

# Belfast Harbour



## A SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE PORT 2021 IN REVIEW





# A Responsible Trust Port, delivering positive social impact

## A Socially Responsible Port



### People

AN INCLUSIVE PORT:  
A gateway to opportunity  
for all



### Partnerships

A COMMUNITY PORT:  
Delivering grassroots  
engagement



### Planet

A CLEAN, GREEN PORT:  
Delivering environmental  
sustainability



### Place

A DESTINATION PORT:  
Delivering a place that  
adds social value for all

Delivering Social Impact

# INTRODUCTION

This summary highlights just some of our 2021 activity, with a snapshot of examples that bring our commitment to being a socially responsible Port to life.

As a Trust Port, social responsibility has been embedded in Belfast Harbour's DNA for generations. Our significant investment each year in grassroots community engagement and local charities is just one strand of our responsible business activity in action.

Delivering a positive social impact is at the heart of our decision making, as we develop sustainably, protect our environment and connect communities.

We are a Trust Port that puts back, creating a gateway to opportunity for all, as we invest to maintain, operate and develop our Port and wider Estate, and support our communities.

As we review our social value to the region, the diversity of our activity generates clear qualitative and quantitative impact for our communities.

We are committed to leading responsibly in all that we do – and to enhancing our social impact year on year.

This summary highlights just some of our 2021 activity, with a snapshot of examples that bring our commitment to building a socially responsible Port to life.

## People

An inclusive port: a gateway to opportunity for all



Enabling employment,  
supporting over 46,000  
jobs



Providing employee  
wellbeing programmes



Keeping  
people safe



Supporting  
apprenticeships and  
internships



Delivering  
equality  
campaigns

## Partnerships

A community port: delivering grassroots engagement



Donating £3 million to  
charities and community  
partners over the  
last 10 years



Supporting education,  
employment and skills  
programmes



Increasing digital skills  
and access for young  
people



Promoting social and  
cultural inclusion



Supporting health  
& wellbeing and  
environmental  
initiatives



Decarbonising and  
running on 100%  
renewable electricity



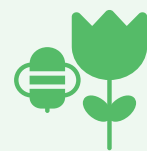
Investing in sustainable  
transport infrastructure



Increasing resource  
efficiency



Building to  
BREEAM 'Excellent'  
environmental  
standards



Enhancing biodiversity  
and reducing pollution

## Planet

A clean, green port: delivering environmental sustainability



Delivering high-quality  
developments, including  
over £275 million of  
investment in City Quays



Transforming the  
public realm



Supporting  
regeneration in  
neighbouring  
communities



Developing traditional  
industries



Enabling emerging  
industries

## Place

A destination port: delivering a place that adds social value for all





# PEOPLE

## Belfast Harbour Community Awards

2021 saw the launch of Belfast Harbour's new Community Awards Fund, aimed at supporting the work of grassroots community organisations and charities.

To date, a total of £50,000 has been awarded to a diverse range of local organisations, each receiving grants of up to £2,500 to support local community projects.

Projects benefitting from the Awards Fund include mental health and wellbeing programmes, community events and sports programmes to promote diversity and inclusion, as well as environmental and community garden projects.

Many of the successful recipient groups have utilised their grants to reunite local communities following the initial impact of the pandemic, while others have invested in the biodiversity of their areas, and in teaching young people about the importance of sustainability.

The Awards have been warmly endorsed by community groups for making a meaningful and positive impact and we look forward to continuing to support a diverse range of community projects in 2022.



## Keeping People Safe

### Investing in water safety – Belfast Harbour launches new police boat

In May 2021, Belfast Harbour Police welcomed the arrival of its first fully equipped Police boat, which aims to help improve crime prevention and water safety along Belfast's waterfront.

The 'Bowstead' was named after John Bowstead, the first Constable appointed to police the quays in Belfast in 1824, and it is crewed by fully trained Belfast Harbour Police Officers.

The boat supports Belfast Harbour Police's work as first responders to incidents around the City's waterfront and in joint operations with Lagan Search and Rescue (LSAR) and PSNI. Belfast Harbour is a patron of LSAR, which works in partnership with the Harbour Police to enhance provision for water safety in the area and support the increasing number of tourists, leisure visitors and residents within the Estate.

