

Belfast One City

Comhdháil Aon-Chathrach Bhéal Feirste

Conference



th

Fourth Annual Report 2013

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Belfast Met e3 & Titanic Belfast

9-10th May 2013

HONORARY CHAIRS 2013

Alderman **Tom Ekin**
Paul McErlean, Chair Cathedral Quarter Trust
Sorcha Wolsey, Beannchor Group/Merchant Hotel
Sammy Douglas MLA
Tony McCusker, Chair Community Relations Council
Terence Brannigan, Chair Maze-Long Kesh Development Corporation
Howard Hastings, Chair Northern Ireland Tourist Board
Michael Graham, Director of Corporate Real Estate

Titanic Quarter Ltd
Jackie Henry, Deloitte
Mark Barr, CEO Sisk Northern Ireland
Roisin McDonough, CEO Arts Council
Paul Maskey, MP
Peter Dixon CEO Phoenix Energy Holdings
Ciarán Mackel, Chair An Cheathrú Ghaeltachta
Geraldine McAteer, CEO West Belfast Partnership Board

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS& PARTICIPANTS 2013

Michael McKernon, Shanway Press
Joby Fox, Singer, Songwriter, Artist
Paul Maskey, MP
Naomi Long, MP
Alan McBride, WAVE
Paul Nolan, Community Relations Council
Cllr **Jim McVeigh**, Sinn Féin
Cllr **John Kyle**, PUP
Cllr **Tim Attwood**, SDLP
Mark Hackett, Forum for Alternative Belfast
Author **Lucy Caldwell**
Jim McGreevy, National Museums NI
Martin Lynch, Playwright
Jenny Elliot, Arts Care
Ciarán Mackel, Chair Gaeltacht Quarter
Tony McCusker, Chair Community Foundation for NI
Lord Mayor of Belfast Alderman **Gavin Robinson**
Fr **Joe Parkes**, S.J, President Cristo Rey School, New York
Paul McErlean, MCE Public Relations
Minister **Alex Attwood** MLA
Richard Barnett, Vice Chancellor University of Ulster
Stephen McMurrough, NI Director Capstone Development Partners USA

Rev Dr **Fred Munce** MBE, Agape Centre South Belfast
Bill Shaw, The 174 Trust
Peter Dixon, Phoenix Energy Holdings Ltd
Mark Ennis, Chairman Invest Northern Ireland
Emma Bricknell, Proprietor Made In Belfast
Derek Mackay, MSP Scotland's Local Government and Planning Minister
Liam Lynch, T13
Ryan Feeney, Ulster GAA
Geoff Patterson, Project Sponsor IFA
Mayor of Donostia-San Sebastian, **Juan Karlos Izagirre**
Jackie Henry, Partner Deloitte
Richard Brown, Strategy Director London Legacy Development Corporation
David Gavaghan, Titanic Quarter Ltd
Anne McReynolds, CEO The MAC
Geraldine McAteer, CEO West Belfast Partnership Board
Sinclair Stockman, Executive Director Digital NI
Patricia McKeown, UNISON
Frank McManus, BT
Colin Williams, CEO Sixteen South
Patrick Anderson, Chairman and CEO Dalradian Resources
Sammy Douglas, MLA

CONFERENCE PARTNERS



Community Relations Council



DELEGATES AND PARTICIPANTS 2013

Aidan Sloane, Springvale Learning
Aisling Ní Labhraí, Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich
Alastair Adair, University of Ulster
Allen Irwin, BT
Annemarie McCormick, Upper Springfield Development Trust
Barry Jackson, United Airlines
Barry Keil, Trojans American Football Club
Basil McCrea, MLA NI21
Brenda Burns, SIB
Brian Spencer, Legal Wire
Briege Arthurs, South Belfast Partnership
Bronagh O'Kane, SIB
Caitriona Lavery, Hastings Hotels
Catherine Newhall-Caiger, The Convention Centre, Dublin
Catherine Waterworth, Connswater Homes
Chris Brown, MCE Public Relations
Chris McCreery, Stratagem
Ciaran Sheehan, Clarendon Executive
Claire Ferris, Workwest
Claire Trainor, NI Hospice
Cllr Conor Maskey, Sinn Féin
Cllr Danny Lavery, Sinn Féin
Cllr Deirdre Hargey, Sinn Féin
Cllr Lee Reynolds, DUP
Cllr Matt Garrett, Sinn Féin
Cllr Steven Corr, Sinn Féin
Cllr Tim Attwood, SDLP
Colin Mountstephen, Deloitte
Conor Shields, Cathedral Quarter Trust
Damian Bannon, Translink
Damian Smyth, Arts Council
Dan McGinn, University of Ulster
Danny O'Rawe, PC Medi Tech
Darren Dickson, Scotland's Local Government
Declan Hill, Forum for Alternative Belfast
Deirdre MacBride, Director of Cultural Diversity at CRC
Deirdre Mackel, Upper Springfield Development Trust
Dennis McLoughlin, DSD
Dr Garnet Busby, Belfast South Community Resources
Drew Mikhael, Trojans
Ed Vernon, Synetecs
Eimear Ní Mhathuna, Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich
Emmet McDonough, Alliance Party
Fiona Starkey, First Trust Bank
Frainc Mac Cionnaith, Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich
Gabriel Moran, PSNI
Gabrielle Nig Uidhir, St Mary's University
Gari Mujika, Personal Advisor, Mayor of Donostia
Garnet Busby, Belfast South Community Resources
Gary Flynn, T13
Gary Potter, PLACE NI
Gerry McAlinden, DSD
Gerry McConville, Falls Community Council
Gillian Mitchell, The MAC
Glyn Roberts, NIIRTA
Gráinne Holland, Singer
Harry Connolly, Failte Feirste Thair
Helen Brooker, Pretani Associates
Helen Gregory, Bombardier
Hugh McGettigan, St Mary's CBS
Ian Adamson, President, Ullans Academy
Jayne Brady, Intune Networks Belfast
Jennifer Harrison, Queen's University, Belfast
Joanne Stuart, NISP Connect
Joby Fox, Singer
Joey Lynch, T13
John Bushell, Finaghy Business Association
John D'Arcy, Open University
John Kennedy, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
John McCorry, North Belfast Partnership

John Stewart, The NI Assembly
Justin Edwards, Belfast MET
Kevin Gamble, Féile an Phobail
Liam Logan, Chairman of Ullans Academy
Lindsey Hall, Belfast Visitor & Convention Bureau
Lisa McMaster, NIIRTA
Maeve Monaghan, NOW
Maggie Andrews, East Belfast Partnership
Mandy Patrick, Park Avenue Hotel
Margaret Flanagan, DSD
Mark Doherty, Belfast Harbour
Mark Shortt, Therapie Clinic and Optilase
Martxelo Otamendi, Berria
Mary Carlin, Capstone Development Partners USA
Mary Nagy, Capstone Development Partners USA
Matthew Hendry, Arts Council NI
Maurice Kinkead, East Belfast Partnership
Michael Deane, Restaurateur
Michael Graham, Titanic Quarter Ltd
Michael McAdam, Movie House Cinemas
Micheál O Duibh, Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta
Michelle Hatfield, Belfast City Airport
Moira Loughran, Invest Northern Ireland
Nalina Eggert, BBC NI
Niall Greer, West Belfast Partnership
Nikki Johnston, Belfast South Community Resources
Noel Brady, Consult Nb1 Ltd
Noel Maguire, PC Meditech
Noel Rooney, Titanic Foundation
Oonagh Hinds, Invest Northern Ireland
Pat Boyle, Ashton Centre
Patricia Freedman, Cathedral Quarter Trust
Patrick Lismore, Digital NI
Patrick Loughrey, Forward Emphasis
Paul Gibson, Newsread NI
Paul Roberts, Ashton Centre
Paul Robinson, PUP
Peter Carrington, Lisburn Road Traders Assoc.
Peter McNaney, Belfast City Council
Phillip Woods, Translink
Pól Deeds, An Droichead
Prof Tony Gallagher, Queen's University, Belfast
Robert Fitzpatrick, Odyssey Trust
Robert Lyle, Lyle Bailie International
Ronan Corrigan, DSD
Ronan Heenan, Dairy Farm People 1st
Rose Mary Stalker, Colin Neighbourhood Partnership
Ruth McGennis, West Belfast Partnership
Ryan Feeney, Ulster GAA
Sammy Douglas, MLA
Sandra Moore, Welcome Centre
Sarah de Búrca, Meon Eile
Sean Trainor, Belfast Bourough Council
Sharon Haughey, Ulster GAA
Simon Little, Phoenix Energy Holdings Ltd
Siofra Healy, NI Hospice
Sophie Rasmussen, Folktown
Sorcha Wolsey, Beannchor Group
Stephen Douds, Lyric Theatre
Stephen McGarry, Workwest
Stuart Bailie, Oh Yeah Music Centre Ltd
Tim Harkin, Ulster GAA
Tina Murphy, Digital NI
Tom Mervyn
Tracy Gilligan, Therapie Clinic and Optilase
Trevor Annon, The Mount Charles Group
Wendi Kane, Belfast City Council
Wendy Langham, East Belfast Partnership
Wesley Hutchinson, University Sorbonne, Paris
William Ennis, PUP

