



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources (Transition) Committee
Subject:	Roads (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill - consultation
Date:	19 th February 2010
Reporting Officer:	Ciaran Quigley, Director of Legal Services
Contact Officer:	Kevin Heaney, RPA Project Coordinator (ext. 6202)

1.0	<u>RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION</u>
1.1	The Council received correspondence, dated 3 rd February 2010, from the Committee Clerk <u>for the for NI Assembly Regional Development Committee seeking comments</u> in relation to proposals to make a new <u>Roads (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill</u> . The Council has been asked to consider if it wishes to submit a written response on the draft Bill by 19 th February 2010.
2.0	<u>KEY ISSUES</u>
2.1	The Director of Legal Services has convened a group of officers to carry out a detailed review of the draft Bill and the clauses contained therein and would intend to submit any relevant comments to the Committee at its meeting on 19 th February 2010.
2.2	However, at this stage it would appear there is nothing in the draft Bill which would raise any concerns and necessitate the Council making any specific submission.
	SUMMARY OF BILL
2.3	This Bill is intended to address two particular issues, namely the introduction of traffic restrictions and road closers to enable road works to take place, and <u>prohibiting or restricting the use of roads</u> for holding <u>special events</u> .
2.4	In relation to the carrying out works on roads, the Bill will introduce a permit scheme arrangement, whereby permits will be made under regulation and granted, which set out the provisions on which road works will be carried out.
2.5	The Bill will also contain provisions in relation to the closure of roads for certain special events. This provision will be of particular interest to District Councils because the function of allowing events on roads will be vested in councils. This legislation is essentially a forerunner to the introduction of the RPA (it has always been envisaged that the RPA would involve the transfer of particular roads functions from central to local government including the ability to make provisions to hold relevant events on roads. Within the context of the Council this would include, for example, the Halloween celebrations, Christmas Lights etc.
2.6	A copy of the draft Bill and accompanying Explanatory and Financial Memorandum is attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

2.7	The Director of Legal Services will update the Committee, at its meeting on 19 th February, on any issues identified through discussions with relevant officers.
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3.0 Resource Implications

While any potential resource impact of the Bill is still to be quantified it may have implications for the Council's Events Unit.

4.0 Recommendations

Members are asked to note the forgoing report and, in particular, that a detailed update will be provided to Committee at its meeting on 19th February on any issues and concerns with regard to the Bill.

5.0 Appendices

Appendix 1: Explanatory/ Financial Memorandum and draft Roads (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill