

 **Belfast City Council**

Connectivity, active travel & place-making

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AMBITIONS & VISION

A CITY IMAGINING SUPPORTING CULTURAL RECOVERY

OUR GOAL

- To transition to an **inclusive, zero-emissions, climate-resilient economy** in a generation.
- **1st plan** of kind in NI

BY 2035

- Deliver **31,600** new homes
- Develop 550,000 sq m of **employment floor space**
- Increase population by **66,000 people**

The Belfast Agenda
Your future city
Belfast's Community Plan

Future Proofed City BELFAST RESILIENCE STRATEGY
Draft strategy for consultation

Belfast Local Development Plan
2021-2026

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AMBITIONS & VISION

Belfast City Centre Regeneration & Investment Strategy

- 1) Increase **Employment** Population
- 2) Increase **Residential** Population
- 3) Manage **Retail** Offer
- 4) Maximise **Tourism** Opportunity
- 5) Create **Learning** and Innovation Centres
- 6) Create a **Green, Walkable, Cyclable** centre
- 7) **Connect** to city around
- 8) A **Shared Space** and **Social** Impact

Special Action Areas created and Regeneration Taskforce established.
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CONNECTED SPACES AND PLACES

A Bolder Vision for Belfast

Re-thinking how the City's streets and places are used to make them attractive, healthy, vibrant and accessible places where people want to be...

THE CASE FOR CHANGE...

- We must address the **Climate Emergency**
- Our streets are **clogged with traffic**
- Our Central Belfast is **not accessible** by all
- Our **economy is changing**
- Our **population is changing**

... the time is now ...

... underlining all these challenges is one key opportunity ...

... a growing recognition that something needs to be done ...

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WHAT IF? ...

- ...the inner ring road became a circular park?
- ...centre of Belfast was fully pedestrianised?
- ...we reconnected with the River Farset?
- ...the city centre became the first place in Northern Ireland to become carbon neutral?
- ...public transport within the centre was free?
- ...there were green decks over the Westlink?

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CONNECTED SPACES AND PLACES

Bolder Vision - Themes for Change



City Centre as an Inclusive Place to Live, Work and Visit



Embracing our Rivers



Remove Reliance on Car Travel



Community Focused Regeneration



Active and Inclusive Public Realm and Green Spaces



Vibrant and Safe Streets



Prioritise Walking, Cycling & Public Transport



Overcoming Severance with Surrounding Communities

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REIMAGINING PUBLIC SPACE

Connecting our city's streets and places



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REIMAGINING PUBLIC SPACE

Cathedral Gardens

Los Angeles Times
 14 clever COVID-19 design solutions from around the world

Cathedral Gardens Play Park, Belfast, Ireland
 Most of an innovative pop-up park with shipping, but COVID has prompted cities to open pop-up parks on parking lots, abandoned green spaces and abandoned properties. Thanks to an emergency allocation from the Belfast City Council, Cathedral Gardens Play Park rose – in less than two months – to a square next to the University of Ulster and St. Anne's Cathedral. Designed with input from local toddlers, the park features imaginative family equipment like a giant spinning hamster wheel, "bendy" benches, outdoor musical instruments and a swinging bridge and colorful "Travis Green." The park is anticipated to be up as a trial for about two years.

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REIMAGINING PUBLIC SPACE

Reimagining Public Space - Ormeau Parklet



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BELFAST ENTRIES

Reimagining Public Space

A LUMINOUS CITY
12 NEW LED LIGHTING INTERVENTIONS

A LUMINOUS CITY
CITY WIDE PROGRAMMING

A CITY IMAGINING
33 STREET ART COMMISSIONS

CLEANER
7 ENTRIES REFRESHED

WAYFINDING
24 NEW INTERPRETIVE & BUSINESS PANELS

CLEAN & GREEN
60+ NEW PLANTERS

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REIMAGINING PUBLIC SPACE

Reimagining Public Space

Union Street

Castle Place

Linenhall Street

Warehouse Lane

Castle Place

Adelaide Street

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Forth Meadow Community Greenway

- Forth Meadow Community Greenway is a new £5.1 million EU PEACE IV-funded project to connect existing open spaces in north and west Belfast along a 12 km route from Clarendon Playing Fields to the new Transport Hub in the city centre.
- It will create paths and cycle ways along the route, with additional planting, new pathway surfaces, new street furniture, signage, wayfinding and public art.
- Funded by SEUPB, DfC, DfI and BCC



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ACTIVE TRAVEL & CONNECTIVITY

Active Travel Hubs & expanding Belfast Bikes

- Scoping emerging ATH network: locations, gaps/opportunities, wider connectivity, operating models & potential revenue tail
- Expanding Belfast Bike network
- Replaced Belfast Bikes fleet with Smart bikes



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City wide cycle parking

- Identify criteria for location of bike stands (Visible, accessible, close to destinations, safe from traffic, secure, convenient, etc)
- Identify locations including issues and constraints, i.e. land ownership, existing or planned cycling infrastructure
- Propose types of cycle stands (e.g. Sheffield, covered, secured)
- Consult with key stakeholders
- Identify revenue implications



Challenges

- Belfast is not a unitary authority and does not have control or power over the roads
 - Manage expectations around political interests and public sentiment
- Requires ongoing partnership working to delivery place-making and active travel initiatives, e.g. Belfast Cycle Network and the integration active travel, play, climate solutions into the public realm
- BCC is moving into a new space, increased focus on leveraging assets for active travel and improving city wide connectivity