

## Mount Lennox

Mount Lennox is a new bespoke conference and office facility based in North Belfast. Managed by a local social enterprise it will also host groups and projects as well as promote events and activities linked to the area's growing social economy.

At present, the LEMIS+ training and employability programme are using the Lennox building to provide skills training for people who are interested in pursuing a career in Belfast's growing hospitality sector.

Mount Lennox is a category 3 project that was developed through revenue support from the North Belfast Ethical Investment programme along with substantial capital investment from another local social enterprise called Ashton Centre Development Ltd.



## What support has NBEI provided?

NBEI commissioned a **feasibility study** to explore the viability of different uses for the property with respect to wider local demand and the current service provision across North Belfast. The study highlighted the need for a **bespoke office and conference facility** that could be operated as a **social enterprise**

On approval, NBEI funded a revenue package which covered costs linked **to interior architectural drawings** as well as some of the **labour charges** to implement any proposed structural changes. These have had to conform to strict building control guidelines due to the listed status of the building

NBEI has also provided a **marketing and administration budget** to promote and ensure **effective management** of the asset in the long term. This support will be critical as like all NBEI supported projects the building will have to operate as a **sustainable social enterprise**

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

- NBEI investment support has helped to renovate a historic built asset and reanimate it with new uses that are linked to North Belfast's growing local social economy;
- At present, the LEMIS+ training and employability programme are using the Lennox building to provide skills training for people who are interested in pursuing a career in Belfast's growing hospitality sector;
- The building was also used to host the training component of NBEI's digital sales and marketing programme which was delivered from January to March 2018;
- Remaining room space in the building is being advertised or leased out to groups or local businesses that require turn-key office facilities. Operated as social enterprise, surplus rental income will be reinvested to sustain operational costs as well as provide additional opportunities within the North Belfast's social economy