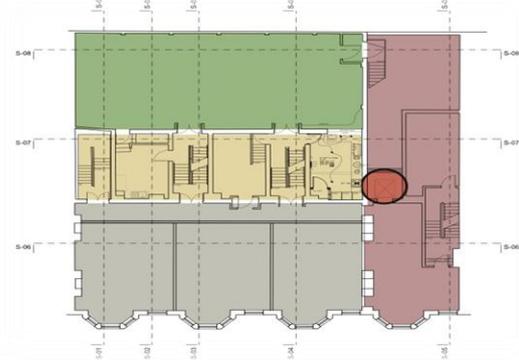


McCracken Cultural Society

At present Aras Mhic Reachtain (McCracken Cultural Society) operates as an Irish Language Hub on the Antrim Road in North Belfast. The society aims to offer educational and cultural services to the ever growing Irish Language Community, which currently contains 3 Irish Medium Primary Schools and Four Irish Medium Nursery Schools.

As a result of recent capital refurbishment, McCracken as an organisation has expanded in terms of physical capacity. However there is still a substantial portion of the asset that is not fit for purpose. McCracken approached NBEI for revenue funding to help improve the internal layout of the asset, strengthen their financial resilience and scale their cultural society into a sustainable social enterprise.



What support has NBEI provided?

NBEI approved financial assistance for technical **architectural/planning services** to help design, plan and implement a necessary scheme of work to re-develop the remainder of McCracken's Antrim road asset that is currently not fit for purpose

The proposed scheme of work is wide ranging and includes a plan to implement a lift, re-orientate the ground floor to support a cafe/bistro, re-develop 5 rooms into offices for sub-letting as well as various improvements to the outer facade and outdoor areas

NBEI has also provided McCracken with investment to fund a **business plan** which will help transform part of the ground floor area into a cafe/bistro. Operated as a social enterprise the new cafe will help McCracken develop an additional revenue stream

How has NBEI support helped and who has benefited so far?

Moving forward, the architectural/planning services provided by NBEI have provided McCracken with a clear schedule of feasible work that will **improve the layout and condition of their asset**. The drawings and business plan will **support the organisation's attempts to apply for capital funding** which will deliver this schedule of work in the long term. Finally there is also now more confidence within the McCracken organisation that such improvements and additional services can **help weaken their reliance on core grant funding** and ultimately enable their transition into a financially resilient and sustainable social enterprise.

"I would like to thank NBEI for all their support, we are extremely happy with the architectural drawings, the development of a robust business plan and all the support and direction in between".

Ferdia Carson Development Officer McCracken Cultural Society