Subject:	Proposals for dual language street signs
Date:	9th September 2025
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
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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 seven existing 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 Brooke Crescent, Juniper Park, Elimgrove Street, Deerpark Mews, Joy Street, Castle Street & Chapel Lane
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	Key Issues 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

English Name	Non- English Name	Location	Persons surveyed
Brooke Crescent	Corrán an tSrutháin	Off Brooke Drive, BT11	125
Juniper Park	Páirc an Aitil	Off Gardenmore Road, BT17	132
Elimgrove Street	Sráid Gharrán Éilím	Off Oldpark Road, BT14	84
Deerpark Mews	Eachlann Pháirc na bhFia	Off Deerpark Road, BT14	32
Joy Street	Sráid Sheoigh	Off May Street, BT2	44
Castle Street	Sraid an Chaisleáin	Off King Street, BT1	62
Chapel Lane	Lána an tSéipéil	Off Castle Street, BT1	8

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	Brooke Crescent, BT11 • 62 occupiers (49.6%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 1 occupier (0.8%) was not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.

	• 2 occupiers (1.6%) had no preference either way.
3.7	Juniper Park, BT17 • 23 occupiers (17.42%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.8	Elimgrove Street, BT14 • 13 occupiers (15.47%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.9	Deerpark Mews, BT14 • 17 occupiers (53.12%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.10	Joy Street, BT2 • 14 occupiers (31.81%) were in favour of the erection of a second name plate
3.11	Castle Street, BT1 • 13 occupiers (20.96%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 1 occupiers (1.61%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 1 occupier (1.61%) had no preference either way.
3.12	Chapel Lane, BT1 • 2 occupiers (25%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.13	Officers have reviewed these applications in light of the Royal Mail postage issue and based upon the evidence available, including the absence of any returns from Royal Mail or from residents in the streets, have confirmed that none have been affected by the postage issue.
3.14	**Assessment against policy** The Council's policy on the erection of a second language 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.

3.15	All the surveys listed above demonstrate compliance with the threshold contained within the Policy.
3.16	As part of the new policy, the Council have agreed that applications for dual language street signage in the city centre will be subject to wider public consultation.
3.17	Joy Street, Castle Street and Chapel Lane are located within the city centre boundary agreed by SP&R Committee on 17th February 2023 and ratified by Council on 1st March 2023.
3.18	In accordance with the agreed procedures and following surveys for each street, Belfast City Council sought the views from the community of users including those who live, work, study or visit the city on the proposal to erect dual language street signs in Joy Street, Castle Street and Chapel Lane. In line with the Council decision of 1st March 2023, adverts were placed in the Belfast Telegraph, Irish News and Newsletter. Submissions could be made from 9th May 2025 to 6th June 2025. The following two responses were received during the consultation period:
3.19	One respondent felt the implementation of Irish language street signs in Joy Street, Castle Street and Chapel Lane would cause tension and division for all that use them.
3.20	The second respondent in relation to Castle Street and Joy Street suggested formal consideration be given to the name plates in trilingual format in English, Ulster Scots and Irish and provided historical and good relations representations in relation to this proposal. They had no objection to the proposal in Chapel Lane for dual language signs with the second language in Irish.
	Financial and Resource Implications
3.21	There is a cost of approximately £2760 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.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment
3.22	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.
3.23	The initial assessments and elected member notification carried out for the applications at Brooke Crescent, Juniper Park, Elimgrove Street, Deerpark Mews, Joy Street, Castle Street & Chapel Lane did not identify any potential adverse impacts to prevent the surveys being carried.
3.24	Applications within the agreed city centre boundary for Joy Street, Castle Street and Chapel Lane were subjected to a wider public consultation and two comments were received, details of which are included at 3.18 and 3.19.
4.0	**Appendices**
	None