



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Giro d'Italia – Display of Election Posters
Date:	25th April, 2014
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager, ext. 6314

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Committee will recall that the Council, at its meeting on 1st April, in considering a minute of the Development Committee in respect of the preparations for the Giro d'Italia, had agreed that the Lord Mayor would write to the Environment Minister, Mr. M. Durkan, MLA, encouraging him to introduce legislation to prohibit the erection of election posters along the route of the race until the event was over. A response has now been received from the Minister, a copy of which is attached.

2	Key Issues
2.1	In his letter, the Minister has indicated that, whilst the political parties at the Northern Ireland Assembly had expressed their support for a voluntary ban on the display of election posters, officials from within his Department had been working to introduce draft legislation to bring the display of election posters under planning control.
2.2	In essence, such legislation, if and when it is introduced, would prohibit the display of election posters along the route of the Giro d'Italia until after the race had left Northern Ireland. Therefore, the display of election posters along the route would be prohibited until Wednesday, 12th May.
2.3	The Minister points out, however, that the effectiveness of such a measure would depend upon the prior cooperation of all of the political parties to agree to abide by the regulation and not to erect posters.
2.4	He adds that officials from his Department would be consulting with key stakeholders – including the Council – to ascertain how each body could contribute towards ensuring that the ban on election posters would be adhered to for the duration of the race.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	None

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	None

5	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is requested to note the receipt of the Minister's letter and to take such action thereon as deemed appropriate.

6	Decision Tracking
The Democratic Services Section will implement any decision taken.	