

**DEVELOPMENT SCHEME  
COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT AREA 136  
VICTORIA SQUARE, BELFAST  
  
FINAL DECISION STATEMENT**

**DEPARTMENT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

**DECEMBER 2002**

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**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 On 12 September 2002 the Department for Social Development ("the Department") published an Interim Decision Statement ("IDS") in respect of the Comprehensive Development Scheme for Area 136: Victoria Square, Belfast ("the Development Scheme").
- 1.2 The IDS was published following the holding of an inquiry into the Development Scheme between 22 January 2002 and 31 January 2002 and after the Department had considered all the objections to the Development Scheme, the Planning Appeals Commission ("PAC") recommendations and the Commissioner's Report.
- 1.3 The Department concluded that it was minded to adopt the Development Scheme as amended, subject to consideration of any representations received by the Department in writing from interested parties by 10 October 2002. The IDS together with the Planning Appeals Commission ("PAC") Recommendations, the Commissioner's Report and the Development Scheme in the form proposed to be adopted were provided to all interested parties as well as all relevant Government Departments.
- 1.4 Since the publication of the IDS the Northern Ireland Assembly has been suspended under the provisions of the Northern Ireland Act 2000. Consequently the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has taken the final decision in respect of whether the Department should adopt the Development Scheme.

**2 DEPARTMENT'S CONCLUSIONS**

2.1 The Department has received a number of representations in response to the IDS and copies are provided with this Final Decision Statement ("FDS"). The Department has given careful consideration to all of these representations.

2.2 The representations received do not cause the Department to reach a different conclusion in respect of the Development Scheme to that set out in the IDS. In particular, the representations raise no new issues which:

- were not set out in the original objections to the Development Scheme considered by the Commissioner and the PAC at the Public Inquiry, and subsequently considered by the Department in the context of the IDS; or
- are of relevance to the Development Scheme; or
- are of such materiality to override, or change the balance of judgement indicated in the IDS.

2.3 Accordingly this FDS is accompanied by an Order adopting the Development Scheme.

**3 THE VESTING ORDER**

3.1 In the IDS the Department indicated that it did not propose to reach a decision on the PAC recommendations or the Commissioners comments in respect of the Vesting Order until at least a further period of consultation on DSD's intention to adopt the Development Scheme. A decision will be reached on the proposed Vesting Order in due course.

**4 SUMMARY**

4.1 The Department has published the IDS in respect of the Development Scheme.

4.2 Having fully considered the representations on the IDS relating to the Development Scheme, the Department has decided to adopt the Development Scheme with amendments, as the representations do not raise any new issues or issues of such materiality as to override or change the balance of judgement indicated in the IDS, so that the Development Scheme should not be adopted.

4.3 An Order adopting the Development Scheme accompanies this FDS.

4.4 The Department's decision on the Vesting Order will be published in due course.

**Department for Social Development**  
**[ ] December 2002.**