

3 Nov 2018 also emailed 2 Nov 2018 **DPS-B-UM-D**

The Belfast Natural History and Philosophical Society to the Belfast Planning Service

re. The Old Museum Building, 7 College Square North, Belfast BT1 6AR
www.belfastsociety.com

Response to Presentation on the Belfast Local Development Plan as seen at the Belfast Civic Society meeting 22 October 2018

The Belfast Natural History and Philosophical Society supports the above plan and the proposals to protect Belfast's heritage buildings as well as enhance existing neighbourhoods, especially near the centre of the city. As owner of the grade A listed Old Museum Building, a neo-classical gem, the Society is positive in planning for the building's restoration and re-use as an important and fine cultural centre together with our partner, Ulster Architectural Heritage. We argue for attention to be paid to the development of the whole street with other significant buildings including The John Bell building, and Christchurch now part of Royal Belfast Academical Institution.

The Society wishes to contribute to developing a safe environment in this area which can strengthen feelings of connectivity between different parts of Belfast. It is sited at an interface area between the centre of Belfast as well as north, west and south Belfast. As such the Old Museum Building can be a unique meeting point. It has the potential to illustrate different aspects of the history of Belfast through the scientific associations of its early members and the part it played later as an arts centre for the whole of the city.

The Old Museum Building represents a significant historic asset which the Society is keen to promote and preserve for the best possible long term use in enhancing the city of Belfast.

On behalf of the Council, Belfast Natural History and Philosophical Society

Rosana Trainor, Secretary, 