The new police vessel is the latest in a series of investments by Belfast Harbour in water safety enhancements including in CCTV, with improved detection capability of potential immersion incidents, and water safety equipment and officer training.

**This package of measures has already delivered a notable fall in the number of immersion incidents in the waters around Belfast Harbour in the last year.**

### Getting educated on dementia awareness

During 2021, officers and volunteers from Belfast Harbour Police (BHP) along with partners, LSAR, received Dementia Awareness training from Belfast City Council staff, on behalf of the Alzheimer's Society.

The training provided more than 30 people who work within the waterfront area of the City with information on the symptoms of dementia, to enable them to understand and communicate with people with the condition, and who may require assistance.







### Smart technology to keep people safe

As part of our commitment to innovation and to keep communities and employees safe, Belfast Harbour partnered with venture capital provider Techstart in 2021 to launch a £75,000 grant to enable one local start up to test and refine their technology on the Harbour Estate, with access to our private 5G network.

The competition, which provided an opportunity for innovative thinkers to submit ideas for new technology solutions, aligned with Belfast Harbour's key strategic Smart Port ambition to stimulate innovation and keep our employees, customers and visitors safe using innovative digital solutions.

The winner of the competition was Machine Eye, a local company that provides an intelligent safety system for agricultural and industrial machinery, using the power of Artificial Intelligence to create safer workplaces. Similar to an airbag on a car, its "human protection platform" is designed to intervene in the crucial seconds before an accident occurs in an outdoor, industrial setting.

### Investing in Mental Health

As well as supporting projects that focused on mental health support in communities, Belfast Harbour acknowledged the impact Covid-19 restrictions and lockdowns could have on the well-being of its employees.

As an essential service provider, the team at Belfast Harbour, along with our operational partners, have maintained vital Port operations throughout the pandemic. Our staff are our strongest asset, and as part of our health and well-being support programme, 10 employees undertook extensive training to become Metal Health First Aiders.

The training guided the team through recognising indicators for those struggling with stress, pressure, poor mental health and signs of drug or alcohol abuse and gave advice on how to support others and signpost them to professional services.

Communication of who is trained and available to talk to, is posted across all sites and on internal portals to ensure colleagues know there is support, if they need it.



# PARTNERSHIPS

Every year, Belfast Harbour invests significantly in community engagement partnerships and programmes that align with our goals:

2021 has been no exception, with support to diverse organisations and wide ranging projects support provided across all 3 areas:

Supporting Employability and Skills

Supporting Communities

Supporting the Environment



## Supporting Employability and Skills

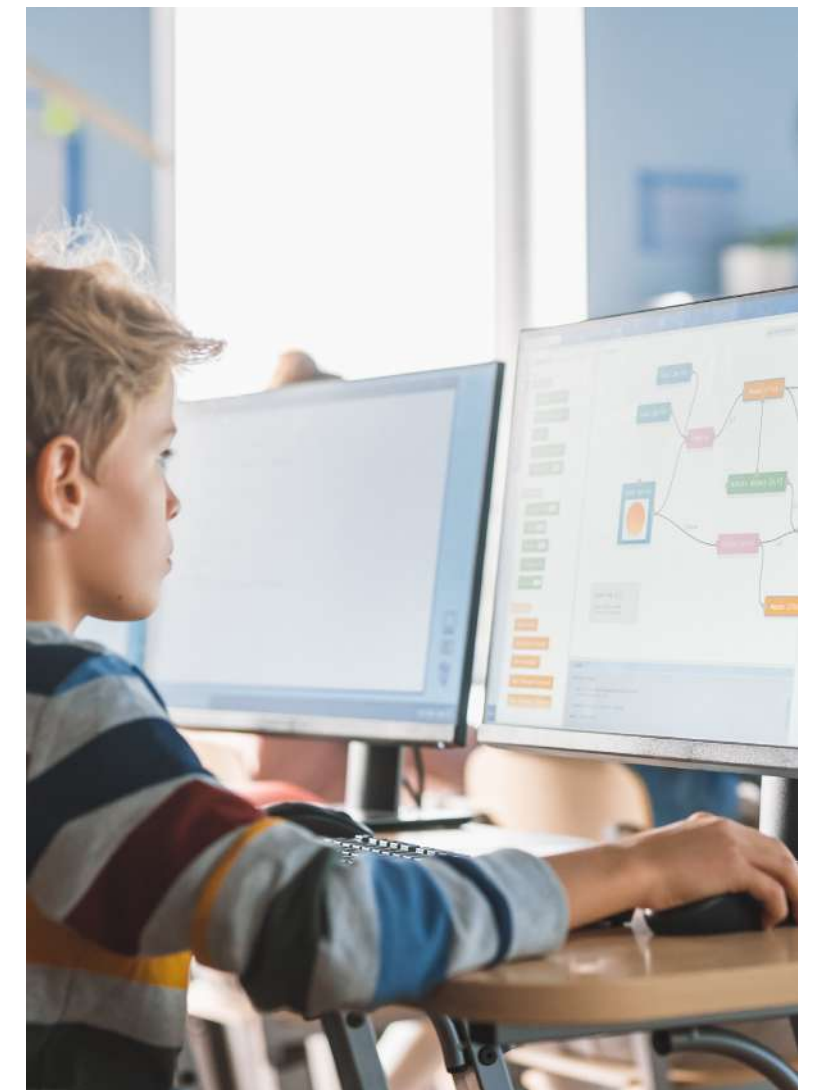
**Time to Code partnership benefits over 2,000 pupils**

