

# Progress

Weavers Cross and Belfast Transport Hub

*Community Update*



## Weavers Cross

A new destination in the heart of the city

*The Programme for Government has been designed to make a real difference to the lives of all our citizens by improving health and well-being, addressing disadvantage, driving economic growth, and enhancing public services.*

### Environmental

It also sets out a clear ambition to transform how we travel by increasing the number of people walking, cycling and using public transport. We know that encouraging

more people to consider sustainable travel options will help to reduce congestion on our roads, protect the environment and, importantly, lead to improved physical and mental well-being.

### Infrastructure

To achieve this we need to have the right infrastructure in place. We see the Belfast Transport Hub, which represents a multi-million pound investment by the Department for Infrastructure, as a key means of delivering these aspirations. This hugely important Executive

Flagship project will create the main public transport gateway into Belfast.

### Transform

It will transform transport links within Northern Ireland and between Belfast and Dublin whilst creating a major development opportunity for the local community and Belfast City Centre. The Department will continue to work closely with our partner agencies to bring this innovative and ambitious project to fruition.

### Inside this issue:



Proud of the Past;  
Building for the Future



Connecting People,  
Place & Opportunities



Building a Sense of  
Connection

# Proud of the Past; Building for the Future



**WEAVERS<sup>®</sup>  
CROSS**

See our new website at  
[www.weaverscross.co.uk](http://www.weaverscross.co.uk)



*The Weavers Cross identity reflects our unique place in the world. We're proudly connected to our past and at the same time, enthusiastically embracing the future. We're where we've always been: at the heart of our city's development.*

## **Weavers Cross**

The area now known as Weavers Cross has always been at the heart of Belfast's infrastructure, economy and social development. From the mid 1600s, the stone bridge over the River Blackstaff was a crucial link on the road to Dublin and during the 18th and 19th centuries the area

became a centre of Belfast's world-renowned linen industry. By the mid 1800s, the railways were bringing people and prosperity to the area and today Weavers Cross offers a hugely progressive and dynamic investment opportunity.

The Weavers Cross name, developed in consultation with local communities, pays homage to the workers who made Belfast famous and also the action of the crossing of the waterway that still runs through the heart of our area as it winds its way towards the River Lagan and the sea.

## **Saltwater Square**

Saltwater Square will be the name of the new public realm and event space outside the hub. It takes its name from that original stone bridge over the River Blackstaff and in doing so, creates a direct connection with that structure's considerable cultural significance.

The Weavers Cross logo has been designed to capture our progressive, dynamic personality. The shorthand WX icon with an inter-locked graphic styling that makes reference to an historical industry and a network of possibilities, carefully weaving our past with our future.

## Connecting People, Place & Opportunities

# Translink – a Local Employer of Choice

*Translink recently hosted a Community Careers Workshop in its training HQ.*

This event was devised in response to feedback from community leaders, who indicated that residents who are currently looking for employment might be ‘put off’ or struggle to understand current recruitment/selection methods, which in turn presents a barrier when applying for jobs. The Translink HR department explained

the process behind selected recruitment processes, and provided particular information on online applications, aptitude tests and interviews.

The workshop was attended by local residents from Donegall Road, Grosvenor Road and Sandy Row.

If you are interested in applying for a vacancy or starting a career in Translink please visit [www.translink.co.uk/corporatesite/work-with-us](http://www.translink.co.uk/corporatesite/work-with-us)



## Building a skilled workforce for Belfast

*The Weavers Cross employment and skills strategy is currently in planning and will continue to seek input from key stakeholders.*

The formation of a bespoke Construction Employment Academy (CEA) is being considered as the delivery model for the roll out of construction jobs/roles. The CEA will bring together the Weavers Cross project, the local community, the appointed contractor and Belfast City Council to deliver a successful outcome of getting local people into sustainable employment.

The CEA model will host local interventions to promote these opportunities and provide readiness in our neighbouring communities. CEA is open to candidates living in the Belfast City Council area who are currently out of work or working less than 16 hours a week with a focus on those who are long-term unemployed or recent school/college leavers.

The academy will support the many opportunities around skills, training, work placement and apprenticeships – its aim is to provide real training for real construction jobs.

Training on offer will include site visits, working at heights, Construction Skills Register (CSR) health and safety training, abrasive wheels, CV building, interview and pre-employment preparation. In employment support will also be available to candidates. Keep an eye out for further information.



# Building a Sense of Connection

## *Translink and the Weavers Cross project team have completed its first volunteering 'Community Day' at Blythefield Primary School.*

Community Day is Weavers Cross' opportunity to build connections with the local community by making a small contribution to a project that will make a big impact in our neighbouring communities.

The team of 20 volunteers completed a mini makeover of two classrooms. By decorating these classrooms, the team created a fresher, brighter and

welcoming space for school pupils and staff returning from their mid-term break.

Blythefield Primary School (first in NI to be awarded School of Sanctuary status) is situated along the railway line and sits at the heart of the community. It plays a crucial role in providing local children with a safe and positive place to learn and grow.

Translink's aim, by completing this volunteering work, was to add to Blythefield Primary School's friendly and welcoming sense of place to all that work, learn and visit the school.



## Important: Consultation Phase

*Following a successful consultation process on the Transport Hub (planning application submitted to Department for Infrastructure for decision) we now want to give you the opportunity to share your views on the wider Weavers Cross development.*

As part of the wider development of the vacant sites around the new station and Saltwater Square at Weavers Cross, Translink are preparing to submit a separate Outline Planning Application.

Translink will host an extensive consultation process to engage

with as many local people as possible. Once the consultation is complete we will submit our final proposals to Belfast City Council.

### **Who is being consulted?**

Translink will be consulting with local residents, community groups, local business, young people, commuters, customers and the general public.

### **What is being proposed?**

Weavers Cross is a huge opportunity for city centre regeneration in Belfast. The site can accommodate a multi-sector and mixed use-opportunity which can cater for residential, business, retail and leisure accommodation.

### **Consultation Events**

Our consultation events will be taking place at a variety of locations across Belfast in the coming months. To ensure as many people have access to the consultation process, we are creating a pop-up exhibition in an attempt to bring the information to you.

For more information on this consultation process, please visit our new Weavers Cross website [www.weaverscross.co.uk](http://www.weaverscross.co.uk) for up-to-date information.

