

LOQ BID

2023-

2024

ANNUAL UPDATE

linenquarter.org

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LINEN
QUARTER
BID

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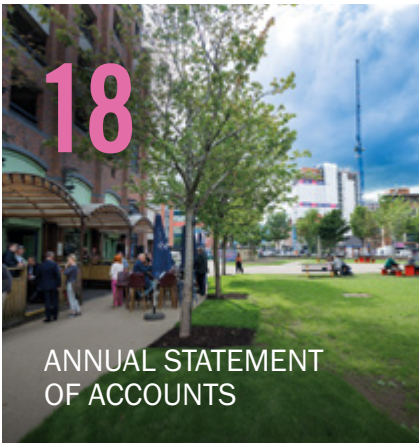


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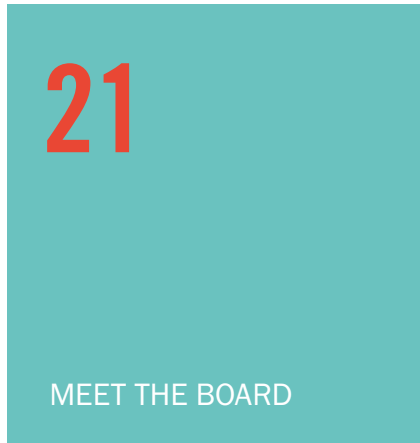
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Chair, Linen Quarter BID
Sarah Cull

THIS YEAR HAS BEEN AN EXCEPTIONAL START TO THE LINEN QUARTER BID'S SECOND TERM, WITH 78% OF OUR 50 TERM TWO PROJECTS ALREADY UNDERWAY.

With an expanded BID area and ambitious business plan for this second term, the BID staff team has been enhanced over the last 12 months which has facilitated a particularly busy and successful year of project delivery across our strategic themes. Impactful regeneration initiatives have been achieved. Notably the transformation of Bankmore Square to an open, welcoming public space and our "Great Expectations" work which has brought much needed improvements, colour and vibrancy to long-neglected parts of Great Victoria Street. This year has also seen significant steps forward in our aspiration for Linen Quarter to be a healthy and sustainable district, with several key initiatives progressing, including air quality monitoring, accreditation support for members with

Cycling UK, Living Wage Foundation and the JAM card, and the return of our Health Week and RE[act] festival.

We have been delighted at the ever-increasing engagement from member organisations, with strong participation in our programme of social events such as the summer pétanque tournament and the Burns Night supper held in early 2024. These events allow both the Board and the staff team to meaningfully connect with members and are a valuable source of ongoing feedback.

The Board and I look forward to once again supporting the staff team to maintain the positive momentum and to continue to deliver for the district in the year ahead.

THE LINEN QUARTER CONTINUES ITS JOURNEY OF PROFOUND CHANGE.

The opening of the £340m Grand Central Station will be transformational for the District, whilst the publication of the Eastern Transport Plan will help reshape wider infrastructure.

A tender for the new £23m Gasworks bridge has just been published, internal fit out at the Ewart, Vantage and BBC continues, while work on the Kainos HQ and QUB student accommodation on Dublin Road will shortly get underway.

Linen Quarter BID support all these initiatives by improving the area for all who work, live in, or visit our district. The foundation of this remains our enhanced PSNI service and dedicated clean team, but we also secured £300,000 of grants to deliver signature projects such as Bankmore Square Park and 'Great

Expectations' for Great Victoria Street. We plan to continue these initiatives over the next year, with the installation of the largest street art on the island of Ireland and enhanced landscaping for the Gasworks.

The three Belfast BIDs have also recruited a Night Czar for the City Centre – a key appointment to influence critical areas such as late-night transport. We continue to support the vibrancy of the district through our summer event programme, Belfast Restaurant Week, and our three day RE[act] Festival for a sustainable Belfast.

