

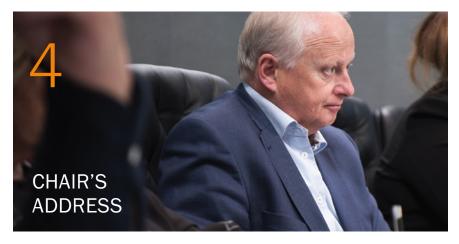
**LINEN QUARTER BID**ANNUAL REPORT 2018/2019

linenquarter.org





homage to the unique street blocks located within the heart of the Linen Quarter. The bright colours celebrate our rich heritage, while the weave symbolises our diverse communities coming together in a shared space.





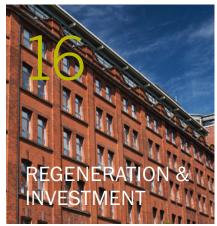
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KEY DELIVERABLES 2018/2019









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FINANCIAL OVERVIEW





# IN YEAR ONE WE HAVE DELIVERED OR INITIATED 18 PROJECTS – 55% OF THE TOTAL PROGRAMME.

Chair, Linen Quarter BID

**Paul Johnston** 

The Linen Quarter BID is a collective endeavour that represents all the organisations of the district: public, private and third sector. We are very grateful to our 400 levy payers and are determined to ensure that each one of them enjoys a strong return on their investment.

I am pleased to say that we have made a good start. During 2017 the BID task force consulted widely with local stakeholders and developed a manifesto of 33 projects which we promised to fulfil over our five-year term. Just one year on from our formal launch (April 2018) and we have already delivered or initiated 18 of these projects - some 55% of the total programme. I would like to pay tribute to the skill and commitment of our Managing Director for delivering so much so quickly. I would also like to thank the invaluable advice and ongoing support from my fellow Board Members.

But the BID is not just about projects, it is about influencing transformational change. Alongside the Annual Report I am delighted to launch our Regeneration Vision.

This builds on anticipated investment in the Linen Quarter and highlights additional opportunities over the next five years. Full details can be viewed in the accompanying document.

And more immediately the BID acts to champion the area every day on a wide range of issues. This includes the £5m sewer upgrade, the roll out of LED street lights, or the frequency of police patrols. These interactions help represent the district and ensure our levy payers get the high-quality services they deserve.

Finally, I would like to briefly reference our first-year accounts. Both revenue collection and spend are in line with expectations, and full details can be found on p20-23 of this report.

In summary the BID can now start its second year with confidence. The Linen Quarter has a bright future, and I am looking forward to building on the sound financial and operational foundations that have been constructed to date.



## SUCCESS CAN ONLY BE MEASURED BY THE DIFFERENCE WE MAKE TO OUR LEVY PAYERS.

Managing Director, Linen Quarter BID **Christopher McCracken** 



The success of the Linen Quarter BID will be measured by the difference we make to our levy payers, and to all who live, work or visit the area. For this reason, our year one initiatives have focused on projects that make a tangible impact:

- In July 2018 we launched our Street Ambassadors, a visible presence that promotes the area and supports tourism.
- In August our Clean Team started operations. To date they have removed an extra six tonnes of rubbish from the District, and eradicated swathes of graffiti.
- We have also taken forward eyecatching projects such as Linenopolis, a pop-up heritage and retail experience, and Flax Field, colourful planting at Bedford Square that, at a micro level, also restores linen production to the linen quarter.

At the strategic level we have four main goals:

## 1. To rebrand the Linen Quarter as a high-quality visitor destination.

Rebranding the BID, along with our new logo, website and social media, is a core part of this strategy. We are also focused on leveraging new activities: in year one we extended Culture Night, Ciclovia,

4 Corners and Imagine Festivals into the Quarter. With a new events manager in place this offer will dramatically extend in year 2 and following.

## 2. To build a more sustainable district.

In January 2019 we joined with ISL to promote a new waste management service with a greater focus on reduction, recycling and re-use. In year 2 we aim to lead a step change in sustainability in partnership with QUB.

## 3. To build a safer district.

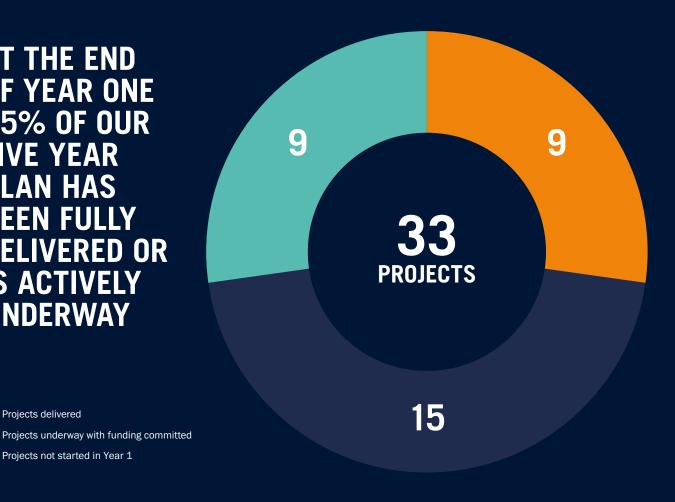
Our keynote project in year 2 includes a £40k investment for enhanced police patrols.

