



<b>Subject:</b>	Dual language street sign application for University Street (including figures for other applications that did not meet the 15% threshold of residents in favour of a dual language street sign)
<b>Date:</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager ext 2430 Alan Mayrs, Principal Building Control Surveyor ext. 2428

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</b>	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Information relating to any individual</li><li>2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual</li><li>3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)</li><li>4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter</li><li>5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained</li><li>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</li><li>7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</li></ol>	
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>																														
1.1	<p>This report is provided in response to a request from a member at the P&amp;C Committee meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> March 26 for more detail to be provided for the dual language street sign application at University Street to review the decision taken to close the application.</p> <p>In addition, following the meeting of council on 5<sup>th</sup> May, survey figures are provided for all applications that did not meet the 15% threshold in favour of a proposal to erect dual language street signs, the list of which was provided at April P&amp;C Committee.</p>																														
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>																														
	<b><u>University Street</u></b>																														
2.1	<p>1. Members are asked to consider the information provided and the survey results for the dual language street sign application for University Street which failed to meet the 15% threshold at street survey and either: -</p> <p>(a) Agree the application should remain closed; or</p> <p>(b) Advise officers on any other course of action with regard to this application.</p>																														
2.2	<p>2. Members are also asked to note:</p> <p>(a) the results of the surveys that have been closed for all other applications failing to meet the 15% threshold of those in favour of a dual language street sign.</p> <p>(b) that applications failing to meet the 15% threshold will be included in future standard reports for information where applications are being considered by members.</p>																														
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>																														
	<b><u>University Street</u></b>																														
3.1	The dual language street sign application for University Street requesting a second language in Irish was received on 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2022. The request was made by Cllr McKeown who is member for the District Electoral Area of Botanic. A further application was received for the same street on 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2025 from Cllr McKay.																														
3.2	The survey of occupiers on the street was conducted between 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2025 and 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2025.																														
3.3	<p>The full results of the survey are detailed in the table below with additional breakdown between domestic and non-domestic surveys as this was an issue raised in the discussion at Committee: -</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Property Type</th> <th>Surveys Delivered</th> <th>Surveys returned</th> <th>For</th> <th>Against</th> <th>No Preference</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Domestic (Residents on the electoral list)</td> <td>90</td> <td>14</td> <td>12</td> <td>2</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-Domestic</td> <td>36</td> <td>10</td> <td>6</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>24</b></td> <td><b>18</b></td> <td><b>3</b></td> <td><b>3</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><b>Percentage</b></td> <td></td> <td><b>14.28%</b></td> <td><b>2.38%</b></td> <td><b>2.38</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Property Type	Surveys Delivered	Surveys returned	For	Against	No Preference	Domestic (Residents on the electoral list)	90	14	12	2	0	Non-Domestic	36	10	6	1	3		<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>Percentage</b>		<b>14.28%</b>	<b>2.38%</b>	<b>2.38</b>
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3.4	The policy on dual language street signs states as follows: -																														

*“If the minimum threshold of fifteen percent is not met, the Applicant will be given two weeks to advise the Council of any special circumstances in relation to the application. If such special circumstances relate to the processing of a survey, the Strategic Director of Place and Economy, in conjunction with the City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services will determine whether such exceptional circumstances exist to refer the matter to Committee. Where exceptional circumstances relate to matters other than the processing of a survey, the matter will be referred to Committee. If there are no special circumstances, the application will end.”*

3.5 In accordance with the policy the applicant was advised by letter that the street failed to meet the 15% threshold and the applicant was given two weeks to provide details of any special circumstances pertaining to the application. This correspondence was issued on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025 with a deadline of 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025. No correspondence detailing any special circumstances was received and the applications was closed.

3.6 Members are further advised that the current policy states

*“The Council will retain a residual discretion to decide to erect or not to erect a street sign in a language other than English in certain circumstances. This will be done on a case by case basis. It may be appropriate to depart from the procedures in this policy when there are clear reasons for doing so. This may include taking into account:*

- (a) the views of the Occupiers of the street.*
- (b) the results of the initial assessment for the application, including any identified potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations and rural needs;*
- (c) consideration of the local context of the application;*
- (d) any other Council policies or strategies related to the application; and*
- (e) all material considerations relating to the application”*

**Other applications where support for the erection of dual language nameplates was less than 15%**

3.7 In the report provided to People and Communities Committee in April a list of streets was presented where the support for the erection of dual language nameplates was less than 15%. For noting, these are listed below at 3.10 and the results of the surveys carried out are provided for information.

