

WHY?
BELLO
FAST



ECONOMIC COMMENTARY

Northern Ireland's economy looks to be back on track following a weather-related slowdown earlier in the year. According to the Northern Ireland Composite Economic Index (NICEI), total output contracted at an annual rate of 1.0% in Q1 2018. However recent data suggest the economy has rebounded. The Ulster Bank Northern Ireland PMI indicates that business activity accelerated for the fourth straight month in July, with good weather cited as a factor supporting demand. With a fresh wave of Sterling weakness since April – a tailwind for the export economy – business from abroad is on the rise and has helped push overall new orders to a six-month high.

Northern Ireland's labour market managed to weather the first-quarter storm and continues to perform well. Total employment rose by 11,000 in the twelve months to Q2 2018 and, at just 3.8%, the unemployment rate remains below that of the UK as a whole (4.0%). While risks do remain in the economy, including an uncertain Brexit outcome and the ongoing stand-off in Stormont, recent recruitment announcements across a range of sectors bode well for the outlook.



AT A GLANCE

BELFAST HAS A
POPULATION OF
340,000
IN THE CITY

AND THERE
ARE MORE THAN
1 MILLION
PEOPLE LIVING IN THE
GREATER BELFAST REGION

34%
OF THE POPULATION AGED
16-64 HAS ACHIEVED DEGREE
LEVEL EDUCATION OR HIGHER

41%
OF BELFAST'S POPULATION
IS UNDER 30 YEARS OF AGE

ECONOMY

THERE ARE OVER
200,000
JOBS LOCATED
IN BELFAST

THESE
ACCOUNT FOR
30%
OF ALL JOBS
IN NORTHERN
IRELAND

**ALMOST
80%**
OF NEW INWARD
INVESTORS HAVE
REINVESTED

900
INTERNATIONAL
COMPANIES
HAVE INVESTED IN
NORTHERN IRELAND

NORTHERN IRELAND IS THE
2ND
FASTEST GROWING
KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY
REGION IN THE UK

CONNECTIVITY

BELFAST IS WELL CONNECTED BY ROAD, RAIL, AIR AND SEA.



TWO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS WITHIN

30 MINUTES

OF BELFAST CITY CENTRE



LONDON IS

1 HOUR

BY AIR



AND DUBLIN IS

1 HOUR

BY TRAIN

EDINBURGH		BELFAST INTERNATIONAL
LONDON HEATHROW		AIRPORT IS THE 5TH
GLASGOW		BUSIEST AIRPORT IN
LONDON GATWICK		THE UK FOR DOMESTIC
BELFAST		PASSENGER TRAFFIC

BELFAST HAS
97%
ACCESS
TO SUPERFAST
BROADBAND



AND
85%
ACCESS
TO ULTRAFAST
BROADBAND

EDUCATION



NORTHERN IRELAND WAS THE TOP PERFORMING
REGION IN THE UK FOR GCSES AND A LEVELS IN 2017



NORTHERN IRELAND'S PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS ARE
THE HIGHEST ACHIEVING STUDENTS IN MATHS TESTS
IN EUROPE AND THE 6TH HIGHEST IN THE WORLD



NORTHERN IRELAND'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
CHILDREN ARE RANKED 4TH IN EUROPE FOR
LITERACY RATES



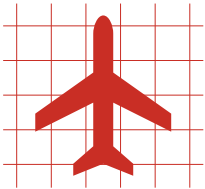
77% OF SCHOOL LEAVERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND GO
ON TO FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION COLLEGES

**RUSSELL
GROUP**

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY IS A MEMBER OF THE RUSSELL
GROUP OF 24 LEADING UK RESEARCH-INTENSIVE
UNIVERSITIES AND IS RANKED IN THE TOP 1% OF
UNIVERSITIES WORLDWIDE