## 4. To promote regeneration & investment.

As well as shaping physical development we hope our regeneration vision will also support social development, in partnership with the communities around us.

None of this would have been achieved without the support and guidance of the Chair, Deputy Chair and Board; along with all the individuals and organisations who got involved. But there is much more to come in year 2 and we welcome even greater participation from our levy payers as we deliver on our commitments, and progressively build the best district in Belfast.





## **Timeline of Key Deliverables**

Projects not started in Year 1

Projects delivered

March 2018	Christopher McCracken appointed as the first MD
April 2018	Public launch of the BID at the Grand Opera House
May 2018	Roll out of retail crime watch to all LQ retailers
June 2018	CSR / community outreach project commissioned.
July 2018	5 Summer Ambassadors hit the streets (through to 21 September)
August 2018	Linen Quarter Clean Team starts work Launch of Linenopolis pop-up heritage experience (to 18 December)
September 2018	Week of street music with Better Bedford Street and Culture Night
October 2018	Additional animation for the Ciclovia
November 2018	Linen Quarter regeneration vision commissioned
December 2018	The BID rebrands from CBD to Linen Quarter BID
January 2019	Launch of the Linen Quarter ISL waste management service Launch of LQ events & hospitality group
February 2019	Four Corners Festival brought to Linen Quarter with "Cure at Troy" Free cyber security training. First meeting of LQ community safety group
March 2019	Imagine Festival brought to Linen Quarter with 3 events
April 2019	Opening of 'Linen Quarter Flax Field' at Bedford Square















## PROMOTED & VIBRANT

## **Overview of Year 1 Projects**

STATUS	PROJECT	PROGRESS
	Visitor concierge scheme, ensuring visitors receive the very best welcome to Belfast.	Summer Street Ambassadors launched June 2018 with 4 staff, and will be repeated 13 weeks each year from late June to late September.
	Business networking & social events.	In 2018 events included Grand Opera House (April) and Grand Central Observatory (September).
	Re-brand the district with identity that is representative of the character of the area.	'Linenopolis' pop-up store operated from August–December 2018 to help promote the area.  The BID itself was rebranded in January 2019 and the historic Linen Quarter identity will be strongly promoted going forward. This includes placemaking initiatives such as 'Flax Field' launched in April 2019 at Bedford Square.
	Extend city-wide events into the BID area, and get a fair share of publicity and promotion for our hospitality businesses.	Action taken to extend culture night and Ciclovia in 2018, and Four Corners and Imagine Festival in February/March 2019.  Full time events manager recruited April 2019, with expanded programme of events identified and funded for year 2 onwards.
	Secure Purple Flag accreditation	£15k funding allocated and steering group formed January 2019.
	Free advertising platforms. This includes a service app for visitors that provides profiles of businesses in the BID area.	New website launched in April 2019. This includes area and business profiles. Service app a year 2 project.
	Welcome host training and customer service masterclasses for all front of house staff.	Provided by Council in 2018 and Tourism NI in 2019. Additional training to be reviewed.
	A food & drink destination promotion package.	Year 2 project Alive after 5 marketing programme will be launched June 2019.
	Create a new signature event for the BID, probably based around food, that will encourage visitors back into the area.	Year 2 project New Linen Quarter Food Festival will be launched September 2019.
	Area staff card for employees. This will focus on hospitality and lifestyle offers.	Year 3 project

- Projects delivered
- Projects underway with funding committed
- Projects not started in Year 1

## PROMOTED & VIBRANT

### **EVENTS & HOSPITALITY GROUP**

The primary focus of the group is to plan combined activities that will benefit the district. This includes a programme of festivals that the BID is bringing to the district across the year:

- February: Four Corners Festival
- March: Imagine: Festival of Ideas and Politics
- April: Film Festival
- May: Creative Festival
- June: Belfast Blues Festival
- July-September: Linen Quarter
   Walking Tours / Food & Drink Tours

- August: The Belfast Address, public debate
- September: Linen Quarter Food Festival & Culture Night
- October: Ciclovia
- November: Design Week

The group will also consider how the summer street ambassadors can be deployed to best effect, as well as other issues relevant to the marketing and promotion of the area.

The events & hospitality group meets every two months and is open to all hotels, restaurants, bars, cafés and entertainment venues across the district.

### **SUMMER STREET AMBASSADORS**

For 13 weeks each year, from late June to mid-September, the BID employ four summer street ambassadors.

