



Subject:	Department for Infrastructure Sailortown and Ulster University Pedestrian and Cycling Improvements Draft Consultation Response
Date:	5 November 2025
Reporting Officer:	Cathy Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration & Development
Contact Officer:	Sean Dolan, Senior Development Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number ☐

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Some time in the future

Never

<input type="checkbox"/>
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Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

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1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members on the proposed Sailortown and Ulster University Pedestrian and Cycling Improvements currently out for consultation by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI), and to agree the draft response to be submitted from Belfast City Council.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Note the content of this report in relation to the proposed Sailortown and Ulster University Pedestrian and Cycling Improvements that are currently out for consultation. II. Agree the Council's draft consultation response submission to DfI on the proposed Sailortown and Ulster University Pedestrian and Cycling Improvements as enclosed with this report in Appendix B, which will be submitted to DfI on the 14th November subject to Council ratification on the 1st December.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	<p>The Department for Infrastructure has developed proposals for Sailortown and Ulster University Pedestrian and Cycle improvements. These proposals aim to provide 1.5km of new high quality active travel infrastructure, connecting York Street Station to Ulster University and the Cathedral Quarter via Dock St, Corporation St and the Dunbar Link. This route forms a key route identified within the Belfast Cycle Network. A link to the consultation is included here https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/consultations/sailortown-and-ulster-university-pedestrian-and-cycling-improvements , with construction drawings included within Appendix A of this report. The closing date for the Consultation is the 14th November 2025.</p>
3.2	<p>Key features include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new segregated cycle facility and improved footways between Yorkgate Train Station and the University of Ulster Campus via Dock St, Corporation St and the Dunbar Link. • Installation of new pedestrian and cyclist crossing points to improve accessibility and safety at Corporation St and across the Dunbar Link. • Improved connectivity to key destinations, including Sailortown, City Quays, the emerging residential and amenity opportunities in the Corporation St and Tomb area, including the Under the Bridges project.

3.3	<p>A Consultation drop in event was held on the 23rd October 2025 where members of the City Regeneration and Development team attended and provided feedback in person. The feedback provided has been captured in the attached response (Appendix B of this report).</p> <p><u>Main Report</u></p>
3.4	<p>The draft consultation response is focused on several key points under the following headings that are summarised below;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strategic Context 2. Alignment with emerging development landscape 3. General comments <p><i>1. Strategic Context</i></p>
3.5	<p>The proposed works align with the ambitions and targets set out in The Belfast Agenda, the city's Community Plan and 'A Bolder Vision' therefore Belfast City Council is supportive of the vision and the ambitions set out within the Sailortown and Ulster University Pedestrian and Cycling Improvements scheme. The scheme would contribute to realising the vision for Belfast as set out in the Agenda, to be 'beautiful, well connected and culturally vibrant and being a sustainable city, shared and loved by all its citizens, free from the legacy of conflict.'</p>
3.6	<p>A Bolder Vision is an ambitious blueprint for Belfast to explore a shared approach to creating a more attractive, accessible, safe and vibrant city, developed by Belfast City Council. The Sailortown and Ulster University Pedestrian and Cycling Improvements proposal will help to support the strategy's vision to 'fundamentally change the centre of Belfast to prioritise integrated walking, cycling and public transport and end the dominance of the car' and to 'remove severance and barriers to movement between the centre of Belfast and the surrounding communities to improve access for all' in part by reducing the vehicular spatial allocation of the Dunbar Link.</p>
3.7	<p>The Belfast Cycling Network (BCN) and the Strategic Plan for Greenways are already in place and the Active Travel Delivery Plan aims to add to these existing strategies by providing a plan for active travel infrastructure for the rest of NI. Specifically, it sets out how DfI will prioritise and deliver high-quality active travel infrastructure in the urban and rural settlements over the next ten years. Similar to the BCN, it aims to ensure that infrastructure is designed to be safe, accessible and interconnected, thus encouraging people to build active travel into their travel choices. Given the importance of the provision of an Active Travel Network for Belfast, and the</p>

