



Subject:	Inner North West Masterplan Action Plan
Date:	4th March, 2020
Reporting Officer:	Sean Dolan, Acting Director City Regeneration and Development
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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"/>
Sometime 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/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members on the development of the Inner North West (INW) Masterplan Action Plan.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is requested to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• note the engagement carried out to date to produce the draft Action Plan (appendix 2); and• approve the emerging draft Action Plan prior to finalisation.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Background As part of the delivery of the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy (BCCRIS) a number of more detailed plans were to be commissioned to help support and shape city centre developments. The Inner North West (INW) Masterplan is part of the

	<p>implementation of BCCRIS and, following a 12-week public consultation, the City Growth and Regeneration Committee approved the updated INW Masterplan in December, 2018.</p>
3.2	<p>The INW area, as shown in the Masterplan, forms a critical part of the city centre and is bounded by the Millfield / Carrick Hill road to the northwest, College Street to the south, Fountain Street to Fountain Lane to the south and Royal Avenue to the east and covers 17.2 hectares (42 acres). The area is located at the convergence of four different types of land uses: residential to the west and north; retail to the east; education to the north and mixed use to the south, including the new Transport Hub (See Location Map at Appendix 1)</p>
3.3	<p>The purpose of the Masterplan is to guide development in this part of the city. The Inner North West is experiencing significant change, mostly as a result of a number of approved and planned development opportunities in the wider area and will benefit from a more holistic consideration of the key issues associated with these emerging activities such as transport, connectivity, built heritage, mixed-use developments, residential accommodation, and design. At its core, the Masterplan is led by 10 urban design principles and aims to a new city centre mixed neighbourhood which:</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • incorporates a mix of uses, including residential, commercial, retail and leisure, all integrated through a strong and cohesive public realm; • takes into consideration the heritage of the area and the historic urban grain; • reinstates the historically vibrant economy of the Inner North West area; • promotes city centre living, with its social and environmental benefits; • strengthens the city centre’s urban fabric and streetscapes; • supports and strengthens pedestrian connections within the city centre and to/from adjoining neighbourhoods; and • delivers the ambitions of the Belfast Agenda, in line with the Local Development Plan.
3.4	<p>These principles shape the proposals outlined within the ten character areas highlighted in the Masterplan, which include: Queen Street, Castle Street and King Street, Bank Square, Smithfield Market, CastleCourt, North Street, North Street Public Space, Union Street Place Space, Donegall Street and Carrick Hill / Millfield.</p>
	<p>Emerging INW Action Plan</p>
3.5	<p>Development in the INW will be driven by investment from both the public and private sectors. Whilst private sector investment is essential there is also a significant role for the public sector, working with the private sector and other stakeholders, in helping to shape and deliver regeneration in this part of the city. There is a significant amount of publicly owned land in the area which provides the opportunity for the public sector to influence and drive</p>

	<p>development in a co-ordinated manner. The Masterplan has been produced in consultation with the Department for Communities (DfC) and the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) with a view towards collaboration in delivering the Masterplan's vision.</p>
3.6	<p>The Council and DfC are jointly developing the INW Action Plan to update and provide further detail on the initial proposals set out in the INW Masterplan, and to identify a number of short, medium and long term priorities and projects. Cross sector engagement took place with statutory partners, developers and community and voluntary organisations and elected representatives and consisted of one-to-one discussions, a stakeholder workshop in November 2019 and a site walk over in January 2020. A further workshop to review the final draft Action Plan took place on 25 February 2020 to discuss and agree the emerging draft Action Plan as attached in Appendix 2. Members from the adjacent DEAs, i.e. Court, Botanic and Old Park have been invited to attend all the engagement sessions. The final Action Plan will be completed by April 2020, taking on board comments from the final workshop, and this committee and presented to committee for endorsement in the near future.</p>
3.7	<p>In addition to the original proposals in the INW Masterplan, feedback from stakeholders covered a range of short, medium and long term initiatives such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coherent plan of public realm initiatives along the central spine of the INW• On-street landscaping to reduce car dominance• Improved and creative lighting schemes coupled with greenery on key buildings and links such as Marquis Street• Dedicated programme for re-using buildings, to include external improvements and meanwhile uses for arts and cultural sectors• Monthly market in Smithfield car park• Create new pop up parks• Wayfinding strategy to support local trips, highlight offer and promote pedestrian routes• Temporary street closures, i.e. Sunday trials to create public space
3.8	<p>It is also worth noting that the Council remains involved with a number of other strategic projects such as the City Centre Connectivity Study, Strategic Sites Assessment, Streets Ahead, York Street Interchange, Clarendon Masterplan, Clifton Street Gateway and Belfast Region City Deal, all of which will affect the INW and provide opportunities to increase connections, support coherent development and achieve the aspirations of the Masterplan.</p>

3.9	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>Consultation on the draft EQIA Screening was held as part of the Inner North West Masterplan and the final Equality Screening will accompany the final masterplan. The Rural Needs Impact Assessment found that the masterplan involves the development of 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>
3.10	<p><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None directly associated with this report.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 - Location map</p> <p>Appendix 2- Inner North West Masterplan Draft Action Plan</p>