The team act as brand ambassadors for the Linen Quarter with a specific aim to support our hotel and hospitality industry. They will also direct commuters and tourists with a daily presence at Great Victoria Train Station and City Hall.

Key activities include:

- Providing a warm welcome to all our hotel guests, cruise ship visitors, and other tourists.
- Signposting tourists, commuters and business visitors.
- Providing a free tourist concierge service at Linen Quarter hotels, highlighting visitor attractions, hospitality experiences, and key events and activities across Belfast.
- Providing free walking tours of the Linen Quarter, helping to tell its story and promote it as a visitor destination.
- Providing food and drink walking tours to bring additional custom to our hospitality venues.
- Supporting all the events and activities in the area over the summer months.
- Distributing information to our levy payers and providing a bespoke service to them as required.
- Conducting environmental audits across all 50 streets through the BID area.











## **LINENOPOLIS**

Linenopolis was a 'pop-up' visitor experience and store, which traded from Bedford House between August and December 2018. The concept was initiated and funded by the Linen Quarter BID, in partnership with the Linen Biennale, a celebration of the social, cultural and economic impact of Linen that is held every two years. The Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Deirdre Hargey, officially opened the attraction, and Ulster Estates generously facilitated rent free use of the space.

The aim of the project was to tell the story of Belfast's historic Linen Quarter, using the prism of the contemporary linen industry. The experience included story boards, images and artefacts highlighting the city's linen heritage, accompanied by 33 Irish linen entrepreneurs including Belfast makers such as Deborah Toner, Bricolage, and Flax Fox, displaying their artisan wares.

The attraction was also brought to life with a vibrant events programme, including product launches, craft workshops, music and storytelling.

Feedback was very positive: tourists welcomed the authentic experience and the creative sector welcomed the opportunity to showcase their talents.

The wider aim of the project, which is still ongoing, is to initiate a longer term rebrand of the Linen Quarter, which will position it as one of the must-see destinations in the city. We also hope that aspects of Linenopolis will be reborn as part of the Council's 'Belfast Story' visitor attraction.

## **PURPLE FLAG**

Purple Flag is a national accreditation that recognises an area with a well-run, vibrant, welcoming and diverse night time economy. To bring this accreditation to Belfast the Linen Quarter BID, in partnership with Belfast One and Destination CQ, has brought together a multi-agency steering group to co-ordinate necessary action. To secure Purple Flag status, Belfast needs to provide a clean welcoming and safe environment, with good transport links and a vibrant mix of venues and attractions which are appealing to visitors.



This mix will include the wider cultural offer, family options, and options that do not involve alcohol, as well as the traditional mix of well-run pubs, restaurants and music venues.

The steering group will be submitting the application in October 2019, which will be followed by a detailed assessment and an announcement of the result in February 2020.

## CLEAN & SUSTAINABLE

## **Overview of Year 1 Projects**

STATUS	PROJECT	PROGRESS
	Service to quickly respond to incidents of graffiti, waste, vandalism, and other problematic issues.  Enhanced street washing programme.	New Clean Team commissioned August 2018, with 2 operatives working 4 mornings a week. Service includes graffiti removal, litter picking, weeding, cleaning frontages, and power washing of pavements.
	Office technology and white goods waste management service, with confidential waste shredding.  Food waste management assistance.	The LQ BID – ISL Waste Management Service was launched in January 2019 offering a comprehensive and cost effective waste management for the district. The service includes free consultancy with improved focus on reduction, reuse, and recycling.
	Discreet pest control service	Year 2 project
	Deliver support to help organisations secure ISO14001 and other company accreditations	Year 2 project
	Procurement of an office incidentals service e.g. plumbing, electrician and maintenance service.	Year 2 Project
	Utilities savings through bulk procurement.	Year 2 Project
	Create a bin and recycling facilities storage	Although the BID will not be constructing new storage, the new ISL contract does include free consultancy and improved management of existing storage.



Projects not started in Year 1















## **CLEAN TEAM**

In August 2018 the BID commissioned a Clean Team to provide an enhanced cleaning, graffiti removal and power washing service for the district. This includes a focus on litter picking three times a week and graffiti removal once a week. The Team also maintain the Flax Field installation at Bedford Square, and can arrange power washing and chewing gum removal on request.

As a result of this work an additional 750kg of rubbish is being removed from the Linen Quarter every month, and there has also been a noticeable reduction in graffiti across the area.

## SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICE

ISL have been commissioned by the Linen Quarter to provide a waste management service for the area. This includes commercial waste, food waste, recycling, and confidential waste.

There are two main advantages of using the Linen Quarter ISL service:

1. Linen Quarter BID have negotiated a bulk contract, enabling ISL to deliver improved rates to our members. These rates are better than the ISL service in a non-BID area and are considerably cheaper than the equivalent Council service. In some cases the Linen Quarter ISL service has reduced waste management costs by up to one third.