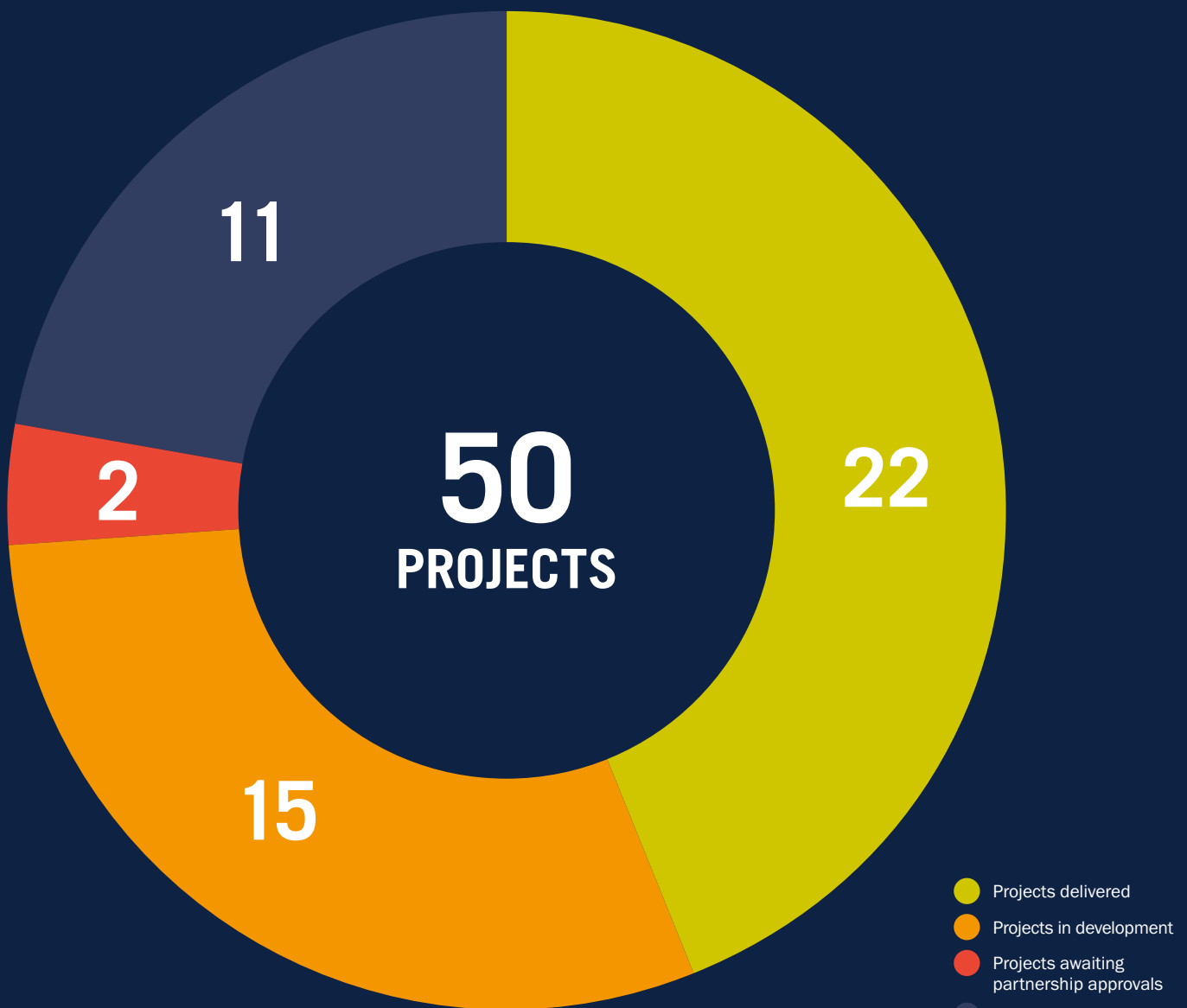
I would like to thank our Board, staff team, and levy payers for supporting LQ BID and look forward to building on these close partnerships to further enhance our district in the year ahead.



Managing Director,
Linen Quarter BID
Christopher McCracken

BUSINESS PLAN 2023-28

IN THE FIRST 18 MONTHS LQ BID HAVE EITHER
DELIVERED OR ACTIVELY PROGRESSED 74%
OF THE BUSINESS PLAN



- Projects delivered
- Projects in development
- Projects awaiting partnership approvals
- Projects not started

LINEN QUARTER LOCALS



AINE O'ROURKE **ASSOCIATE** **SOLICITOR, ELLIOTT** **DUFFY GARRETT** **SOLICITORS** **(LINENHALL STREET)**

1. What do you like most about working in the Linen Quarter?

I'm very into music and spend quite a lot of my time at venues such as the Limelight and Grand Opera House. Having these venues so close to my work makes it very easy for me if I am going to a gig or show in the evening. I'll often nip to Marcus Ward first for a drink, and utilise my 10% discount card provided for local employees!

In the summertime, I've really enjoyed taking my lunch to Bankmore Square and the great summertime especially

when LQ BID had Trad Music playing on Thursdays. It's the perfect space to chill out and clear my head during my lunch break. If colleagues are joining me, we will sometimes sit at Flaxx as well!

2. What was your first experience of LQ BID?

My first experience of LQ BID was attending the Wine, Cheese & Pétanque taster event last July. EDG legal walked away with our very own boules set, which got a lot of practice which led us to the finals of the Inter Company Pétanque Tournament in August! The whole office couldn't believe how much fun this was, having never played before. We're already looking forward to a rematch with the winners from last year – Navigator Blue.

3. What are some of your favourite LQ BID projects & initiatives?

The LQ BID put on a great variety of different events and employee experiences to suit everyone, from health classes to social events and panel discussions on important issues. I really enjoyed the Linen Quarter Health Club, which involved 8 weeks of fitness classes at Anytime Fitness in January & February. As part of

Imagine Festival in March, LQ BID staged a very thought provoking panel discussion on 'Empowering Women in Public Spaces' which I found fascinating and of course I stuck around after for a drink and a bit of craic with other local employees. Other highlights have been the Robert Burns Night Supper at Grand Central Hotel and the free gelato at Bankmore Square!

4. How do you stay in touch with the LQ BID network?

It's great to now be in touch with members of the LQ BID team, having attended various events. I read the LQ BID newsletter every Tuesday which is very informative and keeps me up to date with all the exciting events that are coming up.

5. Any final comments?

Thanks to LQ BID for all they do to continue to make the Linen Quarter a great place to work. You can tell that so much time and effort goes into the organisation of the various LQ BID initiatives and it really makes a difference.



MARK IRWIN

INTERNATIONAL DATA MANAGER

FINANCIAL TIMES (ORMEAU AVENUE)

1. What do you like most about working in the Linen Quarter?

Hard to beat working across the road from a Wetherspoons! The Linen Quarter is full of great eateries, particular highlights being the recently opened Taste Deli and Snax both on Linenhall Street. The curry from Snax is top notch, and handed to you almost immediately. Linen Quarter is ideally located within Belfast. Fantastic transport links with access to Metro buses at City Hall, as

well as Glider stops and of course the upcoming Grand Central Train Station. Cycling infrastructure is good with the Gasworks link to the Lagan towpath, along with several dedicated cycle lanes across the district.

2. What was your first experience of LQ BID?

My desk has a great view overlooking Bedford Street, and in 2018 I sat there wondering why someone was out

painting the newly widened footpath. A quick investigation later and it was LQ BID! It was part of the campaign to improve pedestrian access and brighten up Bedford Street. From this our office got more involved in LQ BID's programme of events, such as the health checks, bike servicing and of course the famous Pétanque Tournament.

