

# Belfast One City

Comhdháil Aon-Chathrach Bhéal Feirste

Conference 2012

‘A City on the Cusp’



REPORT

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May 10th 2012 | Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich    May 11th 2012 | Titanic Belfast

## CHAIRS

### Honorary Chairs.

Alderman Tom Ekin Alliance Party  
Ciarán Mackel ARD Architects  
Geraldine McAteer CEO WBPB  
Sammy Douglas, MLA DUP  
Howard Hastings Chair NITB  
Paul McErlean MCE Public Relations  
Sorcha Wolsey, Cathedral Quarter  
Tony McCusker, Community Relations Council  
Michael Graham, MRICS Titanic Quarter Limited

## CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Naomi Long, MP Alliance Party	Annie Armstrong Colin Neighbourhood Partnership
Roisin Kelleher Irish Language Broadcast Fund	Paul Nolan Community Relations Council
Roisín McDonough CEO, Arts Council NI	Glenn Jordan SKAINOS
Peter Dixon Phoenix Gas	Gerry McConville Falls Community Council
Rep Eugene O'Flaherty Massachusetts State House	Mandy Patrick, MBE Park Avenue Hotel
Mark Hackett Forum for Alternative Belfast	Tim Husbands Titanic Belfast
Wolfgang Buttress RISE	Paul Maskey, MP Sinn Féin
Steve Orr NI Science Park	Alderman Christopher Stalford Belfast City Council
Conrad Atkinson	David Dobbin CEO United Dairy Farmers
Fergus Ó hÍr Raidió Fáilte	Marie-Therese McGivern Belfast MET
Simon Rea Belfast Pride	Patricia McKeown UNISON NI
Angila Chada Springboard	Iniaki Zabaleta University of the Basque Country
Eimear Ní Mhathúna Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich	Minister Alasdair Allan, MSP Dept of Learning, Science and Scotland's Languages
Mike Smith Titanic Quarter Ltd	Minister Danny Kennedy, MLA Dept of Regional Development
Niall Ó Donnghaile Lord Mayor	Jackie Henry Deloitte
Minister Alex Attwood	
Department of the Environment	
Danny Moore Loughshore Investments	

All presentations online at [www.belfastmediagroup.com/onecity](http://www.belfastmediagroup.com/onecity)

## CONFERENCE PARTNERS





## DELEGATES

Aisling Ní Labhraí Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich  
Alan Cahoon Belfast South Community Resources  
Alison Sweeney Belfast Media Group  
Andy McCallin McCallin Carr  
Anne McAleese South Belfast Partnership  
Anne McMullan BVCB  
Anne Stirling Stirling Television  
Aodán MacPóilin Iontaobhas Ultach  
Barry Jackson United  
Bernard Clarke Translink  
Bernie Adams  
Brenda Munro University of Ulster  
Brendan Mulgrew MW Advocate  
Bríd Ní Fhachtna Irish Language Broadcast Fund  
Caitlín Ní Chearúlláin St Marys University College  
Callie Persic WBPB  
Catherine Mallon Springboard  
Ciaran McCavana BJM Global Accountants  
Claire Ferris Workwest  
Claire Trainor NI Hospice  
Clara Ní Ghiolla Raidió Fáilte  
Cllr Caoimhín Mac Giolla Mhín Belfast City Council  
Cllr Conor Maskey Belfast City Council  
Cllr Eric McGinley Derry City Council  
Cllr Hubert Nicholl Mayor Ballymena Borough Council  
Cllr Steven Corr Falls Community Council  
Cllr Tim Attwood SDLP  
Colin Halliday Belfast South Community Resources  
Colin Mounstephen Deloitte  
Colleen Watters National Museum Northern Ireland  
Damian Bannon Translink  
Dan McGinn University of Ulster  
Danny Byrne DSD  
David Gavaghan  
Declan Hill Forum for Alternative Belfast  
Diana Fitzsimons Turley Associates  
Donagh Finnegan St Mary's CBGS  
Donal McKinney USDT  
Douglas Adams  
Dr Janet Harbison Irish Harp College  
East Belfast Partnership  
Eddie McGowan NI Hospice  
Eithne McVeigh St Marys University College  
Feargal Mac Innrachtaigh Forbairt Feirste  
Frank Costello  
Frank McGonagle Wholeschool Software  
Gabrielle Nig Uidhir St Mary's University College  
Gavin McGrattan Belfast Media Group  
Gearóid Trimble Foras na Gaeilge  
Geoff Hooks Head of Central Support, First Trust  
Gerard McGrath Workforce  
Gerry Lennon BVCB  
Gerry Millar Director of Property & Projects, Belfast City Council  
Glenda Davies South Belfast Partnership  
Glyn Roberts NIIRTA  
Greg Lomax Helm Housing Ltd  
Harry Connolly Fáilte Feirste Thiar  
Hugh McGettigan St Mary's CBGS  
Ian Jamison Springboard  
Jackie McDonald Belfast South Community Resources  
Jackie Redpath Springboard  
Jacqueline O'Donnell Belfast Media Group  
Jake Mac Siacais Forbairt Feirste  
Janet Muller POBAL  
Jennifer McCann, MLA Sinn Féin  
Joanne Stuart IOD  
Joby Fox  
John Deery Northern Bank  
John McCorry North Belfast Partnership  
John McGrillen Belfast City Council  
John Simpson University of Ulster  
Judith Webb NITB  
Katrina Newell Ashton Community Trust  
Kenneth McComb Belfast South Community Resources  
Kieran O'Connor Loughshore Investments  
Lisa McMaster NIIRTA  
Lucinda Glynn BBC  
Máirtín Ó Muilleoir Belfast Media Group  
Mark Barr Sisk  
Mark Taylor Lisburn Road Business Association  
Martin Lynch  
Martin Smythson South Belfast Partnership  
Mary Lyons Springvale Learning  
Maura Maginn GLM Community Association  
Michael Doherty Doherty Architects  
Michael Graham Titanic Quarter Ltd  
Michael McHugh Press Association  
Micheál Ó Duibh Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta  
Nicola Johnston DSD  
Paddy Gilmore National Museum Northern Ireland  
Pádraic White  
Pat Benson Sailortown Regeneration Project  
Pat Boyle Ashton Centre  
Patricia McNeill Ormeau Business Park  
Paul McTernan SLR Consulting  
Paul Roberts Ashton Centre  
Paula Quinn Springboard  
Peter Kerr Atto Partners  
Peter McNaney Belfast City Council  
Phillip Woods Translink  
Pilib Campbell Tobar Productions  
Prof Margaret Harrison  
Rep John Donovan Massachusetts State House  
Richard Williams NI Screen  
Robert McCarron Attorney  
Róise Ní Bhaoill Iontaobhas Ultach  
Ronan Cregan CFO, Belfast City Council  
Rosemary Stalker Colin Neighbourhood Partnership  
Saul Golden University of Ulster  
Seamus Brown Sailortown Regeneration Project  
Shane Ó Curraighín Below the Radar/Meon Eile  
Sharon O'Connor Derry City Council  
Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives Belfast City Council  
Síofra Healy NI Hospice  
Sophie Rasmussen  
Sorcha de Búrca Below the Radar/Meon Eile  
Stephen McGarry Workwest  
Stephen McMurrough Building, Design & Management  
Steven Manson Gaelic Scots Unit  
Stuart Baile Oh Yeah Music Centre Ltd  
Stuart Johnston Atto Partners  
Stuart Pescodd Gaelic Scots Unit  
Tara Florence ARD Architects  
Terence Brannigan CEO, Connected Health  
Tony McCusker Community Relations Council  
Uel Weir Paperclip Architects/Lisburn Road Business Association

## ITINERARY

### MAY 10 | CULTÚRLANN McADAM Ó FIAICH

Opening Evening in association with



**6pm** Opening Reception and preview of  
Sisk partnership with Gerard Dillon Gallery

**6:30pm** Opening of Conference  
Alderman Tom Ekin: 'A City on the Cusp'  
Response by Rep Eugene O'Flaherty, Boston USA

**6:45pm** The Quarters' Health Check: One Year On  
Chair: Geraldine McAteer,  
CEO West Belfast Partnership Board  
Paul McErlean, Cathedral Quarter,  
Eimear Ní Mhathúna, An Cheathrú Ghaeltachta,  
Mike Smith, Titanic Quarter

**7.30pm** Drawing It Together  
Mark Hackett, Forum for an Alternative Belfast

**7.50pm** A New Narrative for a New Belfast  
Chair: Roisín McDonough, CEO Arts Council of NI  
Wolfgang Buttress, creator of RISE  
Prof Conrad Atkinson,  
University of California at Davis  
Steve Orr, Generation Innovation

**8.30pm** Tomorrow's Belfast  
Introduction Ciarán Mackel,  
ARD Ciarán Mackel Architects  
Raidió Fáilte: Fergus Ó hÍr  
Belfast Pride: Simon Rea  
Angila Chada, Springboard

**9.00pm** Conference Club. Caifé Feirste.  
Music and food

**9:15am** Conference Official Opening Address:  
**A Better Belfast**  
Alex Attwood MLA,  
Minister at the Department of the Environment  
(Introduced by Jackie Henry, Partner,  
Deloitte Belfast)

**9:30am** Shaping Tomorrow's Belfast  
Chair: Peter Dixon, CEO Phoenix Gas  
Danny Moore, Founder Loughshore Investments  
Annie Armstrong, Director Colin Partnership,  
Paul Nolan, Community Relations Council

**10:10am** Tomorrow's Belfast  
Introduction: Sammy Douglas MLA  
Glenn Jordan, SKAINOS  
Gerry McConville,  
St Comgall's Peace Visitor Centre.

**10:25am** Our Time, Our Place?  
Chair: Howard Hastings,  
Chair Northern Ireland Tourist Board  
Mandy Patrick, MBE Park Avenue Hotel  
Tim Husbands, CEO Titanic Belfast  
Paul Maskey MP, Chair Fáilte Feirste Thiar

**11.15am** Jobs, Growth and Economic  
Development Getting Us There  
Chair: Naomi Long, MP for East Belfast  
Alderman Christopher Stalford,  
Chair Development Committee,  
Belfast City Council  
David Dobbin,  
Chair Strategic Investment Board,  
Board Member Invest NI  
Patricia McKeown, UNISON  
Marie-Therese McGivern, CEO Belfast MET

**12 Noon** 'The Challenge and the Opportunity'  
Chair: Roisín Kelleher,  
CEO The Irish Language Broadcast Fund/  
An Ciste Craoltóireachta Gaeilge

Dr Alasdair Allan MSP, Minister for Learning,  
Science and Scotland's Languages  
Professor Iñaki Zabaleta,  
University of the Basque Country  
Carál Ní Chuilín MLA, Minister at Department  
of Culture, Arts and Leisure

*"There are few responsibilities more absolute  
than those which flow from custodianship of a language  
and culture; especially when these exist to such an extent in  
only one country. If Gaelic dies in Scotland, it dies in the  
world. If it flourishes in Scotland, then it sends out a  
message of inspiration and optimism to others who face  
similar challenges and adversities. Therein lies both the  
challenge and the opportunity."*

— Prince Charles

**1pm** One City Gala Luncheon  
in Association with **Deloitte**.  
Recognising the Heroes of the One City.  
Guest Speakers: Danny Kennedy, MLA,  
Minister for Regional Development  
Rep Eugene O'Flaherty, Boston USA

**3pm** Coming Home University of Ulster, York St  
A presentation on the proposed new  
University of Ulster Campus by Vice-Chancellor  
Richard Barnett.  
Tour of the new MAC and welcome from  
CEO Anne McReynolds.

**4:10pm** Conference Club. The Cloth Ear.  
Music and food

**7pm** Finale Reception in the Residence  
of the Consul General of the US

### MAY 11 | TITANIC BELFAST

**8:30am** Registration  
**9am** Céad Míle Fáilte and Setting the Scene  
for a Changing City  
Lord Mayor of Belfast Niall Ó Donnghaile







## DR ALASDAIR ALLAN

Dr Alasdair Allan is the Scottish Government's Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland's Languages and Scottish National Party Member of the Scottish Parliament for the Na h-Eileanan an Iar.

A native of Ashkirk, near Selkirk, Alasdair Allan attended Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities and devoted his time and employment to the Scottish National Party (SNP) in Peterhead, working for Alex Salmond MP, now First Minister of Scotland, and he subsequently became assistant to Michael Russell MSP.