SPEAKERS

Thursday 9 May, e3

Michael McKernon, Shanway Press
Joby Fox, Singer Songwriter, Artist
Paul Maskey, MP
Naomi Long, MP
Alan McBride, WAVE
Paul Nolan, Community Relations Council
Cllr Jim McVeigh, Sinn Féin
Cllr John Kyle, PUP
Cllr Tim Attwood, SDLP
Mark Hackett, Forum for Alternative Belfast
Author Lucy Caldwell
Jim McGreevy, National Museums NI
Martin Lynch, Playwright
Jenny Elliot, Arts Care
Ciarán Mackel, Chair Gaeltacht Quarter
Tony McCusker, Chair Community Foundation for NI

Friday 10 May, Titanic Belfast

Lord Mayor of Belfast Alderman Gavin Robinson
Fr Joe Parkes, S.J, President Cristo Rey School, New York
Paul McErlean, MCE Public Relations
Minister Alex Attwood MLA
Richard Barnett, Vice Chancellor University of Ulster
Stephen McMurrough, NI Director Capstone Development Partners USA
Rev Dr Fred Munce MBE, Agape Centre South Belfast
Bill Shaw, The 174 Trust
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Colin Williams, CEO Sixteen South
Patrick Anderson, Chairman and CEO Dalradian Resources
Sammy Douglas, MLA



Tourism Boardroom session in full flow at Titanic Belfast, May 10th 2013

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What way next for the city?

Francesca Ryan
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LEARNING IS KEY: Paul Maskey, MP speaks at E3

THE first leg of the One City conference was held at the acclaimed West Belfast e3 campus of the Belfast Metropolitan College on Thursday evening.

The future direction of Belfast was the main focus of speeches and sessions. In a climate of cutbacks and caution, it was refreshing to hear so much positivity from a stream of leaders from the business, political and community sectors.

West Belfast MP Paul Maskey welcomed the participants before handing over to East Belfast MP Naomi Long who spoke on the theme of 'Lifting the City'.

The East Belfast MP hailed the summit as a valuable opportunity for influential people to come together to energise the city before stressing that the city must move forward and face down the many challenges that come from a determination to forge ahead. Going back, she said, is simply not an option. (See editorial, page 21.)

Thursday's first session, focusing on the peace dividend for working class communities, saw Paul Nolan of the Community Relations Council join councillors Jim McVeigh, Tim Attwood and John Kyle on the panel.

Mr Nolan opened by referencing the CRC's NI Peace Monitoring Report which included startling statistics about life expectancy in working class areas. He said that while many feel the peace process is delivering, many also believe it is not delivering equally. The three Belfast councillors spoke about inequality in their communities, particularly in the spheres of health and investment, and Mr Nolan concluded that solving the issue lies primarily in improving education.

Culture Minister Carál Ni Chuilín then addressed those assembled with a talk on 'An Ambitious Agenda'. The Minister spoke passionately about the arts and emphasised that only a collaborative effort will deliver for the city of Belfast.

// a valuable opportunity for influential people to come together to energise the city

Mark Hackett is no stranger to the One City conference but his talk on 'Re-Stitching the City' was as refreshing as ever and served as a reminder of how far we have to go in terms of restructuring Belfast.

He cited the strategic approach to housing in Berlin as a prime example for Belfast to follow and called on those with influence to show respect to local communities when considering future developments.

The final session of the evening, 'Democratising the Arts', centred on how we ensure everyone in this city has access to beauty and creativity, not just the affluent and privileged. The panel featured arts heavyweights Jim McGreevy from National Museums NI, playwright Martin Lynch, Jenny Elliott, CEO of Arts Care, and Ciarán Mackel, Chair of the Gaeltacht Quarter.

Mr Lynch stressed that the arts in Belfast deserve a serious 20-year strategy, in the same manner as other initiatives that are aimed at developing the city are given long-term space to develop.

Mr McGreevy spoke of the need for museums to stay relevant, not only in terms of their exhibits, but to people living in and around them, while Ms Elliott focused on arts in the healthcare system as a vital resource.

Mr Mackel, an architect, said his industry is hungry to change Belfast and that he, as Chair of the Gaeltacht Quarter, was keen to see the district celebrated and expanded beyond its existing parameters.

The evening conference ended appropriately with the inaugural 'Spirit of Belfast' award in which West Belfast's Féile an Phobail and the East Belfast Arts Festival were both awarded for their contribution to arts in the city.

BELFAST ONE CITY SPEECH BY NAOMI LONG, MP

Thank you for the invitation to open the conference session here today.

I have had the privilege of participating in the One City conference for a number of years and have always enjoyed those sessions – I'm not sure if that enjoyment has always been shared by those who have been listening to me.

The conference is as always, a valuable opportunity for us to come together, from different neighbourhoods and sectors, as one city, to look at how we can shape this place for everyone; to give expression to a wider, more unified vision for Belfast which weaves together the different threads of neighbourhoods, communities, and partners and sectors to make up the rich tapestry of our city; and to give renewed energy and direction to each of us in the role we have in delivering that vision into a reality.

The events and speakers lined up in the programme this year are as always a strong mix of local and international experience, which should prove both interesting and challenging and will help to open us up to new thinking and to think about new ways to open up this city.

The past year has been one of contrasts for Belfast. We have seen many opportunities realised and successes achieved. Just one example in my own constituency of East Belfast, Titanic Belfast, where you will be based for your sessions tomorrow, in its first year of operation attracted over 800,000 visitors, realising an ambition which some doubted could be achieved.

However, it was also a year in which the cancer of sectarianism placed in jeopardy the remarkable progress which we have made in recent years. The images of Belfast broadcast to the world were for those of us who truly love this city and who call it home, profoundly sobering and disturbing.

The year ahead too will be full of new and different opportunities to promote Belfast, both to the people who live and work here but also to those who one day might do so, as the world-class city we know it can be. But we face those opportunities with a renewed awareness of the continued, underlying threat to progress which the divided and embittered relationships between our people represents.

That consciousness of the fragility of our peace, progress and economic success, whilst disturbing, can contain within it an opportunity to refocus our minds on the importance of really seeing Belfast as one city, and working to create a sense of being one people, whose futures are inextricably linked with each other, united behind one vision for the city where we live.

Belfast is a city at the crossroads. The decisions we face are not east or west, north or south, but forward or back.

Back is a road we know well as we have travelled it before, but there is no comfort in its familiarity. Back is to the place of division, of violence, of exclusion and of injustice. It is the direction of opportunity squandered, enterprise stilted, hopes crushed, and, ultimately, lives ruined. Back is what we know, but it is not an option that we would choose.

