

Department for Social Development  
Belfast City Centre Regeneration Directorate  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Lesley House  
25 Wellington Place  
Belfast  
BT1 6GD

27<sup>th</sup> June 2008

**Response to Belfast City Centre North West Quarter Part Two / Northside  
Urban Village Draft Regeneration Framework.**

Dear Sirs,

We are writing as a property owner and trader in the North Street area of Belfast and specifically in relation to our properties within the Regeneration Framework Area located at 143/145 North Street and the connecting properties to the rear at McKibbins Court and 32/38 Kent Street.

We are a long standing family business in this location and have traded here successfully throughout the difficult years of the troubles and the subsequent years when the area has been neglected and suffered from under investment.

We fully welcome the proposed regeneration of this area. We would however like to make the following specific points:-

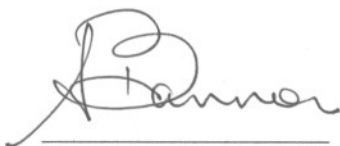
1. No one has consulted with the individual property owners or traders in the area. This in our case has led to our property above being described in the plan as part of an "Opportunity Site". I would like to point out that our property is part and partial of our retail business employing over 68 employees in the area, that it is fully utilised for storage, light assembly and manufacturing and for the distribution of our goods and services throughout the province. We have a fleet of vans and vehicles operating from this site without which our business could not function nor survive.

2. I believe that the successful economic regeneration of the North Street and Library Quarter area is best served by encouraging, in the short term, the existing businesses and owners to improve and invest in their businesses, buildings and sites. To make any investment project here economically feasible it will be necessary to offer financial inducements through urban development grants and/or rating relief. These powerful stimuli would both promote job creation, inward investment and environmental improvement, by developing vacant, derelict or underused land or buildings in this area.

As a local business, we would with the help of reasonable government backed incentives, invest in our business, create more local jobs and improve and develop our own buildings and sites.

We hope that by writing to you that our comments will be taken on board by the Department for Social Development in developing their future strategic plans and initiatives for the area and that you will fully support those existing businesses and traders.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bannons', written over a horizontal line.

**Bannons Limited**