



Subject:	Dual language street sign applications with the second language in Irish for Fernwood Street, Cliftonpark Avenue and Dromore Street.
Date:	12 th May 2026
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
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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
1.1	To consider if a street survey of occupiers will be carried out for three applications for the erection of dual language street signs in Irish within the city where potential adverse impacts have been identified by the initial assessments.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>1. Members are asked to consider the report and matters raised in relation to the applications for dual language street signs in Irish received for Fernwood Street, Cliftonpark Avenue and Dromore Street and either:</p> <p>a) Agree that surveys of occupiers of these streets be carried out.</p> <p>or</p> <p>b) Agree that no surveys will be carried out on the grounds of the potential adverse impacts identified and these applications are closed.</p>
	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The power for the Council to consider applications to erect a second street nameplate in a language other than English is contained in Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.</p> <p>3.2 The Dual Language Street Sign policy states that “<i>each application will be subject to an initial assessment for any potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations and rural needs and where any adverse impacts are identified that information will be brought to Committee.</i>”</p> <p>3.3 The initial assessments were carried out for these three streets and potential adverse impacts were identified.</p> <p>3.4 Draft equality screenings were therefore carried out, assessing the request for dual language street signs in Irish on Fernwood Street, Cliftonpark Avenue and Dromore Street for equality and good relations issues.</p> <p>3.5 The screenings have identified that the carrying out of surveys and the erection of Irish language street signs in these areas has the potential to give rise to community tension. Conversely the screenings also identified that the process could assist in promoting cultural and linguistic diversity. The findings are outlined in the equality and good relation section below.</p> <p>3.6 The council retains ‘residual discretion’ in relation to these applications. In effect this gives elected members the option not to proceed to survey and/ or halt the erection of a dual language street sign in a street where, in the view of elected members this action would be considered inappropriate</p> <p>3.7 These applications are therefore being brought to Committee to determine if surveys of residents of these streets will take place, considering the information presented in the report.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>3.8 If it is decided to carry out surveys, the resulting tasks are included within existing resources and budgets for the process.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>

3.9	An EQIA was carried out on the Dual Language Street Signs policy in 2021-22. This confirmed the initial assessment process to be carried out, which may indicate the requirement for equality screening.
3.10	The applications for dual language street signs (with the second language in Irish) at Fernwood Street, Cliftonpark Avenue and Dromore Street were assessed for equality of opportunity and good relations issues through the initial assessment process. This process identified that the potential for adverse impact existed and recommended further screening prior to referral to committee for authority to proceed to survey.
3.11	The draft screenings have identified that the carrying out of a survey in itself in these areas has the potential to give rise to community tension, as could the erection of the street signs and therefore has the potential to give rise to adverse impact on the grounds of good relations. It is acknowledged; however, the process could alternatively assist in promoting cultural and linguistic diversity.
3.12	The applications were also presented to elected members as part of the elected member notification procedure, and no objections were received.
4.0	Appendices
4.1	None