Forward is towards the completion on the transformation of this city - its physical, economic and social regeneration and reintegration, for the two go hand in hand and one cannot be delivered without the other.

Forward is to a Belfast without barriers, either visible or invisible, either real or perceived, between people, between communities, between the economic drivers and the economically excluded, between the Belfast we are today and the Belfast we could be tomorrow.

Forward holds promise but it is travelled on an unfamiliar road, where how we do things and what we think and even cherish will be constantly challenged and changed. It is a direction that is at times uncomfortable and even unsettling. But it is worth the journey, because the destination is a city - stronger, better, fairer, more competitive, more dynamic, more open, more connected, more welcoming and more at ease with itself and its neighbours.

That journey into unknown places, like any journey requires good planning and a road map. Any of you who know me will know that I am not the best navigator, but even I know that setting off in my car in broadly the right direction, without having checked the route



“ The year ahead too will be full of new and different opportunities to promote Belfast, both to the people who live and work here but also to those who one day might do so, as the world-class city we know it can be.

through and planned for the detailed twists and turns along the way, is unlikely to get me where I'm hoping to go or do so in the most efficient way. It's not that the desire to get moving or the general direction of travel are wrong, but the detailed planning is critical to success.

If we are to have any chance of bringing everyone with us on this city's transformative journey, then we need not only to tell them that the destination is worth the journey, but we need to map out and plan how we propose to get there, bridging the gap between the reality of our divided, unstable present and the more shared and stable future to which we aspire. We need to ensure that all the people of this city can not only see clearly their place in a shared society but also understand the route we are going to have to take to make the vision a reality.

This is a conference about one city and for that to be meaningful, we need to be one people, in all our diversity, in all of our difference, united around one vision and driven by our common passion for this place and our shared aspiration for a better future.

The question is not whether we will share the future but how.

Will we share it badly or will we share it well? Will we share it with a closed, insular, mean-spirited and begrudging attitude which diminishes each of us and reduces the city to less than it could be? Or, will we choose to share with the openness, warmth, generosity and passion which enables each person to fulfil their potential and where the city is greater than the sum of its parts? We have as a city the capacity for both - the choice is ours but we have to consciously make it and then commit to delivering it.

Martin Luther King stated: "Somewhere we must come to see that human progress never rolls in on the wheels of inevitability. It comes through the tireless effort and the persistent work of dedicated individuals who are willing to be co-workers with God; and without this hard work, time itself becomes an ally of the primitive forces of social stagnation and irrational emotionalism."

This is a resilient, an exciting and a dynamic city with a huge reserve of warmth, humour and good will, and a capacity for creativity and innovation. It is a city which has changed beyond recognition and in ways which for me, as a child growing up in the 70s, were inconceivable. We should not take that for granted. We should cherish it and we should celebrate it.

But neither should we take for granted continued progress. We know where we need to go. We need to plan how we are going to get there and we need to drive this city forward to be all that it can be. We need to do this, together, as one city and one people with one vision, for everyone.

Have a great conference.

Conference hears hopes for One City

By **Ciara Quinn**

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RELENTLESSLY positive. Two words that echoed across Belfast and best summed up the annual Belfast One City conference staged over two days at a series of venues across the city.

Distinguished guests hailing from across the world along with local politicians, entrepreneurs and community leaders packed into the Titanic Centre on Friday to listen to and discuss ways of how to better our city.

After breakfast and registration, Belfast Lord Mayor Gavin Robinson, whose highly successful year is drawing to a close, spoke to delegates on the theme of 'A New Chapter for Belfast'. Cllr Robinson drew on his experiences as a very young First Citizen to outline his vision of a city at peace with itself.

Next up was acclaimed New York educationalist and President of Cristo Rey High School in East Harlem, Fr Joe Parkes, speaking on the 'Secret Sauce' model of his pioneering school.

"We have 25 schools around the U.S. and we are opening the 26th this August," he said. "It's an example of a dream turning into a vision turning into a reality quite quickly – it reminds me of what you have done here in Belfast."

Fr Parkes added: "The greatest scandal in the United States is the untapped intellectual capital in the low income community. Just imagine if we could inspire them to stay on at school. Think of the artists, the community leaders and the physicians. We tell our kids, you are going to go to college, you are going to do your homework and work one day a week, you can go and succeed."

The infrastructure of our city came under the microscope next in a debate chaired by former Antrim captain and communications executive Paul McErlean. In 'From Vacant Sites to Wealth-Creation', Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ulster, Richard Barnett, spoke of how he was the first in his family to go to university and how this had fuelled his determination to "not just be putting up a building" when it came to the new UUJ campus in the north city centre.

"We are a university, we promote the workplace and education as a means of social justice. The University of Ulster at Jordanstown is a commuter campus. Moving to the city centre is natural, it's an accessible place. The whole of the ground floor will be open access and we have

ensured that the campus will not be a wall behind a wall," he said.

Environment Minister Alex Attwood spoke of the centrality of renewables in the drive to create hubs. "It is the biggest economic opportunity in terms of lifting the city and the biggest show in town" he said. "As we shape our city we have to shape it all, and we have to favour all parts of the North – not just Belfast."

The Minister had warm words of praise for the work being done by

Belfast City Council and added: "Central government has a fair bit to learn in how they are shaping the city."

Also taking part in this debate was Stephen McMurrough of Capstone Capital who says he is on the cusp of greenlighting a residential campus adjacent to the new city centre university campus of the University of Ulster.

Friday at Titanic Belfast also featured a debate on 'Lifting the City' following a speech by Donostia-San Sebastian Mayor Juan Karlos Isagirre in which he outlined the challenges and opportunities facing his city and the Basque Country in general.

The debate was chaired by Jackie Henry of Deloitte and featured Richard Brown of the London Legacy Corporation, David Gavaghan, CEO of Titanic Quarter Ltd, and Anne McReynolds, CE of the MAC, who exchanged their thoughts on the way forward and answered questions from the audience.

I.T. was on the agenda as the West Belfast Partnership Board's Geraldine McAteer chaired 'A Connected City', a panel discussion on the state of the city's vital broadband network, with contributions from Sinclair Stockman of Digital NI, Frank McManus of BT, Colin McWilliams of Sixteen South and Patricia McKeown of UNISON.

After a networking lunch came a series of 'Boardroom Dialogue Sessions' – intimate, round-table discussions on three themes: tourism, jobs and the opportunities offered by the UUJ's Belfast campus.

A visit to the Crumlin Road Gaol in late afternoon considered ways of 'Freeing Our Future' and this was followed by a Conference Club at the Cloth Ear. The second day, and the conference, finished with a reception at the residence of the US Consul General, Gregory S. Burton.



LEARNING IS KEY: Fr Joe Parkes speaks at the Titanic Centre

A Connected City



I-r Frank McManus, Head of Wholesale Sales and Service BT, Patricia McKeown, Regional Executive Unison, Sinclair Stockman, Executive Director Digital NI, Colin Williams, CEO Sixteenth South.

WITH the announcement that Belfast has green-lighted a £25 million super-connected city programme that is set to transform the city the question posed was will a digital divide emerge to compound our current divisions?

Executive Director from Digital NI Sinclair Stockman said: "The challenge in Belfast is to get people super connected and to the point where they know how to use the technology. Every school in Northern Ireland should have access."

Patricia McKeown from UNISON spoke of how there was already a technological divide in the fact that "many people can't afford to have or run a computer at home", and don't have children in the

household.

CEO of Sixteen South, a company dedicated to the development, creation and production of premium children's television for national and international broadcasters, Colin Williams spoke of how "we build and have built our own creative industry here."

Sixteen South which is based in Linenhall Street in the middle of Belfast's city centre has cause for celebration after their show Pajanimals has been nominated for two Emmy Awards.

"Our company show reel says we have amazing creativity here and through technology one of our shows Driftwood Bay is sold to 14 countries – this big fat digital connection – it has to work. It is important to be connected."