3.8 Officers followed the policy for each of these applications, including consideration of any exceptional circumstances presented by a small number of applicants following the procedure as described in paragraph 3.4 above.

3.9 None of these were deemed to be exceptional circumstances, and as such all applications were closed.

Street	Language	Surveys Issued	For	Against	No preference
Belmont Avenue	Irish	121	10 (8.26%)	38 (31.40%)	2 (1.65%)
Belvedere Park	Irish	119	13 (10.92%)	33 (27.73%)	0
Burmah Street	Irish	70	10 (14.28%)	6 (8.57%)	0
Cherryvalley Gardens	Irish	83	6 (7.22%)	43 (51.80%)	1 (1.20%)
Clovelly Street	Irish	18	0	5 (27.77%)	0
Colinvale	Irish	246	35 (14.23%)	0	0
Cooke Mews	Irish	4	0	0	0
Eliza Street	Irish	1	0	0	0

Fortwilliam Grange	Irish	65	5 (7.69%)	10 (15.38%)	4 (6.15%)
Friendly Way	Irish	30	4 (13.33%)	0	0
Hawthornden Road	Irish	91	1 (1.09%)	46 (50.54)	7 (7.69%)
Isoline Street	Irish	78	3 (3.85%)	23 (29.49%)	0 (0%)
Kent Street	Irish	42	2 (4.76%)	1 (2.38%)	0
King Street	Irish	76	3 (3.9%)	0	0
Knightsbridge Park	Irish	95	8 (8.42%)	47 (49.47%)	3 (3.15%)
Leganoe Street	Irish	6	0	0	0
Lismain Street	Irish	53	7 (13.20%)	11 (20.75%)	0
Loopland Drive	Irish	148	17 (11.48%)	63 (42.56%)	1 (0.67%)
Magdala Street	Irish	24	1 (4.16%)	0	0
Marsden Terrace	Irish	12	1 (8.33%)	0	0
McAuley Street	Irish	101	10 (9.90%)	0	1 (0.99%)
Melrose Street	Irish	91	7 (7.69%)	3 (3.29%)	0
Mill Pond Glen	Irish	83	8 (9.63%)	0	0
Mount Merrion Avenue	Irish	362	33 (9.12%)	120 (33.15%)	4 (1.10%)
Queens Road	Irish	339	16 (4.71%)	11 (3.24%)	2 (0.58%)
Ravenhill Reach	Irish	35	2 (5.71%)	4 (11.42%)	0
Shaftesbury Avenue	Irish	90	13 (14.44%)	0	0
Skegoneill Avenue	Irish	242	29 (11.98%)	43 (17.76%)	1 (0.41%)
Stewart Street	Irish	77	6 (7.79%)	0	1 (1.29%)
Sunningdale Gardens	Irish	145	3 (2.07%)	64 (44.14%)	0
Victoria Road	Irish	173	7 (4.05%)	64 (36.99%)	1 (0.58%)
Wellesley Avenue	Irish	123	9 (7.32%)	3 (2.44%)	1 (0.81%)

3.10 It is proposed that any applications where the 15% threshold has not been met will now be included for information on an ongoing basis in future dual language street sign reports being brought to People and Communities Committees.

3.11 It should be noted that following deferral from the Committee in April 2026, a further report on how any duplicate applications for dual language street signs for the same streets that have been closed will be brought to the next committee in June.

Financial & Resource Implications

3.12 There are no financial or resource implications if the decision is taken to confirm the current closure of this application. There may be financial and resource implications on any other decision dependant on the decision taken.

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

3.13	The application for University Street was subject to an initial assessment and an elected member notification process to identify any potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations and rural needs in relation to the carrying out of the survey.
3.14	The initial assessment and elected member notification carried out for the application did not identify any potential adverse impacts to prevent the survey being carried out.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
4.1	None