



Our Ref: DB/wh/CE23

17 June 2021

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

[levellingupfund@communities.gov.uk](mailto:levellingupfund@communities.gov.uk)

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Levelling Up Fund Application**

Thank you for the opportunity and your staff's assistance in helping us prepare our bid for this funding. I am delighted to submit our application for the development of a new regional facility encompassing an Olympic standard ice rink with complimentary offerings, including bowling and a health unit annex. This new all-inclusive facility will be truly iconic and comes with a pre-existing, committed customer base, which provides solid foundations to support investment.

I present in our application a 'shovel ready' proposal with statutory approvals, detailed design, prospective tenants and an extensive community support for the project. The proposal is informed by a detailed procurement and contract strategy that has been advanced, with a stage 1 procurement complete, for the main works contract. Attached to our application form is our Greenbook standard outline business case.

It is a strategically important asset supporting cultural and sporting infrastructure at a local, regional and international level. Its setting within a parochial context, in terms of Greater East Belfast, speaks to the relatively high social deprivation in adjacent electoral wards. In coming forward with such an exciting scheme we believe its impact will be catalytic, providing significant regeneration and growth opportunities locally, whilst also being a significant economic multiplier for post COVID recovery and prosperity at a regional level.

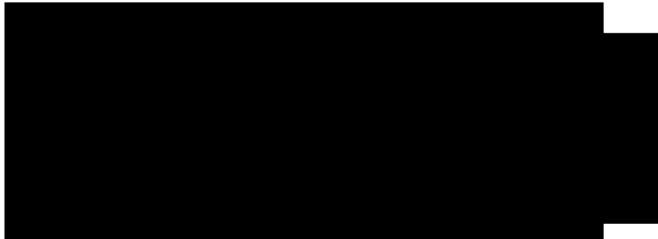
You will appreciate to get the scheme to this stage, significant work and expenditure has already been undertaken in relation to this project and we are ready to deliver when the funding gap has been addressed. To allow us to deliver this strategic project, we are seeking a request for £12.2m from the Levelling Up Fund to allow us to progress the project in its current form.

In line with the principles of the Fund, I believe that the match funding model with contributions from the Levelling Up Fund, the Department for Communities and Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council can provide a truly inspirational example of multi-agency commitments to the delivery of a flagship development.

I recognise there will be significant competition and possibly a desire to fund a number of projects in the first phase of this new fund. We are ready to progress if we can secure the funding sought within this bid and early confirmation of a positive outcome will allow expenditure to be incurred in this financial year.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to present our application and in the interim we look forward to hearing from you and addressing any queries you have regarding our Council's submission.

Yours faithfully



**David Burns**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**