Alasdair Allan was next in line to become a list MSP for North East Scotland when Richard Lochhead resigned to fight the Moray by-election, however he decided instead to devote himself to contesting the Western Isles, a key Labour-SNP marginal seat in the 2007 Scottish Parliamentary election. He relocated to Lewis and resigned his post as SNP National Secretary. This move proved successful, as he was elected with 46.6% of the vote — a 5.4% swing from Labour.

In the 2011 Scottish Parliament General Election Allan again stood for the SNP in the Western Isles and increased his majority, returning to Holyrood with 65.3% of the vote, an increase of 18.7% and a swing of 15.8% from Labour.

He is a speaker and strong supporter of Scottish Gaelic and Lowland Scots and holds a PhD on the latter.



## ANNIE ARMSTRONG

Annie has lived in the Twinbrook area since 1974, has been involved in community development in the Colin area since 1981, mainly on a voluntary basis. She is responsible for setting up many community organisations including the Colin Neighbourhood Partnership, Colin Community Restorative Justice, Colin Health for All sub group, Colin Suicide Prevention task group among others.

Annie represented the Twinbrook area as a Twinbrook community representative on the Colin Neighbourhood Partnership board until September 2007 when she secured her current position with the partnership.

With the support and assistance of John Compton former Chief Executive of the then Down Lisburn Trust, Annie established the social economy business Colin Care a domiciliary care provider. This business was set up in

the Colin area in 2005 and is currently employing 43 people. Annie is responsible for the day to day business of the Colin Neighbourhood Partnership board and a team of 9 community development officers addressing various themes identified by the local community.



## CONRAD ATKINSON

Conrad Atkinson is one of the most important fine artists in the world who specialize in social and political concerns. The strength of all of his graphics, installations, paintings and sculptures is their visual appeal. Although the text is significant, the images are most compelling and provocative. Atkinson's earliest pieces demonstrate the proposition, exploited by advertisers during the same years as his art practise, that an image is worth a thousand words. Conrad Atkinson has been consistently committed to making the world better while creating works that are visually arresting and well crafted. This combination of ambition and accomplishment is unique. There are few other British artists of his humanity and stature.



## PROF. RICHARD BARNETT

Professor Barnett was appointed Vice Chancellor of the University in April 2006.

He joined the University in September 1990 on his appointment to the Professorship in Public Finance and Management and has held appointments as Head of the School of Public Policy, Economics and Law, Dean of the Faculty of Business and Management, and Pro Vice Chancellor (Teaching and Learning). From November 2004 to April 2006 he was Acting Vice Chancellor of the University.

Prior to joining the University Professor Barnett held academic appointments at the Universities of Salford and York and at Queen's University, Ontario. He has also held the Vivienne Stewart Visiting Fellowship at the University of Cambridge and been a Visiting Scholar at Wolfson College, Cambridge.

Professor Barnett is a non-executive director of Bombardier Shorts Aerospace (Belfast) and a member of Universities Ireland. In 2008/09 he

was Chairman of the Independent Review of Economic Policy commissioned by the Minister for Enterprise Trade and Investment. He is currently chairing a group on priority skills for the Northern Ireland Adviser on Skills and he is a companion of the Chartered Management Institute.



## WOLFGANG BUTTRESS

Wolfgang Buttress creates simple, elegant and contextual sculptures which seek to define and celebrate a sense of place. Born in 1965 and originally from the Lake District, England he has a BA Hons in Fine Art from Trent Polytechnic. His studio and workshop is currently in Nottingham, UK. He set up award winning Art and Landscape architecture practice Wolfgang and Heron (2000- 2006) and now works individually as an artist as well working collaboratively with a wide range of professionals, most recently with architects and landscape architects such as Tadao Ando, Lyons, Marks Barfield, BDP, Gillespies and Conran and Partners.

He works with a variety of materials and has, over the last 30 years, produced artworks for the public realm in the UK, Europe, Japan and Australia. Inspired by the work of artists and architects such as Ando, Brancusi, Saarinen, Tapes and Twombly, his work alludes to histories, traces and memories which are both personal and contextual and aim to express the sublime.

His work has been exhibited in the two most recent Chicago Sculpture Biennales and he has won two prestigious Civic Trust Awards for 'Silica' the landmark sculpture for the centre of Weston-super-Mare and for his work on the Stamford Gateway project in 2010. In 2011 'Rise' was installed in Belfast, the largest piece of sculpture in Northern Ireland.



## ANGILA CHADA

Currently Executive Director of Springboard, Angela Chada has extensive experience of working across and within communities in developing capacity, building peace and promoting an appreciation of diversity. Since 1992 she has led the creation of innovative and dynamic local and international learning platforms, particularly for young people, which

have resulted in exceptional personal outcomes as well as an increased sense of civic responsibility. In 2008 she created the Peace Day campaign to raise awareness of UN International Day of Peace and underline the importance of remembrance and celebration as we continue our journey of peace. In the next few months she will launch 'thREAd' a model to support organisations maximise social impact.

She is currently Director of DiversityWorks which specialises in diversity work and learning interventions, a Charity Commissioner with the Charity Commission for N Ireland, holds board membership for Intercomm in North Belfast and sits on the Belfast City Council's Good Relations Partnership.

She also recently established the Raj Darshna Foundation which underlines her personal long term commitment to charitable giving. Other activities within the voluntary and community sector have seen her apply her expertise in various strategic planning and evaluation processes.



## DR DAVID DOBBIN

Dr David Dobbin CBE has extensive international business experience in the food and drink and packaging sectors and since 2000 has been Group Chief Executive of United Dairy Farmers one of Northern Ireland's largest indigenous food companies with an annual turnover of £450 million and 1,000 employees.

He is actively involved in promoting economic development and is Chairman of the Strategic Investment Board, a board member of Invest NI and was recently appointed as a Belfast Harbour Commissioner. He previously served as Chairman of North/South Economic body InterTradeIreland and as Chairman of the CBI in Northern Ireland.

A First Class Honours Graduate in Mechanical Engineering from Queen's University Belfast, Dr Dobbin has completed post graduate business courses at the London and Harvard Business Schools. He is a Chartered Engineer, a Fellow of the Institute of Directors and received a CBE in the 2005 Birthday Honours for his service to the agri-food and packaging industries. Dr Dobbin was awarded the Institute of Director's Lunn's Award for Excellence in leadership in 2008 and an honorary Chinese citizenship in 1998 by the city of Kunshan in recognition of his service to economic development in China. A passionate rugby enthusiast he is currently Chairman of Ulster Rugby.

## MARK HACKETT

Mark Hackett is an architect and director in Forum, formerly a partner in Hackett Hall McKnight architects. In 2007 they won the competition to design the MAC arts centre shortly to



be completed and opening in the Cathedral Quarter Belfast and in 2008 they won UK Young Architect of the Year.

Mark left the partnership in June 2010 later becoming a full time director in Forum. He is external examiner in University of Dundee and has taught in architecture courses extensively since 1999. He is a board member of PLACE and ADAPT NI.



## TIM HUSBANDS

Tim became CEO of the world's largest Titanic visitor experience in May 2011. Prior to this, Tim was Managing Director of the Belfast Waterfront Hall, which generates over 300,000 visitors each year, from 1994 until May 2011, arriving in Belfast two years before the facility opened. For five years he has also been responsible for the operation of the Ulster Hall, another major player in the city's arts and entertainment provision.

In 2009 Tim assumed the position of Head of City Events and Venues, which saw him take the lead in the delivery of all major events in the city, including the Tall Ships Festival in 2009 and the securing of the MTV Music Awards for Belfast for November 2011.

Prior to coming to Belfast, Tim was Managing Director of the Riviera Centre in Torquay, a major UK Conference Centre and leisure facility. Concurrently he was also the General Manager of the English Riviera Conference Bureau, responsible for generating both profile and business for not the only Riviera Centre but for the region as a whole.



## GLENN JORDAN

Glenn Jordan is the Director of the Skainos Project, a £21m urban regeneration project on the

Newtownards Road between Dee Street and Templemore Avenue. It is a multi-use development which has grown out of the work of east Belfast Mission and is pulling together a range of strategic partnerships to address the social, physical, economic and environmental deprivation issues in the area. Skainos is using a social economy model to provide shared space for community use which will also contribute to the sustainability of agencies on-site and to shared-space projects in the area.

Glenn has worked in East Belfast for 12 years and prior to his full-time involvement in Skainos, he was the Director of East Belfast Mission. He is particularly interested in how faith groups engage in community development activity and is a board member of the Churches Community Work Alliance and the East Belfast Community Development Agency.



## ROISIN KELLEHER

Róisín Kelleher is currently on a secondment from the BBC to Northern Ireland Screen as Head of the Irish Language Broadcast Fund (which funds quality Irish language content for broadcast on various platforms and fosters the Irish speaking independent production sector in Northern Ireland).

Her roles at the BBC have been diverse, from leading a department, commissioning and writing (for a wide variety of award winning multi-platform interactive media projects in the areas of education, drama, documentary, animation and online gaming), to many years as a radio broadcaster/producer with the BBC's Irish Language Unit, co-establishing the nightly flagship show, Blas. She has recently retired and also works as a therapist and personal process facilitator for individuals and groups.



## PAUL MCKERLEAN

Paul McErlean is Managing Director and founder of MCE. There is virtually no sector in which Paul has not advised and worked with CEOs, Executive Directors and Board members in Northern Ireland and beyond. Paul works across MCE's client base and his particular expertise lies in public affairs, issue and crisis management and the design, integration and delivery of public relations solutions within wider marketing strategies.

Paul previously was joint Managing Director of another major Northern Ireland PR agency and spent a number of years advising the Industrial Development Board and



InterTradelreland in his previous consulting roles – including being the lead communications advisor on the T1 city investment roadshow of North America after the signing of the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement in 1998. His career started in broadcasting research and news facilitation with leading independent TV company, Macmillan Media and he also spent two years as Head of Communications for one of Northern Ireland's main political parties. He has degrees from Queen's and Cambridge Universities and completed an Executive MBA from the Smurfit School of Business, University College Dublin, in 2002.

On a voluntary basis, he is Chairman of leading environmental regeneration charity, Groundwork NI and is also Chairman of the Cathedral Quarter Trust – a DSD and Belfast City Council backed stakeholder group charged with developing the regeneration strategy for Belfast's most vibrant and historic city centre district. He is a member of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations having served as its Northern Ireland Chairman in 2006.



#### GERRY MCCONVILLE

Gerry McConville is the Director of Falls Community Council, a community development organisation based in West Belfast. FCC is involved in the political, social and economic regeneration of the area and also works in the field of human rights, social justice and participative democracy.

He has worked with that organisation for 19 years, formerly as Manager of the Community Drug Programme. He has worked within the community sector of West Belfast for over 25 years.

Gerry is Chair of the Board of Directors of The West Belfast Partnership Board and Chair of West Wide Community Groups. He is involved in a range of economic and social regeneration projects.

Gerry has been involved with many cross community conflict resolution initiatives and is a current member of the Steering Group of Belfast Conflict Resolution Consortium and Finaghy Crossroads Group.



#### PATRICIA MCKEOWN

Patricia McKeown is Regional Secretary of UNISON the Public Service Union and one of the most senior trade unionists in Ireland. She was President of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions 2007-09 and Chairperson of its Northern Committee 2005-07 and is

former Deputy Chairperson of the EOCNI. She is currently Co-Convenor of the Equality Coalition.

Patricia is an elected member of both the Northern Ireland Committee and the Executive Council of ICTU. She represents the trade union movement on the board of InterTrade Ireland. Patricia has also served as a member of the Economic Development Forum and several social partnership forums. Patricia has pioneered a range of partnership initiatives with employers in both the public and private sector, including international initiatives with unions and employers in the US.

Her union is an outstanding champion of programmes on lifelong learning and continuous professional development and has pioneered an award-winning jobs project in West Belfast with the Belfast Trust and the West Belfast and Greater Shankill taskforces delivering real jobs in areas of greatest objective need while developing parallel career opportunities for existing health service workers.



#### DANNY MOORE

Danny Moore is a former Chief Operating Officer of the NYSE Euronext trading technology segment, NYSE Technologies. Prior to joining NYSE in 2008, Mr Moore served both as Chief Operating Officer and Chief Executive Officer of Belfast-based trading technology firm Wombat Financial Software. Wombat, under Mr Moore's stewardship, was acquired by NYSE Euronext in March 2008. Before joining Wombat, Mr Moore worked with Newry-based First Derivatives Plc.