3. How do you think LQ BID adds value for your business or staff team?

LQ BID is a dedicated and adventurous organisation, which isn't afraid to trial new ideas or events. This leads to a wide and diverse programme of events every year, with something for everyone; whether its morning yoga, sports, health checks, or networking events. These have proved popular in my office, with different groups taking part in different activities, and during the Pétanque tournament we had some lovely summer lunch time sessions as an office, practicing down at the Piste. The events are brilliant opportunities for staff members to get to know one another better, and meet other people across the district. The programmes work alongside Financial Times policies, helping support our business in its goals of sustainability and improving health and wellbeing of staff.

4. How do you stay in touch with the LQ BID network?

The newsletter email would be our main point of contact, along with the contacts we've gathered up on LinkedIn. We have nearly all of the office signed up to the newsletter, but it also gets shared internally for those that aren't.

5. Any final comments?

Just to thank all the staff at LQ BID, for their dedication to the district, and to everyone working in the Linen Quarter, get involved, you will enjoy it!



SAFE & CLEAN

HIGHLIGHTS THIS YEAR INCLUDED OUR FIRST EVER VOLUNTEER SPRING CLEAN, 'COFFEE WITH A COP' AND THE LAUNCH OF OUR £100K SAFER DISTRICT FUND.

On Earth Day 2024, over 40 employees from 4 LQ BID organisations supported us with a district wide clean up which included litter picking, planting and painting projects.

Coffee with a Cop provided another opportunity for organisations to engage with our dedicated Streetbeat Officer, while the Safer District Fund will provide an opportunity for levy paying organisations to suggest crime prevention initiatives which LQ BID can co-fund.

We also increased capacity within our dedicated Clean Team, from 3 to 6 days per week, helping us maintain the Linen Quarter as a Clean & Safe place to visit and do business.



| STATUS/ NUMBER | PROJECT | PROGRESS |
|-------------------|--|---|
| 1 | A weekly 'safe and clean' street audit by LQ BID staff. This will maximise the effectiveness of existing services by identifying issues across the district and requesting an appropriate response from statutory providers to resolve problems. | Street audits take place every week. LQ BID raise issues identified with statutory providers or task our own dedicated safe & clean resource to help resolve. |
| 2 | A dedicated LQ police officer to provide additional patrol hours. This experienced PSNI officer will have in-depth knowledge of the area and provide longer-term problem solving. Contact details will be shared with levy payers to facilitate direct access. | PC Sarah Craig provides a dedicated service to the District and all levy paying organisations have been issued with contact details. |
| 5 | A £100k crime prevention fund to enhance security measures for individual businesses and deliver street-based interventions such as improved lighting and CCTV. This project will be delivered in partnership with PSNI design out crime advisors | The £100k fund has recently launched with two projects – additional CCTV and alley gates – being progressed. Levy payers can apply for eligible co-funding grants. |
| 7 | A daily (Mon-Sat) Clean Team, focusing on value added services such as power washing, graffiti removal & litter picking on private property. The team will also provide a scheduled service for levy payers, on request. | The LQ Clean Team has doubled its capacity from 3 days per week in term one to six days a week in term two. The range of services, such as weed removal & biocide washes, has increased. |
| 8 | Make arrangements with DFI to introduce dedicated maintenance for Bankmore Square, which is currently badly neglected and suffers from blight and anti-social behaviour. This supports a complimentary meanwhile project to renew the space. | LQ BID reopened the renovated park in June 2023 as a free to use green space that is open to all. We currently maintain Bankmore with litter picking six days a week, weekly horticultural services, and regular grass cutting. |
| 9 | Enhanced week-long deep cleans of the District at Spring, Summer, and Christmas, concentrated at high footfall locations and venues. | These services concentrate on high footfall locations, such as hotels & hospitality venues, with an open invitation to levy payers invited to request additional deep cleans during the week. |
| 10 | Additional planting across the District, including maintenance of year-round planting at parklets & other designated planters, the Thomas Thompson Fountain, and key public spaces including Blackstaff, Bankmore, and Shaftesbury Squares. | Since 2023 LQ BID have planted an additional six sites in the District, including Bankmore Square and an urban ecology garden on Great Victoria Street. |
| 11 | Installation of colourful flower displays across the District from June to September, including flower towers along key streets and public locations. | LQ BID currently fund twenty-four summer flower towers between June and September each year. |
| 12 | Pest control services at key locations, including Blackstaff and Bankmore Squares. Additional short term pest control along streets or public spaces can also be requested by levy payers. | LQ BID fund permanent services at Blackstaff Square whilst interventions for wider locations can be funded following evaluation of member requests. |
| 3 | Support for charity partners working to alleviate street-based problems in relation to alcohol, substance abuse, and mental health. The initiative will help create a safer night-time economy and will signpost people in need to longer term help. | We work with charity partners via the Purple Flag Steering Group and the newly appointed Belfast Night Czar. A structured programme of support to be developed. |
| 4 | A package of crime prevention measures to include educational/marketing initiatives, business training & distribution of safety products for staff. | Ad hoc measures, such as PSNI visits to local organisations, are ongoing. A more structured programme of crime prevention measures to be designed. |
| 6 | Manage a safer city centre initiative between all three Belfast BIDs, the PSNI and other agencies. The initiative will feedback business concerns and identify problem solving measures. | The three BIDs have structured partnership meetings and have jointly appointed Belfast's first Night Czar. Additional joint safer city projects are being considered. |

- Projects delivered
- Projects in development
- Projects awaiting partnership approvals
- Projects not started

REGENERATION & INVESTMENT

LQ BID HAS A SUCCESSFUL TRACK RECORD OF SECURING GRANT FUNDING. THIS YEAR WE RAISED AN ADDITIONAL £300,000 FOR PROJECTS WITHIN THE DISTRICT.