More than 2,000 pupils from over 100 schools across Northern Ireland have taken part in the Belfast Harbour supported initiative designed to help give children their first taste of the coding skills needed to pursue a career in the tech sector.

Time to Code is a programme developed and delivered over a three-year period by Business in the Community NI, in partnership with Belfast Harbour and the Department for Education to improve computer coding skills among pupils aged 7 to 11.

Delivered free of charge and with the help of more than 100 volunteers from the private sector, Time to Code aims to meet a need for a structured, formal programme of coding teaching in local primary schools.

The programme has achieved significant impacts to date, with pupils who participated increasing their understanding of coding, online security and career opportunities within the sector, whilst also increasing their problem solving skills and building confidence levels.





### Supporting creative industries: Screen Academies unveil new film

Supporting emerging industries, such as the film and creative industries, enables Belfast Harbour to make a tangible contribution to NI's creative industries sector. As we develop and expand Belfast Harbour Studios, we are also investing in developing a home-grown skills pipeline for the sector.

This includes our funding support for Screen Academies, which, in conjunction with NI Screen, enabled close to 40 young people to attend academies in Production Design, Film Construction and VFX Screen production, and to present their own film, 'Human Error', to a private audience at Belfast's Strand Cinema.

Screen Academies provide opportunities for young people aged 16-19 to gain hands-on experience of work in the creative industries. Shooting this Sci-Fi film allowed the young people to work on constructing the set, designing and creating the costume, props and set decoration as well as working on the VFX in post-production. As the academy programme navigated the challenges of lockdown, the project was delivered through a hybrid mix of on-line and face-to-face training.

### Supporting skills building programmes for young people

In the 2nd year of Belfast Harbour's funding partnership with The Active Communities Network (ACN), young people from across the city engaged in a wide range of skills building programmes.

Working across the City, ACN utilises sports, cultural and educational activities to enhance aspirations, offer pathways to achievement and subsequently broaden horizons for participants living within local communities.

As part of a wider education, training and employment network across their own and partner projects, ACN promotes education, vocational training, work experience and citizenship.





## Supporting the Environment

### Playing our part in the 'big coastal clean-up'

Belfast Harbour was proud to support one of Northern Ireland's largest community and civic pride initiatives, 'Live Here Love Here', which brought together volunteers to clean up local beaches and coastal areas.

The event marked the start of the annual 'Healthy Oceans, Healthy Minds' campaign, delivered by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful in partnership with Belfast Harbour, to promote the health and wellbeing benefits of a clean marine and coastal environment.

The clean-up was the first date in a calendar of activities and events, which was timed to address an increase in coastal litter after the summer season. It formed part of a coordinated global volunteer effort to remove and record litter from local lakes, waterways, beaches and the sea.

Belfast Harbour also supported International Coastal Clean Up Day with Citizen Sea, Northern Ireland's first boat based environmental charity, which involved a huge clear up of litter and seaborne plastic waste by its research vessel Seabird.





