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From: Orla McCann [OrlaMcCann@disabilityaction.org]
Sent: 30 September 2008 16:54
To: Business Support Unit
Subject: FW: Belfast City Centre Westside Regeneration District Draft Masterplan

-----Original Message-----

From: Orla McCann
Sent: 30 September 2008 15:53
To: 'business.support@dndni.gov.uk'
Subject: Belfast City Centre Westside Regeneration District Draft Masterplan

Regarding the Belfast City Centre Westside Regeneration District Draft Masterplan Disability Action are concerned that the piecemeal approach to the regeneration of Belfast City Centre without an overall strategic masterplan for the whole City Centre will result in a disjointed city which is inaccessible to disabled people.

We see from the documentation that DSD fully commit to complying with Section and urge that the department go beyond the minimum requirements of this law and of the new "disability duties" to create a city centre which will promote equality of opportunity for and public participation by disabled people.

Whilst we appreciate the need to regenerate the aesthetic of the city centre this should not be at the expense of accessibility. Disability Action has been in contact with the Minister to express our wider concerns regarding the future accessibility of Belfast City Centre.

We do not see any mention of the accessibility and mobility needs of people with disabilities in this document and are disappointed that the flavour of the desired product will in fact have the opposite effect to that set out above and will discourage disabled people from using Belfast City Centre.

Orla McCann
Access Manager
Disability Action

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www.disabilityaction.org/register.aspx
<<http://www.disabilityaction.org/register.aspx>>

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