KEY SECTORS

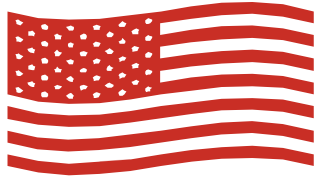
GLOBAL BLUE-CHIP COMPANIES INCLUDING CITI, ALLSTATE, LIBERTY IT, CHICAGO MERCANTILE AND FUJITSU ALL HAVE KEY BASES IN BELFAST



BELFAST IS A GLOBAL LEADER IN AEROSPACE ENGINEERING

BOMBARDIER AEROSPACE HAS OPERATED HERE FOR OVER 70 YEARS (PREVIOUSLY SHORT BROTHERS)

BELFAST IS HOME TO MAJOR TV AND FILM PRODUCTIONS INCLUDING HBO'S GAME OF THRONES, THE FALL AND THE NEW WARNER HORIZON SERIES, KRYPTON



BELFAST IS THE 2ND MOST SUCCESSFUL UK CITY, AFTER LONDON, AT ATTRACTING US TRADABLE SERVICES FDI PROJECTS AND THE NUMBER ONE GLOBAL DESTINATION FOR FINANCIAL TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENTS



BELFAST AND THE CAUSEWAY COAST WERE VOTED 'NUMBER ONE REGION IN THE WORLD TO VISIT IN 2018' BY LONELY PLANET



CRUISE VISITORS TOTALLED 154,000 IN 2017



IT IS HOME TO TITANIC BELFAST, WHICH WAS NAMED THE WORLD'S LEADING TOURIST ATTRACTION IN 2016

GLOBAL CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

**FROM
CYBER SECURITY
TO MEDICAL
RESEARCH, BELFAST
IS HOME TO GLOBAL
RESEARCH
CENTRES OF
EXCELLENCE**

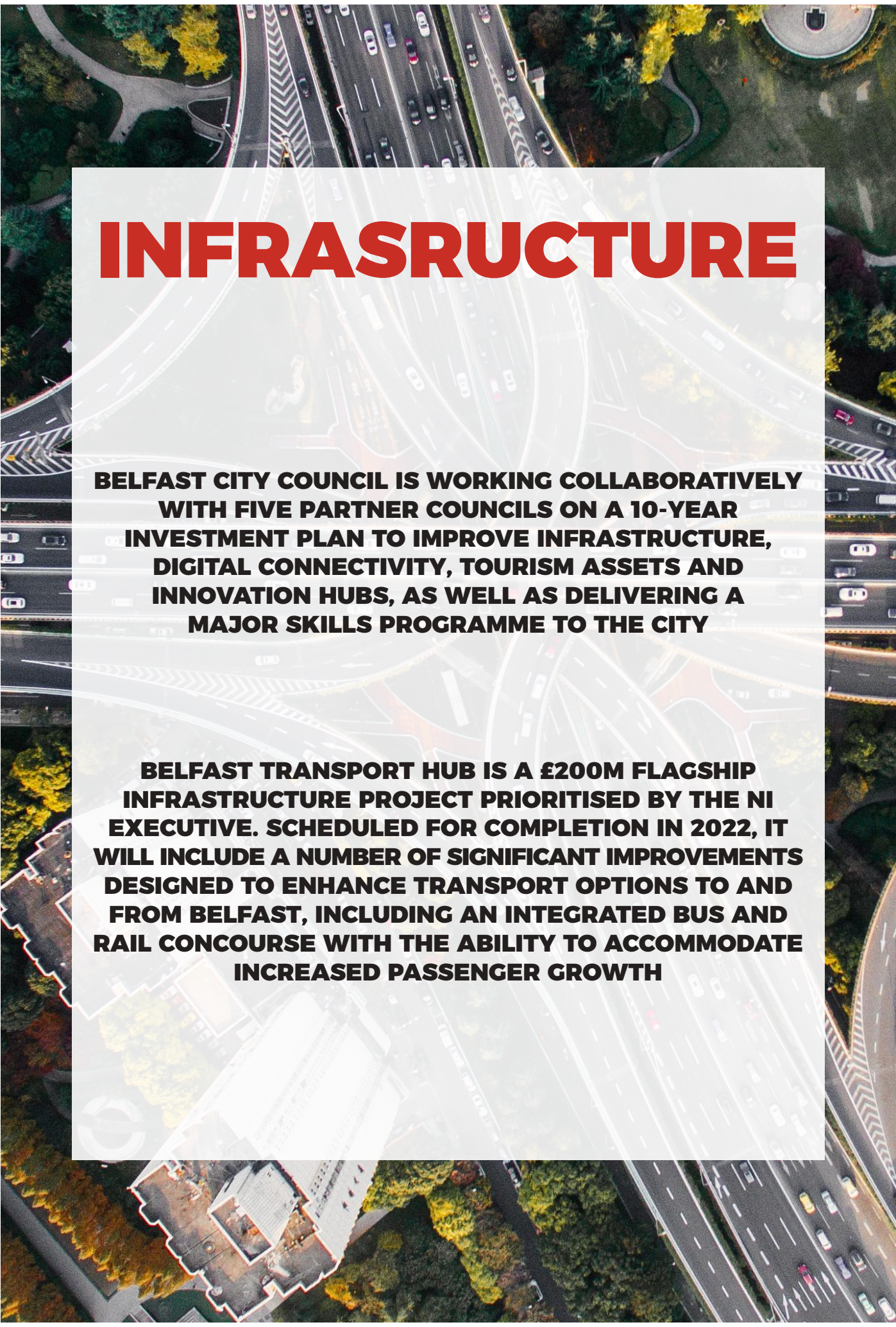
**THE
CENTRE
FOR CANCER
RESEARCH AND
CELL BIOLOGY FACILITY
AT QUEENS UNIVERSITY
BELFAST IS AT THE
CUTTING EDGE OF
CANCER
RESEARCH**