In late 2010, Mr Moore established Belfast-based investment firm Lough Shore Investments. Through Lough Shore Investments Mr Moore plans to partner with both established and promising next generation start-up companies primarily based in Northern Ireland and Ireland. Mr Moore also plans to bring significant foreign and U.S. investment to the Northern Irish economy through Lough Shore Investments.



#### EIMEAR NI MHATHUNA

Eimear Ni Mhathuna is executive director of Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich, Ireland's first Irish language arts and cultural centre. A graduate of NUI, Maynooth, she worked in education for a number of years. She joined Cultúrlann in 2001 initially as Events Manager, and became Executive Director in 2004. Recently she oversaw a £2 million extension to Cultúrlann

which transformed the old church building and heralded the emerging Gaeltacht or Irish speaking quarter.

She is involved in the development and regeneration of the area around Cultúrlann as chair of the Gaeltacht Quarter board, which aims to use the Irish language and culture to regenerate the area around Cultúrlann, an area of multiple deprivation but also home to Ireland's largest urban Gaeltacht. She is also a board member of Fáilte Feirste Thiar, west Belfast's tourism development organisation.



#### PAUL NOLAN

Paul Nolan is the Research Director on the Northern Ireland Peace Monitoring Report, a project supported by the Community Relations Council, the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. The purpose of this project is to provide regular commentary on Northern Ireland as a post-conflict society, and the first of the annual Peace Monitoring Reports was issued at the end of February this year. Before taking up this post Paul had spent his career in adult education, serving as Director of the Workers' Educational Association, and then as Director of the Institute of Lifelong Learning at Queen's University Belfast. He has published widely on education and on the Northern Ireland conflict.



#### REP EUGENE O FLAHERTY

State Representative Eugene L. O'Flaherty represents the Second Suffolk Representative District of Massachusetts, which consists of the Boston neighbourhood of Charlestown and most of Chelsea.

Representative O'Flaherty graduated from Malden Catholic High School and received a Bachelor of Science degree from Suffolk University. He was awarded a Juris Doctor from the Massachusetts School of Law and was admitted to the Massachusetts Bar in 1994 and the Federal Bar in 1995.

He was elected to his first term in the House of Representatives in 1996 and was sworn in on January 1st, 1997. Currently in his 8th term in the House of Representatives, Representative O'Flaherty serves as the House Chairman of the Joint Committee on The Judiciary. He has held this Chairmanship under three different Speakers of the House since 2002.

In addition to his legislative duties, Representative O'Flaherty is a practicing lawyer with O'Donovan, Dwyer & O'Flaherty, P.C.



#### STEVE ORR

Steve Orr is Director of NISP CONNECT. Steve is responsible for the overall development and delivery of NISP CONNECT programmes from the Northern Ireland Science Park. NISP CONNECT is an independent, non-profit organization fostering entrepreneurship by accelerating the growth of promising technologies and early stage companies. A collaboration between Northern Ireland Science Park (NISP), the University of Ulster, Queen's University, Belfast and AFBI (Agri Food & BioSciences Institute), NISP CONNECT acts as an 'honest, neutral broker' within the region.

Steve graduated from the University of Northumbria at Newcastle in 1994 with a degree in Business Information Technology. For the following six years Steve worked in Buckinghamshire, San Diego and San Francisco for S.Com Ltd and S.ComInc. In 2000, Steve co-founded Kineticom, Inc a San Diego, California based technical talent firm. In 2006 Kineticom was ranked #33 on the Inc 500, the list of the fastest growing privately held companies in the US.

Bored with perfect weather and missing the craic, Steve has now returned to his roots and hopes to focus the rest of his career on helping to create an advantage for new ventures and entrepreneurs from Northern Ireland.



#### MANDY PATRICK

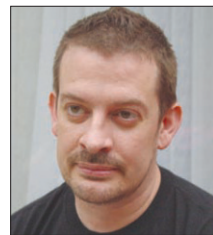
Mandy Patrick is a Director of the Park Avenue Hotel, a family business started by her grandparents over 50 years ago.

She has previously represented the hotel sector on the Board of the Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau and in 2003 she was appointed to the Board of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board where she served two terms, she then served three years on the Board of Tourism Ireland who have the responsibility of marketing the island of Ireland.

Mandy was asked to join the Board of East Belfast Partnership in 2005 and as a member of the Executive Committee chairs the Tourism Sub Group. In October 2011, Mandy was elected Vice President to the Board of the Northern Ireland Hotels Federation, a member organisation.

#### SIMON REA

Having lived across the UK and Ireland for many years, Simon returned to Northern Ireland in 2007. A former



Social Worker, with a professional career in project management and people development, Simon happened upon the Belfast Pride festival that summer and went along to help out with the parade.

Like many of his predecessors he then spoke to the organisers at length about how things could be done better and where they were getting things wrong.

Now Simon organises the festival (along with a small team of volunteers) and receives daily feedback on how the festival could be done better and where he is going wrong.

Belfast Pride is in its 22nd year. The festival has grown to be the largest parade on the Island and the biggest free annual event in the city



#### MIKE SMITH

Mike Smith is Chief Executive and Managing Director of Titanic Quarter Ltd. A graduate of Trinity College, Dublin and Queen's University Belfast, Mike's 30 year career to date spans many of the key areas of urban regeneration. He is a chartered surveyor and chartered town planner.

He was appointed Director of Development for Lagside Corporation in June 1989 and led the Corporation as Chief Executive from 1997. In September 2002 Mike moved to Titanic Quarter Ltd as CEO and Managing Director.

In 2002 he was elected Chairman of the RICS and in 2004 was appointed Visiting Professor at the University of Ulster. He is currently Chair of the Real Estate Initiative.

He is an advisor to the East Belfast Partnership Regeneration Group and Chair of the Templemore Avenue School Trust. He is currently Chair of Cinemagic (an award winning International and Television Festival for Young People).



#### MARIE THERESA MCGIVERN

Born in Belfast, Ms McGivern began her career as a teacher in further education. From this grew a desire to

deal in a more proactive way with long-term youth unemployment and, in consequence, she spent most of the 1980s working in the areas of unemployment and in enterprise development.

In the 90s, she moved to develop policy for the youth service in Northern Ireland and in 1995 joined the Civil Service as a secondee to the Urban Regeneration Initiative, Making Belfast Work.

Ms McGivern worked initially as a Team Leader in West Belfast covering some of the most deprived areas in Western Europe. She then moved to set up and head the Central Policy, Planning and Research Unit for the Initiative.

In April 1999 she joined the Belfast City Council as Director of Development heading up a newly-created department combining the economic development, arts and tourism activities of the Council with the physical development and management activities. In April 2007 her responsibilities were significantly enlarged to include the Waterfront and Ulster Halls as well as taking over all community and neighbourhood development work for the Council.

In 2003 she was appointed as visiting professor in the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment at the University of Ulster.

In 2004 she was elected as a Board member of the British Urban Regeneration Association and was re-elected in 2007. She sits on their judging panel for regeneration awards. She was an advisor on the Lagside Corporation from 1999 until it ceased operations in April 2007. She also sits on the Advisory Council of the Centre for Public Policy Seminars.

She is now CEO of the Belfast Metropolitan College.



#### INIÁKI ZABALETA

Iñaki Zabaleta is a full professor of Journalism at the University of the Basque Country (UPV-EHU) in Bilbao, Basque language writer and journalist.

He served as visiting scholar at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication of the University of Iowa (1992) and has carried on research stays and fieldwork in New York, Wales, Ireland, Scotland, Friesland The Netherlands), and Saami countries (Norway, Finland, Sweden).

His professional experience as press and broadcast journalist and editor has included the direction of a series of thirteen television documentaries on Basque culture (Urak Dakarrena); the making of reports about the Basque Country for the CNN's World Report; the editorship of weekend newscasts at Euskal Telebista (Basque TV network); and the direction of magazines (Munduan: Pazy Desarrollo; Eireka), among other activities.

He writes articles in Basque magazines and newspapers.

He also participated and was one of the co-founders of the Basque daily newspaper 'Euskaldunon Egunkaria'.



# Belfast is on the cusp of something mighty



**Eugene O'Flaherty (Boston Delegation), Sandra Kaiser (Acting Consul General), Mairtin O'Muilleoir (BMG) and Roisin McDonough (CEO Arts Council NI)**

**B**ELFAST put its best foot forward at the One City Conference in May 2012 when representatives of business, trade unions, community organisations and arts groups gathered with speakers from the US, Scotland, England and the Basque Country to discuss 'A City on the Cusp'.

Over two days and across five different venues, over 200 participants assessed the pace of progress in the changing city, weighed up the challenges and the opportunities and laid out actions needed to drive Belfast's continued renaissance.

Uniquely, the One City summit brought together representatives from all the main political parties as well as voices from the corporate boardrooms and the inner-city neighbourhoods which still seek a peace dividend.

Among our many highlights were the address by Dr Alasdair Allan MSP, Scotland's Minister of Languages — who addressed a full-house in Gaidhlig and had his words understood thanks to the magic of simultaneous translation — and the moving contribution of Rep. Eugene O'Flaherty of Boston who underlined Irish America's enduring support for Belfast. Most uplifting were the sessions on arts and culture — the heart and soul of the new Belfast — where contributors included peace artist Conrad Atkinson of the University of California at Berkely (creator of the Happy New Northern Ireland Wallpaper) and Wolfgang Buttress who has gifted Belfast the extraordinary Rise artwork. Also noteworthy was the Twitter feed, screened in the conference hall at the inspiring Titanic Building, which

brought out deliberations to a global audience — at one point the conference trended globally on Twitter — and complemented our live video stream.

We are confident great things will come from the exchanges and discussions which animated the conference and that we have created the spur to drive Belfast onto to even greater things for this is surely a city on the cusp of something mighty. Our business partners — Invest NI, Deloitte, Community Relations Council, Department of Social Development, Titanic Quarter Ltd, Translink, UNITED, SISK, University of Ulster, Foras na Gaeilge, An Cheathrú Ghaeltachta and Forum for Alternative Belfast — not only provided the professional and financial backing to make our conference possible but also played a full and dynamic part in the One City Conference.

Kudos go the Belfast Media Group Events team lead, led by Connla McCann, who plan to follow this flawless performance with the New York-New Belfast conference in the Big Apple in June and the Golden Bridges conference in Boston in November.

Go raibh bláth agus rath orthu siúd uilig a d'fhreastail ar Chomhdháil na hAon Chathrach agus go gcuire a ndíospóireachtaí leis an todhchaí gheal atá tuillte ag Béal Feirste Cois Cuain.

**Máirtín Ó Muilleoir**  
**MD Belfast Media Group**

# Send out the message – Belfast is ready for business

**T**he One City Conference is sending out a powerful message that Belfast is ready for business.

That's the view of veteran East Belfast community worker Sammy Douglas, who was last year elected to Stormont as a DUP MLA for the area.

According to Sammy 2012 is shaping up to be a pivotal year for the city and Northern Ireland with golf's Irish Open, the opening of Titanic Belfast as well as the new visitors' centre at the Giants Causeway all bolstering our ever expanding tourism market.

A well-known figure in East Belfast, having extensive experience working with a wide range of community, voluntary and church groups in the constituency, his views are not taken lightly. He has also previously worked as a Social and Economic Regeneration Advisor to East Belfast Partnership, and helped to establish job creation schemes and attracted funding of over £90 million during his career.

"I think we've come of age," he said, "and this is a great Belfast-wide conference which

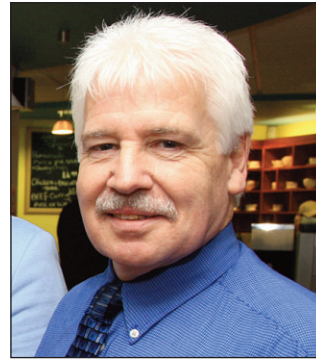
not only attracts community groups, politicians and business people, but also international visitors. It's a chance to showcase Belfast and its people and what we have to offer."

Sammy says if you look back over the last couple of months you can see a new air of optimism in the city even in these stringent economic times.

"We're a bit more relaxed with each other and I even think the centenary anniversaries that are coming up offer potential. When you look back twenty years you can really see how far we have come. Even during this downturn we are all working hard."