- 2. The service has been specifically positioned to improve the green economy of the District, in line with our aspirations to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals. This includes:
- Providing free consultancy to minimise waste in the first place.
- Use of new vehicles with much lower emissions.
- A much greater emphasis on recycling and reuse, with minimal landfill waste.

In addition, the Linen Quarter BID will donate £250 for additional planting in the area for every business that signs up before the end of 2019.

## SAFE & SECURE

## **Overview of Year 1 Projects**

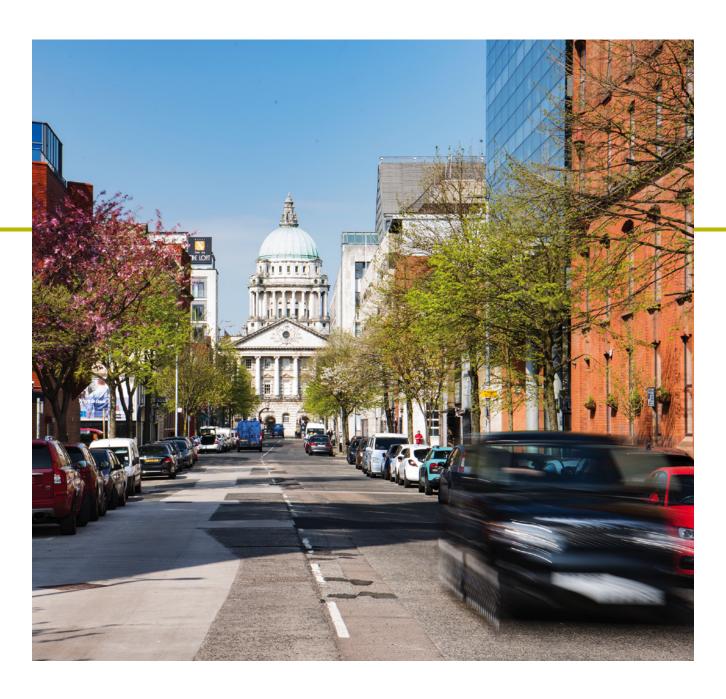
STATUS	PROJECT	PROGRESS
	Cyber & fraud prevention and training.	Free seminars held in March 2018 and February 2019.  Next seminar "Future Threats from Cyber Crime" due in September 2019.
	Introduce the retail crime watch scheme	Free membership for RCW, worth £250 per year, was rolled out to all retailers in May 2019.
	Enhanced policing for the Linen Quarter to target crime and anti-social behaviour	Quarterly community safety meetings between police and business commenced February 2019 with PSNI providing additional patrols.  LQ BID have confirmed £40k funding for enhanced policing in Year 2.
	Assist business to develop corporate social responsibility plans.	A project to work alongside our neighbouring communities was initiated in January 2019 and will report back in January 2020.
	Provide a healthy working environment for employees and deliver greater safety for all visitors.	Programme for free health checks and CPR training for Linen Quarter staff has been confirmed and will be rolled out June 2019.
	Defibrillators installed in key locations.	Year 2 project
	Deliver support to help organisations secure ISO18001 and other company accreditations.	Year 2 project
	A business emergency response scheme and a business emergency preparedness training support project for your business to reduce risk and the cost of managing risk.	Year 2 project
	Late night staff working support and retained taxi service for business in the area.	Year 2 project
	Secure affordable insurance broking.	Year 2 project



Projects underway with funding committed

Projects not started in Year 1





### **RETAIL CRIME WATCH**

Retail Crimewatch is an information and image sharing, exclusion order project between retailers, the PSNI, and Belfast City Centre Management. Linen Quarter BID offer a free subscription, worth £250 per year, to all eligible retail members.

Each month retailers receive images of shoplifters who have had previous convictions for shoplifting within Belfast City Centre and other policing districts across Northern Ireland. This information is then used to enhance staff vigilance and awareness of known offenders and assist in reducing stock loss within businesses. It also assists in maintaining a safer environment for staff, customers and members of the public alike.

If your organisation is based in the Linen Quarter and you would like to take advantage of this service please email admin@linenquarterbid.org

## COMMUNITY SAFETY GROUP / ENHANCED POLICING

This group meets every quarter and is open to any business who wants to promote a safer environment. The meetings will include an update from the PSNI and provide an opportunity for business to feedback any concerns or issues arising.

The BID have confirmed that they will invest £40k in year 2 to support enhanced policing in the Linen Quarter.

### **CSR PROJECT**

We do not want a city where people get left behind and as the Linen Quarter develops we want to reach out to the surrounding communities and improve connections and opportunities, mapping out their needs and aspirations, and providing business support where we can.

To develop this the BID commissioned Social Nybble Labs to provide support for corporate social responsibility and community outreach. We are currently engaging with stakeholders and aim to map out a tangible programme of activity by early 2020.

