



Subject:	Request to Present – Weavers Cross
Date:	6 April 2021
Reporting Officer:	Cathy Reynolds, Director, City Regeneration & Development
Contact Officer:	Sean Dolan, Senior Development Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
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"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	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 seek approval for the Committee to receive a Presentation from Translink on the Weavers Cross Regeneration Scheme at its Special Committee Meeting on 27 April 2022.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	Members are asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>agree to receive a presentation from Translink on the Weavers Cross Regeneration Scheme at the Special City Growth and Regeneration Committee meeting on 27 April 2022.</li></ul>

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p>Members may recall that the City Growth and Regeneration Committee in August 2021 received a presentation from Translink on the Belfast Transport Hub and the wider Weavers Cross regeneration scheme. Representatives provided an overview of building works, together with estimated timeline of completion stages and advised that the main works had been contracted over the next four years with anticipated completion for Summer 2024. The presentation also included social, economic and environmental benefits of the scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8,000+ FTE jobs in Grade A officer with FDI potential</li> <li>• 30% uplift in property values and rates</li> <li>• 20m+ per annum public transport passenger footfall with all island connectivity</li> <li>• £25m urban renewal investment</li> <li>• 20 acre brownfield site regeneration</li> <li>• Zero emission public transport by 2040; and</li> <li>• 20,000+ tonners per year reduction in GHG emissions</li> </ul>
3.2	<p>Members will be aware of the ongoing work to deliver the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy (BCCRIS), as well as the development of A Bolder Vision for Belfast. The Weavers Cross Regeneration Scheme supports the Belfast Agenda growth aspirations and is identified in BCCRIS as one of the key transformative interventions for the city centre within the Linen Quarter Special Action Area and provides an opportunity to develop the placemaking led approach as set out within A Bolder Vision for Belfast.</p>
3.3	<p>DfI granted planning permission for the new integrated Transport Hub in March 2019. The hub forms part of the wider proposed 20 acre Weavers Cross regeneration project and is a flagship project prioritised by the NI Executive. The Weavers Cross Regeneration Scheme aims to regenerate a significant area of land adjoining the Transport Hub and it will be a key feature in efforts to meet the Belfast Agenda and BCCRIS targets.</p>
3.4	<p>During 2021 Translink hosted a range of political parties and business representatives group visits to view the progress of the works ongoing at the Belfast Transport Hub, which included providing updates on the arts and heritage project and the Weavers Cross scheme. It is intended that the Weavers Cross scheme will grow up around the Hub after completion and will provide unique regenerative development opportunities for the area.</p>

3.5	<p>In December 2021 Translink submitted a major outline planning application for Weavers Cross, which followed an extensive community consultation process, that reached more than 50,000 citizens. The proposals were viewed online during the consultation period, alongside displays in the current Great Victoria Street Station and Community workshops.</p>
3.6	<p>Infrastructure Minister, Nicola Mallon cut the first sod on the Belfast Transport Hub (BTH) in Mid-March of this year, and welcomed the social, environmental and economic benefits of the BTH and wider Weavers Cross scheme.</p>
3.7	<p>Members will recall that the City Growth and Regeneration Committee had noted the Council's Hope Street car park as having significant potential to contribute to the comprehensive Weavers Cross Regeneration scheme and approval was given by SP&amp;R in November 2019 for the inclusion of this within Translink's Master planning considerations.</p>
3.8	<p>There is continued engagement between officers from City Regeneration &amp; Development and Translink in relation to the Weavers Cross and Transport Hub regeneration proposals including officer representation on the Belfast Transport Hub Programme Board which focus covers the Transport Hub and wider Weavers Cross development scheme.</p>
3.9	<p>Translink would like to attend the Special meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee on 27 April 2022 in order to update Members on its proposals for the Weavers Cross scheme.</p>
3.10	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b> None issued with this report.</p>
3.11	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b> None</p>
4.0	<p><b>Appendices – Documents attached</b></p>
	<p>None</p>