Projects completed this year include the rejuvenation of Bankmore Square into a more accessible and usable green space, a biodiversity scheme at Downshire Place, cleansing of the former Shaftesbury Hospital and the installation of five murals on various sites across the District.

As well as some of the aforementioned schemes, eleven more site improvement schemes were completed as part of our “Great Expectations” streetscape improvement programme, thereby creating an open-air gallery of street art and planting along upper Great Victoria Street.



| STATUS/ NUMBER | PROJECT | PROGRESS |
|-------------------|---|---|
| 16 | Concept Designs: Maintain up-to-date web pages of recent and proposed capital projects and working with developers to help land new investment into the Linen Quarter. | LQ BID maintains and updates a register of major capital projects in the district at the following link: linenquarter.org/explore-lq/regeneration-investment-project-overview/ |
| 21 | Delivery Projects: Provide a consistent and unified voice to represent the area and support additional resource, both from existing services and emerging grant funding opportunities. | LQ BID are an active stakeholder in public policies and projects that impact regeneration, from the Bolder Vision to the Grand Central Station. Between 2023–2025 we have already secured over £400k of grants for additional delivery projects. |
| 23 | Capital Projects for 2023: A meanwhile renewal of Bankmore Square, to bring it back into public use. This will be a temporary project, in partnership with DFI and the Department for Communities, prior to the construction of the Glider route. | LQ BID led a £128,000 renovation of the space between March & June 2023, including relaid lawns and paths, new benches, tree wrap lighting, and a wild flower meadow. It is currently maintained by LQ BID as a free to use green space, open to all, with events and activities facilitated throughout the year. |
| 24 | Capital Projects for 2023: Deep clean and tactical regeneration projects along Dublin Road and Great Victoria Street. This six-figure spend, in partnership with the public sector, will support the regeneration of streets that have fallen into long term decline. | LQ BID extended to this area in February 2023 and immediately began to implement deep cleans and graffiti removal. In the following 12 months we invested £225k to deliver 16 tactical regeneration projects along Great Victoria Street, including murals, vinyls and planting. Around 90% of these costs were grant funded. |
| 14 | Concept Design: Commission a consultancy report to explore how we can enhance the Gasworks experience for workers and visitors, including improved social space, accessibility and design features. | The LQ Team have conducted several structured site visits to long list ideas & are currently leading a £200k public realm project. Further consultancy will be commissioned after this project is delivered in 2025. |
| 15 | Concept Designs: Work with statutory partners to explore further pedestrianisation, public realm, and green space where appropriate. This could include specific studies for Linenhall Street, the creation of a pocket park around the Thomas Thompson Fountain, and the remodelling of Shaftesbury Square. | LQ BID worked with DfC to renovate Bankmore Square in June 2023, and have produced a concept study to support a major redevelopment of Blackstaff Sq. |
| 18 | Transport Studies: Work alongside statutory partners to introduce a new parking strategy for the area, which will incorporate improved access for trade suppliers, taxis, disabled parking, cyclists and coaches. | A detailed commercial access strategy, with extensive local consultation, was published in 2023, and we are working to implement the ideas as part of DFI's Eastern Transport Plan. |
| 20 | Transport Studies: Contribute to emerging concepts for a cycling greenway from the proposed Gasworks Bridge to Grand Central Station, along with wider connections to West and East Belfast. | LQ BID are in the process of tendering a cycling infrastructure study to envisage a best-in-class network running through the District. We will seek to work alongside DFI to deliver this as part of the Eastern Transport Plan. |
| 26 | Delivery Projects (2023-2027): Working alongside the Department for Communities to help deliver the renewal of Blackstaff Square. | An initial concept was launched in March 2023, which was then refined following local consultation. We are actively working with DfC to implement the concept via a major regeneration of Blackstaff Square. |
| 13 | Concept Design: Renew the vision for the Linen Quarter with a professionally produced overview for the area. This document will collate all the proposed public and private projects across the District and will help integrate investment in a coherent way. | We are waiting for the publication of the Eastern Transport Plan in 2024 or 2025 before starting this supplementary initiative. |
| 17 | Transport Studies: Produce an integrated document to visualise transport investment across the District, including the opening of the Grand Central Station, Glider, Gasworks Bridge, cycling infrastructure, Streets Ahead V, and possible reconfiguration of local roads. | We are waiting for the publication of the Eastern Transport Plan in 2024 or 2025 before starting this supplementary initiative. |
| 19 | Transport Studies: Work with statutory partners to improve the crossing point for cyclists and pedestrians between Ormeau Avenue and the Gasworks. | LQ BID will be scheduling initial discussions with DFI later this year, with potential implementation in 2026 (when construction of the North-South Glider route is anticipated). |
| 27 | Delivery Projects (2023-2027): Future projects flowing from the Linen Quarter concept and transport studies, including a specific focus on projects for the Gasworks. | LQ BID aim to progress further scoping over the next 12 months. |
| 28 | Delivery Projects (2023-2027): Future partnership projects flowing from proposed public sector investment, such as Weaver's Cross, the Bolder Vision, or Streets Ahead V. | LQ BID aim to progress further scoping over the next 12 months. |
| 22 | Capital Projects for 2023: Additional parklets and cycle bays, subject to support from immediate organisations and granting of permissions. | A change in DFI policy has prevented further implementation of this project. LQ BID continue to liaise with DFI and wider stakeholders to secure policy and legislative change. |
| 25 | Delivery Projects (2023-2027): Stone benches and planting outside Bedford House, subject to permissions. | An architecturally designed concept has been created, but a change in DFI policy has prevented further implementation. LQ BID continue to liaise with DFI and wider stakeholders to try to progress this vision. |

- Projects delivered
- Projects in development
- Projects awaiting partnership approvals
- Projects not started

PROMOTED & VIBRANT

LQ BID WORKS TO MAKE THE LINEN QUARTER A MORE VIBRANT PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND VISIT, THROUGH A SERIES OF EVENTS, EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCES AND DESTINATION MARKETING INITIATIVES INCLUDING PURPLE FLAG, AND OUR £100K VIBRANT DISTRICT FUND.

