



Subject:	Dfl's Transport Strategy 2035 – Consultation Response
Date:	10 September 2025
Reporting Officer:	Damien Martin, Strategic Director of Place and Economy
Contact Officer:	Jamie Uprichard, Business Research and Development Manager

Restricted Reports											
Is this report restricted?	Yes	No	X								
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number</p> <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											
<p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <table><tr><td>After Committee Decision</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr><tr><td>After Council Decision</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr><tr><td>Sometime in the future</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr><tr><td>Never</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr></table>				After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never	<input type="checkbox"/>
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After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>										
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>										
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Call-in			
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes	X	No

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the Department for Infrastructure's (DfI) draft Transport Strategy 2035 and seek agreement on a Council response to the public consultation.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>It is recommended that the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes the main highlights of the DfI's draft Transport Strategy 2035; and • Approve the consultation response, attached at appendix 1 for submission to the DfI by the deadline of 16th December, noting that it is subject to council ratification at its meeting of 1st October 2025.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>The Department for Infrastructure has prepared a draft Transport Strategy to 2035. They launched a 12-week public consultation exercise to gather the views of stakeholders, which closes on 16 September 2025. The Transport Strategy sets out a new vision and strategic priorities for our transport system through to 2035. It articulates the role of transport as a social, economic and environmental enabler and establishes a set of transport priorities for the Department to deliver against.</p> <p>The vision of the strategy is <i>“To provide a sustainable, safe, accessible and effective transport system which meets the region’s climate change requirements, serves the needs of urban and rural communities, and supports economic growth”</i>.</p> <p>This strategy is developed around four Strategic Priorities for Transport, each of which contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. These Strategic Priorities for Transport reflect the contribution that the transport system can make to the improvement of people's everyday lives, and to our society in general. The strategic priorities are as follows:</p> <p>1.Transport Is Resilient and Sustainable - Going forward, it will not be sufficient to simply show that our transport decisions avoid emission increases. Decisions will need to proportionately demonstrate how they contribute to the wider transport decarbonisation programme as well as delivering other sustainability objectives, to deliver net zero by 2050 as set out in the Climate Change Act. The Department has a duty to “exercise its own functions, so far as is possible to do so, in a manner that is consistent with the achievement” of net-zero.</p> <p>2. Transport Supports Connected and Inclusive Communities - The Department recognises that the current design of some of our transport system and spaces can create</p>

	<p>barriers for disabled people and others with reduced mobility. The Department will build in accessibility as a condition of public investment in our transport system and spaces. A sustainable and low carbon transport system requires the opportunity for people to move from one mode to another easily.</p> <p>3. Transport Is Safe and Healthy - Improving road safety underpins all aspects of the Department's work. Improving safety (and perceived safety) is critical to increasing the percentage of journeys made by active travel and public transport. It is also central to good placemaking and for creating an inclusive transport system.</p> <p>4. Transport Supports Green Growth - Companies in NI are looking towards delivering innovative sustainable growth that creates both commercial and societal value while lowering their carbon impact. These companies can deliver significant impacts on clean energy and low carbon technology. Their expertise and passion for innovation and engineering will create opportunities to deliver lasting generational transformation in NI.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no financial implications attached to this report.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no equality, good relations or rural needs implications contained in this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents attached
	Appendix 1: DfI's draft Transport Strategy 2035 - Belfast City Council Response