Investing for Tomorrow



I-r Derek Mackay MSP, Scottish Minister for Local Government and Planning, Fr Joseph Parkes, President Cristo Rey New York High School, Emma Bricknell, Proprietor Made in Belfast, Mark Ennis, Chairman invest Northern Ireland.

CEO of Phoenix Energy Holdings Peter Dixon was honorary chair for the discussion around Investing for Tomorrow.

Mr Dixon spoke of how he found last year's One City conference so "inspirational" that he volunteered for the chance to chair for the 2013 sessions.

"We all have to do our bit to take things forward, it will take everyone's good efforts to move things forward," he said. "It is all about inclusion."

Mr Dixon, no doubt inspired by the opening introduction from Fr Joe Parkes suggested placing youth training schemes, "in the centre of your best university, not sticking them in the back of the (Belfast) Met" – a reference to the discussion from Richard Barnett, Vice-Chancellor from the University of Ulster on the plans for the new Belfast campus.

"We learn from what is good and talented which in turn creates energy and passion," he said.

Proprietor of Belfast city centre eatery Made in Belfast, Emma Bricknell spoke of how the Backin' in Belfast campaign, a City Council initiative that was borne as a result of the flag protest furore, "didn't help us at all."

"Licensing is a problem here and at 12'o clock the city closes down so it hard to create 'café culture'.

"We really suffered during the flag protests and we need to see more of the likes of the MTV awards and scenes like Snow Patrol at the front of the City Hall coming out of Belfast. Let's be creative and get the work done," she said.

Chairman of Invest Northern Ireland Mark Ennis said: "We are one city, it's helps a lot if we present ourselves as one city."

Lessons in Lifting in the City

// This city is about people, it's important to get a lot more young people involved in this conference, people like Liam are an inspiration, if the city is good for children then it is good for everybody

DAVID GAVAGHAN
CEO OF TITANTIC QUARTER

// In January during the flag protests this city was on its knees but 350 people, a night, came out to see the Martin Lynch produced 50 Shades production, it was an act of people going together. We, The Mac, can't do it on our own we will work together

ANNE MCREYNOLDS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE
MAC BUILDING



I-r Anne McReynolds, Chief Executive The MAC, David Gavaghan, CEO Titanic Quarter Ltd. and Richard Brown, Strategy Director London Legacy Development Corporation

// Why beat Titanic? We are one city – let's beat Twickenham!

DAVID GAVAGHAN



Juan Karlos Izagirre Hortelano, Mayor of Donostia - San Sebastian

Vacant Sites

BY **CIARA QUINN**
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I-r Stephen McMurrough, NI Director Capstone Development Partners USA, Richard Barnett University of Ulster and Environment Minister Alex Attwood

VICE-Chancellor of the University of Ulster Richard Barnett spoke of how he was the first in his family to go to University and it was important to "not just be putting up building" when it came to the new University build in the city centre.

"We are a university, we promote the work place and education is a means of

social justice. The University of Ulster at Jordanstown is a commuter campus, moving to the city centre is natural, it's an accessible place.

"The whole of the ground floor will be open access and we have insured that the campus will not be a wall behind a wall," he said.

Also taking part in the panel debate, Environment Minister Alex Attwood spoke of how Belfast can be a hub of a city and at the heart of it is renewables. "It is the biggest economic opportunity in terms of lifting the city and the biggest show in town" he said.

"As we shape our city we have to shape it all and favour all parts of the North – not just Belfast."

The Minister praised the work of Belfast City Council in their efforts and said "central government has a fair bit to learn in how they are shaping the city."

One City

BY **CIARA QUINN**
c.quinn@belfastmediagroup.com



Cristo Rey New York High School in East Harlem

RELENTLESSLY positive. This was the message resounding loud and clear from the annual Belfast One City conference staged over two days at a series of venues across the city.

Distinguished guests hailing from East Harlem in New York, Donostia San Sebastian in the Basque Country along with government ministers and community leaders packed into Titanic Belfast on Friday to listen and discuss how best to lift our city.

Accomplished New York school leader and founding President of Cristo Rey High School in East Harlem, Fr Joe J. Parkes addressed the delegates that their 'secret sauce' model "was built with a dream and the idea of doing something special, for the low income community among immigrant families."

Fr Parkes explained how Jesuit priests decided to open the college preparatory in 1996, "that would be small, very personal - unique in the sense that each student would work one day a week in corporate America.

"In the US private schools have to be paid for by tuition from the families. We knew in Chicago that immigrant families could not afford private school tuition so in effect the first Cristo Rey School was incorporated as a school and a temp employment agency. Very quickly our school took off. It was a very successful model and the

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation took notice of it and gave some significant funding.

"We have 25 schools around the US and we are opening the 26th this August," he said.

"It's an example of a dream turning into a vision turning into a reality quite quickly - it reminds me of what you have done here in Belfast."

"The last time I was here was 1978, at an inter religious conference at the Stormont Hotel and we weren't allowed to enter the centre city of Belfast, it was a completely different world back then.

"The motto of the Cristo Rey network is transforming one

student at a time. In terms of transforming Belfast, like all great cities in the world, you still struggle with issues.

"We have low income communities wrecked by poor educational performances by students, I'm convinced that low income kids that do not succeed at school lack confidence and do not have expanded horizons. Our model tries to attack this.

"Sure enough it happens a little step at time, which is exactly what you are doing in Belfast."

"The greatest scandal in the United States is the untapped intellectual capital in the low income community. Just imagine if we could inspire them to stay on at school? "Think of the artists, the community leaders and the physicians.

"We tell our kids you are going to go to college, you are going to do your homework and work one day a week, you can go and succeed.

"We are becoming more and more successful as time goes on and when we started we had 100 kids, we now have 7500 with over 1500 companies such as Deloitte in New York working with us.

"TIME magazine calls Cristo Rey Network, "an island of success in the Catholic ocean," when kids see another world their horizons are expanded beyond belief."

Fr Joe placed the strong emphasis and importance of urging students to stay on at school for, "their self confidence."

"You have a great unified community and I think you have put your finger on one of the key issues - the educational performance in the low income communities both in East and West Belfast.

"So if you can come up with a creative way, just look at the companies who are sponsoring our students - we are proving that low-income students have tremendous human and intellectual capital. It's those students that will help transform Belfast into an even greater city in future generations."

Snapshots-T13-CASEMENT



Liam Lynch, T13

THE man behind urban sports academy and shared cultural space, T13, spoke of how, "each day I'm surrounded by extraordinary people."

Australian ex-pat Liam Lynch explained how he found T13 "a blank canvas" and that "ghetto chic wouldn't be in it" when the vision for the building was at its inception phase.

'It was important to make a positive impact in the community – across the community. We wanted to create the world's first urban sports academy and in building tomorrow's Belfast – it isn't just bricks and mortar – it's a way of thinking."

Ryan Feeney from the Ulster Council GAA described the proposed 38,000 seater for Casement Park "as more than just a stadium.'

"This gateway project will be world class. We are well supported by the people of West Belfast and we are working with residents' in the surrounding areas with their concerns on an ongoing basis. What we plan to build at Casement is an unique structure and we are ambitious in our vision," he said.

"We want something to be, along with Titanic Belfast, the major tourist attraction in this province. The GAA, have so far, put £15 million of our own money into this project."

Tomorrow's Belfast Snapshots



Dr Fred Munce, Agape Centre

During a series of Tomorrow's Belfast: Snapshots sessions...

"We were dead jammy to get our building built during the recession," said Reverend Dr Fred Munce on the state-of-the-art Agape Centre built in South Belfast.

The Chair of the Centre project which is a community based partnership, told the delegates that, "we go by two strap lines: we are the friends of all and the enemies of none."

The Centre currently hosts 40 community groups and is a hub for young people who use it for circuit training or avail of the café to simply meet and chat. The Centre is used by the disadvantaged and elderly.

