Belfast Region
City Deal
Lisburn and Castlereagh
Delivering jobs through innovation

Boosting tourism

Connecting people to opportunity

- innovation and digital
- tourism-led regeneration
- infrastructure
- employability and skills

#BRcitydeal
www.belfastcity.gov.uk/belfastregioncitydeal
A City Deal is a bespoke package of funding and decision making powers agreed between central government and local regions; aimed at helping to harness additional investment, create new jobs and accelerate inclusive economic growth.

A number of other regions across the UK have benefited from City Deals, and in November 2017 the Chancellor announced that negotiations on the Belfast Region City Deal would commence.

Our goal is to use this opportunity to accelerate inclusive economic growth for the whole region and deliver more and better jobs, accessible to people from all communities.

The City Deal signals a new way of collaborative working. The BRCD is comprised of the six councils of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, Ards and North Down Borough Council, Belfast City Council, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, working in partnership with Queen’s University Belfast, Ulster University, the Further Education colleges across the Belfast Region and the Northern Ireland Civil Service.

The development of the programme is overseen by a Programme Board made up of Chief Executives of the six partner councils, senior officials from the Northern Ireland Civil Service, and the Vice Chancellors of Queen’s University and Ulster University.

In order to maximise the opportunities from the City Deal, we want to work in genuine partnership and collaborate with residents, businesses and other interested parties in tourism, infrastructure, digital and skills development throughout the process.

We have received support from all of the local political parties and from key businesses across a range of sectors for the Belfast Region City Deal proposals. In order to make a success of the Deal, it’s important that we work collaboratively and bring everyone with us.

The Belfast Region City Deal has been developed by all six partner councils. Each organisation brought forward their own proposals and the final list of projects was agreed by the BRCD partners and submitted on 28 September 2018 to the NI Secretary of State, Karen Bradley and senior officials from the Northern Ireland Office and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Following the Chancellor’s announcement in November 2017, the BRCD partners have been developing the shape of the package and working up a list of key projects and priorities. It is our intention that agreement between central government and the Northern Ireland Civil Service will be reached in the coming weeks, in order to facilitate an announcement in the Autumn Budget Statement on 29 October 2018.

We want to achieve commitment to our Heads of Terms as quickly as possible so that we can progress to the next phase and develop business cases for our proposed projects.

The Belfast Region City Deal councils have agreed an integrated set of projects to transform the region’s economy. The agreed programme will seek to address a number of key barriers to growth by taking measures to improve productivity, invest in innovation, tackle economic inactivity and deprivation, address skills gaps and inequalities, invest in additional world class visitor experiences and develop the physical and digital infrastructure.

At the heart of our City Deal vision is a drive to deliver inclusive growth and to focus efforts on areas in which we can become genuinely world class; namely digital / ICT, cyber security, life and health sciences, creative industries, advanced manufacturing and tourism.
What will the Belfast Region City Deal bring to the Lisburn and Castlereagh area?

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The BRCD includes proposals for a number of projects in the Lisburn and Castlereagh area including:

**Hillsborough Castle and Heritage Village**

The proposed investment aims to unlock and further enhance the significant tourism potential of this landmark asset. The project will create a world-class heritage attraction, encouraging greater movement and connectivity between attractions by developing Hillsborough Forest, restoring and developing Hillsborough Courthouse and Fort, developing a new magic garden in Hillsborough Castle and investing in public realms.

It is anticipated that this exciting project will not only enhance the tourism offering and increase the number of visitors, but also increase spend in the local economy and create new jobs in the area.

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Belfast Rapid Transit Phase II

The proposed extension of this strategically important public transport network into the south of Belfast, and continuing into the Carryduff area, will improve the connection to and from Belfast with the wider Glider service. It will include dedicated bus lanes, new halts and upgraded road infrastructure.

By extending into neighbouring council areas of Lisburn and Castlereagh, as well as Antrim and Newtownabbey, it will provide cross council improvements on the transport network, improving connections to health, education, leisure and jobs.