## REGENERATION & INVESTMENT





## **Overview of Year 1 Projects**

STATUS	PROJECT	PROGRESS
	Lobby for additional monitoring and resources, influencing statutory bodies on programmes, projects, and their spending.	The BID meet regularly with the City Council, DfC and Dfl. In 2018 an additional £11,500 was secured to fund local events.  In November 2018 a £25k regeneration vision was commissioned to help shape the future development of the district, in partnership with wider stakeholders.
	Create a united look and feel for the area that will include street dressing and add value with higher standard features.	Flax Field was commissioned for Bedford Sq in January 2019 and was launched by the Lord Mayor in April 2019.  Additional street dressing will be delivered in year 2.
	Area office space prospectus for vacant buildings. This will be part of a programme to help fill empty spaces in buildings within the BID area, working with landlords and public agencies to incentivise uptake.	Year 2 project
	Address vacancy levels through property promotional schemes, and a new welcome package for business moving into the BID.	Year 2 project
	Building frontage enhancement award scheme.	Year 2 project

Projects underway with funding committed

Projects not started in Year 1





### **BETTER BEDFORD STREET**

This project, convened by the Department for Infrastructure and the Ministerial Advisory Group in 2018, pioneered a number of initiatives to improve place management. Bedford Street was selected for the pilot study, and Linen Quarter BID was invited to the Steering Group as the local representative.

Although the project was primarily a learning experience to inform Streets Ahead V, the following tangible interventions were delivered between July and December 2018:

- An extended pavement along
   Bedford Street. The study found
   there were twice as many pedestrian
   movements in the street as vehicles.
   The extended pavement was
   introduced to accommodate this, and
   to enhance commercial activity such
   as outdoor dining.
- Experimental street art including a blue "linen weave" running along the footway along with heritage artwork at Bedford Square.
- Enhanced lighting specifically to alleviate the impact of scaffolding at the entrance to the street – along with new signage / street furniture outside Deanes.

- A mini-performance space outside the BBC, to reflect the musical and theatrical roots of the area.
- New planting, including a mini urban forest along with wild flower displays.
- A programme of street music and animation, including a week of music around the launch and enhanced activities during culture night and the Ciclovia.

### **REGENERATION VISION**

The Linen Quarter Regeneration Vision aims to influence the development of the district, initiate an ongoing conversation with levy payers and local stakeholders, and attract new investment into the district.

The Vision was commissioned in November 2018 and is published in a separate document alongside the annual report.

