



NorthBelfast
partnership®

3 November, 2006

By 8/11/06.

Ms Brenda Henderson
Department for Social Development
Belfast City Centre Regeneration Directorate
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B.C.C.R.D.

- 8 NOV 2006

RECEIVED

Dear Ms Henderson

Re Draft Laganside Corporation Dissolution Order (NI) 2006

Please find enclosed comments from the North Belfast Partnership Board on the above draft Dissolution Order.

Yours sincerely


George Mackey
Chairperson

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Draft Laganside Corporation Dissolution Order (NI) 2006

Comments from North Belfast Partnership

The North Belfast Partnership Board welcomes the success that the Laganside Corporation has achieved. It is important that the arrangements for the future management of the area is robust and effective. It would be most unfortunate if the momentum for redevelopment is lost. This could impact adversely on the regeneration of the adjoining areas throughout the city.

The Partnership would wish to comment as follows on its experience of the overall operation and effectiveness of the Laganside Corporation.

- 1 Laganside itself learned from its initial phase of operation that it needed to work more with and have a greater impact upon the residential communities neighbouring the Laganside areas.
- 2 This was evidenced by changes in the Board composition of the Laganside Corporation itself, liaison with the relevant area Partnerships, direct communications with local community groups, and small funding support for community and/or Partnership led initiatives.
- 3 North Belfast Partnership was a recipient of Laganside funding support for its employability project – Local Employability Action Programme (LEAP) – and benefited from Laganside’s professional advice on general economic development work, employability initiatives, and private sector engagement. The Partnership would wish to record its appreciation for such support.
- 4 The Partnership would feel, in general, that despite latter moves to make Laganside more “inclusive” – broadening its “social” agenda, working with resident local communities, engaging with a broader range of socio-economic agencies, supporting employability initiatives etc – the Laganside Corporation was overly restricted in its spheres of operation by –

having to restrict its support to activities which would assist the regeneration only of the designated area; and a lack of early and subsequently sufficiently local neighbouring community engagement

North Belfast Partnership thanks all those associated with the Laganside Corporation for their efforts in urban regeneration and looks forward to working with DSD and Belfast City Council in broadening city centre urban regeneration activities – geographically through the Cathedral Quarter and North East Quarter developments and thematically through a greater integration of social development with physical and economic development.

November, 2006