## Supporting Communities

In addition to our Community Awards Fund, Belfast Harbour annually supports a wider range of community groups, organisations and charities to positively impact local communities. In 2021 this has included our ongoing partnership working with our neighbouring community in Sailortown and support for the Hosford Homeless Project in East Belfast.

Along with employee fundraising for good causes, our arts, culture and festival support has continued, for example partnering with Belfast International Arts Festival to provide free community access to events and supporting Culture Night in the delivery of a unique installation in Belfast City Centre. As part of our support for EastSide Arts Festival, Belfast Harbour Police engaged with local communities, providing information on water, road and cyber safety.



## Official Community Outreach Partner with Belfast Giants

As ice hockey and live sporting events made a welcome return to The SSE Arena, Belfast Harbour announced a new partnership with the Championship-winning Belfast Giants.

Belfast Harbour, as the new Official Community Outreach Partner of the Belfast Giants, will work in partnership with the team to support and develop its community engagement programmes throughout the 2021-22 season.

With a shared commitment to inclusivity, equality and working with local communities, Belfast Giants and Belfast Harbour will build on their existing community engagement projects, working with schools and community organisations to deliver an innovative and diverse programme of community outreach.

Belfast Harbour will support the Belfast Giants 'Healthy Lifestyle' Programme, which is designed to encourage young people to adopt a healthy lifestyle. The programme involves Belfast Giants team or coaching staff visiting schools to promote the importance of looking after mental and physical well-being.





# PLANET

## Developing Sustainably – Building a Clean, Green Port

Belfast Harbour's ambition to become a leading 'Green' Port, underpins the stretching goals within our updated sustainability strategy. Belfast Harbour's commitment to sustainability is evident in the Prosperity Agreement with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, which was signed in May 2021.

This 3-year agreement sees Belfast Harbour commit to reducing carbon emissions to net zero by 2030, achieving zero waste to landfill, improving air and water quality and enhancing both land and marine biodiversity.

Described by the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs as an example of "green growth" in action, the Prosperity Agreement incorporates Belfast Harbour's plans to continue to sustainably invest, for example in renewable technologies and sustainable procurement.

As we seek to deliver our sustainability goals, we recognise that we can achieve more through

coalition and partnership. By seeking to partner with tenants and port customers to adopt more sustainable transport and resource usage practices, Belfast Harbour is putting people, place and the environment at the heart of our sustainable business model.



## Belfast Harbour joins NI Green Seas Consortium

As part of a programme of support and investment in sustainability initiatives, Belfast Harbour has joined the NI Green Seas Consortium, a project which is being led by Power NI, part of the Energia Group, in collaboration with other local partners including Artemis Technologies, NIE Networks, Ulster University, Queen's University Belfast and global engineering firm, Mott MacDonald.

The Consortium was awarded almost £400,000 by the UK Department of Transport to investigate ways to decarbonise maritime transport in Northern Ireland. This will be through using zero-emission shore-side electricity and hydrogen-powered vessels as part of the UK's goal to achieve Net Zero by 2050.

The funding was secured after the NI Green Seas Consortium was named amongst the winners of the £20m UK-wide Clean Maritime Demonstration Competition.