	<p>proposed Sailortown and Ulster University Pedestrian and Cycling Improvements, it is important that Belfast City Council inputs into this consultation process to ensure alignment with emerging capital developments in the area, including Council's Under the Bridges scheme, the planned housing led regeneration scheme on Corporation St being taken forward through the our Delivery Partner, Grahams and the proposed Sailortown / Titanic Quarter Bridge.</p>
3.8	<p><i>2. Alignment with emerging development landscape</i></p> <p>The proposed Sailortown and Ulster University Pedestrian and Cycling Improvement scheme will provide active travel provision along Dock Street, Corporation Street, and the Dunbar Link for pedestrians and cyclists, and will help to re-establish links between communities and the city centre. The proposal is cognisant of the upcoming development landscape in the area, providing improved connectivity links from north Belfast, Sailortown, City Quay's, the Waterfront and the city centre for existing and future residents.</p>
3.9	<p>The landscape of this area of the city is working through a period of transformation with more than 4,000 student units have been constructed within the York Street, Great Patrick Steet and Nelson Street area's since 2015, with a further pipeline of development opportunities including several residential schemes bringing forward c2,000 additional units in the near future. These schemes include Councils Housing Led Regeneration Opportunity site at Corporation St (c280 homes) 39 Corporation Street (895 student), Clarendon Wharf (600 residential) 21-29 Corporation Street (298 residential), Exchange Street (246 residential) and City Quay's 4 (256 residential).</p>
3.10	<p>The Sailortown and Ulster University Pedestrian and Cycling Improvement scheme also provides the opportunity to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect to the Council's '<i>Under the Bridges</i>' project to improve the connectivity links between the City Centre and City Quays / Sailortown and to provide an enhanced amenity / urban recreation space in the area under the M3 bridges. • Provide a connection between the proposed Sailortown to Titanic Bridge and the Yorkgate Train Station and North Belfast. • Provide a direct link between the city centre and Sailortown/City Quays through the provision of new pedestrian crossings at Dunbar Link and Corporation St. • Address safety and connectivity issues between Sailortown and North Belfast, specifically at the Dock Street Underpasses.

3.11	<p><i>General Comments</i></p> <p>With this in mind Belfast City Council wish to raise a number of specific points in response to the proposed plans as outlined in the consultation response;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to engage with the local communities to address the safety concerns highlighted with the Dock St Underpass arrangement • Continue to engage with the Under the Bridges design team to optimise the key connectivity links that both schemes will bring to the area, including maximising the desire lines between City Quays/Sailortown and the city centre along Gamble Street, • Support the creation of a 2-way cycle lane through the Under the Bridges site to connect Corporation Street with Donegal Quay, • Council welcomes the introduction of the proposed pedestrian crossings to Corporation St and the Dunbar Linl and ask that DfI continue to engage with the Under the Bridges and the Corporation Street Housing Led Regeneration design teams to optimise the locations of these proposed crossings. • Council would ask that the Department takes cognisance of the proposed 'Sailortown / Titanic Quarter Bridge,' to ensure alignment with future active travel provision within the area.
3.12	<p>In conclusion, Belfast City Council is supportive of the proposed Sailortown and Ulster University Pedestrian and Cycling Improvements but requests that the Department for Infrastructure take into consideration when finalising its plans and during their implementation, the matters raised by Council in this response.</p>
	<p><u>Belfast City Council Draft Consultation Response</u></p>
3.13	<p>Members are asked to provide comment and to approve the Council's draft consultation response submission to the Department for Infrastructure, enclosed with this report at Appendix B.</p>
	<p><u>Next Steps</u></p>
3.14	<p>Subject to approval at this committee, Belfast City Council will formally submit its draft response (Appendix 1) to the Department for Infrastructure for consideration. Officers will highlight that the submission is a draft response which will be subject to ratification by Council</p>

	on 1 st December 2025 and any further comments or amends at Council will be forwarded to the Department.
4.0	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
4.1	None associated with this report.
5.0	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
5.1	The implications of the Equality or Goods Relations Implications and Rural Needs Assessments will need to be undertaken by the Department for Infrastructure in line with their own policy positions and prior to undertaking implementation.
6.0	Appendices
6.1	Appendix A; Sailortown and UU Pedestrian & Cycling Improvements Drawings Appendix B: Belfast City Council Draft response to the Sailortown and Ulster University Pedestrian and Cycling Improvements Consultation.