



Subject:	Proposals for dual language street signs
Date:	2 nd December 2025
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
Contact Officer:	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager Heather Wylie, Property and Legal Coordinator

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

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

Sometime in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

1.1	To consider applications for the erection of dual language street signs for five streets within the city.																		
2.0	Recommendation																		
2.1	The Committee is asked to agree to the erection of a second street nameplate in Irish at Old Colin, Whitewell Road & Upper Dunmurry Lane																		
2.2	Members are also asked to agree to the erection of a second street nameplate in Irish at Rileys Place and Keegan Street. These applications were made by the developer after the English Street names were agreed in September 2025, and construction is ongoing.																		
3.0	Main Report																		
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The Council may erect a second street nameplate in a language other than English pursuant to Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.																		
3.2	Members are asked to consider the following applications to erect dual language street nameplates showing the name of the street expressed in a language other than English. The second language is Irish.																		
3.3	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>English Name</th><th>Non- English Name</th><th>Location</th><th>Persons surveyed</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Old Colin</td><td>Seanchollann</td><td>Off Stewartstown Road/Pantridge Road, BT17</td><td>221</td></tr> <tr> <td>Whitewell Road</td><td>Bóthar an Tobair Ghil</td><td>Off Shore Road, BT36</td><td>587</td></tr> <tr> <td>Upper Dunmurry Lane</td><td>Lána Dhún Muirígh Uachtarach</td><td>Old Golf Course Road, BT17</td><td>173</td></tr> </tbody> </table>			English Name	Non- English Name	Location	Persons surveyed	Old Colin	Seanchollann	Off Stewartstown Road/Pantridge Road, BT17	221	Whitewell Road	Bóthar an Tobair Ghil	Off Shore Road, BT36	587	Upper Dunmurry Lane	Lána Dhún Muirígh Uachtarach	Old Golf Course Road, BT17	173
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3.4	The translations were authenticated by Queens University, the approved translator for Belfast City Council.																		
3.5	In accordance with the Council's policy for the erection of dual language street signs, surveys of all persons appearing on the electoral register plus owners or tenants in actual possession of commercial premises for the above streets were carried out and the following responses were received.																		
3.6	Old Colin, BT17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 53 occupiers (23.98%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. 5 occupiers (2.26%) had no preference either way. 																		
3.7	Whitewell Road, BT36 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 212 occupiers (36.11%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. 19 occupiers (3.23%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. 8 occupiers (1.36%) had no preference either way. 																		

3.8

Upper Dunmurry Lane, BT17 (Resurvey due to postal issue)

50 occupiers (28.90%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.

2 occupiers (1.15%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.

3 occupiers (1.73%) had no preference either way.

3.9

Dual language nameplates for new street names approved at 9th September 2025 P&C Committee

3.10

Based on the process for dual language street sign applications made by developers that was agreed by Council on 4th December 2023 the Committee is asked to agree to the erection of second street nameplates in Irish at the proposed new streets, Rileys Place and Keegan Street.

3.11

English Name	Non- English Name	Location
Rileys Place	Plás Uí Raghallaigh	Off Raphael Street, BT7
Keegan Street	Sráid Mhic Aogáin	Off Stewart Street, BT7

3.12

Members are asked to consider the applications made by Radius Housing to erect dual language street nameplates showing the names of the streets expressed in a language other than English. The second language is Irish. The applications have been progressed according to the approved process including carrying out initial assessments and Elected Member notifications in the normal way. Given there are no occupiers of the new streets during development, no surveys have been carried out. The translations have been provided by Queens University, the approved translator for Belfast City Council.

3.13

The English street names for the two new streets were approved by P&C Committee on 9th September 2025. The dual language street sign applications had not been completed by the developer at that stage.

3.14

Assessment against policy

The Council's policy on the erection of a second street nameplate requires that at least fifteen percent (15%) of the occupiers surveyed must be in favour of the proposal to erect a second street sign in a language other than English, to progress to Committee for consideration.

All the surveys listed above demonstrate compliance with the threshold contained within the Policy.

3.15

Financial and Resource Implications

3.16	<p>There is a cost of approximately £1410 to cover the cost of the manufacturing and erection of the dual language street signs. The cost for these street signs has been allowed for in the current budget.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>Each application for a dual language street sign is subject to an initial assessment and an elected member notification process to identify any potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations and rural needs.</p> <p>The initial assessments for Whitewell Road and Upper Dunmurry Lane identified that the carrying out of the survey had the potential to cause adverse impacts on the grounds of good relations. These applications were subsequently screened and the draft screenings identified that the carrying out of a survey in itself in these streets had the potential to give rise to community tension, as could the erection of the street signs and therefore had the potential to give rise to adverse impact on the grounds of good relations. It was acknowledged however the process could alternatively assist in promoting cultural and linguistic diversity. The elected member notification carried out for Whitewell Road and Upper Dunmurry Lane did not identify any potential for adverse impacts. These applications were presented to Committee prior to survey in line with the agreed process referencing the initial assessment and screening and both streets were approved for survey by Committee and full Council.</p> <p>The initial assessments and elected member notification carried out for Old Colin, Rileys Place and Keegan Street did not identify any potential adverse impacts to prevent the surveys being carried.</p>
4.0	Appendices
	None