Sammy is heavily involved in a number of important community projects within East Belfast. He is a champion for the Connswater Community Greenway, a £32 million project to create a 9KM linear park through East Belfast. He is also Project Champion for the regeneration of Templemore Avenue School.

Away from the heavy industry where East Belfast made its name he says the



**POTENTIAL:** Sammy Douglas, East Belfast community worker

"When you look back twenty years you can really see how far we have come. Even during this downturn we are all working hard."

Connswater Community Greenway project has great potential for the East of the city.

"It's six miles of cycle track, walkways and waterways stretching from the Castlereagh Hills down to Belfast Lough and when it is developed will cost

something in the region of £32 million. Not only will it be a great asset for local people but also tourists who come into the city and want to wind down."

And although when most people think of economic investment into East Belfast these days they naturally focus on the Titanic Quarter, Sammy is keen for the rest of his constituency to benefit from this signature project whether that be the Newtownards Road or Short Strand.

"It's great the development that is going on in the Titanic Quarter but there have to be spin-offs for the rest of East Belfast," he said. "I was walking past the new Skainos development on the Newtownards Road today which sits in the shadow of the Harland and Wolff Cranes.

"This will cost £21million to build and will have retail units, a community space, a hostel for the homeless and social economy initiatives. Hopefully as the Titanic Quarter grows there will be more business opportunities throughout East Belfast."



# People have a part to play in shaping a new Belfast

**T**he annual Belfast One City conference spotlights our vibrant city and aims to strategize on how best to keep the city moving forward.

Acting as a high-level brainstorming session, a number of international speakers are here this week to attend the conference where they will talk about and debate how best to tackle the challenges this city currently faces.

The speakers will offer both their valuable experiences and constructive advice to the conference as we attempt to establish how Belfast can best speak with one voice.

Delegates from every corner of the city, including the political, business and community sectors, will intently take note of the information available to them from both national and international contributors.

One of those will be West Belfast community worker Annie Armstrong. A veteran of the Colin area on the outskirts of West Belfast, Annie has worked tirelessly for the community for over four decades.

She has been involved in the area's development since 1981, mostly on a voluntary basis. As current Manager of the Colin Neighbourhood Partnership, Annie is supporting plans for a new project, the Colin Town Centre masterplan, that will develop her beloved district. Annie spoke to us about the significance of the One City conference in a fast changing city like Belfast.



**NEW START:** West Belfast community worker Annie Armstrong with plans for a new town centre in Colin

"This conference is an opportunity to not only highlight Belfast as a vibrant city," she said, "but also to inform residents of future developments and plans for their city and in some ways how they can get involved in shaping the future of Belfast."

Annie says the city has changed dramatically in many ways since she started her career in community work.

"Belfast has changed in many respects, it is great to see the increasing interest in Belfast in terms of investment, but it is just brilliant to see how young and not so young residents of Belfast feel safe and secure in utilizing the nightlife and other aspects of Belfast's city centre proving that Belfast is a city for all."

While much has been done to help Belfast make its mark in the world in the post-Troubles era, Annie

feels there is still opportunity for further developments and she pinpoints the industries that she feels have scope to grow even further.

"I believe that because the people of Belfast have the reputation of being one of the friendliest and most welcoming communities throughout the world we have the potential to put Belfast on the map in relation to tourism and a base for large business investment," she said.

"I want to see a dynamic and vibrant city, where we harness new ideas, best practice and skills of the local community, where Belfast people are happy to live, feel safe and secure and proud of their city."

Despite her keenness to promote tourism for visitors, Annie says we cannot forget about the people who matter the most – the

citizens of Belfast. She advocates a parallel approach whereby Belfast can be sold as a popular destination to tourists but at the same time take stock and be mindful of the people who aren't visiting, the people who inhabit this changing city.

"While I fully understand the need to attract visitors, tourism and the business community, it is extremely important to consider the needs of Belfast residents," she cautions. "We need to ensure that all new attractions are affordable and afforded to the local community."

"Currently there does seem to be a focus on visitors and tourism but I believe the challenge is to ensure that local residents have their say in shaping the future of their city."



# Belfast is all set to learn from the Boston model

**US** Politician Eugene O'Flaherty was in Ireland to inspire those pushing Belfast forward with his experiences on what has worked in his own thriving city of Boston.

The Democrat and practicing lawyer is currently in his seventh term in the Massachusetts House of Representatives and has been around the block a few times, representing the district of Chelsea in both good times and bad.

The youngest of five brothers and the only member of his immediate family born in the United States, Representative O'Flaherty has a legitimate interest in events on both sides of the Atlantic. But it's his understanding of what has kept Boston comparatively above water that was of most significance to those attending the One City Conference.

"In terms of Boston there are many, many advantages we have enjoyed that have allowed us to do better than our sister cities here in the US," he said. "The state of Massachusetts has fared better than many states in the US due to a number of local initiatives.

"One of these initiatives was building up a reserve fund, this was established by the state legislature knowing it would be nice to have something in the bank for a rainy day. This meant that Massachusetts and Boston were positioned well compared to others to weather the economic storm."

Representative O'Flaherty went on to detail some of the positive business attractions that have helped advance the city.

"We have a cluster of some great higher education facilities here, from MIT to Harvard, facilities that are known not only nationally but internationally," he said.

"Those and the spin-offs that come from these are a powerful combination that have helped this city and state. Equally, in terms of healthcare, we have world-renowned facilities that are known not just for their care but for their research. The tremendous spin-off here is the biotechnology industries that are attracted to the region because of the healthcare facilities.

"The clusters of both educational and healthcare facilities attract enormous talent and provide great opportunities. Talented individuals from all over the world are attracted here because of these clusters and that makes for a dynamic atmosphere. These are just some of the reasons why Boston has done so well."

Just like Belfast, Boston is keen to promote small business. With that in mind, Representative O'Flaherty explained the importance of the Boston Main Streets programme, a nationwide initiative with a focus on commercial district revitalization.

"In terms of small business, there are a number of initiatives at state and municipal level that can help," he said.

"The Boston Main Streets initiative concentrates on large corridors of the city. Using this initiative, figures can show what is in demand in which area and marketing teams can figure out where businesses should be placed to reap the most benefits. This provides a great opportunity for small businesses as they can work with the government and can be steered towards an area that will help them thrive. It really has worked quite well."

He even dares to suggest that the construction industry may be making a modest recovery in the city too.

"I think there has been a slight

resurgence in small business investment here," he said. "In Massachusetts, projects that were stalled for some years due to the financial malaise are starting to see some resurgence.

"In Boston, the city's largest shopping centre was demolished with plans to rebuild it, the contractor was not in a financial position to rebuild it so we were left with a hole in the ground in a key section of the city. Finally, that project is getting off the ground and this will bring people back to work. The unions were traumatised by the downturn but we hope that is changing for the better."

Representative O'Flaherty believes the relationship between Ireland and the US has never been stronger and it's one he hopes will be built upon on both sides of the Atlantic.

"Irish Americans, politically and in terms of business, have tried to contribute to the restoration of stability in the North of Ireland and now it's a two-way street," he said.

"There is tremendous will on both sides of the Atlantic to build on these relationships that have been forged.

"There are so many success stories from US companies that have gone over there. When I was in the North in 2010, I was amazed at the amount of companies that are US-based but have a presence there."

"The feedback story is always the same, we hear every time that the workforce in the North is educated, diligent and talented, and businesses are drawn to that talent. This is something we have in common in our region and in the North and it has been built upon by plenty of phone calls, letters, meetings and flights across the Atlantic.

"It's great to be a part of that and it gives us strong hope for the future."



# Striking new developments on Belfast skyline

**W**hen the master plan for Titanic Quarter was submitted, it was always envisioned that the heart of the development would be anchored around a building which captured the area's unique Titanic heritage – a building which would encapsulate the energy and verve of the New Belfast, but which built upon an industrial legacy which once made the city a powerhouse of the Industrial Revolution.

Opening this March, a fortnight before the centenary of Titanic's maiden voyage to New York, the £97m Titanic Belfast visitor attraction has done all that and more. It's a game changer for Titanic Quarter and Belfast as a whole.

Titanic Belfast is the world's largest Titanic visitor attraction, an eye-catching architectural one-off which contains nine, mouth-watering interactive galleries which capture the Titanic's legend, all on the very site where the ship was designed, built and launched. But that's not all.

There's an impressive conference and banqueting suite complete with a near-replica of Titanic's Grand Staircase, catering for 750 people with views over the refurbished slipways where Titanic and her sister ships were built. Slipways, which incidentally, are now Belfast's hottest outdoor venue, having recently hosted an MTV concert for 16,000 people and one of the world's largest lighting and firework displays.

Plus, Titanic Belfast has also secured the services of Dr. Robert Ballard, the oceanographer who discovered Titanic's wreck in 1985, to use the building's Ocean Exploration Centre as a launch pad for his award winning educational programmes which incorporate live feeds from his ongoing expeditions.

When I joined Titanic Quarter many moons ago it was the archetypal brownfield development. It was 185-acres of potential – an area which had once been home to the world's



**MICHAEL GRAHAM**  
**Titanic Quarter**

greatest shipbuilder, Harland & Wolff, and its 30,000 employees, but which had been ravaged by time and decay. Desolate wouldn't have been too strong a description.

Today, with Titanic Belfast at its heart, Titanic Quarter is alive. Where once streams of shipyard workers travelled up the main arterial route, the Queen's Road, now we have tourists. Thousands of them. In its first three weeks Titanic Belfast has had a staggering 75,000 visitors. Over 200 events have been booked into its banqueting suite – ranging from wedding receptions to large medical, academic and corporate conferences.

In total we expect 425,000 visitors to Titanic Belfast this year, at least a quarter of whom will be from outside Northern Ireland. Titanic Belfast is a vote of confidence by the people of Northern Ireland

in their future and their ability to recast their reputation in the world.

Of course, it's not just tourists who are bringing life back to the Queen's Road and Titanic Quarter – the last year has witnessed a number of other major developments. Last September, for example, Belfast Metropolitan College opened its new state-of-the-art campus on site – a stunning educational facility catering for up to 5,000 students.

Belfast has always relied upon the talents of its people rather than raw materials to base its wealth upon and the 21st Century will be no different. In the College we have a willing partner which is keen to design courses around the area's emerging specialisms in financial services, digital media and knowledge industries.

Titanic Quarter is home to the 24-acre Northern Ireland Science Park which currently hosts around 100 occupants including firms such as GE and Microsoft. The Park is currently working on a 55,000 sq ft expansion to cope with demand for space. On the midway point between the college and the Science Park are the Titanic Studios, one of Europe's largest dedicated film and TV production sets. Work has just completed on a

45,000 sq ft expansion and the Studio continues to attract major productions such as HBO's 'Game of Thrones'.

2011 was also the year that Northern Ireland's Public Record Office opened its new headquarters on site, adding more depth and diversity to the mix on site, not least an ability to tap into the growing genealogy tourism sector. The area is also benefitting from enhanced public transport links, including the opening of the Titanic Quarter rail halt.

Between the Science Park, Titanic Studios and other commercial interests such as Citi, which is the principal occupier of the first phase of Titanic Quarter's Financial Services Centre, over 3,000 people now work on site. By 2025 we expect that figure to be in and around 25,000.

Titanic Quarter may once have been a desolate brownfield site, but for developers and the City as a whole, it represented a blank canvass of prime waterfront land within a short stroll of Belfast City Hall. The journey so far has been exciting, but the potential remains endless. Titanic Quarter is a new start for Belfast, but it's also the first instalment of what New Belfast is all about.

**DEVELOPMENTS: ARC – the first residential phase at Titanic Quarter – above, Titanic Belfast**



# Helping Belfast to tell a new story



**Jackie Henry,**  
Partner, Deloitte Belfast

Deloitte has a long and proud history in Northern Ireland and in recent years we have helped shape some key projects that are changing the narrative for Belfast city. Our work has crossed all parts of the city and includes support to the Gaeltacht Quarter in its development plan, Titanic Belfast, the MAC and the plans for

development of Crumlin Road Gaol, to name a few examples.

The One City conference allows us the time and space to reflect on everything we have achieved, the lessons learned and to build on this in exploring all that is possible in the next phase of our city's development. Deloitte is delighted to be part of it.



# University's commitment is a vote of confidence for a vibrant city centre

In April 2009, US Vice President Joe Biden was asked to deliver the keynote address on the global economic crisis at a conference in Chicago.

