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Eilish McGoldrick
Democratic Services Officer
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Via email:

Dear Ms McGoldrick

Thank you for your letter of 7th December 2020 to Minister Ní Chuilín, expressing Council's recognition of the funding that the Department had provided through the COVID-19 Recovery Revitalisation Programme. As Director for Regional Development and SRO for this programme, your correspondence had been passed to me to reply, and I would first like to offer my apologies for the undue delay in doing so. This was down to an administrative oversight.

I am grateful for Belfast City Council's ongoing support for this Programme. The pandemic has provided all of us not only with unique challenges, but also with opportunities to explore new approaches to delivering our regeneration remit. The Programme, which was designed to be as flexible as possible to allow it to address the specific needs of each area, has allowed the Department to collaborate with DfI and DAERA to deliver £19.3m of urgent funding to councils to prepare our town and city centres to reopen safely.

I welcome Council's promotion of a collaborative approach to deliver our regeneration agenda and hope that the work of the recently-established High Streets Task Force will identify further opportunities to put this into practice.

Yours sincerely

Gerard Murray
Director, Regional Development Office