This year, with the other two Belfast BIDs, we co-ordinated a successful Purple Flag Accreditation for Belfast City Centre. We launched our inter-company Pétanque Tournament, which saw 16 organisations compete in a series of lunchtime fixtures. We also welcomed almost 800 people to Bankmore Square for our Summer Event Series, and are interested in hearing from levy paying organisations about projects & initiatives we can co-curate and co-fund through our Vibrant District Fund.

We continue to market the Linen Quarter as an attractive destination to visit through dedicated PR & Marketing resource, supporting the rich leisure & hospitality offering available in the Linen Quarter. Initiatives include co-funding the Belfast City Centre Gift Card, which recently reached a new milestone of £550k contributed to the Belfast City Centre economy since 2018.



| STATUS/ NUMBER | PROJECT | PROGRESS |
|-------------------|--|--|
| 29 | A weekly digital newsletter that will highlight activities throughout the District, including LQ BID events and levy payer news. This will be supported with active social media, and an up-to date website. | A digital newsletter with informative district updates is circulated every week, along with growing social media. The LQ website was redeveloped in January 2024. |
| 32 | A Welcome Pack for every levy payer, including a guide to the area, gift card, and promotional material. | An updated Welcome Pack was designed and distributed to all levy payers in March 2024. |
| 33 | Curating a vibrant calendar of activities through BID run events, including restaurant weeks, health week, RE[act] Festival, games night, AGM, business breakfasts, and regular member's social and networking opportunities. | Our most comprehensive annual events plan was launched at our Burns Night dinner in Jan 2024. |
| 35 | Ongoing roll out of visual branding for the Linen Quarter using the bespoke colours and brand identity designed for the district. This includes vinyl wraps, banners, street installations and public art. | The LQ brand and colour scheme has been extended to Great Victoria Street & Dublin Road, with a growing sense of identity throughout the Linen Quarter. |
| 36 | Establish a £100k "Vibrant District Fund". This will co-fund ideas from levy payers who want to do something to improve the vibrancy of their workplace or the District. | Several murals have been co-funded, with discussions for a further project underway. |
| 39 | City Centre Promotion: Work across all three BIDs to promote Belfast City Centre through the gift card, purple flag accreditation (for the Night-time Economy), and other joint marketing initiatives. | The Gift Card recently reached a new milestone of £550k contributed to the Belfast City Centre economy since 2018 and all three BIDs secured a second Purple Flag Accreditation for the City Centre in January 2024. One of the outworkings of the Purple Flag was the recruitment of Belfast's first Night Czar in June 2024. |
| 34 | Curating a vibrant calendar of activities by extending existing festivals into the Quarter. Examples include Four Corners, Imagine, Blues, Trad Fest & Culture Night. The BID will also fund promotional experiences for members at existing LQ venues. | Several city festivals are included in our annual events plan with more to follow in 2025. Promotional experiences will be integrated into our 2025 'Alive after Five' marketing. |
| 38 | City Centre Promotion: Deliver two city centre restaurant weeks each year (in Q1 and Q3) in partnership with Belfast One and Destination Cathedral Quarter. | Following consultation with stakeholders, a decision was made to deliver one restaurant week per year, which will take place across the three BID areas in October 24. |
| 30 | A professionally run destination marketing campaign to promote the district, including sense of place, events & experiences, and levy payer stories. The ongoing campaign will use a range of channels, from Instagram to PR & print media, and will enhance awareness of member services as well as branding the district itself. | Branding and marketing of the district is ongoing, but the dedicated campaign has not yet been developed. |
| 31 | A specific food and drink promotion package, including marketing material that collectively sells the district, food tours, PR initiatives, and bespoke events. | Although food & drink is promoted via our gift card, restaurant week, and purple flag accreditation, a specific "Alive after 5" marketing initiative will be launched in 2025. |
| 37 | Story telling initiative through the installation of QR codes across the district. The codes will be linked to web pages providing information on history, architecture, people, and place. | This project will be developed at a later stage. |

- Projects delivered
- Projects awaiting partnership approvals
- Projects in development
- Projects not started

HEALTHY & SUSTAINABLE

LINEN QUARTER BID'S VISION IS FOR THE DISTRICT TO BECOME THE FIRST SUSTAINABLE DISTRICT IN NORTHERN IRELAND. IMPROVED HEALTH & WELL-BEING IS CENTRAL TO THIS CONCEPT.

This year we have advanced this vision by launching numerous accreditation initiatives, and can co-fund levy paying organisations to achieve Living Wage Employer & Cycling Friendly Employer Status. We work to support employees with their health and well-being, providing numerous opportunities for improved fitness through our LQ Health Club, 5-a-side football and Annual Health Week, which supported 329 local employees last year.

We are committed to lobbying for sustainable transport solutions, and have recently purchased Air Pollution monitors, known as Airbeams, and began a detailed assessment of air pollution within the district which we will use to lobby for action of poor air quality, which contributes to poor health outcomes.



