

Submitted to **Belfast LDP 2035 - Plan Strategy**

Submitted on **2018-11-15 15:59:01**

Overview

1. Data Protection

Q1. Please tick to confirm that you have read and understood the privacy notice above.

I confirm that I have read and understood the privacy notice above and give my consent for Belfast City Council to hold my personal data for the purposes outlined.

Q2. Do you consent for us to publish your response?

Yes, with my name and/or organisation

2. Your details

Q3. Are you responding as an individual, as an organisation, or as an agent acting on behalf of an individual, group or organisation?

Individual, Organisation or Agent:

Organisation

Q4. What is your name?

Title:

Ms

Full Name:

Susan Picken

Q5. What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

██████████

Q6. What is your email address?

Email:

██████████

Q7. Did you respond to the previous Preferred Options Paper consultation phase?

Yes

If yes, and you have your previous response ID (beginning ANON) please enter it here::

4. Organisation

Q9. If you are responding as a representative of a group or organisation, please provide details below:

Organisation:

Cathedral Quarter Trust

Your Job Title:

Director

Address Line 1:

Ground Floor

Line 2:

109-113 Royal Avenue

Line 3:

City:

Belfast

Postcode:

BT1 1FF

6. Before you submit your comments

7. Is the plan sound?

Your comments should be set out in full. This will help the independent examiner understand the issues you raise. You will only be able to submit further additional information to the Independent Examination if the Independent Examiner invites you to do so.

Q12. Do you consider the Plan Strategy to be sound or unsound?

I believe it to be sound

8a. Sound

Q13. If you consider the Plan Strategy to be sound and wish to support the Plan Strategy, please set out your comments below:

Reasons for support:

Cathedral Quarter Trust

Local Development Plan - Response to Draft Plan Strategy
November 2018

On behalf of the Cathedral Quarter Trust (CQT) I would like to submit the response below to Belfast City Council's Local Development Draft Plan Strategy.

The Cathedral Quarter Trust was established in 2012 to support the on-going regeneration of the area as Belfast's cultural quarter in the city centre by:

- Supporting the Cathedral Quarter as a centre for the arts and creative industries;
- Supporting the growth of the mixed-use economy in Cathedral Quarter;
- Generating high levels of public participation;
- Helping to develop and maintain a supportive infrastructure.

Overall the Trust welcomes and supports the Plan however we do have some specific comments in several areas

Built Heritage

Probably more than any other part of the city centre, the Cathedral Quarter and the area immediately surrounding have suffered from the impact of protracted and delayed development projects and 'planning' blight. This has contributed to increased levels of dereliction with an attendant negative effect on the local streetscape and other negative impacts (anti-social behaviour, rough sleeping, vandalism, petty crime). It is of especial concern that highly visible buildings of real historic significance have fallen into disrepair as a result of development and the planning process.

CQT welcomes the Plan's commitment to the city's built heritage and the role it plays in enhancing Belfast's unique character and history. We would particularly welcome any elements of the plan that focus on preserving and regenerating built heritage, bringing buildings back into use.

Aligned with this we also welcome and support elements of the plan that address the potential for 'meanwhile' use of vacant land and buildings and also those that promote the mixed-economy use of the city centre.

Tourism, Leisure and Culture

While the Trust welcomes the inclusion of Tourism, Leisure and Culture in the Draft Plan, it is disappointing to us that culture in particular is only referred to within the context of Tourism and there is little acknowledgment given either to the significant contribution a vibrant civic cultural offer can make to the quality of life of citizens, or of the significant contribution arts and culture can make to the economy and the city overall.

There is widespread acknowledgement that arts, culture and the creative industries can play a significant role in the cultural and physical regeneration of cities. This can range in scope from the designation of physical areas such as creative clusters or hubs through to the development of cultural spaces (eg theatres, museums, art galleries) and on to ancillary or 'softer' entities/ activities which often spring up around creative areas eg bars and cafes, independent retailers, arts organisations and festivals.

It is particularly relevant to consider the regenerative role arts, culture and leisure can provide at the current time when the retail sector faces very serious challenges that could have an extremely negative impact on the city's retail core.

Other cities across the UK and beyond have recognised the regenerative potential of arts and culture, particularly within areas like the city centre and the Cathedral Quarter. We believe that ignoring this potential could place Belfast at a distinct disadvantage in terms of other UK and ROI cities who are actively developing and growing their arts, cultural and creative infrastructure and capacity in order to meet the demands of a global tourist economy and an increasingly international and cosmopolitan workforce.

We would urge the Council to review and enhance this area within the Draft Plan, particularly in light of the current volatile state of the retail sector.

Files should be no more than 10MB and in either PDF or Microsoft Word format:

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9. Type of Procedure

Q18. Please indicate if you would like your representation to be dealt with by:

Written representations