

Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure

To ALL MLA's

10<sup>th</sup> September 2013

**Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure Motion**

At its meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2013, the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure agreed to table a motion for debate in plenary regarding the redevelopment of Belfast Central Library as a Regional Library for Northern Ireland. The debate will take place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

The terms of the motion are as follows:

*“That this Assembly recognises the economic, cultural, social and educational benefits that a regional library for Northern Ireland would provide; and urges the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to engage with Executive colleagues and other partners to pursue Belfast Central Library’s redevelopment plan to create a regional library as part of the overall ‘Library Square’ project”*

On 27<sup>th</sup> June 2013, the Committee held its weekly meeting at Belfast Central Library and saw first-hand how the facilities restrict service provision and expansion. The Committee heard how the redevelopment of the Central Library’s facilities to give it the status of a regional library will provide a more fit-for-purpose setting to display its resources, collections and artefacts; also allowing considerably easier public access to its specialist services. The redeveloped library would also be a more fitting flagship building for the Library Square redevelopment.

The Committee has placed supporting papers on the Committee webpage for your information in advance of the debate. A copy of these papers has also been deposited in the Assembly Library, in addition to media coverage on the opening of both Liverpool and Birmingham city libraries.

I look forward to a meaningful and informative debate in the Assembly on this very important matter.

Yours sincerely

**Miss Michelle McIlveen MLA**  
**Chairperson**  
**Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure**

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