Vice President Biden's address to the Richard J Daley Urban Forum at the University of Illinois focussed on how cities could lead their countries out of recession and, in particular, the critical role education must play.

He noted: "Recently, a group called CEOs for Cities looked at education and income in the 50 largest metropolitan areas in our country.

"What they found were that the differences in four-year educational attainment between cities account for three-fifths of the difference of income between those cities.

"Let me put that more simply: How educated your city is explains 60 percent of how wealthy your city is.

"According to that analysis, if this city, Chicago, were able to increase the number of residents with four-year degrees by just one percent, it would add \$7.2 billion to the local economy – just one percent in the number of four-year-college degrees held by city residents."

Belfast has undergone a remarkable transformation over the past 18 years.

After decades of conflict,



DANIEL MCGINN

University of Ulster Director of Media and Corporate Relations

we have seen the emergence of a more confident Belfast – a city which has become a hub of creativity and innovation as well as an attractive tourist venue with a strong cultural and retail offering.

All of this has occurred against a backdrop of government cutbacks and a construction industry under severe pressure.

But if Belfast is to develop further, it needs to focus on its educational offering.

By creating a learning city, Belfast can empower its citizens and connect them with the outside world.

It is in this context that in March the University of Ulster submitted its planning application for a new Belfast city campus.

The £250 million development will see the bulk of activity, with the exception of sports and specialist engineering, relocated from

*"If this city, Chicago, were able to increase the number of residents with four-year degrees by just one percent, it would add \$7.2 billion to the local economy"*

Jordanstown to a state-of-the-art 21st century higher education campus.

It will bring 15,000 staff and students in the University into the heart of the city – with all their research strengths and an array of international contacts across a range of disciplines.

The University's commitment is a vote of confidence in the city and an investment in its future: socially, culturally and economically. To be a truly great, global city, looking both outwards and forwards, Belfast needs the international expertise, vibrancy and connection which universities bring.

The location of the Belfast city campus will also enable the University to build on its long and proud record of raising educational standards in

disadvantaged communities through its widening access programme, encouraging young people in primary and secondary schools to see university as a viable educational pathway.

Concerns about student housing and car parking around the campus are being addressed through the University's community engagement programme and its work with Belfast City Council, the Department for Social Development and other key partners in the public sector.

As we work through those issues, no-one should lose sight of the huge opportunity the Belfast city campus provides in the short-term to create employment opportunities and regenerate a part of the city which has long been crying out for a project of this kind.

But we also must keep our eyes focussed on the long-term prize of a civically engaged university which raises educational standards, which reaches out to all in society and helps Belfast distinguish itself as a cultural and economic force.

The University of Ulster has over the past 28 years changed people's lives through education. The Belfast city campus can also positively change the city.



# Pulling it all together



**I**N 2009 Forum published a map (right) that illustrated in red all the vacant building sites in central city – we called it the Missing City, 107 hectares, or 265 football pitches of space, much of it publicly owned, that lies within a 20 minute walk of the centre. The map is a like a benchmark for the health of the city and sets out a clear agenda for the next 20 years. Most of these spaces are negative, fenced carparks, wasted land.

The second map indicates a 'grey doughnut' of roads, blight and cheap car parking – this layer separates the core from city neighbourhoods – only 32,000 people live in the area of this map – but 100,000 people drive into the city each day.

Both these maps illustrate the real problems that Belfast has



**MARK HACKETT**

*Mark Hackett is an architect and director in Forum, formerly a partner in Hackett Hall McKnight architects. In 2007 they won the competition to design the MAC arts centre which last month opened in the Cathedral Quarter Belfast and in 2008 they won UK Young Architect of the Year.*

to deal with, we need various strategies to reactivate these spaces – this is vital to the image of the city, its health, its economy. We have not tackled this problem when times were good – but we must deal with it now in the stagnant economy that we can foresee in the next decade. If we fail to

strategically vision the city to be inclusive and well designed – what future can the city really have in a global economy, or a local one?

Forum has run three summer schools, the second looked at North Belfast and the proposed York Street Interchange, the result was the 'Six Links' project which can be viewed on our website. The third summer school in 2011 looked at the blighted area between Sandy Row and the Ormeau Road, Bruce Street and Bankmore Street. One achievement was that all the key government departments, the City Council and the local neighbourhoods came together and came up with a solution to longstanding blight. The published result was 'Streets not Roads', a potential reconnected south Belfast and new pedestrian and cycle networks through the

city. The map (over) illustrates the proposal. Key to these two summer schools was ways of reconnecting neighbourhood to the city core with walkable streets. The idea of connectivity is fundamental to the work of the Forum.

This summer we will look at East and West Belfast connections into the centre, continuing to develop the connected city project which has been built up over the three years of summer school work. We should this year achieve a coherent set of proposals for restituting the city, and set a framework for fifteen years of city repair that will require everyone's best efforts to implement. We believe our future lies in not accepting second best, we should define what city we want to be living in by 2030 and set about working to that end.

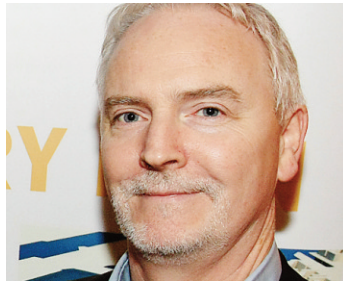


# Irish as an inspirational driver for change

It is important to build a vision for the unifying concept of a main street from the edge of West Belfast into the commercial core of the city. The Falls Road – the road from Twinbrook / Poleglass, through Stewartstown and Andersonstown down to the Falls and Divis Street – is the thread that has both politically and culturally linked the heartlands that feed the pulsing concept of 'West Belfast' as well as the actual physical place. That search for a vision has been given impetus and cultural strength by the Gaeltacht Quarter project which seeks a physical regeneration and neighbourhood transformation using the Irish language and culture as key assets and drivers for change.

The Gaeltacht Quarter – An Cheathrú Ghaeltachta – is different from the ever-expanding series of plans and master plans and documents for the city. It will be a staged and phased and time-bound implementation of projects that will provide successful individual projects but also set an example of how neighbourhoods and the inner city can connect to the centre and to other areas. It will also stake new ground by using the Irish language as the centre of gravity to build cultural, tourism and business initiatives as a stable and organic economic system.

Adopted by the West Belfast and Greater Shankill Partnership Board's Task Force and cited within the Executive's Programme for Government it is now identified as a key project within Belfast City Council's City Investment Programme. It is, though, more than a neighbourhood project. It is a project in an area that boasts St Mary's University College, The Royal Victoria Hospital, An Chultúrlann and a community with resilience and resourcefulness:



**CIARÁN MACKEL**

*Founder, ARD Architects*

Gaeltacht Quarter is a project with national importance.

Many urban areas seek genuine mixed-use activity that would mix commerce, residential and business within one walkable place. Mixed-use is now recommended by planning service, by design professionals and by the Ministerial Advisory Group appointed to advise and comment on planning and architectural matters to the DCAL minister. The proposed core of an Cheathrú Ghaeltachta already provides that mix of a distinct residential neighbourhood with unique cultural and educational resources on its doorstep.

If Belfast is a city on the cusp of change then Gaeltacht Quarter is an inspirational driver for that change. The development process begun with the completion of the extension to An Chultúrlann re-energises the Irish language and resident community. The public art project – Aisling an Phobail – and the proposed DSD funded public realm works will set the tone and material ambition for the core of the Gaeltacht Quarter. Raidió Fáilte's proposed new radio and training centre and Spórtlann and The Iontaobhas na Gaelscolaíochta project for the corner of Broadway and Falls Road all seek a place as beacon for the language and for the value of community endeavour and tenacity.

Spórtlann on the site of

the former Beechmount Leisure Centre, now the grounds of Coláiste Feirste, intends to be a place for Gaelic games and Irish language – a place on which the sights and sounds of the best expressions of our culture are celebrated in a

cross-generational park for the community. The support of the local MP, MLAs and Councillors give the project political focus and helps partner the community ambitions that will transform the Gaeltacht Quarter.



**STRIKING:** Aisling an Phobail and the new Cultúrlann, above

# Belfast's cultural heart is beating strong

*"Creativity has become the most highly prized commodity in our economy – and yet it is not a 'commodity.' Creativity comes from people...and their creative capacity cannot be bought or sold, or turned off at will.... Creativity must be motivated and nurtured in a multitude of ways, by employers, by people themselves and by the communities where they locate."*

**Richard L. Florida**  
**Rise of the Creative Class, Basic Books, 2002**

As I write this, the aptly named Festival of Fools is running at different locations around the city centre; the Cathedral Quarter Arts festival is in full swing at venues like the Black Box, the Assembly Rooms and the John Hewitt Bar. And at the same time, the Mac, having opened just two weeks ago, is positively bursting with cultural things to see and do.

Not only that, but looking out my office window onto Waring Street, the sun's shining and a crowd is beginning to gather at the Cloth Ear pub for



**PAUL MCKERLEAN**

*Chair, Cathedral Quarter Trust*

after-work drinks. All seems right with the world and Belfast certainly has a different feel to it in this year of celebration. And while we in Cathedral Quarter know that we're making progress despite a threatened funding cut back in March, we also understand that the optimism and creativity being generated here needs both to be shared with the rest of the city and also used in a positive way to facilitate progress elsewhere. And that's what is so useful about the One City conference – it gives us from Cathedral Quarter a chance to meet with people from across the city and provides a platform for shared ideas and common approaches to issues.

A major achievement this year for us has

been the creation of the Cathedral Quarter Trust which we hope will carry forward the work that the Cathedral Quarter Steering Group has been doing for the last three years. The Trust's priorities will be to work with many of the existing bodies and organisations which are bringing forward the development of the city under our four broad pillars. Firstly, it's been about putting the Cathedral Quarter at the centre of a hub of creative talent in Belfast; as a point of reference and a driver of major change in the city and the region. We've worked to support the growth of a vibrant and mixed economy that preserves the distinctive character of the area.

Crucially, it's been about showing that the arts aren't just for a cultural elite. Lots of work has gone into promoting the area as a shared space, with a cultural identity that everyone feels capable of participating in. Part of that has been about laying the foundations of great infrastructure and modernisation programmes that ensure the look and

feel of the area are as welcoming as the events that go on within it. Cultural activities like this feed into the real economy and impact in a hugely positive way on the quality of life for people in Belfast. And this linkage between economic progress and culture's role in it is perhaps the most important point in policy terms. In our strategy document (found at [www.thecathedralquarter.com](http://www.thecathedralquarter.com)) we quote Jan Ghel, he says:

"We have more demand on our leisure time and more choices for participation in commerce and culture than ever before. Cities must re-invent themselves as attractive and welcoming centres of commerce and culture in order to be competitive".

The whole of Belfast can be competitive particularly if the city works as One City, no doubt the conference will assist greatly in that regard. Now, it's time for me to hit the sunshine and the gathering crowd across the street...



# The Belfast One City Conference Honorees

## Liam Lynch

Liam Lynch is the driving force of Square Pit Productions aka 'the Pit Crew', a collaborative think tank delivering projects that make a real difference. Take for example Belfast Urban Sports; it's the charity responsible for the concrete skate park that's finally coming to Belfast. Or the new T13 project Titanic Quarter Belfast, it's the home of Counter-Culture Northern Ireland.

T13 is a huge shed under our famous cranes and inside is Europe's first indoor Bike Skills Circuit and Mountain Bike Assault Course; it boasts skate ramps, music events and much more. T13 embraces urban culture, which represents everything

that's cool about the new Northern Ireland. Liam and the Pit Crew are adrenaline junkies that live the action sports lifestyle. Their exciting and effective initiatives are highly sought by statutory agencies seeking to combat issues from obesity to social exclusion.

To spread the word they unleash the mighty Rampage.tv, this is a high-octane extreme sports road show that travels Ireland showcasing the hottest sports on the planet. Liam believes the success of their projects is down to an amazing multi-skilled team.

Their in-house abilities range from design, video, set construction to delivering the initiatives and actually performing the mind-blowing stunt shows. He takes all this excitement in his stride and states, "We're the Pit Crew, it's what we do".



## Wolfgang Buttress

It's said to be symbolic of a number of things: a partial solar eclipse, or a rising sun perhaps. But no matter how it's interpreted, the new RISE sculpture means one thing everyone can agree on – a new era in the city of Belfast.