"We are very interested in people. Our building has no barriers and no-one is excluded in any sense," he said.

"It is our hope that we continue to build fresh partnerships with statutory agencies, local community groups and ourselves.

Bill Shaw from The 174 Trust in North Belfast said the ambitious transformation of the Duncairn Pres Church was "13 years in gestation."

"We are halfway through transforming it into a centre of culture, arts and heritage. We wanted to create something a little different, a little bit special and we are creating a centre that is fit-for-purpose for the 21st century. We are exposed to new ideas and peace and reconciliation is our thing," he said.

"My vision is for the walls in our minds to be dismantled, that's my vision – that's One City."

BELFAST ONE CITY NETWORKING LUNCH, 2013 BY MINISTER DEREK MACKAY, MSP

Introduction

Thank the chair, Paul McErlean, and also the Belfast Media Group for organising an excellent conference which has focussed on issues that are relevant not only to Belfast, but to all those of us with an interest in the regeneration and prosperity of our towns and cities.

In Scotland, the overriding purpose of the Scottish Government is to focus government and public services on creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth.

This is supported by 16 National Outcomes, which set out economic, social and environmental goals. The entire public sector in Scotland, including all 32 local authorities, is working in partnership to deliver these outcomes, which will improve the quality of life and wellbeing for all of Scotland.

For towns and cities, where most of our citizens live and which produce most of our wealth, these outcomes are supported, specifically, by our Cities Strategy and Town Centre Review. In addition, government priorities within my portfolio – reforms to Planning and Community Planning, Community Empowerment and Business Improvement Districts, will all have a big impact in supporting and bringing prosperity and better outcomes to our towns and cities and their regions.

Cities

86% of Scotland's population lives within an hour's drive of one of our cities, and they are the drivers of economic growth in our economy. Taken together, Scottish cities and their regions:

- **Deliver two thirds of Scotland's GVA (Gross value added); and**
- **Produce 62% of Scottish exports**

In recognition of this, the Scottish Government established the Scottish Cities Alliance in December 2011.

The Alliance is a partnership of Scotland's seven city local authorities and the Scottish Government, facilitated by the Scottish Council for Development and Industry, which aims to bring more investment, businesses and jobs to our cities and their regions.

Our cities have the opportunity to achieve economies of scale in procurement and attract larger scale investment. They also have access to a £7 million Cities Investment Fund provided by the Scottish Government, created to develop collaborative programmes that promote growth, lever investment and protect and create jobs across the cities and their regions.

Scottish cities are not large in global terms. Together, and they are about the size of Greater Manchester, an urban conurbation of some 2.5 million people.

But in an increasingly competitive environment, cities in other parts of the world are getting their act together to compete globally. So it makes sense for Scottish cities to work together to compete on the global stage.

There are differences between our cities and they will continue to compete. But we also recognise shared values and collective strengths.

For example Glasgow was recently [January 2013] successful in its bid for £24m of funding from the Technology Strategy Board. The city will host a future cities demonstrator - which aims to develop new ways to tackle fuel poverty, address long-standing health issues and improve services through technology. And just as importantly, through the Cities Alliance we can help to ensure that all of Scotland's cities can learn and benefit from Glasgow's pilot.

Community Planning and SOAs

In Scotland, effective Community Planning – public agencies working better with each other and with the voluntary and private sectors and with communities - is at the core of public service reform.

The Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) led a joint review of community planning in early 2012 to identify how it could be strengthened to achieve greater pace in the light of public service reform.

As one of the outcomes of the review, a National Community Planning Group was established last summer. One of the first tasks for this group was to oversee production of guidance of new Single Outcome Agreements, the agreements between local authorities and the government which set out how Community Planning Partnerships will work to deliver local and national outcomes.

Guidance was published in December last year and we are currently reviewing the draft SOAs to allow them to be finalised by the end of June this year.

The new SOAs are to have a strong focus on 6 key priorities: economic recovery and growth; employment; early years; safer and stronger communities and reducing offending; health inequalities and physical activity; and outcomes for older people. These are areas where the aim is to achieve transformational, not incremental, performance improvement and focus on prevention to achieve better outcomes for communities.

I was pleased to meet Belfast City Councillors and representatives from the community and voluntary sector when they came to Scotland for a two day study visit last November. I understand, from speaking to the group, that community planning in Scotland has been identified as a best practice example and I hope that the outcomes arising from last year's review of Community Planning will enhance our reputation. I know the group was struck by the enthusiasm and commitment to community planning shown by all those they met from Council leaders to community representatives.

I know that you already have links with our community planning partnerships and I look forward to the further development of this relationship as you bring forward legislation to establish community planning in Northern Ireland.

Planning

In recent years, the planning system in Scotland has gone through an extensive modernisation.

When I took up my Ministerial post I was determined to ensure that we continue to drive forward improvements particularly around culture change and performance.

The planning system should be an enabler not a barrier to economic growth.

Last year I set out my priorities for planning which focussed on promotion of a plan led system, driving improved performance, simplifying and streamlining processes and delivering development.

My approach is based on pace and pragmatism and its delivery is about partnerships and culture change. Not endless legislative change.

We need a system that promotes confidence and a degree of certainty about what will happen and when. But this is not a case of development at any cost. The Government Economic Strategy is clear, the quality of the natural and built environment is a vital asset for Scotland.

We are also taking forward a review of the National Planning Framework, which is our long term spatial strategy for Scotland, and a review of our Scottish Planning Policy document to bring it up to date, sharpen the focus on economic development and increase the emphasis on place and place making.

Improving performance is central to my vision. We need our planning authorities to be open for business and add recognisable value to the development process.

To focus minds on performance, I am currently bringing a statutory link between planning application fees and performance. But performance of the planning system is not exclusively a matter for the public sector.

We have recently been looking into some of the delays of major applications and what is clear is that some of the delay can be put down to the actions of those proposing development, not just planning authorities.

I have great ambition for the Scottish planning system going forward and am counting on all sectors to help deliver our shared vision of growth in a confident, modern Scotland.

Town centre review

We don't want to see our town centres defunct, outmoded, decaying. It's in our collective interests, and I believe this applies not just to Scotland, to work together to come up with some new thinking about what a town centre might look like and how it might function.

Scotland's Deputy First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, announced the National Review of Town Centres in September 2012. The review has been action and solutions focussed and is being taken forward by an External Advisory

Group (EAG), chaired by leading Scottish architect Malcolm Fraser.

The review has scoped out potential solutions to the issues faced by Scotland's town centres and to enable a measured, long-term approach to town centre regeneration by targeting these issues. The Review will report in May this year.

Business Improvement Districts (BIDS)

Aware that legislation enabling development of BIDs in Northern Ireland came into force on 31 March 2013.

I can highly recommend BIDs as a way of enabling local business communities to boost local economies and improve our built environment.

The 19 established BIDs in Scotland are profiled to raise £18.3 million over their 5 year term ranging from £220,000 for small locations like Kirkwall to £4.3 million for Edinburgh.

BID money has been used to secure additional investment enabling businesses to maintain and improve the quality and attractiveness of properties. For example, one BID area (Bathgate) for an initial investment of £135,000, secured £1.3 million of private investment.

BIDS have also helped to make our streets safer. Initiatives include: taxi marshal schemes during busy weekend periods to ensure smooth queuing and promote safety and security of people using taxis, a retail radio link system to encourage retailers, pubs and clubs shopping centres etc. to share information with each other and the local police. Street ambassadors provide a service to visitors, residents and businesses in the area and work with other council services such as street cleaners, housing officers and anti-social behaviour teams.

There have been environmental improvements and improvements to the public realm - such as graffiti and chewing gum removal, providing floral displays and hanging baskets, providing direction signs to car parks and shopping area.

Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill

The Scottish Government takes the view that our communities are a rich source of creativity and talent. In Scotland, we want to unlock that creativity and talent and we are taking measures to do so.

Community empowerment of local people is not just a soft, cuddly add on. It's about working with local people – not doing things to them – in order to bring hard edged improvements in outcomes in local communities.