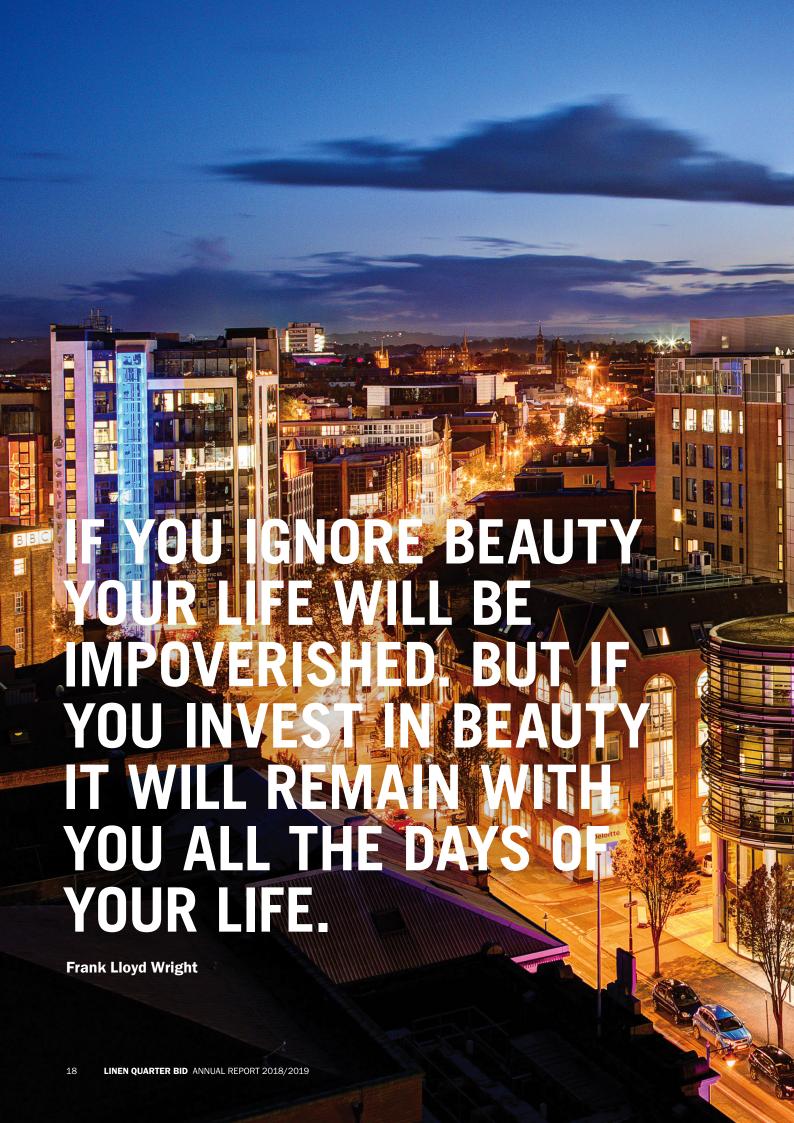
## FLAX FIELD

Flax Field is a planting installation funded by the BID and located at Bedford Square (outside Invest NI). The installation consists of 8 powder coated steel planters, two benches, a story board and vibrant banners throughout the square. As well as providing colourful animation for the district, it will also provide a place to

sit and enjoy and enjoy the natural environment within an urban setting. Planting will be maintained by a professional landscape gardener, with displays changed three times a year.

The centre piece of the installation is 6 planters that will be devoted to growing flax between April and June each year. The flax will then be harvested, turned into linen yarn using traditional methods, and subsequently used to make a linen garment. The garment will be awarded to the local business that has done the most for sustainability or the green economy over the last 12 months.

Returning linen production to the linen quarter is resonant with symbolism and reconnects the district with its historic past, which in the 19th century was the very centre of the largest linen industry of the world. But connecting locally grown flax with sustainability also points to the future, and our determination to make the Linen Quarter one of the most environmentally friendly business districts across these islands.





## DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

Belfast Central Business District (BID) Ltd - Linen Quarter BID Annual Report And Accounts Summary 2018/19

## DIRECTORS' STATEMENT ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The directors present herewith the summary financial statement of Belfast Central Business District (BID) Ltd for the period ended 31st March 2019 and confirm the following:

- the summary financial statement is only a summary of information derived from the company's annual accounts;
- the summary financial statement does not contain any additional information derived from the directors' report;
- the full annual accounts, the Chartered Accountant's report and the directors' report can be obtained on application to Belfast Central Business District (BID) Ltd;
- the annual accounts were approved by the Board on 14th May 2019

This directors' statement was approved by the board of directors on 14th May 2019 and signed on its behalf by:

John Paul Johnston

Director

**Christopher John McCracken** 

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Director

## ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

Belfast Central Business District (BID) Ltd - Linen Quarter BID Annual Report And Accounts Summary 2018/19

## ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BELFAST CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT (BID) LTD

We have examined the summary financial statement of Belfast Central Business District (BID) Ltd.

### Respective responsibilities of directors and examiner

The directors are responsible for preparing the summary financial statement in accordance with applicable law. Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summary financial statement with the full annual accounts and Directors' Report, and its compliance with the relevant requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013. We also read the other information contained in the summary financial statement and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summary financial statement.

### **Basis of opinion**

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the guidance issued by Chartered Accountants Ireland. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the company and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the directors concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

## **Opinion**

In our opinion the summary financial statement is consistent with the full annual accounts and directors' report of Belfast Central Business District (BID) Ltd for the period ended 31st March 2019 and complies with the applicable requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013, and the regulations made thereunder.

### **Diamond & Skillen**

Chartered Accountants Sinclair House 89/101 Royal Avenue Belfast BT1 1FE

14th May 2019

## SUMMARY INCOME STATEMENT

Belfast Central Business District (BID) Ltd - Linen Quarter BID Annual Report And Accounts Summary 2018/19

### SUMMARY INCOME STATEMENT

for the period from 22nd December 2017 (incorporation) to 31st March 2019

	Notes	£	£
INCOME			
Levy collection	1	380,365	
Linenopolis income	2	16,711	
Other income	3	8,464	
		-	405,540
PROJECT COSTS			
Safe & Secure	4	22,401	
Cleaner & Brighter	4	45,995	
Promoted & Vibrant	4	106,316	
Regeneration & Investment	4	52,276	
		_	226,988
OTHER COSTS			
Setup costs	5	23,451	
Admin & Organisation	6	61,973	
		_	85,424
SURPLUS FOR THE PERIOD			93,128

NOTES TO THE SUMMARY INCOME STATEMENT

## 1. Levy collection £380,365

Total levy billed was £463,942. Amount collected as at 31st March 2019 was £380,365 - a collection rate of 81.98%. The Board expect this collection rate to increase to over 90% following the issue of final demands.

## 2. Linenopolis £16,711

Linenopolis sales were £13,711 and there was £3,000 received from third parties to help with operating costs of the facility.

## 3. Other income £8,464

This is grant funding from Government departments to assist with the running of projects.

## 4. Project costs £226,988

Direct costs allocated to activity in furtherance of the BID company's aims.

## 5. Set Up Costs £23,451

This is an exceptional one-off charge related to the initial BID development costs, including development of the business plan and start-up administration.