A spectacular work of public art unlike anything else in Belfast, or indeed in Ireland, RISE has changed the local skyline in

dramatic fashion and its 2,400 struts and over 10,000 bolts were put together with the same Belfast craftsmanship and skill which once launched the world's biggest ships. English-based artist and sculptor Wolfgang Buttress conceived the vision for the spectacular globes, which appear to float on a bed of mammoth reeds – an acknowledgement of the nearby Bog Meadows Nature Reserve that provides a backdrop for the eye-catching creation.

His vision, which will remain for generations to come, is the new symbol of a city emerging from its chrysalis – confident, progressive, beautiful and awe-inspiring.



## Alexandra Park Steering Group

There are 49 'peace walls' in Belfast but in September moves began to open a gate on an interface barrier that runs through a public park in North Belfast.

The Alexandra Park fence was put up to try to stop sectarian fighting in 1994.

Cautiously welcomed by nearby residents, the gate now opens from 9am to 3pm on weekdays. The opening times are now being reviewed with full consultation with the hope of extending the hours.

When the gate opened for the first time in 17 years Justice Minister David Ford said it was an

"important day for Northern Ireland".

"How we as a society deal with our past is a challenge to us all," he said.

"On this occasion, the people of the Alexandra Park area have shown great courage to take the first step and open up an interface barrier that has been a symbol of division and segregation for so long."

North Belfast community leader Liam Maskey says the gate-opening (right) marks the start of a new era for North Belfast.

"A journey of 1,000 miles starts with a single footstep. History will show this opening was a vital first step for Belfast."

Since the opening of the gate tentative steps have started in addressing the legacy of interface walls in other parts of the city.





# REVAMPED CULTÚRLANN IS THE VENUE FOR CRUCIAL CONVERSATIONS ON ONE CITY: DAY ONE

**KEY SPEAKERS:**  
Representative Eugene O'Flaherty (below right) and Alderman Tom Ekin (right) speaking at the opening session of the One City Conference in An Chultúrlann



Conference greets attendees from far and wide at opening

*Time to remove barriers to peace, Ekin says at opener*

THE third annual One City Conference has taken place with delegates from as far as the US and the Basque Country flying in to Belfast to participate.

The first leg of the conference was held at the newly revamped Cultúrlann on Thursday evening where Alderman Tom Ekin and US Congressman Eugene O'Flaherty did the honours.

In his opening address, Alderman Ekin referred to a lack of leadership in the city over the past 50 years, but, he said, things are changing. The development of the MAC, Belfast City Hall and Titanic Belfast were all name-checked as he focused on positive developments in Belfast, but there is one area that remains untouched, he added. "The peace walls are barriers," he said, "and it's very important we remove these barriers in Belfast. These barriers, barriers in the minds, murals, and anything else that is preventing us from achieving what we want, should be moved. I believe the next phase for Belfast is changing people's minds and removing barriers."

Representative O'Flaherty took to the stage next and he described Belfast as "rich in history, vibrant and ready to move into the



21st century", before talking about the similarities between Belfast and Boston.

"There has been an amazing transformation in Boston and Massachusetts," he said. "It has gone from a mainly manufacturing based economy to a knowledge-based economy. I see a lot of similarities to that right here in Belfast and the North of Ireland."

Representative O'Flaherty urged Belfast to sell itself to entrepreneurs to move further into the knowledge based industries.

"This is a two-way street," he added. "We have a lot to learn from you and we can impart good lessons too."

Geraldine McAteer, CEO of the West Belfast Partnership Board, Paul McErlean of the Cathedral Quarter, Eimear Ní Mhathúna

of the Gaeltacht Quarter and Mike Smith of the Titanic Quarter took part in a discussion on the progress and condition of the various quarters of the city. Mark Hackett from the Forum for Alternative Belfast spoke on how a city must be drawn together for the benefit of all. Roisin McDonough, Arts Council CEO, artists Wolfgang Buttress and Conrad Atkinson and Steve Orr of Generation Innovation considered the importance of a new narrative for Belfast. The architect Ciarán Mackel, Fergus Ó hÍr of Raidió Fáilte, Simon Rea of Belfast Pride and Angila Chada of Springboard considered the future of the city. See page 3 for reports on these.

The first day ended with an evening of music and food in Caifé Feirste.



# So exactly how far have the city's various quarters come?



**HEALTH CHECK:** Eimear Ní Mhathúna was one of the speakers discussing the current state of the city's quarters

*People and not places are what will make a city reach its potential*

THE ONGOING development of Belfast's various quarters was the subject of a discussion at the One City conference. Chaired by West Belfast Partnership Board CEO Geraldine McAteer, it involved Paul McErlean of the Cathedral Quarter, Mike Smith of the Titanic Quarter and Eimear Ní Mhathúna from the Gaeltacht Quarter.

Mike Smith spoke of the progress made by the city in the past 15 years but focused on the progress of the Titanic Quarter. Phase one and two are complete, he said, while phase three has been delayed due to the economic climate. The quarter is buzzing with residents and students as well as workers piling into the area to live, work

and study, he said, but there are still challenges ahead.

"The recession, a weak economy, development on the decline and a slow and bureaucratic planning process are all challenges," he said. "What we need to do is reduce corporation tax, strengthen the alliance between Belfast City Council and businesses and see changes in the planning system."

Mr Smith said opportunities in financial services, creative media and tourism are in the wings, waiting for conditions to change.

As Chairman of the Cathedral Quarter Trust, Paul McErlean is proud of the progress made in the district, not least the "truly spectacular" MAC theatre.

Despite the progress, cuts in funding remain a challenge, he said, as do access issues and cooperation. "People make cultural quarters successful," he cautioned, "and creativity cannot be bought and sold."

Eimear Ní Mhathúna echoed the notion that people and not buildings or infrastructure are what make areas successful. "I'm proud of this building," she said, "but what's important is what happens in the building. We are very much about developing a creative quarter and while the CulturLann project has been worthwhile, it has to be a catalyst for producing more creativity. There is a journey to go but we are looking forward to it."

# Visions of the future outlined

AT the One City Conference, several speakers gave inspiring and impassioned addresses about how best to advance the city of Belfast – a city that has already achieved so much in a short time.

Simon Rea of Belfast Pride and Fergus Ó hÍr of Raidió Fáilte spoke of the improvements in their respective areas over the years, while Mark Hackett from the Forum for An Alternative Belfast gave the audience pause for thought when he spoke of the vital work that remains to be done in the city.

“This city is a disconnected city with a bad infrastructure system, we have dysfunctional streets just a few hundred metres from the City Hall,” he said, before focusing on positive developments that he hopes are indicative of a more optimistic future.

“Belfast City Council’s investment plan earlier this year was a great show of leadership, it was great to see all the

councillors lined up saying the same thing. Coordinated decisions are needed in Belfast – development and regeneration that everyone agrees with are what is needed.”

Wolfgang Buttress, creator of the RISE sculpture at Broadway, spoke of his inspiration for the project which he believes aptly represents Belfast.

“It was a simple idea,” he explained. “It came from watching the sunrise and I saw it as a metaphor, a great symbol for Belfast. There was some hostility over the cost but the turnaround when it was installed was incredible. It is truly a poetic symbol of Belfast.”

Artist Conrad Atkinson said he was always able to see the uniqueness of Belfast, even when the Troubles were raging in the early 1970s.

“I first came to Belfast in 1971 and despite the darkness, it was a wonderful place for artists,” he said. “There was

desperation and celebration everywhere, it was an extraordinary place, paradoxically. This tiny island contains a continent of culture.

“The most breathtaking thing for me about this city is the growth and spread of Irish, it has developed in an almost revolutionary rhythm.”

Steve Orr of Generation Innovation said he has no doubt Belfast has the ability to punch above its weight and compete in global markets, but for that to happen we need to change our approach at every level.

“We need to inject a sense of belief in every kid that they can achieve great success here, just like they could in any other part of the world,” he said.

“The kids here deserve access to opportunity as the potential here is absolutely massive. We need to give elected officials a break because this endless antagonism gets us nowhere.”



**CELEBRATION:** Belfast was always a wonderful place for artists, said Conrad Atkinson



# The challenge of staying ahead



**DELEGATES: Lord Mayor Niall Ó Donnghaile and DSD Minister Alex Attwood at Titanic Belfast**

ALTHOUGH Belfast is truly on the up, as evidenced in the optimism expressed throughout One City, it still faces challenges that must be met in order to keep it at ahead of other upcoming European cities.

Paul Nolan of the Community Relations Council set out new targets that must be met by all sections of society, during the Shaping Tomorrow's Belfast debate on day two of the One City Conference in Titanic Belfast. Joined by fellow speakers, including Annie Armstrong of the Colin Partnership, Danny Moore of Loughshore Investments, and CEO of Phoenix Gas Peter Dixon, who chaired the debate, Mr Nolan said Belfast needed to meet the expectations of those looking at the city and the North from the outside who view the peace process as a "success" and who may be keen to invest here.

"This is still a period of transition," he told the packed room. "It's a journey out of a long period of conflict, and we are doing it in this vehicle, the peace process, which

from outside is seen as very successful."

However, in order to meet those expectations, the last vestiges of the Troubles must be shed, he claimed, while also warning that the deepening recession has yet to fully bare its teeth here.

"Unfortunately, paramilitarism is still a threat to us – a shadow on our society," he continued. "Whether we like it or not, we in part remain a deeply sectarian society, and there's a persistence of division. True peace should be more than just the absence of violence. Meanwhile, in terms of the recession, it has still yet to bite hard here in terms of the public sector especially."

Despite these challenges, Belfast still has so much to offer, he added, citing statistics which prove the city has the lowest risk of crime in Ireland or the UK.

"Thankfully, we are beginning to celebrate more as a society together than apart, as we did in the past."

Mr Dixon and fellow panellists expressed confidence that the city would

meet the challenges in the years ahead. Mr Dixon added: "We don't want to be the village any more that people build a bypass around. Belfast needs to change so more people can come to see what we are like and if we are as warm as people say we are."

*True peace in  
Belfast must be  
more than an  
absence of  
violence*

# 'Dark tourism' could prove a shining light in our Titanic city

IN 2012, Belfast's tourism scene is more about Titanic than the Troubles, but the city would be wise not to forget the political and historical value of what was once dubbed "dark tourism".

Those were the words of West Belfast MP Paul Maskey, who issued a challenge to local tourism chiefs, citing the huge interest that remains in the Irish conflict from a historical and educational perspective – an interest that still brings hordes of international visitors into the heart of his constituency on a daily basis.

With this year marketed as 'Our Time, Our Place', the One City debate of the same name saw Mr Maskey joined by Tim Husbands, the CEO of the Titanic Signature project, which hosted the conference.

As One City took place in the conference rooms upstairs in the spectacular building, the hundreds of visitors downstairs – even early on a Friday morning – proved that a new chapter in Belfast tourism has truly opened.

And Mr Husbands revealed that since opening less than two months ago, the building has had over 120,000 visitors through its doors.

"We have enjoyed worldwide media coverage and it's important we build further on that," he said. "We are pleased to see that every agency is helping bring visitors to us, and product development is key. We are keen to link our project to other historically related sites in the city, including, for instance, Conway Mill."

Mr Maskey told the debate, which was chaired by the NI Tourist Board's Howard Hastings, that although the Titanic legacy was key in bringing visitors to Belfast, it may not be enough to keep them here.

"The fact is, political tourism is big, and I don't think it's given enough attention by the Tourist Board," he said.

The murals and memorials across West, North and East Belfast are still a highlight for many visitors keen to learn about the conflict and social history of the city, and numerous black taxi, bus and walking tours keep cash flowing into the local economy.

"This political and historical tourism needs to be invested in," he continued. "Unfortunately there was a stage when it was called 'dark tourism', which I think was horrendous."

Mandy Patrick of the Park Avenue Hotel highlighted how other cities have dealt with a difficult legacy – while also forging a new identity – to the benefit of the local tourism industry, including Berlin. And Mr Maskey added: "We are seeing a huge turnaround here, but Titanic alone won't be enough to keep people in Belfast."



**TOURIST TRAIL:** Hotelier Howard Hastings chaired the Our Time, Our Place? debate at the Titanic Centre

*For better or for worse, visitors are flocking to see Troubles history sites*



# It's yes ministers



**LET'S GO TO WORK: Minister Kennedy with Marie Therese McGivern of BMC, Alison Sweeney of the Belfast Media Group and Arts Council Boss Roisin McDonough**

TWO Stormont Ministers attended last Friday's One City Conference to highlight how a new Belfast needs a new, 'greener' approach to living.