**BELFAST IS
HOME TO THE
CENTRE FOR
SECURE INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGIES (CSIT), THE
UK'S LARGEST CYBER
SECURITY FOCUSED
UNIVERSITY TECHNOLOGY
RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT
AND INNOVATION
CENTRE**

**NORTHERN
IRELAND IS FAST
BECOMING A GLOBAL
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AND WAS THE WORLD'S
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FOR US-BASED CYBER
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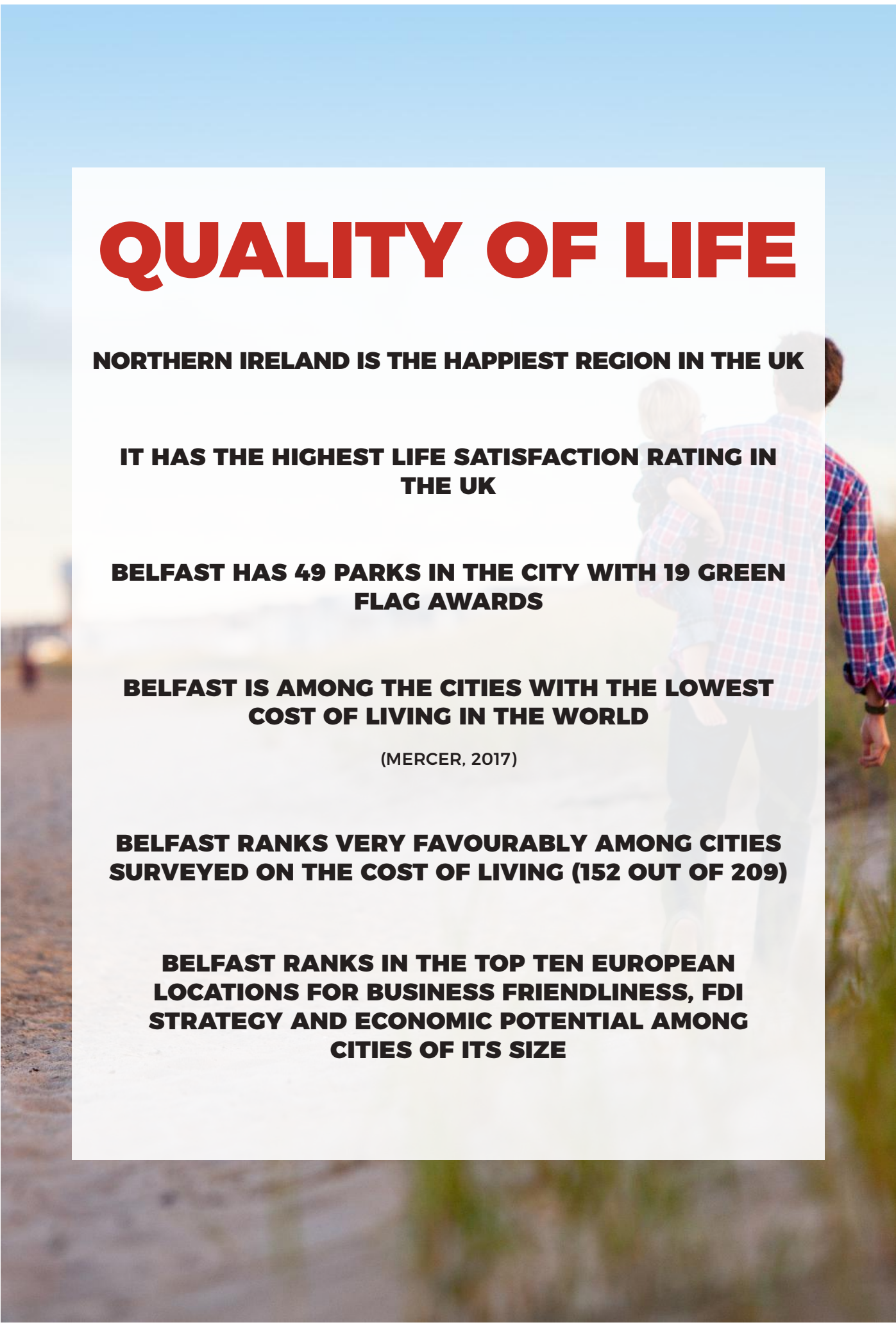
**THE LEGAL INNOVATION
CENTRE AT ULSTER UNI-
VERSITY BRINGS TOGETHER
RESEARCH INTO THE
APPLICATION AND IMPACT OF
NEW LEGAL TECHNOLOGY AND
TEACHES CURRENT AND
FUTURE LAWYERS
ESSENTIAL LEGAL TECH
SKILLS**



INFRASTRUCTURE

BELFAST CITY COUNCIL IS WORKING COLLABORATIVELY WITH FIVE PARTNER COUNCILS ON A 10-YEAR INVESTMENT PLAN TO IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE, DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY, TOURISM ASSETS AND INNOVATION HUBS, AS WELL AS DELIVERING A MAJOR SKILLS PROGRAMME TO THE CITY

BELFAST TRANSPORT HUB IS A £200M FLAGSHIP INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT PRIORITISED BY THE NI EXECUTIVE. SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN 2022, IT WILL INCLUDE A NUMBER OF SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS DESIGNED TO ENHANCE TRANSPORT OPTIONS TO AND FROM BELFAST, INCLUDING AN INTEGRATED BUS AND RAIL CONCOURSE WITH THE ABILITY TO ACCOMMODATE INCREASED PASSENGER GROWTH