## 6. Admin & Organisation £61,973

Overall costs related to governance and administration of the BID company amount to £61,973 which is 15.28% of total income received to date, or 13.35% of total billed levy.

## BALANCE SHEET

## Belfast Central Business District (BID) Ltd - Linen Quarter BID Annual Report And Accounts Summary 2018/19

## SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (BALANCE SHEET) as at 31st March 2019

	Notes	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks	1	3,000	
Receivables	2	112,461	
Cash and cash equivalents	3	124,352	
		-	239,813
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	4	(146,685)	
		-	(146,685)
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT I	LIABILITIES		93,128
RESERVES			
Income statement	5	93,128	
		-	93,128
EQUITY			93,128

NOTES TO THE SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

## 1. Stock £3,000

Stock of goods relating to Linenopolis project.

## 2. Receivables £112,461

Relates to final invoice to Belfast City Council for levy collection in the year. At the date of signing of the accounts, all trade debtors recognised in the accounts have been received.

### 3. Cash and cash equivalents £124,352

At the statement date, all funds are held in business current accounts. The Board has approved that £50,000 be invested in a reserve fund to which the company will have immediate access.

## 4. Payables £146,685

Relates to trade creditors of £1,749, Value Added Tax of £13,481, HMRC payroll taxes of £3,305, accrued expenses of £53,150 and £75,000 loaned by Belfast City Council to enable the set up of the BID structures. At the date of signing of the accounts, all of these have been paid with the exception of the Belfast City Council advance.

## 5. Reserves £93,128

All reserves are carried forward to be applied to projects in the forthcoming financial year(s).

## **BOARD LEADERSHIP**& CORE TEAM







Phil Donaldson



Christopher McCracken



Leeza Dixon



Kerry Hillis

## Paul Johnston Chair of Linen Quarter BID

Paul is Director of Arup, a global engineering consultancy business. leading the Belfast team with over 100 staff. A structural engineer by profession, Paul has been active within the construction industry for almost 40 years. One of his most notable projects was delivery of the multi-award-winning Victoria Square in 2008; a huge retailled regeneration which significantly raised the quality of Belfast's offer, and continues to act as a major economic driver today. Paul leverages this significant experience into the BID, including leadership of its strategic vision. "The linen quarter has significant scope for further regeneration, including re-imagined public realm and growing its 'city living' element."

## **Phil Donaldson**

## **Deputy Chair of Linen Quarter BID**

Phil is a director of the Limelight Belfast, a multi-purpose events venue based in the heart of the Linen Quarter, which regularly plays host to internationallyrenowned musical artists as-well as offering an important platform for local acts to be showcased. Phil is also a director with Belsonic Ltd which promote the June festival Belsonic at Ormeau Park and Live at CHSq in August, producing two of Northern Ireland's most popular summer music festivals. Phil is deputy chair of the BID, and also chairs its events & hospitality sub-group. "The Linen Quarter is a vibrant and historic part of Belfast. The beautiful heritage buildings offer a mix of business and hospitality in the heart of the city and I'm delighted to be involved."

## Christopher McCracken

## **Company Secretary & Managing Director** Christopher has over 20 years public

sector experience. Recruited as a UK civil service fast streamer he initially worked in law enforcement, at both national and international level, before joining the City of Westminster as Head of City Operations. During his time in London he worked alongside business improvement districts such as Heart of London, Better Bankside, and London Bridge BID, as they were first introduced into the UK. In 2012 Christopher returned to Belfast to join Belfast's City Centre Regeneration Team, where he programme managed over 20 projects, including the Linen Quarter Vision. "I have seen at first hand the transformational power of BIDs over the last 15 years and I am committed to using their intense local focus to help drive positive changes for the benefit of our levy payers, and all who live, work in, or visit the Linen Quarter"

## Christopher's role of Company Secretary involves ensuring the overall compliance of the organisation with all statutory requirements and company duties.

In his role as Managing Director Christopher works alongside the Chair to set the strategic vision for the BID. He then leads the implementation of projects and all day to day operations.