Environment Minister Alex Attwood and Regional Development Minister Danny Kennedy both spoke at the Titanic Belfast event, stressing the need for an environmentally-friendly attitude to building on the transformation the city is undergoing to a world-class destination for both business and tourism.

Speaking during the opening address, titled 'A Better Belfast', Mr Attwood stressed the need for investment in renewable power technologies, highlighting the success of the world's first tidal stream generator currently operating in Strangford Lough.

"Belfast can become a world leader in terms of technology and jobs in renewable electricity," he told delegates. "We were a world leader in engineering at one stage, and it's a little known fact that we are the birth place of modern tidal energy."

Mr Attwood also praised the local tourism industry, which apart from Titanic, offers a huge range of natural heritage sites. He also vowed to settle key planning issues ahead of the devolution of such powers to local councils.

Meanwhile, sticking to the green theme, during his speech later that afternoon, Minister Kennedy vowed to help Belfast become a city where pedestrians and cyclists will be given ever-greater priority as the years go by.

"Our long-term active travel strategy will provide the foundations to build a culture where walking and cycling will be the natural choice for most of our journeys, and if you still have to drive, then the electric car will become the norm," he said, referring to new "e-car" charging points recently installed across Belfast.

Mr Kennedy also revealed early plans for a new transport hub in Belfast City Centre and he had updates on other projects including the rapid transport network.

# Giving Belfast a sporting chance



**THIS WAY:** Patricia McKeown of UNISON

BELFAST'S remarkable entertainment and sporting achievements of recent years could be key to a new tourism and employment surge, the One City Conference heard.

With the Titanic Quarter the main location for the filming of a worldwide smash hit show by US broadcaster HBO, it could be the starting point for a new 'Game of Thrones Trail' over the coming years.

Meanwhile, the recent successes of the Ulster rugby side will be central to attracting similar-sized crowds of sports fans to Belfast as that which recently flocked in their thousands to Dublin where Ulster took on Edinburgh in an exciting game in front of record-breaking crowds.

It was estimated that up to two per cent of the entire population of the North made the journey Dublin for last month's Heineken Cup semi-final, and with work soon to begin on a new-look Ravenhill stadium, it is hoped that similar crowds could descend upon Belfast in future rugby seasons.

These new tourism potentials were highlighted in the 'Jobs, Growth and Economic Development' panel discussion at Friday's conference by David Dobbin from Invest NI.

Speaking of Game of Thrones – the dark fantasy series based on the books of George RR Martin – he explained that not only has the series created over 800 jobs, many of which are based in the Paint Hall film studios that stand in the shadow of the



**LOOKING AHEAD:** Marie Therese McGivern, CEO of Belfast Metropolitan College

*From HBO to Heineken, things are looking up in fields of endeavour*

new Titanic Signature Project, but it's predicted fans of the show will be flocking to the North to visit outdoor locations that were used for the fictional continent of Westeros. Currently in its second season, the third series is set to be filmed here this summer.

"We hope to see the establishment of a Game of Thrones 'Trail' to service the huge number of viewers across the globe that wish to see where the show is made," he said, referencing a similar phenomenon in New Zealand, where The Lord of the Rings movie trilogy was filmed.

"As for Ravenhill, we saw how Dublin

accommodated over 40,000 rugby fans last month. Our goal is to have 40,000 fans come from all over to Ravenhill and benefit the wider Belfast area," he added.

Meanwhile, panel speakers, including Belfast Councillor Christopher Stalford, explained how after years of reliance on the public sector, the private sector would be key to further economic growth in the North.

"The good news is there's huge potential in Belfast for this right now," he said. "We have a well-educated young population and in the Council there's unanimous support for investment in these areas."



# Graduates are facing limited opportunities and need help



**BEST IN EUROPE: Cllr Christopher Stalford sang the praises of Belfast**

## *Emigration the choice for many young in jobs hunt*

A CONFIDENT economy to match the huge optimism of the One City Conference is needed to prevent the growing number of graduates facing limited opportunities upon leaving further higher education.

This was the consensus of panellists in the 'Jobs, Growth and Economic Development' discussion last Friday, where it was explained that the phenomenon of 'NEETS' (young people not in employment, education or training) was not just confined to 'school drop outs' but also those emerging from college or university to find no work.

Marie-Therese McGivern is the CEO of

Belfast Met, which recently opened a new flagship campus in the heart of Titanic Quarter, just yards from where Friday's conference was hosted.

Warning that Belfast and the North in general are losing "growing numbers of young people" who were emigrating to boost their careers, she explained: "Long-term unemployment isn't confined to school drop-outs, many are now graduates. They have degrees, but they are emerging into an economy that increasingly offers no job opportunities."

She also stressed the need for a change in attitudes surrounding careers, adding:

"We need to stop being sniffy about jobs. Working for firms like Tesco or Asda are no longer the dead end jobs many may have once thought they were, but are great, well-paid career opportunities in themselves."

Belfast Councillor Chris Stalford said future investment, which was key to providing jobs for all levels, should now be attracted to Belfast for rather different reasons.

"In the past there would have been investment because it was seen as a sort of charity, whereas now they should be doing it because it's the best place in Europe to do so," said Councillor Stalford.

# Minister is a massive #1City hit



**TRENDING: Minister Alex Attwood made the Twitter list usually reserved for Hollywood movie stars**

THE buzz surrounding the biggest ever Belfast One City Conference made an impact across the globe, with a key guest speaker trending on Twitter as a result.

The social networking site was awash with tweets from organisers, visitors and observers keen to share their thoughts on the presentations, speeches and panel discussions that took place both at An Chultúrlann on the Falls Road and the new Titanic Signature Project building in Titanic Quarter.

Hosted by the Belfast Media Group, the conference was an opportunity for everyone to get involved, through tweet deck screens which displayed instant feedback from Twitter users, providing a running commentary on

the events on stage.

This fascinating technology added a new dimension to events, and will no doubt become a feature of future conferences and events. However, it also boosted the profile of One City to the extent that it made the ‘trending’ list of global topics being discussed that day on Twitter.

Using the #1City hashtag, Environment Minister Alex Attwood trended for a time in a worldwide list usually reserved for movie stars, sports events, political upheavals, top musicians, or whatever else the ‘Twitterati’ around the world are discussing at that moment.





**Boston delegation leader Rep Eugene O'Flaherty addresses the conference finale reception at the US Consul Residence as part of the Belfast One City Conference**



**Sandra Kaiser (US Acting Consul General) with Terence Brannigan, CEO Connected Health**



**Roisin McDonough (CEO Arts Council NI) presents a copy of Glenn Patterson's latest novel *The Mill for Grinding Old People Young*, this year's One City One Book choice, to Boston delegate John Donovan**



**Joby Fox performs 'The End of the War' to the delegation at the US Consul**





**Mark Barr, CEO of Sisk NI**



**Mark Hackett (Forum for an Alternative Belfast)**



**Roisin McDonough (CEO Arts Council NI), Wolfgang Buttress (creator of Rise), Mairtin O'Muilleoir and Prof Conrad Atkinson**





**Boston Delegation Eugene O' Flaherty, John Donovan and Robert McCarron with Jennifer McCann MLA and Councillor Caoimhín Mac Giolla Mhín Belfast City Council**



**John Simpson (University Of Ulster) and Paul Nolan (Community Relations Council)**



**Dan McGinn (University of Ulster), Geraldine McAteer CEO West Belfast Partnership Board and Ciaran Mackel (ARD Architects)**





**Dr Janet Harbinson (Irish Harp College) and Michael Graham (Titanic Quarter)**



**Clara Ní Ghiolla (Raidio Failte), Judith Webb (NITB) and Michaeline Donnelly (Tobar Productions)**



**Caitlín Ní Chearullain and Eithne McVeigh**



**Callie Persic (West Belfast Partnership), Martyn Smithson (South Belfast Partnership) and Claire Ferris (Workwest)**



**Ciaran McCavana (BJM), Jake MacSiacais (Forbairt Feirste), Tara Florence (ARD Architects) and Ciaran Mackel (ARD Architects)**





**Joby Fox and Sophie Rasmussen**



**Fergus Ó hIir (Raidio Failte)**



**Simon Rea (Belfast Pride Festival)**



**Geraldine McAteer (CEO WBPB)**



**Roisin McDonough (CEO Arts Council NI)**



**Paul McErlean (Cathedral Quarter)**



**Sammy Dougals MLA DUP**



**Naomi Long MP Alliance Party**





**Angila Chada (Springboard)**



**Ciaran Mackel (ARD Architects)**



**Glenn Jordan, SKAINOS**



**David Dobbin, CEO United Dairy Farmers**



**Paul Nolan CRC, Annie Armstrong, Colin Neighbourhood Partnership, Danny Moore, Loughshore Investments and Peter Dixon CEO Phoenix Gas**





**Paul McErlean (Cathedral Quarter), Eimear Ni Mhathuna (Culturlann), Geraldine McAteer (CEO West Belfast Partnership Board) and Mike Smith (CEO Titanic Quarter)**







**Dr. Alison Sweeney from Belfast Media Group presents Dr Alasdair Allan MSP, Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland's Languages with a copy of Glenn Patterson's new book The Mill**



**At Titanic Belfast as part of the Belfast One City Conference was Jackie Henry (Deloitte) presents Wolfgang Buttress, creator of the RISE with a One City award**



**Professor Iñaki Zabaleta, University of the Basque Country, Dr Alasdair Allan MSP, Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland's Languages. Róisín Ní Cheilleachair, CEO Irish Language Broadcast Fund, Máirtín Ó Muilleoir, MD Belfast Media Group outside the Titanic Building in a break during the Belfast One City Conference**





**Danny Kennedy (MLA) presents the One City Award to Liam Lynch of T13**



**Sam Cochrane, Alexandra Park Steering Group, Dr Alasdair Allan MSP, Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland's Languages and Kevin Murphy also from the Alexandra Park Steering Group**





**Wolfgang Buttress, creator of the RISE and Mark Hackett at the University of Ulster**



**Janet Muller, CEO POBAL, Sandra Kaiser (US Acting Consul General) and Roisin Kelleher, CEO Irish Language Broadcast Fund at the finale reception**





**Angila Chada and Paula Quinn (Springboard)**



**Mandy Patrick from Park Avenue Hotel, Paul Maskey MP and Tim Husbands, CEO Titanic Belfast**





**Hugh McGettigan of St Mary's CBGS and Donal McKinney of Upper Springfield Development Trust**



**Howard Hasting, Chair NITB, Joanne Stuart, Chair IOD and Stuart Bailie of Oh Yeah Centre**





**Dougie Adams, Robbie Fitzpatrick CEO Odyssey and John McGrillen, Director of Development Belfast City Council**



**Micheal O'Duibh (Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta), Janet Muller (POBAL), Andy McCallin (McCallin Carr) and Gearoid Trimble (Foras na Gaeilge)**



## TESTIMONIALS

■ It was a real pleasure to take part in the One City event. Not only were the surroundings of the new Titanic Belfast Centre impressive, but the theme of sharing the city's cultures, languages and growing the city's economy was very encouraging.

**Alasdair Allan MSP**

**Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland's Languages**

■ Just a short note to say thank for your hard work and hospitality and a brilliantly organised conference that may prove to be a watershed in the history of Northern Ireland.

**Professor Conrad Atkinson, University of California at Davis, USA**

■ Just wanted to drop you a quick word of thanks to you and your One City conference team. I and my colleagues who attended really enjoyed the conference. Once again we were very impressed by and delighted to work with your team, with a special thanks to Orlaith and Connla in particular. The Vice Chancellor enjoyed our session in the Conor Lecture Theatre on Friday. We look forward to continuing to work with the Belfast Media Group in the future.

**Dan McGinn, Director of Media and Corporate Relations, University of Ulster**

■ Just a few words to reiterate the perception I have about the real success of the conference in all aspects: organisation, content, speakers and overall affability. You all can be very proud of the contribution you did to the city of Belfast and, in a more general frame, to Ireland.

**Professor Iñaki Zabaleta, University of the Basque Country**

■ Well done! You pulled together a most complicated event with some style. Thank you for the invitation to be involved. Congratulations.

**Howard Hastings, Chairman NI Tourist Board**

■ A very well organised conference. Gach dea-ghuí.

**Aisling Ní Labhraí, Cultúrlann MacAdaim-Ó Fiaich**

■ Well done last week at the Conference it was a great success.