We will be putting in place a supportive framework through our Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill. We'll be consulting on a draft Bill in due course. The Bill will support communities to achieve their own goals and aspirations through taking independent action and by having their voices heard in the decisions that affect their area.



RE-STITCHING THE CITY: HARNESSING THE FULL BENEFITS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER BELFAST CAMPUS EXPANSION

This was a round table discussion forum chaired by Patricia Freedman (Cathedral Quarter) who asked a number of individuals representing organisations to make opening remarks beginning by affirming the opportunities of the project.

1.

Declan Hill (Director, Forum for Alternative Belfast)
The UU project is a missed opportunity. It provides a poor urban design response with, for example, the bin store opposite the historic Clifton House

2.

Alastair Adair (Pro- Vice Chancellor, University of Ulster)
The project is a huge educational opportunity. The siting in north Belfast is important and is the biggest development opportunity in 100 years.

3.

Pauline Hadaway (Director, Belfast Exposed photographic gallery)
The UU project can work but artists and cultural organisations should be part of the development process. There are social and cultural benefits but investment could also support young emerging artists to establish their pathways as practising artists.

4.

Lee Reynolds (DUP Belfast City Councillor and deputy chair Strategic Policy and Resources committee)
The UU project is an opportunity to remove barriers; to feed into the broader developments including housing, the cultural corridor and also help repopulate the city.

5.

Deirdre Hargey (Sinn Féin Belfast City Councillor and chair Strategic Policy and Resources committee)
The UU project is a place-shaping opportunity for the city but we need to ask how to connect the physical building to the near-communities. There are huge benefits for Belfast as a 'Learning City'. We also need to tackle issues of deprivation. The project will attract other investments. The project asks of us to imagine what we wish our city to look like in the future and requires us to tackle divisions in the city including disconnected roads infrastructure and class divisions.

6.

Paul Roberts (Chief Executive, Ashton Centre and chair of 'Community Campus Development Group')
The benefits will not automatically flow and the lessons to date demonstrate that communities have not benefitted from other recent investments. The community seeks not to oppose but to work to resolve the challenges, including student housing, car parking and movement through the

area. It is a concern that the community and their representatives have not been included in the process to date.

7.

Patricia Freedman asked if a 'campus Masterplan' was a requirement of the conditions of the planning permission.

Professor Adair replied that it was and that City Council was intending to lead a workshop learning lessons from Manchester Metropolitan Campus and that he hoped it would lead to new thinking to co-ordinate the various government departments with responsibility for the area.

Deirdre Hargey advised that it was scheduled for 22nd May from 10.00 to 4.00 at MAC

Declan Hill welcomed the Council initiative and hoped it would commence a neighbourhood plan for north Belfast to co-ordinate and maximise the opportunities – that might include a new post-primary school.

8.

Patricia Freedman opened the discussion to questions from the 'floor'

Deirdre McBride (Community Relations Council) hoped the proposed workshop / seminar would allow people to engage and noted the benefit from recent high quality new buildings in the area.

Paul Roberts expressed some concern at the lack of an integrated approach to date and that all projects have been considered in isolation by the planning authorities and others. Parking is a real problem. Paul recognised that many of the issues are not in the remit of all the bodies (e.g. UU could not progress student housing) but believed that the 'system' should have requested a master plan.

Deirdre Hargey affirmed the intention of City Council to progress place-making.

Following a question from Anne McReynolds that the workshop / seminar should be open to all Alastair Adair, Paul Roberts and Deirdre Hargey all advised that it would be an open event.

Professor Adair remarked on the scale of the challenge to government and advised that a 'residents' only parking scheme' should be introduced. UU wants added benefit and advised that Cathedral Gardens (adjacent to the existing art college building) will be retained as an open public space.

Pauline Hadaway noted that in her experience the Manchester example offered little to the non student wishing to avail of street activity.

Stephen McMurrough advised of the potential to harness the benefits by projected private investment in the area in the region £300m to invest, build and manage a range of projects that would include: student housing; social and integrated housing; public transport; infrastructure; public realm, and partnering with other parties. All would be developed with a robust public engagement process. The intention is to finance /design /build and long-term manage all the projects.

John McCorry (Economic Development Manager of the North Belfast Partnership Board) worried how the projects would connect to people and how gentrification could be avoided?

Paul Roberts advised that we need a structure and methodology to engage with the community.

The discussion was lively and frank and could have been extended but was cut short due to other conference programme activities.



CIARAN MACKEL

TESTIMONIALS

Many congratulations on another splendid event. So many highlights but Grainne Holland's singing last night was very special. Sorry I had to leave early.

Really looking forward to NY visit particularly with the backdrop on Obama's visit the following week!

David Gavaghan

Chief Executive, Titanic Quarter Ltd

Just wanted to congratulate you and your entire team on a very successful One City Conference.

You have a superb team who are always supportive, hard-working and going over and above at these events. I personally wanted to thank you also for the United mentions – it all helps!

So once again congratulations to you and your entire team.

Barry Jackson

Account Manager, United Airlines

Really enjoyed the conference, thanks.

We had a really good and productive time, will have to meet up soon for a progress report

Mary Carlin

Capstone Development Partners

Thank you both so much for looking after us. We really enjoyed the conference - running smoothly as always thanks to you ;)

You deserve to put your feet up!

Joby Fox & Sophie Rasmussen

Folktown Belfast

Go raibh maith agaibh, jab iontach déanta agaibh! Well done on a great conference!

Aisling Ni Labhrai

Culturlann Mac Adam Ó Fiaich

Great video!

Great job on pulling it all together, it was a thoroughly enjoyable two days.

Cheers,

Chris McCreery

Public Affairs Consultant, Stratagem

#1city on

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir

@newbelfast

@NIIRTA arrives in Skainos for #1City summit tour in East Belfast, housing of 4 types mixed: social, private rentals, private & hostel

The OU in Ireland

@OUIreland

Joby Fox opens Belfast One City conference with his classic song "Belfast"

Glyn Roberts

@NIIRTA

Visited @skainos for first time-fantastic investment in lower Newtownards Rd

The OU in Ireland

@OUIreland

Fascinating overview of the extent of disadvantage in Northern Ireland by Dr Paul Nolan from CRC - geography matters

Ruth Magennis

@RMagennis

View of living wall at @skainos with Belfast cranes - future meets past

Carál Ní Chuilín MLA

@CaralNiChuilin

Paul Nolan CRC lists 10 worst wards of deprivation, 3 in my constituency

Stuart Bailie

@stu_bailie

Hello trees. Hello @skainos . Looking good

Harry Connolly

@HarryBeag

Enjoying #1City Mark Hackett of Forum for Alternative Belfast telling delegates about 'respectful space'

Ruth Magennis

@RMagennis

Glenn Jordon showing exposed concrete in @skainos - absorbs heat, keeps building warm

BJ

@BFSC00095

Planned Belfast Transport Hub, will it include a new rail link to Belfast International Airport? If not why not?

Digital Belfast

@DigitalBelfast

Just back from #Skainos building on theNewtownards Rd #Impressive #design. Well Done Glenn Jordan

Aisling Ní Labhraí

@Aisbideach

Martin Lynch not sure if @TheMACBelfast & @LyricBelfast has the will to connect with #innercity communities.