## **STAFF**

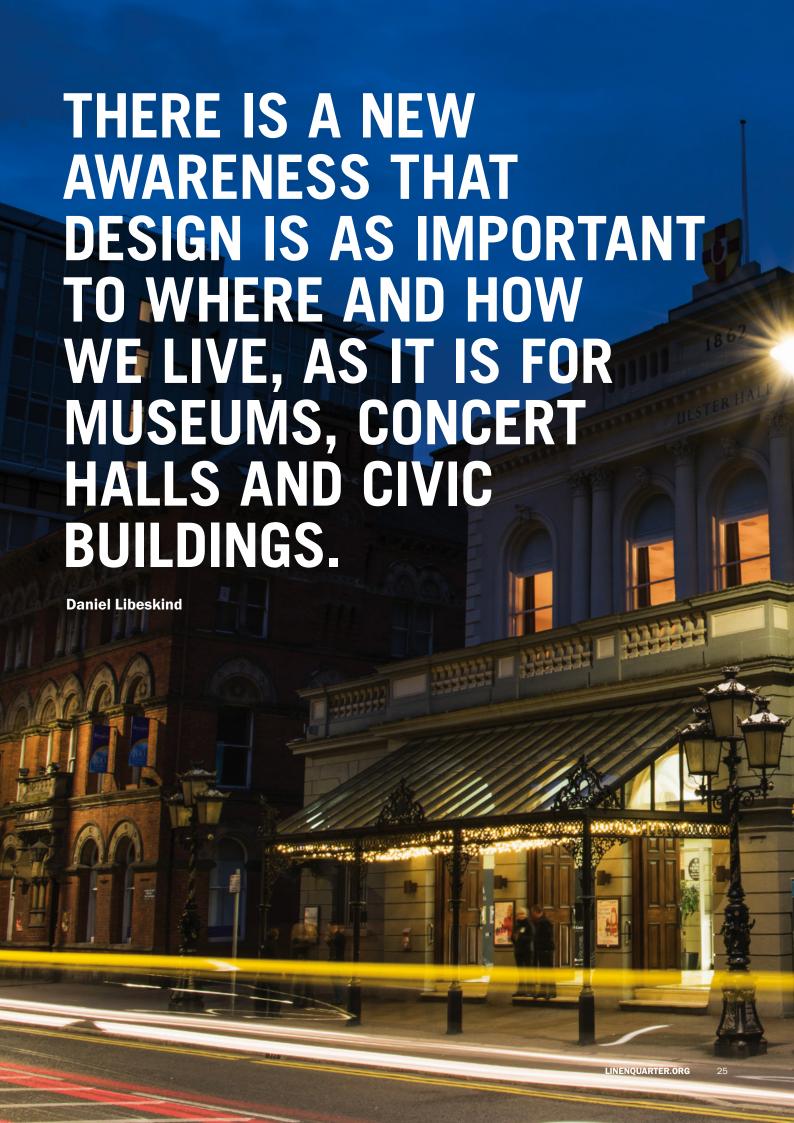
## Leeza Dixon Events & Communications Manager

Leeza has a fashion degree with a background in PR, design, marketing and radio. She has a particular passion in delivering events and is responsible for delivering an annual programme of activities across the District. She also leads the BIDs communications and website, and manages the Summer Street Ambassadors.

## **Kerry Hillis**

## **Credit Control & Contracts Manager**

Kerry has 15 years' experience in both public and private sector finance roles and holds a degree in Accounting from Queens. Kerry manages over 400 accounts between the Linen Quarter BID and our levy payers, and also manages key contracts including ISL and the Clean Team.

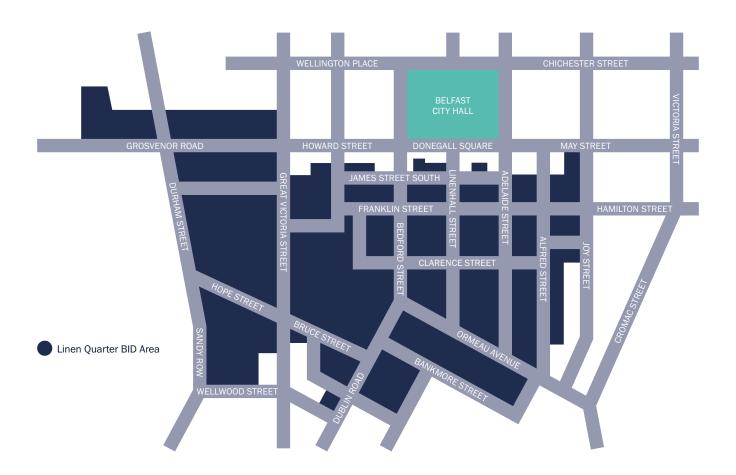


## NEXT STEPS 2019-2020

### YEAR 2

During Year 2 (April 2019 – March 2020) the BID will deliver the following initiatives:

- Promoting our regeneration vision to help influence £1 billion of development anticipated over the next 10 years, and to attract even further investment.
- Funding the PSNI to provide enhanced policing in the Linen Quarter. This additional service is for the public good and will benefit all who work, live in or visit our district.
- Extending more city festivals to the area, including the Belfast Blues Festival and Design Week.
- Delivery of a bespoke food festival in September, along with local initiatives such as Alive after 5 and a food and drink walking tour to promote cafés, pubs, hotels and restaurants.
- Delivery of relevant business seminars, including topics such as cyber security, the circular economy, sustainability, and city regeneration.
- Introduction of 'Purple Flag' a national accreditation for a wellmanaged night time economy.
- Piloting a healthy district initiative, with free healthchecks for workers based in the Linen Quarter.
- Continuation of the Clean Team,
   Summer Street Ambassadors and waste management services.



## **CONTACT US**

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