| STATUS/ NUMBER | PROJECT | PROGRESS |
|-------------------|--|--|
| 40 | Healthy District: An annual health week, with a range of activities for LQ based employees, including personal health checks, physio, first aid & CPR training, mental health, cycling initiatives, fitness classes, and healthy eating. | The sixth annual health week took place from 10-16th June 2024 with the most detailed programme to date. In addition, we expanded our healthy district aspirations with gym classes and 5-a-side football throughout the year. |
| 41 | Healthy District: Co-funding AED's that levy payers wish to purchase for their organisation. LQ will help levy payers register their devices with the national database and provide annual training and ongoing awareness. | We have co-funded four additional AED's with more enquiries every month. Existing AED's in the district have been mapped and LQ BID provide AED training twice a year, plus promote the British Heart Foundation RevivR App. |
| 43 | Healthy District: Provision of cycling support for employers and employees, including subsidised workplace accreditation and free cycle training and maintenance for staff. LQ BID will fund 75% of the cost of the employer's accreditation, which is a national scheme led by Cycling UK. | A programme of company cycling accreditation and audits is underway. |
| 42 | Healthy District: Management of air quality monitoring across the Linen Quarter, combined with an area-based health assessment. Datasets will be used to make the business case for additional health related investments. | Four monitors have been purchased and loaned to levy payers to make their own personal air quality assessments. A hotspot map of the District is being developed. |
| 44 | Sustainable District: Curating the biennial RE[act] Festival for a Sustainable Belfast. The Festival incorporates keynote speakers, local organisations, and individual activities, and provides a forum to debate critical issues. RE[act] is delivered in partnership with the BCC Resilience Commission. | The RE[act] Festival will return from 12-14th November, with venue and keynote speakers already booked and a programme of supporting events currently being curated. |
| 46 | Sustainable District: Provision of sustainable waste management. LQ BID has selected RiverRidge as the preferred supplier for the District due to its superior commitment to sustainable practices – including free consultancy and reduced landfill – along with the competitive rates offered as a bulk provider. | Originally launched in term one, with around 80 LQ organisations already signed up. The service is currently being scoped for a second iteration later in 2024. |
| 49 | Sustainable District: Work with statutory partners to bring forward plans for active and sustainable travel, and fund sustainability concept studies to support initiatives such as the roll out of super blocks or green buildings within the District. | A concept study for cycling infrastructure is currently being tendered. |
| 50 | Sustainable District: Encouraging the adoption of best practice initiatives for organisations across the District. This includes support for ESG reporting and helping to create a more sustainable and inclusive economy through the roll out of the JAM card and company accreditation from the Living Wage Foundation. | LQ BID is actively supporting levy payer accreditation for JAM card and Living Wage, including financial support. An initiative to support ESG reporting, and other best practices, will be developed at a later stage. |
| 45 | Sustainable District: Free building audits – administered by Climate NI – who will review the energy use, waste and carbon of buildings as well as the sustainability of products and services. | Scoping work for this service will start later in 2024. |
| 47 | Sustainable District: Green Energy, in partnership with Power NI. LQ organisations can sign up for accredited green energy at no extra cost, along with free support to reduce energy use and improve efficiency. | Originally launched in term one, but with low take up. The service is currently being scoped for a second iteration later in 2024. |
| 48 | Sustainable District: Climate awareness training, and other packages to support sustainability, will be offered to levy payers at no or significantly reduced cost. | Originally launched in term one, with several successful training sessions. The service is currently being scoped for a further iteration later in 2024. |

- Projects delivered
- Projects in development
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- Projects not started

THIS YEAR'S PRIORITIES/ UPCOMING INTERVENTIONS

BELOW ARE SOME OF THE PRIORITIES WE WILL AIM TO TAKE FORWARD IN THE SECOND YEAR OF OUR TERM, ALONGSIDE OUR ONGOING PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES.

1

SUMMER EVENTS PROGRAM

We have an extensive summer events and employee experiences program, which will add to the Linen Quarter as an attractive place to live, work and visit. This includes our Inter-Company Pétanque Tournament and a range of musical concerts and outdoor sports and games at Bankmore Square.

2

SAFER DISTRICT INITIATIVES

LQ BID are working with various stakeholders on a number of crime prevention initiatives, including installing CCTV at lower Dublin Road & Great Victoria Street, which is co-funded by LQ BID to the value of £5000. We are also working with BCC to add Alley Gates to Ventry Lane.

3

GASWORKS OUTDOOR LIVING ROOM

LQ BID is working to transform the central green space in the Gasworks into a public 'outdoor living room' with the aim of promoting the space as a social focal point for Gasworks employees and visitors alike through the additional of dynamic and user-friendly public realm features such as seating, planting and games. Design consultations are underway with the project due to be delivered by the summer of 2025.

4

BELFAST RESTAURANT WEEK

Belfast Restaurant Week, led by the three Belfast BIDs, LQ BID, Belfast One and Destination CQ, will return with a brand new format and new look from October 7th-13th. We are excited to work with local hospitality venues across the district to build on this long-standing festival for the city.

5

RE[act] FESTIVAL OF SUSTAINABILITY

On November 12th-14th we will stage the second iteration of our biennial RE[act] festival for a Sustainable Belfast. Key note speakers include Andrew Muir MLA (Minister for Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs); Raquel Noboa (Founder & CEO of 50 Shades Greener) and Nicholas Boyd Smyth (Founder & Chairman of Create Streets). We are interested in hearing from individuals and organisations who may be interested in staging events as part of the festival program.

MEET THE BELFAST CITY CENTRE NIGHT CZAR: MICHAEL STEWART

INITIALLY I HAVE SET OUT A VISION THAT BELFAST SHOULD BE THE BEST NIGHT TIME ECONOMY ON THE ISLAND OF IRELAND.

Tell us about yourself. What is your experience of working in Belfast's Night Time Economy?

I've been involved in the Night Time Economy (NTE) in Belfast for the last 38 years. During that time, I've witnessed good times and bad times, changes for the better and changes for the worse. That taught me very quickly to manage what you can control and adapt to what you can't control.

In 1987 I returned from London to manage Belfast's first themed bar, Bob Cratchit's. In 2024, I am currently a director of Common Market in Cathedral Quarter.

I sat on the steering group of the Get Home Safe campaign in 2003; this was Belfast's inaugural NTE forum.

Why are you passionate about Belfast's NTE? What are some of your favourite parts of Belfast's Night Time offering?

