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### **New 'Plan B' Stadium Announced**

A serious contender and economically viable 'Plan B' to the Maze/Long Kesh National Stadium proposal has been announced today. The new proposal is set to bring a community based, fully accessible stadium option to Belfast.

The plans for the new 'City of Belfast Stadium' will bring Northern Ireland's 'home of Northern Ireland Sport' to the Ormeau Park in Belfast. Masterminded by Durnien.com, the new facility will cater for football, GAA, rugby, greyhound racing, swimming, elite training, community facilities, fitness training, sports administration, a range of Olympic sports and concerts.

Speaking about the suitability of locating the stadium in an urban environment Paul Durnien, Managing Director of DURNIEN.Com said: "This proposal to locate the City of Belfast Stadium at the Ormeau Park is an ideal urban solution for a stadium project. It is a national facility with local access for all. New pedestrian routes will be opened up to give all communities direct access to the Stadium and it's many facilities. The easy access to city hotels for visiting teams, supporters and travelling teams along with the numerous bars, restaurants and retail outlets within easy walking distance from the stadium will bring large scale economic activity in the city centre and routes to and from the stadium".

The Ormeau Park has a long history of providing the people of Belfast and further afield with a base for recreational use. In the 1970's the Ormeau Park was seen as an ideal location for the Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Stadium. In the 1980's it was seen as the ideal position for a Laganside Stadium and was an integral part of the Laganside Development Plan in 1987.

Durnien added: "The majority of Premier and Championship stadiums are located within an urban environment, it makes social and economic sense and has proven time and time again to be a catalyst for urban regeneration. This proposal can help deliver the Olympic 'once in a lifetime' dream to our young people and to Northern Ireland – it will address the poor training facilities, showcase sport as a recognisable industry and, most importantly, be open and ready 'in time' to allow coaches to identify and nurture Northern Ireland's talent."

The team behind the proposal are well experienced within the Stadium build and construction world and include: Millar Partnership, Buro Happold, Gardiner and Theobald and Copius. Stadium Architects, Millar Partnership – are well known for their work at Old Trafford, Hull City, Coventry, Stadium of Light in Sunderland and Hampden Park to name a few, they have designed for more stadium seats in the UK and Ireland than any other Architect's company. Buro Happold are one of the worlds leading structural and environmental engineering companies, working on numerous premier ship and international stadia and arenas.

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