Belfast Today: City Context

- 336,000 residents - 18% of NI pop
- 240,000 jobs - 28% NI GVA
- 39% workforce degree +
- 2 airports in 20 mins
- 230 flight weekly to London
- 40GB per sec USA/Europe
- Best superfast Broadband in UK
- City wide Wi-Fi
- Growing tourism economy
  9.5m visitors each year worth £430m
- Growing student population
  68,500 full and part time
Belfast Today: City Council Investment Programme

£393 million
Current value of our Investment Programme

Over £330 million
What we’ll spend on capital projects by 2023

Over £100 million
Funding levered in from others to deliver capital projects

£105 million
What we’ll spend to transform and modernise our leisure centres

Waterfront Hall

Mountain Biking

Girdwood

Innovation Factory
Belfast Today: Headline Results

CSIT

Largest centre of its kind in UK

#1

Number one location for US-based investment in the sector

Over 1,200 currently employed Projected 5,000 by 2022

#1

Number one city globally for financial technology investment

Second fastest growing knowledge economy in the UK

#1

Most business friendly city of its size in Europe, two years running

#1

Europe’s top destination city for new software development projects
Fast Facts:
• 100kms coast
• 2557 sq kms
• 3.6m people
• 61% KZN GVA
• 1 of SA’s top Metros
Population: **3.7 million**

**Main business sectors** = Manufacturing, Tourism, Finance

3rd **largest city** in South Africa

2nd **biggest manufacturing hub** in South Africa

Home to the **largest port in Africa**

Largest “**Indian city**” outside of India

Sub-Tropical climate

47 Billion Rand Annual Budget

Main business sectors = Manufacturing, Tourism, Finance

Home to longest and oldest ultra-Marathon – the Comrades Marathon

Zulu name is “**eThekwini**” from *itheku* meaning “bay”
Quick Facts about Durban

- The eThekwini City Hall is a replica of the Belfast City Hall in Northern Ireland.
- Moses Mabhida Stadium can seat 70,000 people and is widely considered one of the world's most beautiful stadiums.
- Seven million passengers capacity through the King Shaka Airport each year.
- Rickshaw pullers have been operating in Durban for more than 100 years.
- Durban was home to the first steam railway in the country, which was opened in 1860.
- Durban is named after the somewhat controversial Cape Colony governor Sir Benjamin D'Urban.
- The world's tallest bungee swing is found at the Moses Mabhida stadium (Guinness Book of Records, 14 May 2011).
- The 5th largest aquarium in the world and the biggest in Africa, uShaka Marine world.
- Durban has one of the largest concentrations of Art-Deco buildings in the world.
- The eThekwini City Hall is a replica of the Belfast City Hall in Northern Ireland.
EU WORLD CITES

- Deep connections with peace processes and reconstruction / inclusive growth.
- Heavy plant, Smart tech, food.
- Trade NI £40M
- QUB / UU links, both in post conflict and energy management
Finalised Areas of Collaboration

• Energy – CASE and eThekwini Energy office – Policy learning, TOR for Climate change Committee in Durban C40 Cities, Piloting the Photo Voltaic systems pioneered by the Ulster University within some of the city’s informal settlements and rural areas

• eThekwini should identify Academic partners to twin with the Cyber Security Industry in Belfast.

• Exchanging best practices and reviewing city level support for start-ups, entrepreneurs, incubators and accelerators – SmartXchange Durban and Catalyst Inc

• Sharing experiences around branding and development of tourism products.

• Exchange documentation on the development of Smart Cities Frameworks and Innovations

• Share experiences on community participation methodologies used in the cities, this would also include in sharing of social cohesion projects that involve, youth, women, vulnerable and disabled.
Urban Planning Challenges

- Common post conflict cities.
- Planning legacy - City Centre regeneration ‘Doughnut cities’.
- Local planning challenges 40, 40, 40.
- Planning – segregated neighbourhoods
Social Cohesion / Peace Lines

- Physical separation Communities
- Opportunities to reconnect
- Potential for shared environments
Enduring remnants of Belfast’s strife

Ten years after peace was declared in Northern Ireland, many of Belfast’s Catholic and Protestant neighborhoods remain separated by barriers called “peace lines.”
SEND THIS TO TRUMP

Anchor Pulls Mova & Ash 2016

GONE BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN
Social Cohesion / Peace Lines

14 METRES HIGH

BERLIN WALL
28 YEARS

CUPAR WAY, BELFAST
46 YEARS

PALESTINE WALL
15 YEARS
Black Taxi Tours - peace walls and history of the Troubles
Need for on-going dialogue and interventions that integrate people and removes violence and conflict
Inter-faith prayer and actions for peace
1. Part of broader strategy to rejuvenate region
2. 1000’s of new jobs
3. R3 billion+ mixed-use commercial/residential project
4. Joint Venture partnership with Tongaat-Hulett Developments
Belfast Innovation Factory

- Based on the Peace Line
- Encourages new business start ups
- Soft landing for fin tech and smart digital and low carbon
- Deep connections into the local neighbourhoods
- Internships, business mentoring.
- Collaboration with private sector – Catalyst Inc (established as part of Good Friday Agreement)
Social Cohesion / Peace Lines
Girdwood Community Hub – A shared space
City Development Placemaking

- North East Quarter
- Titanic Quarter
- Linen Quarter
- Sirocco Works
- East Bank
City Hall Renovation – a key tourist attraction
City Branding
There are more grounds for optimism here than in most other capital cities in the world today. Make sure you don’t forget that. Set yourself some stretch goals that really extend expectations about what you can achieve so that everyone reaches for those goals together.”
Declan Kelly
Former US Economic Envoy
Many thanks to EU World Cities

Benefits of the Program

• Promotes active engagements between cities

• Triple Helix engagements that build and develop synergies

• 18 month timeframe allows for better interaction and collaboration

• Practical exchanges on real projects

• Provides a safe space for city officials to learn and share ideas

• Program Funders allowed the city's to develop their own agendas

• Furthers the SDG Agenda
Thank You