



Subject:	Correspondence Received from the Department for Infrastructure
Date:	11 th October 2023
Reporting Officer:	Cathy Reynolds, Director City Regeneration & Development
Contact Officer:	Sean Dolan, Senior Development Manager, City Regeneration & Development

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Information relating to any individual2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual3. 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 matter5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction7. 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	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime 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/Summary of Main Issues
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1.1	To update Committee on correspondence received from DfI in relation to matters raised by the Council
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the responses received from the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) in relation to a Notice of Motion from Council. • Note the draft Council response to the Eastern Transport Plan that will be presented to this Committee meeting and the correlation with the NoM, and agree to close the NoM. • Note the correspondence from DfI in advance of the DfI presentation of the Autumn Statement
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>At the Council meeting on the 3rd April Members passed a Notion of Motion stating that;</p> <p>3.2 Belfast City Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognises that many neighbourhoods across the city suffer from the blight of congestion, poor air quality, commuter traffic, under investment in active travel measures and road safety issues; • Recalls that the Council has already expressed its support for measures like School Streets and Low Traffic Neighbourhoods as well as the creation of a “Quietway” linking Lagan Gateway to Cregagh Glen, through Cherryvale Playing Fields; • Believes that a “Quietway” through Rosetta - a “Rosetta Way” along with associated measures like active travel infrastructure, reduced speed limits, the closing up of rat runs, the installation of tree pits as chicanes could all help to reduce congestion, poor air quality, commuter traffic and road safety issues; • Agrees to write to the Department for Infrastructure seeking an update on the agreed puffin crossing on the Knockbreda Road which would facilitate the opening of the pedestrian gate into Cherryvale and the creation of the Rosetta Way “Quietway”; • Further agrees to ask the Department for Infrastructure to draw up an action plan, in consultation with the Council and relevant local organisations and residents, to deliver the Rosetta Way “Quietway” and tackle the challenges associated with congestion, poor air quality, commuter traffic and road safety issues in the area.”

3.3	<p>Attached within Appendix A of this report is the letter issued from BCC to DfI, with the subsequent response received on the 19th September attached within Appendix B of this report. With the response the DfI Permanent Secretary outlines that Quiet Streets are referred to as a potential tool in the 'Making Belfast an Active City; Belfast Cycling Network 2021', however this has yet to develop as a policy. The response goes on to say that that focus is now on addressing the Climate Act and the progression of the Transport Strategy for NI along with the more local Transport Plans.</p>
3.4	<p>This Committee received an update on the development on the Belfast local transport plan, the Eastern Transport Plan in June 2023, and the Department are currently out to consultation on this with a report due to this Committee meeting on the Councils draft response.</p>
3.5	<p>The response from the Permanent Secretary continue to identify that Quiet Streets / Low Traffic Neighbourhoods require a substantial professional input and community consultation, and can be contentious as evidenced by the review of the schemes initiated in England by the Prime Minister and that the outcome of that review would need to be considered prior to considering the implementation of schemes locally.</p>
3.6	<p>In relation to the proposed crossing on the Knockbreda Road the Permanent Secretary references a letter issued to the Chief Executive in May 2023 which is included within Appendix C of this report. This letter outlines the process, including a road safety audit, on the proposed location for a crossing on the Knockbreda Road. The letter confirms that following this process the Department are focusing on a potential crossing close to Knock Eden Park and have instructed their consultants to undertake a detailed design and a road safety audit at this location. The Department commit to keeping the Council informed of the progress of this proposal as the plans develop further.</p>
3.7	<p>Members are asked to consider the response received from DfI in conjunction with the ongoing developmental work of the Eastern Transport Plan which will provide the strategic direction for network decisions across the wider Belfast Metropolitan area. Pending the finalisation of the ETP, it is recommended that this NoM is closed on the basis that the Council supports the ETP Guiding Principle of 'People Places; neighbourhood areas including residential streets that prioritise active travel' in order to providing the strategic context to enable the future development of 'People Places'.</p>
3.8	<p>Letter to Councils September 2023</p> <p>On the 21st September DfI Deputy Secretary (Transport & Road Asset Management) wrote to local Councils to provide some context in advance of the planned Divisional Road Managers</p>

3.9	<p>Autumn Update to the Councils. The letter, attached as Appendix D of this report, outlines the significant budget and resource pressures that the department are currently experiencing, and the impacts that this is having on the delivery of critical services and the maintenance of the current infrastructure network. Mr Woods goes on to outline the strategic direction for transport aligned to the Climate Change Act (NI) 2022, referencing the ongoing Eastern Transport Plan and the alignment of this with the Councils' LDP processes. Mr Woods outlines the Departments approach to the development of active travel infrastructure and the intention to bring a Northern Ireland wider Active Travel Network Delivery Plan to consultation in 2024 in conjunction with Councils, along with developing an appropriate grant and support framework for the delivery of greenways. Finally, Mr Woods outlines the challenges of maintaining the current network, and the intention to consult on the Strategic Asset Management Plan in 2023, outlining the principles that will guide the maintenance and development of the current network while also considering the future requirements to deliver the key drivers for change.</p> <p>Members are asked to consider this correspondence in advance of the presentation of the DfI Autumn Statement which is currently scheduled for the Special Meeting of the CG&R Committee in November 2023, and to consider this correspondence in association with the rest of this report.</p>
3.10	Financial and Resource Implications
	None associated with this report.
3.11	Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment
	None associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix A – Ltr DfI Quietway Rosetta Way Motion</p> <p>Appendix B – SCORR-0199-2023 Rosetta Way Quietway</p> <p>Appendix C – Reply - Provision of a Controlled crossing at Knockbreda Road</p> <p>Appendix D – DfI Letter to Councils September 2023</p>