I've always had a passion for the industry from the early days. It's either in your blood or it isn't! It's a cliché but our NTE is all about the people, both customers and employees. It is a vibrant sector that contributes so much to the economy but receives less than deserved recognition from local government. Hopefully this will change.

Although it has its challenges, Belfast punches well above its weight on a world scale, yes I said a world scale! Ironically I don't go out that much in a social capacity in Belfast but when I do I make



ALTHOUGH IT HAS ITS CHALLENGES, BELFAST PUNCHES WELL ABOVE ITS WEIGHT ON A WORLD SCALE.

up for it so to speak and it is usually spent with some friends in a specific set of restaurants or bars. Semi interesting fact... I love all things Christmas. When all the venues dress up in style for the festive season, and the fairy lights come on in the evening, I'm in my element! Santa Czar!!

What will be your priorities for the role?

There are many challenges ahead in this role but I have identified some key priorities that require urgent attention. Initially I have set out a vision that Belfast should be The best Night Time Economy on the island of Ireland. How do we achieve that vision? By Communicating, Advocating and Networking.

Some people talk about 'low hanging fruit', I prefer to call these 'early opportunities'. Top of the To Do List is connectivity. Our late-night transport system is, unfortunately, not fit for purpose. This needs to change. If we can get a permanent late night transport system in place with buses and trains this will take significant pressure off an understaffed taxi network which is lobbying for a change in legislation to help kick start recruitment of drivers. This in turn will enhance the second priority of safety and well-being in the NTE.

A Night Bus / Train is for life, not just for Christmas!

SUMMARY INCOME STATEMENT

Belfast Central Business District (BID) Ltd - Linen Quarter BID Annual Report and Accounts Summary 2023/24

SUMMARY INCOME STATEMENT for the year ended 31st March 2024

| | Notes | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|--|-------|----------------|-----------------|
| INCOME | | | |
| Levy collection | 1 | 608,539 | 488,452 |
| Grants | 2 | 285,671 | 59,000 |
| Other income | 3 | 22,606 | 14,088 |
| | | 916,816 | 561,540 |
| PROJECT COSTS | | | |
| Safe & Clean (2023: Safe & Secure) | 4 | 167,541 | 89,540 |
| Healthy & Sustainable (2023: Cleaner & Brighter) | 4 | 75,521 | 83,227 |
| Promoted & Vibrant | 4 | 147,871 | 145,472 |
| Regeneration & Investment | 4 | 379,766 | 255,047 |
| | | 770,699 | 573,286 |
| OTHER COSTS | | | |
| Setup costs | | – | – |
| Admin & Organisation | 5 | 103,803 | 83,924 |
| | | 103,803 | 83,924 |
| SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) | | 42,314 | (95,670) |

BALANCE SHEET

Belfast Central Business District (BID) Ltd - Linen Quarter BID Annual Report and Accounts Summary 2023/24

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (BALANCE SHEET) as at 31st March 2024

| | Notes | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|--|-------|------------------|------------------|
| NON CURRENT ASSETS | | | |
| Fixtures, fittings & equipment | | — | — |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | | |
| Stocks | | — | — |
| Receivables | 1 | 511,331 | 265,228 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 2 | 334,468 | 406,598 |
| | | 845,799 | 671,826 |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | | |
| Payables and deferred income | 3 | (579,214) | (447,555) |
| | | (579,214) | (447,555) |
| TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES | | 266,585 | 224,271 |
| RESERVES | | | |
| Income statement | 4 | 266,585 | 224,271 |
| | | 266,585 | 224,271 |
| EQUITY | | 266,585 | 224,271 |

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 2024 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 June 2024

This directors' statement was approved by the board of directors on 20th June 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Sarah Cull
Chair of Directors



Christopher John McCracken
Managing Director

NOTES TO THE SUMMARY INCOME STATEMENT AND BALANCE SHEET

NOTES TO THE SUMMARY INCOME STATEMENT

1. Levy collection £608,539 (2023: £488,452)

| | 2023/24 | 2022/23 | 2021/22 | 2020/21 | 2019/20 | 2018/19 | TOTAL |
|---|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
| Levy billed in year | 661,466 | 526,272 | 525,903 | 358,304 | 470,860 | 463,673 | 3,006,478 |
| Levy adjustments (incl permanent write offs) | (2,891) | (8,234) | (10,293) | (8,896) | (5,743) | (9,255) | (45,312) |
| Levy recognised | 658,575 | 518,038 | 515,610 | 349,408 | 465,117 | 454,418 | 2,961,166 |

| COLLECTION | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------|---------|---------|-------|-------|---------|
| in 2018/19: £380,365 | — | — | — | — | — | 380,365 | 82.03% | 380,365 | | | | | |
| in 2019/20: £453,087 | — | — | — | — | 405,558 | 86.13% | 10.25% | 453,087 | | | | | |
| in 2020/21: £293,043 | — | — | — | 246,914 | 68.91% | 35,598 | 7.56% | 293,043 | | | | | |
| in 2021/22: £529,519 | — | — | 435,695 | 82.85% | 79,384 | 22.16% | 11,009 | 2.34% | 529,519 | | | | |
| in 2022/23: £488,452 | — | 441,215 | 83.84% | 34,155 | 6.49% | 7,006 | 1.96% | 2,634 | 0.56% | 488,452 | | | |
| in 2023/24: £608,539 | 554,078 | 84.13% | 21,637 | 4.18% | 20,368 | 3.95% | 2,666 | 0.76% | 5,592 | 1.20% | 4,198 | 0.92% | 608,539 |
| Outstanding levy balance at 31 Mar 2024 | 104,497 | 15.80% | 55,186 | 10.49% | 25,392 | 4.83% | 13,438 | 3.75% | 4,726 | 1.00% | 4,922 | 1.06% | 208,161 |
| COLLECTION RATE | 84.20% | 89.51% | 95.17% | 96.25% | 99.00% | 98.94% | 93.08% | | | | | | |

2. Grants £285,671 (2023: £59,000)

- Belfast City Council: Great Victoria Street Scheme £205,671
- DfC: Brunswick Street & Bankmore Square projects £80,000
- 2022/23 was income from Belfast City Council: revitalisation programme.