QUALITY OF LIFE

NORTHERN IRELAND IS THE HAPPIEST REGION IN THE UK

IT HAS THE HIGHEST LIFE SATISFACTION RATING IN THE UK

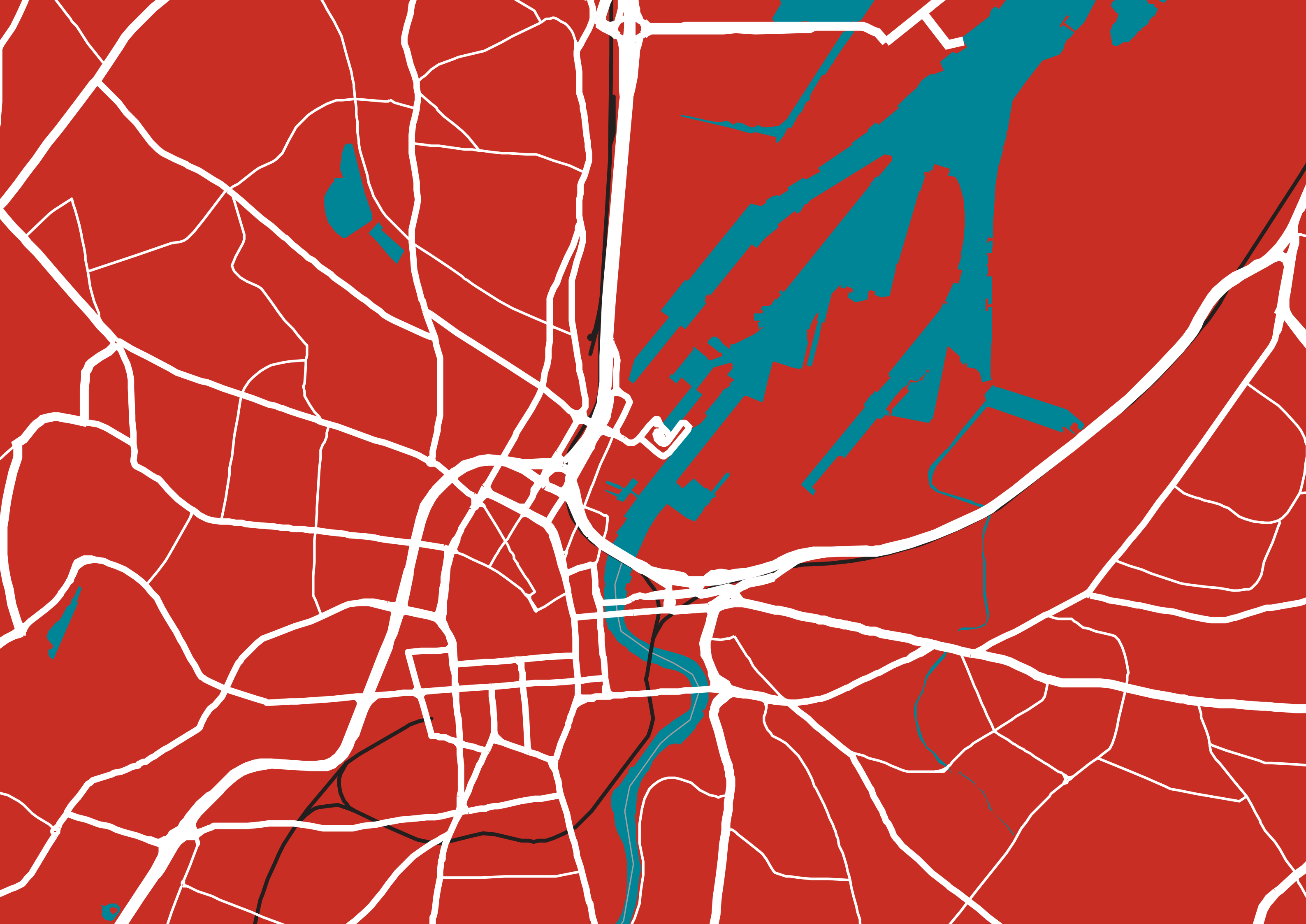
BELFAST HAS 49 PARKS IN THE CITY WITH 19 GREEN FLAG AWARDS

BELFAST IS AMONG THE CITIES WITH THE LOWEST COST OF LIVING IN THE WORLD

(MERCER, 2017)

BELFAST RANKS VERY FAVOURABLY AMONG CITIES SURVEYED ON THE COST OF LIVING (152 OUT OF 209)

BELFAST RANKS IN THE TOP TEN EUROPEAN LOCATIONS FOR BUSINESS FRIENDLINESS, FDI STRATEGY AND ECONOMIC POTENTIAL AMONG CITIES OF ITS SIZE



WHY BELFAST?

Produced by Savills in conjunction with
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