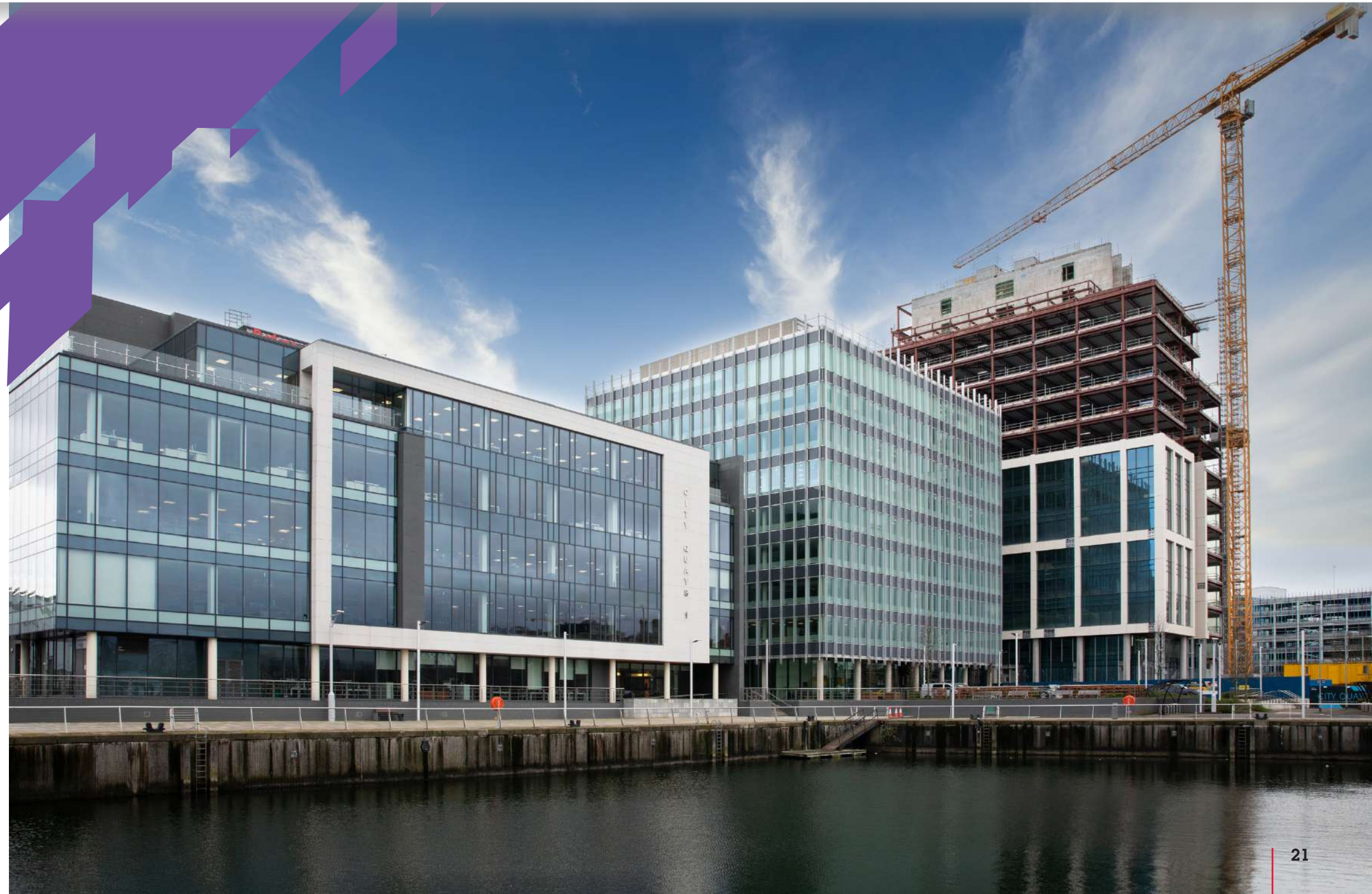


## Building to high environmental standards

Sustainable development principles are embedded across our Estate development projects, with many of the delivered and planned developments achieving BREEAM 'Excellent' ratings, including City Quays 1 and 2 and the new City Quays 3, as well as Olympic House.

This is a rating which represents 'Best Practice' in the industry, performing within the top 10% of UK new non-domestic buildings.

Along with the buildings' integral sustainability systems, occupiers of City Quays also sign up to a 'Green Lease' to ensure that the building is used as efficiently as possible. This requires energy audits to be conducted, and suitable fit-out designs which integrate with the buildings' efficiency to ensure that the systems are utilised to their optimum.





### **Trials to power vehicles with hydrotreated vegetable oil**

Belfast Harbour's commitment to building a truly sustainable, clean, Green Port is core to our Trust Port purpose. Work to achieve our net zero targets is already well underway, as we introduce electric vehicles, develop our use of renewable energy, instigate studies to better understand our marine diversity and embed sustainable development across the Estate.

One successful trial project was with the use of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) to fuel one of the port operations vehicles. HVO gives normal engine performance but with an estimated 90% carbon emission reduction compared with diesel.

Fuel oils are a major contributing factor to greenhouse gas emissions and the trial of biofuels such as HVO represent an opportunity to reduce our carbon footprint and review the performance of new, greener fuels in a controlled environment.