3. Other income £22,606 (2023: £14,088)

This is specific project income, event sponsorship and contributions from other organisations towards shared expenses.

4. Project costs £770,699 (2023: £573,289)

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

5. Admin & Organisation £103,803 (2023: £83,924)

Overall costs related to governance and administration of the BID company amount to

£103,803 (2023: £83,924) which is 11.32% (2023: 14.49%) of total declared income (levy received plus other income), or 17.06 (2023: 16.58%) of total levy collected in the year. Overall admin costs in years 1 to 6 total £454,276 which is 12.68% of total income in the period.

NOTES TO THE SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

1. Receivables £511,331 (2023: £265,228)

At the date of signing of the accounts, all trade debtors recognised in the accounts have been received.

2. Cash and cash equivalents £334,468 (2023: £406,598)

At the statement date, all funds are held in business current accounts. The Board has approved that £100,000 be invested in a reserve fund to which the company will have immediate access.

3. Payables and deferred income £579,214 (2023: £447,555)

Relates to trade creditors of £30,535 (2023: £58,929), Value Added Tax of £88,924 (2023: £9,383), HMRC payroll taxes of £nil (2023: £4,516), next-year levy received in advance of £442,825 (2023: £352,868) and accrued expenses of £16,930 (2023: £21,858). At the date of signing of the accounts, all creditors have been paid.

4. Reserves £266,585 (2023: £224,271)

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

MEET THE BOARD

The Linen Quarter BID is an independent not for profit company that focuses on delivering specific improvements in the area. The BID was democratically elected for a five-year term, starting in February 2018, and is governed by a Board of Directors drawn from local organisations across the area. The BID's mandate was extended for another five years after a re-ballot in January 2023.



Sarah Cull
LQB Chairperson
Credit Manager
Danske Bank



Colin Mountstephen
LQB Deputy Chairperson
Director
Deloitte



Fearghal McKinney
LQB Company Treasurer
Chief Executive
British Heart Foundation



Christopher McCracken
LQB Managing Director
& Company Secretary



Mairead Scott
Managing Director
MCS Group



Eamon Butler
Director
CBRE



Louise Doyle
Station Manager
Belfast Grand Central
Station



Jonathan Topping
General Manager
Clayton Hotel



Julia Corkey
Chief Executive
ICC Belfast



Andrew Wiggham
Head of Operations
Grand Opera House



Karen Blair
Chairperson & Director
Cleaver Fulton Rankin



Michael Mitchell
Associate Director
ARUP

MEET THE TEAM



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Managing Director
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Christiaan Karelse
Regeneration Manager
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Lawrence Tingson
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Constable Sarah Craig
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Ryan Magee
Clean Team
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charlotte@linenquarter.org



Fergal Donnelly
LQ Gardener
Contact:
charlotte@linenquarter.org



Linen Quarter BID
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HERE'S WHAT YOU HAD TO SAY ABOUT LQ BID

Taken from our 2023/24 Annual Survey

“LQ BID'S STREETBEAT OFFICER, PC SARAH CRAIG, IS APPROACHABLE, AVAILABLE AND VISIBLE WITHIN THE BID”

Jonathan, Clayton Hotel

“BRILLIANT EVENTS, GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO NETWORK AND REALLY BOOSTS LIFE WORKING IN THE LINEN QUARTER, ENCOURAGING US TO USE THE BUSINESSES HERE”

Aoife, AtkinsRéalis

“LINEN QUARTER BID HAVE PROVIDED RELATE NI WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED AND ALSO TO BRING OUR WORK TO OTHER BUSINESSES. IT HAS BEEN GREAT MEETING OTHERS AROUND THE AREA. WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE MORE OF THESE NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES”

Frances, Relate NI

“THE LQB TEAM ARE VERY HELPFUL WHEN DEALING WITH SPECIFIC CHALLENGES WITHIN THE AREA”

Andrew, Grand Opera House

“KEEP UP THE EXCELLENT WORK, YOU ARE TRANSFORMING BELFAST!”

Aaron, Exegy

“THE EVENTS ARE EXCELLENT AND CREATE A REAL BUZZ AROUND THE AREA. OUR TEAMS ENJOY HAVING THE OPTION TO ATTEND EVENTS (PARTICULARLY IN SUMMER) THAT ALLOW THEM TO ENJOY THE OUTSIDE SPACE”

Mairead, MCS

“THE AREA IS MUCH BETTER WITH THE MURALS IMPROVING THE AREA. HOPEFULLY THIS WILL INCREASE THE BUSINESS INVESTMENT IN THE AREA”

Jonathan, Clayton Hotel

“VAST IMPROVEMENT IN THE AREA OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS”

Karmain, Ciena Limited

“THE DEDICATED POLICE OFFICER / STREETBEAT SERVICE IS AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE FOR THE DISTRICT”

Louise, Translink

“LQ BID IS RUN WELL, STAFF ARE CLEARLY DEDICATED, WILLING TO TRY IDEAS WHICH I APPRECIATE”

Mark, Financial Times

“A DEFINITE IMPROVEMENT ALL ACROSS THE AREA, WHICH LOOKS TIDY AND CLEANER. REALLY GOOD”



Gary, Navigator Blue Ltd

“THE CLEANLINESS HAS DEFINITELY IMPROVED MASSIVELY FROM WHEN WE FIRST MOVED IN DURING OCTOBER 2021”

Sarah, Openfolde

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