

SILMAIL 50391

SECRET &amp; PERSONAL-VISITS

## NORTH CITY BUSINESS CENTRE

## BACKGROUND

1. NCBC was initially discussed with local business people and residents by LEDU and DOE (as part of the Northgate Project). In 1991 the Board was formed for NCBC as a Local Enterprise Agency (LEA) and the Company incorporated. It was agreed that Action Resource Centre would co-ordinate the development of the new Centre. **Phase 1** buildings commenced August 1993 and completed March 1994 - providing 8000 ft<sup>2</sup> of workspace and 4000 ft<sup>2</sup> of administrative space. **Phase 2** buildings commenced June 1994 and **completed March 1995** - providing 23000 ft<sup>2</sup> of workspace. These phases were funded by LEDU, IFI, MBW, ERDF, Gallaher Ltd and BAT. We are currently seeking funding to complete our fencing round our remaining site which will be for development of Phase 3 of the building programme.

## OBJECTIVES

2. To help individuals set up their businesses and to assist established businesses to survive and expand.

To create new permanent employment.

To improve the image and perception of North Belfast locally and with those outside the area as an area for economic development and business location.

To provide workspace, business counselling, advice, information and business services and support.

To improve the lives of North Belfast people by working with other agencies in partnership to assist in the economic development of the area.

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3. Irvine McKay and Sandy Brown (now deceased), were requested to take on the challenge of providing a Local Enterprise Business Centre for the people of North Belfast, and help in the acquisition of outside funding. (Both were Directors of Action Resource Centre, the first Enterprise Agency in Northern Ireland started in 1980.)

Formed NCBC, identified property acceptable to everyone on both sides of Duncairn Gardens, and won support of the private sector, Gallaher, who had just closed a major factory in North Belfast to concentrate all its production in Ballymena. Found other funders, and got together a cross section of business people willing to give freely of their time to serve on the Board.

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**SECRET & PERSONAL-VISITS****IRVINE MCKAY: CHAIRMAN**

Chartered Accountant and Qualified Stock Broker, self employed, concentrating on non executive Directorships, advising Chairmen and Managing Directors, and other appointments that make use of wide commercial and Statutory Board experience.

Charity work additional to North City Business Centre includes Chairman of Product of Northern Ireland (PONI), promoting local products and services to maximise jobs, and Northern Ireland Partnership supporting the work of the IDB. Recently retired as Chairman of Action Resource Centre after 15 years service, including six years as Vice Chairman and the last three, as Chairman.

Government appointee to Belfast Education and Library Board in 1993 and elected Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee in 1995.

Council Member of Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce, and past member of Council of CBI in Northern Ireland and in Great Britain. UK representative on Brussels Advisory Board for five years.

Attended The White House Conference for Trade and Investment in Ireland, held in Washington DC in May 1995, hosted by President Clinton. Chaired recent CBI/IBEC cross-border Seminar. Many USA and Republic of Ireland connections. In November 1995 visited Hong Kong, and Singapore, supporting Baroness Denton who was leading the Northern Ireland Trade Mission.

Married to Rosemarie, a past Home Economics teacher. Two children, Peter on his final year at Hertford College, Oxford, studying Engineering, Management and Economics, and Fiona second year, studying Veterinary at Liverpool University.

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**SECRET & PERSONAL-VISITS****MICHAEL McCORRY (MANAGER)**

Early working life was in management in the printing industry in NI and England. After graduating from the University of Essex he completed a Postgraduate Certificate in Education at Brunel University and worked for six years as a lecturer in Business Studies in third level educational colleges. He then instigated and ran his own business in computer training and bureau services for six years. Before coming to manage North City he managed a community workshop with 14 staff and 100+ YTP and JTP trainees.

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