Innovation and digital capabilities

It is proposed that each council area will have a state of the art innovation hub, which will be directed towards co-making and business development support in one or more priority growth sectors within the Belfast Region City Deal. Providing a ‘front door’ - they will be designed and developed on a phased basis to meet the needs of local businesses and potential entrepreneurs in target growth sectors, and with the support of centres of excellence in local colleges. All areas will also benefit from regional investment in next generation digital connectivity and capabilities, which will help to attract new business investment.
How much investment will the Belfast Region City Deal bring?

We believe that we can secure £1 billion of investment for the Belfast Region through funding from central government, the Northern Ireland Executive and local councils over a 10 to 15 year period. Based on other City Deals, there is the potential to leverage up to £4 billion of private sector investment.

It is vitally important that the UK contribution is maximised in order to unlock the potential to leverage private sector investment and ensure that the NI Executive investment is at a scale sufficient to deliver the step change in the economy that we are aiming for. There is a real risk that the City Deal will not be viable or sustainable without the £450 million contribution from HM Treasury. The BRCD partners are also showing their commitment to the deal by contributing over £150m across a range of projects.

What will the £450 million from Central Government be used for?

The £450 million investment in the BRCD is essential if we are to boost productivity and create a dynamic and sustainable local economy. This investment will be used for non-devolved areas such as innovation and digital, focusing investment in research and development and digital infrastructure in key sectors.

What is the focus of the two Universities?

Queen's University and Ulster University are working in an unprecedented collaboration on the Belfast Region City Deal. Proposed projects will focus on a screen and media innovation lab, advanced manufacturing, digital healthcare technology, iReach clinical research facility and the Global Innovation Institute.

What about skills?

The BRCD partners will deliver an accessible employability and skills programme to ensure that people living in the Belfast Region are primed to secure and deliver the jobs being created through the BRCD. With the support of local businesses, further education colleges, universities and government agencies, the aim is to increase regional upskilling opportunities through apprenticeship hubs and a City Deal apprenticeship programme. Employability and skills projects will also target people who've been unable to access or maintain employment due to challenges associated with skills, health or caring responsibilities.

Who will benefit?

Everyone. We are committed to ensuring that the Belfast Region City Deal brings inclusive growth to every part of the community. Creating in the range of 20,000 new jobs, up-skilling the workforce, bringing investment in local infrastructure and developing local tourism will mean that we spread the benefits of the BRCD to as many people as possible.

It’s important that we bring local communities with us, and that’s why when the timing is right, we will be holding a number of community events to share our exciting plans with you and to hear from you on how we can bring economic prosperity to the region.

Belfast Region City Deal is a big deal. Can we count on your support to help make it happen?
What is ‘inclusive growth’?

Inclusive growth is a term that refers to economic growth that is designed to bring prosperity to the maximum number of people and to the widest possible geographical area. Unfortunately, despite significant progress in recent years, many communities feel that they have been left behind and have not seen the positive impact from greater levels of foreign direct investment in the Belfast Region that others have experienced.

City Deals are bespoke packages and thus allow for projects to be designed specifically for areas of deprivation or in need of investment. The BRCD has adopted a community up model whereby local councils have brought forward their own priorities as determined by local communities and their elected representatives.

What about the Derry / Londonderry City Deal?

The BRCD partners support the efforts to secure a Derry / Londonderry deal and are working to support their proposition. We believe that through working closely we can ensure the two Deals are complementary and work in a wider NI context. We also understand that more certainty is needed on the proposed deal for the Northwest at this stage.

It is important however that the Belfast Region City Deal is not delayed. The BRCD is at a more advanced stage and we want to see progress made as soon as possible.

What you can do to help us?

We need your help in securing the type of City Deal that can transform the local economy and deliver new and better jobs.

We are asking you to use your influence to:

1. Secure £450 million of investment from the UK Government for the Belfast Region City Deal
2. Ensure that Heads of Terms are agreed and signed following the Autumn Budget on 29 October 2018
3. Seek assurance that the funding flows to councils in the same way that it has for other City Deals elsewhere
4. Raise awareness of our efforts and show your support on social media using #BRcitydeal
5. Use every opportunity to share and amplify the Belfast Region City Deal narrative
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