A new vision for Belfast in 2035

Belfast will be a city re-imagined. A great place to live for everyone. It will energise and drive a successful economy where everyone can reach their potential.

Beautiful, well connected and culturally vibrant, it will be a city shared and loved by its people and admired around the world. It will be a producer of and magnet for talent, investment, innovation and creativity - a compassionate place where people create value and are valued.

What is the Belfast Agenda?

The Belfast Agenda is Belfast’s first community plan.

Community planning is a new responsibility Belfast City Council and a range of partners took on, as a result of local government reform. It’s about making sure that public services work together with communities to deliver real improvements for local people.

Over the past two years we have been asking residents in Belfast to tell us what kind of city they want for the future and what are the things we should be focusing on now to make this happen. People told us that they want a city that provides a high quality of life for everyone who lives here and for the city to be a great place to work, study, visit or set up and grow your business.

The Belfast Agenda has been produced by a partnership of organisations involved in delivering services across our city, including the council, health, education, housing, PSNI, Tourism NI, Invest NI and partners from the business sector and voluntary and community sectors. It is an ambitious plan and as partners we have committed to work together to improve the city and its long-term success.

Over the coming months we want as many people as possible to tell us what they think about the Belfast Agenda. This will help us improve the plan and ensure that it truly reflects the shared ambitions of people and communities from across Belfast.
By 2035, we want Belfast to be a city:

Growing the economy
Creating jobs and investment in the city

Living here
Creating a great city and neighbourhood living experience

City development
Creating the right infrastructure and regenerating our city

Working and learning
Supporting growth and connecting people to opportunities

Our ambitions
Between now and 2035, we want to deliver the following bold ambitions:

Our city is home to an additional 70,000 new residents
Our urban economy supports 50,000 more jobs

There will be a 50 per cent reduction in the life expectancy gap between neighbourhoods
Every young person leaving school has a destination that fulfils their potential
Having a good job is the most important way of improving life for many people in Belfast. The number of people out of work in Belfast is high compared with other cities. People told us that there are key issues including poor health, low skills and qualifications, and access to childcare which make it difficult for some people to return to work. We want to ensure people in Belfast have access to the best education, skills and employability opportunities, and that we do everything we can to connect people to good jobs.

Our plans for the next four years include:
✔ creating 15,000 new jobs;
✔ attracting new investment and businesses into Belfast and supporting our businesses to grow and export; and
✔ reducing economic inequalities across the city.

People have told us they want all Belfast’s residents to lead healthy, engaged and fulfilling lives as part of vibrant, growing communities and neighbourhoods. People want Belfast to continue to be a culturally rich and diverse city that is compassionate, safe and welcoming to all. A city that will enable its residents to reach their full potential at every stage of life, whether that is through employment, education, volunteering, learning for fun, sports or participating in the arts, culture, and heritage.

Our plans for the next four years include:
✔ investing over £1 billion in neighbourhoods with our partners;
✔ reducing health inequalities across the city;
✔ improving community relations; and
✔ developing programmes to support older people, children and young people and families.

We believe regenerating the city centre is key to creating the economic growth people told us they wanted to see. We need to ensure the right mix of offices, retail, hotels, tourist attractions, creative industries, universities and colleges, and housing. We want to see improvement in our water, sewage and energy infrastructure. And we want to ensure that investment in our communities, schools, transport, health and leisure facilities, and parks and open spaces are planned in a way that allows people to get the most from them.

Our plans for the next four years include:
✔ creating the Local Development Plan; a new spatial and land-use plan for the city;
✔ improving the city’s transport infrastructure;
✔ creating a further world-class visitor attraction; and
✔ delivering city regeneration and investment projects.

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Have your say on the Belfast Agenda

If you live, work, study or have a business in Belfast, then the Belfast Agenda affects you.

We want to hear your views as we seek to improve the Belfast Agenda. We want to know what you think about our proposed:

• vision for Belfast;
• long-term outcomes that we want for Belfast;
• the ambitions we want to achieve by 2035; and
• the priorities we should be focusing on for the next four years.

You can share your views by completing our online questionnaire on our website by Thursday 20 April 2017.

Find out more

To find out more about the Belfast Agenda or to download a copy of the full plan go to our website.

We will be holding briefing sessions in January and February. Keep an eye on our website for details or sign up to receive our email updates.

www.belfastcity.gov.uk/belfastagenda