The trial demonstrated that there was no noticeable change in engine performance using HVO and we are now exploring a larger trial to include other port vehicles and vessels.





# PLACE

Belfast Harbour continues to be committed to developing sustainably and as such, has significant ambitions around the creation of green public space to support these developments.

## A major investment in a new urban garden for the city

In September 2021 we were delighted to announce plans for a multi-million-pound investment in the Harbour Estate's public space to create a vibrant new 'green' urban garden for the city.

Following the ongoing successful development of the three phases of City Quays offices, the creation of City Quays Gardens will develop the surrounding public realm into a fresh, vibrant and attractive public space for everyone.

City Quays Gardens will blend the rich industrial and maritime heritage of the area with an innovative and sustainable design.

Subject to planning, the project will be delivered in a number of phases over several years, with the £3m first phase focusing on the creation of a 0.8 hectare/2-acre green public space on land adjacent to the City Quays buildings and our historic Harbour Offices.

With sustainability and environmental excellence as a key design focus, City Quays Gardens will be developed to achieve the 'One Planet Living' environmental accreditation, a first in Northern Ireland. The Gardens will incorporate an eco-conscious design and create new habitats for wildlife; enhancing biodiversity and utilising renewable solar energy to provide all power requirements.

Transforming the public realm, maximising social cohesion and environmental sustainability, through place making developments such as City Quays Gardens, will provide long-lasting community value by cementing the location as an attractive place for local residents, workers and visitors. We are really excited about this project and look forward to engaging fully with our neighbours, tenants, partners and the wider community to bring the gardens to life in the coming year.

## Animating Belfast's Maritime Mile

Working in close partnership with Maritime Belfast Trust, Belfast Harbour is committed to preserving and enhancing Belfast's rich maritime heritage. In 2021, activity included supporting Belfast City Council in the delivery of the Belfast Maritime Weekender, bringing Belfast's maritime history to life with maritime related activities spanning the full length of the Maritime Mile, from Sailortown, City Quays and Donegall Quay, to Queen's Quay and Titanic Quarter.

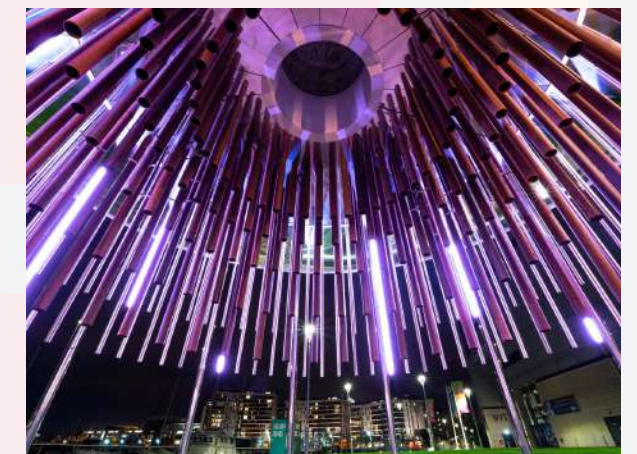
The weekend's activities included live music and dance, nautical themed street performers, playful art and heritage installations, dance picnics for children, walking tours, a treasure trail and pop-up market



## SoundYard is latest addition to Maritime Mile attractions

In 2021 we also supported Maritime Belfast Trust's launch of a new attraction called 'The SoundYard,' an interactive sound and play experience which brings to life the story of Belfast's maritime heritage.

SoundYard is an impressive all-weather structure located on the waterside, next to the Odyssey and Abercorn Marina. The design and sound, activated by motion sensors, were inspired by the noise of striking metal that would have been heard in the shipyard in years gone by.





## Responsible Business Accreditation

Belfast Harbour is delighted to have achieved three 'Platinum' level accreditation awards from Business in the Community during 2021, in recognition of our responsible business activities:

**-Platinum level CORE award:** This is the first time we've received this following a stringent, companywide audit, we are one of only two companies in Northern Ireland to achieve this new award level, marking an improvement from our 'Gold' level status in 2018.

**-Platinum level award** in the NI Environmental Benchmarking Survey for the 13th year in a row.

**-Platinum level award** in the Biodiversity Charter.

This strong external benchmarking strengthens our ambitions as a leading socially responsible Port and further underpins our high environmental credentials.





