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Dear Brenda

LAGANSIDE DISSOLUTION ORDER (NI) 2006

Thank you for your letter and for sending me a copy of the Draft Order and the Minister's statement.

When the Laganside Company was formed in 1987 it was against a background of uncertainty and insecurity. The need to attract investment and employment was paramount but so was the less tangible perception of Confidence and Civic Pride.

With the announcement of the Cross Harbour Bridges and the consequent evolution to the Laganside Corporation in 1989 a very public endorsement of the original aims gave increased confidence and capacity.

The Minister's intention to "... explore the possibility of the Council taking ownership and statutory responsibility for the public assets" together with amended Articles 15, 16 & 18 set out in Schedule 2 is to be much welcomed especially when linked to the new arrangements for Public Administration in 2009.

Whilst the tangible assets may be counted the Laganside name has now become internationally recognised with a very good reputation for City Regeneration, Probity and Economic Success. Such reputations can be fragile if not respected and lapse if inactive.

Laganside has already evolved from a Company to a Corporation and should transmute to the City which is its *raison d'être*. The way this is done will be crucial to sustain the goodwill and confidence built up since 1987.

Laganside's name and reputation should be valued alongside the tangible assets and given equally serious consideration. As a proven driving force it should make the very best contribution to the City's new dimensions in 2009.

I hope these comments may be useful in further discussions.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Hunter