**Dougie Adams, Sliabh Dubh Pubs**

■

■ "Thanks to you and your staff for a great One City Conference. It was superbly organised and what a great turnout of delegates!"

**Sammy Douglas MLA**

■ First of all, a big thanks to you and the team, for a slick, unflustered delivery. Also top marks to the inventors, a great idea, great strategy, content etc. The contributor list was spectacular, and their delivery relaxed, which spoke to the organisation being excellent. Well done.

**Uel Weir**

**Paperclip Architects, Lisburn Road, Belfast.**

■ The Belfast OneCity Conference brought together an eclectic group of individuals and organizations that shared their accomplishments, discussed their strategies and were frank about the remaining challenges. The new 21st century Belfast was on display and it is very encouraging to see.

Congratulations to the Belfast media Group Team for once again proving that discourse and interaction leads to positive developments in commerce, in the arts and in building the confidence of the people.

**Rep Eugene L. O'Flaherty, Chair Judiciary Committee, Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

■ I was delighted to engage with an uplifting gathering of civic action men and women who were keen to debate the pivotal role the arts must play in the renaissance of Belfast. This summit was a real spur to progressing the vital one city agenda.

**Roisín McDonough**

**CEO Arts Council of NI**

■ It's a rare thing to get under one roof, representatives of the business, community, cultural and political sectors; and rarer again to have them all agree on the need for united and bold action to build the great city of Belfast. But that's what the One City Conference did and I was proud to play a small part in its success.

**Terence Brannigan**

**CEO Connected Health Ltd and Former President Confederation of British industry Northern Ireland**

■ I was happy to be asked to chair an important debate at the One City conference and thought the event was highly successful, bringing together many leaders from diverse backgrounds from both Belfast and beyond.

**Peter Dixon, Chief Executive of Phoenix Natural Gas**



# ONE CITY ON



Interesting to hear the challenges and opportunities facing Belfast at #1city. Steve Orr's talk and video was especially good.

**@stuartmjohnson**

The #1city conference sounds like it was a brilliant success... please let me know about any future events.

**@BigTop1978**

Máith thú to the Belfast Media Group for a cracking #1city.

**@conormaskey**

David Dobbin: Shooting of HBO's Game of Thrones in NI has created 800 jobs and £17m spend so far.

**@danmc2**

Standing room only at #1city conference. Big appetite for progression.

**@brendanbelfast**

Alderman Tom Ekin inspiring us to remove barriers to progress.

**@Chris\_Lyttle**

Wrapping up One City conference at US Consul. Thanks and congrats to organisers. Wonderful event.

**@calliepersic**

Alderman Christopher Stalford unanimous support in BCC for investment programme #1city

**@springboardopps**

With #1city honourees- Sam Cochrane & Kevin Murphy, for their work in opening up Alexandra Park 'peace wall'... Great their work is awarded

**@conormaskey**

Minister Attwood speaking about about potential for NI to be world leader in Renewables.

Strangford Loch birthplace of tidal energy #1City

**@j1lstuart**

First mention of #scentni at #1City from

@skainos. Social Enterprise a real opportunity for sustainable communities

**@steviemcgarry**

'Corporation tax a huge issue, needs to

addressed immediately' @dannymoore\_ni #1City

**@loughshore**

Annie Armstrong 36% de muintir colin faoi 16.

Scoil na fuiseoga san cheantar. Aiseanna de dhith ar gaeilgoiri oga #1City

**@Culturlann**

Great event and so much positive energy.

@belfastgal charged for another year!

**@belfastgal**

At the one city conference and s great crowd in attendance. Gerry McConville speaking about the importance of St Comgalls to west Belfast.

#1City

**@PaulMaskeyMP**

Investment in Basque language generates €3 for every €1 invested. Prof Inaki Zabaleta. #1city

Must be similar for Irish @newcity

**@Fergus\_O\_Hare**

Great #1city summit congrats to @newbelfast

@connlamccann @OrlaithAdams & all at Belfast

Media team-hope u hv well earned rest over weekend!

**@angilachada**



## WHAT THE MEDIA SAID

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**Belfast Telegraph**  
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## Belfast buzz: the quiet sound of a confident city

Belfast is slowly growing in confidence, but while we may have something to celebrate let's not shout too soon, says Michael Wolsey

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Tuesday, 22 May 2012

A homeless man with a bicycle and a sign hangs around Belfast's Great Victoria Street, haranguing passers-by with curses and threats. All his worldly goods are strapped to the bike, along with a notice demanding money.

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**NiteLife: The Roost, Granny's**

Subject: Belfast Media Group  
Date: 15.05.12  
Newspaper: Belfast Telegraph  
Page: 1 (Business Insight)

 **BUSINESS SNAPSHOT**



**One way forward for city's progress**  
The Belfast One City Conference wrapped up recently bringing together a range of local and internationally-renowned speakers on one platform to debate how the city can best make progress in a fair and evenly balanced way. At the conference are, from left to right, Maire-Therese McGivern, Belfast MEI, Roisin McDonagh, CEO, Arts Council, Regional Development Minister Danny Kennedy, and Allison Sweeney, Belfast Media Group.



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## Belfast summit set to connect ‘A City on the Cusp’

MCE

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A major summit is set to take place on 10 and 11 May in Belfast which will place a spotlight on the pressing challenges facing the city.

The ‘*Belfast One City*’ event will bring together a diverse range of local and internationally renowned speakers on one platform to debate how the city can best make progress in a fair and evenly balanced way. Kicking off at Cúlturlann McAdam Ó Fiaich on the Falls Road, the delegates will then move to Titanic Belfast on day two before touring the proposed University of Ulster city centre campus.



The annual conference will include 3 Northern Ireland Executive Ministers, the Lord Mayor of Belfast and Naomi Long MP. Speakers will also include Scottish Minister for Learning, Science and Language, Dr Alasdair Allen MSP, who will be supported by a range of business, education and civic leaders in the city. The conference will



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## INSIDEIRELAND.IE

ne Belfast One City Conference taking place on 10 and 11 May are key sponsors Jackie - windows internet explorer

http://insideireland.ie/2012/05/03/belfast-summit-set-to-connect-%E2%80%98a-city-on-the-cusp%E2%80%99-68634/photo-belfast-one-city-conference-2-2/

Launching the Belfast One City Conference takin...

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Launching the Belfast One City Conference taking place on 10 and 11 May are key sponsors Jackie Henry, Partner at Deloitte, Connla McCann from the Belfast Media Group, Alastair Hamilton, Chief Executive of Invest NI and Tim Husbands, Chief Executive of Titanic Belfast.

**Launching the Belfast One City Conference taking place on 10 and 11 May are key sponsors Jackie Henry, Partner at Deloitte, Connla McCann from the Belfast Media Group, Alastair Hamilton, Chief Executive of Invest NI and Tim Husbands, Chief Executive of Titanic Belfast.**

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May 3, 2012

**By Maeve McKenna**



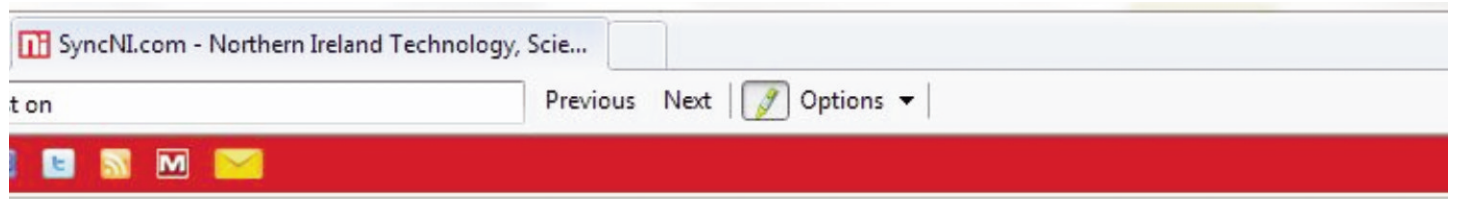
Belfast One City Conference launch, pictured are (from left) Jackie Henry (Deloitte), Connla McCann (Belfast Media Group), Alastair Hamilton (CEO, Invest NI) and Tim Husbands (CEO Titanic Belfast).

## BBC BLAS



<http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/series/irish>  
 Scoth na Seachtaine  
 Fri, 18 May 12  
 Duration: 22 mins  
 Available: 19 days remaining

Seoladh App nua CLG GaelGo le déanaí agus iad ag comhoibriú le Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Uladh, Labhair Uachtarán Chomhairle Uladh le Blas faoi. Labhair údar an leabhar, 'Preisbitéirigh agus an Ghaeilge', le Treasa Bhreathnach faoi thionchar na bPreisbitéirigh i leith forbairt na Gaeilge. Chas Lucinda Glynn leis an tAire Albanach Alasdair Allan agus labhair sí leis faoina ról i gcaomhnú mionteangacha. I Machnamh Mhic Annaidh na seachtaine seo, cloisfidh muid faoi thábhacht an síneadh fada.



Join us for a FREE Webinar on April 23 at 15.

[Read the full story >>](#)

## Belfast One City Conference A Major Success

May 14, 2012

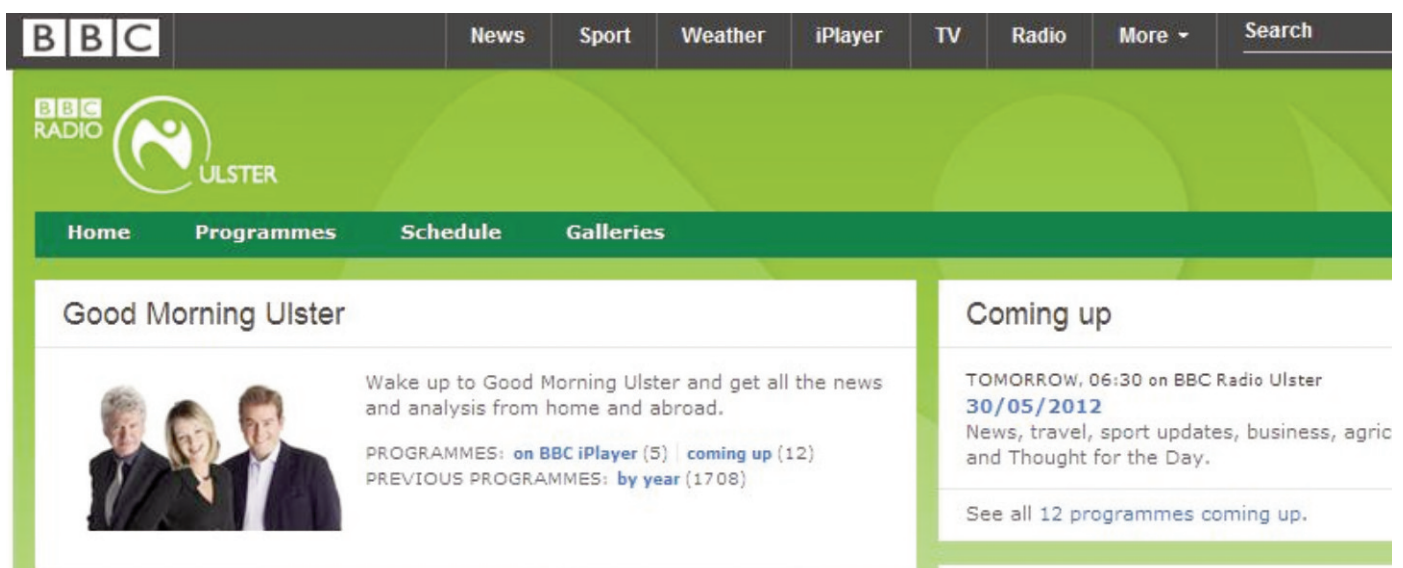
The Belfast One City Conference wrapped up recently which brought together a diverse range of local and internationally renowned speakers on one platform to debate how the city can best make progress in a fair and evenly balanced way.

Starting at Cúlturlann McAdam Ó Fiaich on the Falls Road, the conference then moved to the Titanic Signature Building for day two of the conference. Over 100 delegates attended the sessions which concluded with a Reception at the residence of the US Consul General on Friday evening.



[Read the full story >>](#)

## ■ BBC RADIO ULSTER, May 10th Talkback







WATCH THE ONE CITY CONFERENCE  
ON YOUTUBE  
[www.youtube.com/belfastmediagroup](http://www.youtube.com/belfastmediagroup)

