partnership
BID One	Section 75 Consultative Forum
Ulster Reform Club	Campus Community Regeneration Forum
Carrick Hill Residents	

3.7 Copies of the consultation document and a summary A5 sized leaflet were available at all events. Large font print and braille formats of the summary leaflet and questionnaire were also made available. Exhibition boards summarising the masterplan were on display in the Cecil Ward Building between 13 February - 8 May 2018 and in the Central Library from 13 April-8 May 2018.

3.8 Key communication channels were through letters and emails to stakeholders and network groups, drop-in sessions, City Matters (delivered to every Belfast household), the BCC website and council's online Consultation Hub, external press and social media was used throughout the consultation period and programmed at key intervals. All information was available on: <https://yoursay.belfastcity.gov.uk/>.

3.9 *Statutory partners*
Engagement with statutory partners included the Department for Communities, Department for Infrastructure, Translink and the Historic Environment Division and feedback received from them shaped to the draft consultation document. Discussions will continue during the finalisation of the plan. Feedback was also received from council departments.

	<p>Responses received during the consultation</p>
3.10	<p>During the current formal 12-week consultation period effort was made to engage with a diverse range of stakeholders, including residents, businesses, statutory partners and developers. There were 36 formal responses received; 24 of these were returned via email whilst 12 were logged on Citizen Space. Feedback was also collected at the drop-in sessions, walk-about meetings and presentations.</p>
3.11	<p>A full consultation report and the final masterplan will be brought back to committee later in the year, but an examination of the feedback indicates general support for the regeneration of the INW area and the draft proposals. Appendix 1 provides a high level summary of the feedback grouped by theme.</p>
	<p>Planning policy context and the Local Development Plan</p>
3.12	<p>The INW is in line with the emerging policies in the Local Development Plan (LDP) draft Plan Strategy that supports population growth, sustainable development and the city's ambitions in relation to the inclusive growth agenda. Following adoption of the LDP Plan Strategy the Council will be in a position to review the INW masterplan with a view to bringing it forward as more formal planning guidance thereby providing the masterplan with greater weight in the decision making process - as a more detailed articulation of LDP policy.</p>
	<p>Next Steps</p>
3.13	<p>Statutory consultation on the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment opened on 9 July and will run to 1 October 2018. The feedback from this consultation, combined with the findings from the INW consultation, will form the final masterplan, which will come back to the committee for approval in the autumn.</p>
3.14	<p>Additionally, and in parallel, the development of land in public ownership is currently being discussed with DfC as part of the Strategic Site Assessment work that was reported to committee in May 2018, and a residential market analysis for the city centre is being commissioned.</p>
	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.15	<p>Resource requirements will be met from existing departmental budget allocations.</p>
	<p><u>Equality, Good Relations and Rural Needs Implications</u></p>
3.16	<p>Consultation on the draft EQIA Screening was held as part of the Inner North West Masterplan and a further Equality Screening will accompany the final masterplan. The Rural Needs Impact Assessment found that the masterplan involves the development of</p>

	<p>an inner city area and will have no direct impact in rural areas. The use of emerging spaces and facilities will be kept under review to ensure there is no adverse impact on rural areas and proposals for improved access to and within the area will help facilitate those visiting from rural areas.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 - INW consultation feedback summary</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Map of the city centre</p>