



Subject:	York Street Interchange Project – Response from Minister for Infrastructure
Date:	8 th April 2020
Reporting Officer:	Cathy Reynolds, Director City Regeneration and Development
Contact Officer:	Sean Dolan, Senior Development Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To consider a response from the Minister for Infrastructure on the York Street Interchange project and clarification on how it fits with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's report of October 2018 on the impact of global warming and the need to transition to a carbon neutral society, based on more sustainable transport infrastructure.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Note the response and take any such action as may be determined.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The Committee at their meeting on 15 January 2020 agreed, at the request of Councillor O'Hara, that a letter be forwarded to the Minister for Infrastructure seeking an update on

	<p>the York Street Interchange project and clarification on how it fitted with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s report of October 2018 on the impact of global warming and the need to transition to a carbon neutral society, based on more sustainable transport infrastructure.</p>
3.2	<p>A letter was forwarded subsequently to the Permanent Secretary, Department for Infrastructure for the attention of the Minister in relation to the issue raised which is attached at Appendix 1. The Minister’s response is attached at Appendix 2.</p>
3.3	<p>The Minister by way of update explains that the Statutory Orders for the York Street Interchange project including the Environmental Statement detailing the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment were published in January 2015. Following a Public Inquiry in November of that year, the Designation Order for the scheme was made in November 2016. The procurement process to award a contract for the detailed design phase of this scheme was halted in early 2017 as a result of legal action. This legal action concluded in September 2019, with the award of the contract being set aside. The department are currently considering options for a new procurement strategy.</p>
3.4	<p>The Minister concludes by stating that she has a clear agenda on climate change. As such the Minister wants to ensure that decisions made about progressing major road schemes achieve the right balance between improving connectivity and reducing congestion, and taking the necessary steps to avoid the impacts of global warming above 1.5 degrees as outlined in the 2018 IPCC report.</p>
3.5	<p>Finance & Resource Implications</p> <p>None</p>
3.6	<p>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</p> <p>None</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1: Letter from BCC to Department for Infrastructure</p> <p>Appendix 2: Response from the Minister for Infrastructure</p>