Stuart Bailie

@stu_bailie

Unexpected but very welcome visitor says 1st few words at #1City

Michael Killen

@mick_killen

@newbelfast would like to thank everyone @ #1city for their commitment to a better belfast. Unity and hard work surely the way 4ward

Brian John Spencer

@brianjohnspencer

If universities get 60% funding from public purse then they should be required to run steps to work programmes" - Alex Atwood

Damian Smyth

@damian_smyth

Impressive opening remarks from Lord Mayor, calling for 'real focus on the one city vision'

Dan McGinn

@danmc2

Rev Fred Munce talking about Methodist Church's Agape Centre on Lisburn Rd: We were dead jammy to get a £3m building for £2.5m

Brian John Spencer

@brianjohnspencer

There are 2 reasons why low Kids don't succeed in school: 1. Dont have confidence; 2. Dont have expanded horizons" - F. Joe Park

Simon Little

@wolflittle

Scottish Planning Minister Derek Mackay tells the #1City conference that he has never been to Belfast but now he's seen it he will be back

Damian Smyth

@damian_smyth

Greatest scandal of all is the untapped creative potential of low-income kids" FR Joe Parkes

Stephen McGarry

@steviemcgarry

@madeinbelfastn1 Emma's 3 wishes for better #1City less red tape, 24hr City (licensing) & growth opps outside City Centre

Glyn Roberts

@NIIRTA

DOE Minister Attwood-'Retail planning policy must put town centres first' -very welcome comments

Ortus Business

@OrtusBusiness

Fantastic model of the Titanic created by students of @SpringvaleLearn at the #1city Conference - very talented

Claire Trainor

@belfastgal

We have to shape all of our City. Need an economic strategy that favours all Minister Attwood tells #1City delegates

Damian Smyth

@damian_smyth

Anne McReynolds @TheMACBelfast "My venue packed out in Jan during flag protests. Simply going to the theatre can be a political act

Aisling Ní Labhraí

@Aisbideach

@UlsterUni want #innercity children to feel they have a slice of the pie and can access university

Joe Cushnan - Writer

@JoeCushnan

Look back on and follow @damian_smyth tweets from today's Belfast #1City event. Excellent comments, ideas & plans from a range of speakers

Andersonstown News

@ATownNews

Derek Mackay: You can't fully regenerate an area without partnership

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir

@newbelfast

Rose Mary Stalker of Colin Neighbourhood project says 3 out of 4 jobless youth stay in work after an intervention

Brian John Spencer

@brianjohnspencer

If I came to Belfast, would I invest in it now? No." - Michael Deane

Highheeledlady

@Highheeledlady

Fantastic end to an excellent #1city conference with @madeinbelfastn1 @ the US Consulate residence. Beautiful evening!

Digital Belfast

@DigitalBelfast

Big Thank you #USConsulate for hosting the closing reception. Fr Joe Parkes from #NYC inspiring

Tony Gallagher

@tgeducation

At the #1City conference we learned there is gold in the hills of Tyrone, possibly lots of it. Not in the least surprised - a golden county

Tony Gallagher

@tgeducation

At the #1City conference we learned there is gold in the hills of Tyrone, possibly lots of it. Not in the least surprised - a golden county

Carál Ní Chuilín MLA

@CaralNiChuilin

Comhghairdeas Mairtin & everyone involved in the #1City Conference. Looking forward to seeing the report, maith sibh

PC MediTech

@Pcmeditech

Guys a big big thank you for organising & promoting such an uplifting event. Lets make Belfast

Brian John Spencer

@brianjohnspencer

@MichaelDeane61 good seeing you earlier, enjoyed your contribution - less green & orange, more business sense!

Brian John Spencer

@brianjohnspencer

Big thanks! RT @ryanjfeeney: Well done @OrlaithAdams @newbelfast and the team for organising another first class

Work West

@work_west

Reflecting on 2days #1City conference & Fr Joe Parkes stole the show 4me 'transforming urban America one student at a time'

BJ

@BFSC00095

Congratulations & Thanks to all at BMG on another 1st class #1City Conference

Ryan Feeney

@ryanjfeeney

Well done @OrlaithAdams @newbelfast and the team for organising another first class #1City conference

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BELFAST INVESTMENT CONFERENCE AIMED AT 'LIFTING THE CITY'

[April 18, 2013](#)

A MAJOR summit is set to take place on 9 and 10 May in Belfast which will shine a spotlight on the economic and investment opportunities in the city.

The 'Belfast One City' conference will bring together a diverse range of local and internationally renowned speakers on one platform to focus on 'lifting the city' and how it can speak with one voice to gain investment through innovation and collaboration.

Now in its 4th year, the event will kick off at the Belfast Met e3 Campus (Springfield Road) taking in Cultúrriann McAdam Ó Flaigh on day one (9 May) and moving to Titanic Belfast on day two (10 May), which will also incorporate a tour of the



Móira Loughran, Invest Northern Ireland, David Gavaghan, Chief Executive Titanic Quarter Ltd, Belfast City Councillor Tom Ekin and Orlaith Adams, Belfast

BD TOP STORIES

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- Breaking News Bomb Alert in West Belfast
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Major summit set to lift Belfast City

Posted on Thursday 18 April 2013 by Editor



OPINION ARTICLE (EMMA BRICKNELL - MADE IN BELFAST)

Opinion

Lower corporation tax and more modern art

The city needs a multi-facet approach



Michael Maguire, David Hill, Titanic Quarter CEO David Savage, Cllr Tony Chis and Cllr John Adams, Belfast Media Group at the launch of the Belfast One City conference taking place on May 9-10

WRITTEN BY

Emma Bricknell

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The Belfast One City conference is aimed at bringing a local and international view on ways 'growing the city' and hence it can gain investment through innovation and collaboration.

Emma Bricknell, owner of the restaurant Blue in Belfast gives a view from her sector of where the city should be from the future.

I came to Belfast in 2007 after visiting friends and liked the scale and people of the city.

I was attracted to Belfast and saw that it had potential, constantly meeting challenges and a positive sense of building and inventing.

I was attracted however, to many other cities and decided to put all five in a hat. Belfast, Sydney, Barcelona, Manchester and Cornwall, etc. It's not only Belfast and I pulled out Belfast and made the move.

I like many other independents, are concerned about the downturn in business and feel this is not all due to the current situation. Belfast needs to be its own thing and develop its own identity.

With another surge of creative now joining the city, Belfast can't be seen to be holding on to its current identity of anything less, we need to have a pro development attitude to the event.

We need diversity in this city from boutique hotels to modern backpacker hostels, street markets to galleries, pop-up container restaurants and more importantly, urban spaces that make tourists and locals alike want to stay and enjoy being and living in this city.

People police places and we need to make Belfast a bit like city of London. It's about the city's potential to be a global city.

Belfast needs to have more affordable housing, a cinema, a new city centre, a new development of environmental services with international architecture and a more innovative planning scheme.

In essence, we need to make better use of our urban spaces for events on a scale that can be compared to other cities.

We also need to look at the potential of Belfast and compare it to other cities.

"Belfast needs to benchmark itself on other diverse and developing European cities"

Like Milan which uses its urban space well.

I would like to see a Belfast with more vertical gardens and rooftop green making it a place of innovation as well as including the historic side of the city.

Our water front is not being used properly, we need to look at cities like Liverpool and Hamburg, renowned for shipping, and develop a waterfront that is safe, people-friendly with cafes, shops, moorings, bike hire, water taxis and boutique hotels.

Local councils here need to appreciate the shift in demand and invest in the need for modern infrastructure like, bars, shops and buildings able to accommodate these new and old economies.

We need to appreciate the use of modern art and use these spaces to bring distractions and art that are in need of regeneration.

Local councils, corporations and VAT need to be forward to give entrepreneurs a better chance of survival. We also need politicians to group the importance of the hospitality industry and back it.

IRISH NEWS (BUSINESS DIARY)

THURSDAY

businessdiary@irishnews.com

DEMISTIFYING AUTO-ENROLMENT

With new workplace pension regulations now in place, many employers are finding opt-out rates are averaging between five and 10 per cent despite earlier predictions as high as 30 per cent. The message to small employers from companies like Asda and Tayto/Golden Wonder is "prepare as early as you can".

Both will be sharing their experiences at Northern Ireland's first major seminar aimed at demystifying auto-enrolment. The event, organised by Auto Enrol Solutions NI, takes place today at Riddell Hall. Speakers include Philip Smith from Arthur Cox; Mark McClintock, Solicitor UK; Charlotte Elliott and Andy Marshall, both from Asda; and Andrew Symonds, Tayto Golden Wonder.

Attendees will receive tips on the best way forward and will have an opportunity to question and network with speakers and peers to develop their understanding of the six essential principles that a scheme must meet to comply with the Pensions Regulator's standards. To register contact Vanessa Porter at Legal Island on 028 9446 3668 or click www.legalisland.com/events.

IOE EVENTS

The Institute of Directors NI is holding its new members' lunch tomorrow at Riddell Hall (noon to 2.30pm). Sponsored by Director Development, the event is an opportunity for new members to view the IOE facilities at Riddell Hall and to meet other members. To book your place visit www.ioeni.com or contact Lorraine Gorry at lorraine.gorry@ioeni.com or 028 9088 3224. Meanwhile IOE members are invited to attend a Lunch and Learn session on April 30, which will provide attendees with an understanding of the legal and financial aspects of planning for succession within an organisation. The lunch (12.30 to 2.30) is sponsored by A&L Goodbody and will be held at their offices on the sixth floor of Lanyon Tower, 42-46 Fountain Street, Belfast. The event is free for

IOE members and their guests.

Booking details are as above.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DAY

The newly launched Business Success Academy is holding a business development day this Friday from 10am to 4pm at the Ramada Encore in Belfast. Founded by Anne McAllister, business coach and author of *The Profitable Networking Formula*, and Phil Corrick, online marketing expert and co-author of *The Art & Science of Success: Vol 6*, the business development day is aimed at SMEs who need to reconnect with their business and find more time, money and passion. More details can be found at www.thebusinesssuccessacademy.co.uk.

LIFTING BELFAST

A major summit takes place in Belfast on May 9 and 10, which will shine a spotlight on the economic and investment opportunities in the city. The 'Belfast One City' conference will bring together a diverse range of local and internationally renowned speakers on one platform to focus on 'lifting the city' and how it can speak with one voice to gain investment through innovation and collaboration. Now in its fourth year, the event will kick off at the Belfast Met e3 Campus (Springfield Road) taking in Culturalism McAdam O'Flaigh on day one and moving to Titanic Belfast on day two, which will also incorporate a tour of the Crumlin Road Jail. The conference will include a number of Stormont ministers, MPs and MLAs, who will be supported by a range of business, education and civic leaders in the city. Among the roster of speakers is leading educator Ray Joseph P Farries from New York and Derek Mackay, Scotland's minister for local government and planning. Discussions at the conference are expected to focus on how vacant sites in Belfast can be turned into wealth creators; lessons in lifting the city from other countries; investment for the future of Belfast and how we can plot out an ambitious agenda for

the arts as a key driver for development.

DIGITAL SEMINAR

Digital Northern Ireland 2020 (DNI 2020), in partnership with Newry and Mourne District Council, will be hosting a free practical seminar on Thursday May 9 to help businesses learn how technology can be harnessed to radically change the way they operate. The seminar will take place in the Canal Court Hotel and there will be a number of expert speakers plus local business people who have successfully digitised their businesses. The event is open to any SME or business who wants to learn how the digital platform can help their business. Registration is from 7.30am and further details can be found at dni2020newryandmourne.co.uk.

NORIBIC CONFERENCE

A major event hosted by The Northern Ireland Business and Innovation Centre (NORIBIC) in Derry's Millennium Forum from May 29 to 31, has added two more big names as well as important new sponsors to its stellar line-up. Sir Tim Smit KBE, famous for his work with the world-renowned Eden Project, will join a list of speakers for The European Business Network (EBN) Congress that already includes Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, Dr Richard Florida, professor at University of Toronto and NYU senior editor the Atlantic; and best-selling US author on the economic importance of the creative industries, will also speak at the three-day event.

The Department of Culture Arts and Leisure will join Invest NI as principal partners of the event. Gold Sponsors include SEUPB's Interreg IVA programme, The Irish BICs. This event is also sponsored by Derry Viceroy and the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) among others. Further information about the event and registration is available at www.noribic.com/ebncongress.

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A major summit is set to take place on 9 and 10 May in Belfast which will shine a spotlight on the economic and investment opportunities in the city.

Lifting the City (l-r): Moira Loughran, Invest Northern Ireland, David Gavaghan, Chief Executive Titanic Quarter Ltd, Belfast City Councillor Tom Ekin and Orlaith Adams, Belfast Media Group at the launch of the Belfast One City Conference.



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Major summit set to lift Belfast City

Gavin Walker | April 19, 2013 | Comments (0)



Lifting the City: Orlaith Adams, Belfast Media Group, Belfast City Councillor Tom Ekin, with Belfast One City sponsors, Chief Executive David Gavaghan Titanic Quarter Ltd and Moira Loughran, Invest Northern Ireland at the launch of the Belfast One City Conference.

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BUSINESS MONTH MAGAZINE - OPINION PIECE

NEWS ANALYSIS

All for one and one for all

To attract investment and skilled people, Belfast needs to be a world-class city in every respect but above all its needs to be a united community, says **David Gavaghan**



Outside of London, Belfast is the UK's top city for attracting foreign investors. But it needs to keep working as a team if it is to retain that impressive ranking

BELFAST hosted its Fourth One City Conference last week – one of the events which helps highlight the need for all of us who love this great city to work harder at working together to promote the huge potential that this city has to offer. Not doing so will only curtail economic opportunity and prosperity, condemning our young people to economic exile, and will diminish our ability to invest in improving the fabric of life across the city. Images of communal tension – from whatever source – beaming around the world reinforce old images of Belfast. In this difficult economic climate, where competition for inward investment is intense, we need to play to our best. So much good work already takes place between people united by the common goal of energising Belfast and getting the message out that this is a place of great creativity and innovation.

The One City Conference is one manifestation of those efforts. It draws together a diverse range of people from business, civic society, the arts and politics. This year's theme, 'Lifting the City', was an ideal opportunity to pause and look beyond the tough economic environment of the past few years. It also served as a reminder of the slogan: 'a rising tide lifts all boats' – albeit in years to come we may find climate change will cause us to be alerted by this phrase. Economic development is not a zero-sum game. Jobs and investment – whether in north or south Belfast, or the city centre – benefit the entire community. One of Belfast's charms and selling points is its compactness. A short walk from City Hall can take you to Queen's University in one direction, the Falls and Shankill in another, or across the river to Titanic Quarter. Belfast really is one city – not the juxtaposition of four parliamentary constituencies.

Building economic prosperity in Belfast is not just a job for the City Council, the Executive, Invest NI or the other bodies which pitch for business overseas or encouraging home-grown talent. Amazingly, outside of London, Belfast is the UK's top city for attracting foreign investors! The challenge is how we can build on this platform and do even better. At Titanic Quarter, I have the great privilege to be involved with a development that enjoys a brand and history that any city in the world would hand over to have. We have leading IT infrastructure, amazing architecture and visitor numbers courtesy of Titanic Belfast; globally recognised occupants and fantastic indigenous success stories such as the Titanic Studios, the Northern Ireland Science Park, Belfast Metropolitan College or the T13 urban sports academy. Investors are always interested to hear about the calibre of our young people, their educational achievements and high

staff retention rates, along with the competitive cost of doing business here rather than London. But, what really excites investors is the sense of place which a city or region has to offer. Global businesses thrive on being able to recruit and attract the best people available. Talent in the 21st century is increasingly mobile. If Belfast is to attract the best jobs we need to demonstrate that this city has a lifestyle which compares favourably to the best of the rest. Otherwise that mobile talent – and the businesses which strive after it – will go elsewhere. That means we need to have a top-class arts and cultural scene, a vibrant hospitality sector and, underpinning it all, a united community. Belfast with an attitude of 'all for one and one for all' will be quite a force to be reckoned with. And that's a job for all of us.

David Gavaghan is the CEO of Titanic Quarter

Watch the
One City
conference on



www.youtube.com/belfastmediagroup

