



Subject:	Transport Issues – BCC response to TransportNI consultation
Date:	14 th October 2015
Reporting Officer:	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
Contact Officer:	Anne Doherty Planning & Transport Officer

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	TransportNI is currently consulting on a number of transport proposals and has asked the Council to provide comments. The proposals include:
1.2	Coach Parking Bays – Donegall Quay, Duncrue Road & Falcon Road Transport NI has been asked by the Federation of Passenger Transport (FPT) to provide additional coach parking bays for long stay coach parking at Donegall Quay, Duncrue Road and Falcon Road.
1.3	Waiting Restrictions – Broadway, Broomhill Park, Florenceville Avenue & Genoa Street Transport NI has been asked to consider introducing “at any time” waiting restrictions at Broadway, Broomhill Park, Florenceville Avenue and Genoa Street.
1.4	Proposed Taxi-Bus Ranks – Bridge Street & North Street North Belfast Taxis Association operates a Taxi-Bus service from Bridge Street and North Street. The Association has asked TransportNI to provide taxi ranks and signage. Due to emerging legislation TransportNI is considering this request and is proposing the introduction of the following ranks: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bridge Street (southwest side) – From its junction with the southeast of Rosemary

<p>1.5</p> <p>1.6</p> <p>1.7</p> <p>1.8</p>	<p>Street south eastwards for a distance of 10 metres.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Street (South side) – from its junction with the east side of Law’s Court, westwards for a distance of 20metres. <p>Proposed Taxi Ranks – Bridge Street & Dublin Road</p> <p>TransportNI is considering the introduction of additional/amended taxi ranks at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridge Street • Dublin Road (east side) • Dublin Road (west side) <p>In addition, TransportNI is seeking comments on the introduction of ranks at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Botanic Avenue (east side) – 15m south of its junction with Posnett Street for a distance of 30m in a southerly direction. • High Street (south side) – 11m northeast of its junction with Pottingers Entry for a distance of 18m in a north easterly direction. <p>The locations of the proposals are outlined in the maps contained in Appendix 2.</p> <p>Current taxi rank provision in Belfast City Centre is detailed in Appendix 3.</p>
<p>2.0</p>	<p>Recommendations</p>
<p>2.1</p>	<p>Members are asked to consider the proposed response outlined in Appendix 1 and agree the submission to DRD as the Council position.</p>
<p>3.0</p>	<p>Main report</p>
<p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p>	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The locations of the proposals are outlined in the maps contained in Appendix 2. The specific location maps provide details for the proposed changes in each area.</p> <p>Coach Parking Bays – Donegall Quay, Duncrue Road & Falcon Road</p> <p>The Council is aware that there has been an increase in demand for coach parking in the city centre in recent years and coach operators consider the current provision to be inadequate to handle demands. It is suggested that the Council supports the provision of additional coach parking facilities as identified by the FPT as it should improve coach</p>

	<p>access to the city centre and lead to a potential increase in visitors. Given the proximity of the proposed Donegall Quay coach parking bay to the Belfast Bikes docking station there is potential that the bay may provide opportunities for more linkages and integrated travel across the city.</p>
3.3	<p>While the Council supports the proposed locations, the Council recognises there is a need for a more strategic approach to address the current issues surrounding coach parking, including limited daily parking, illegal parking, the absence of secure overnight coach parking and increasing vandalism. An internal officers group alongside Visit Belfast are currently taking this forward.</p> <p>Waiting Restrictions – Broadway, Broomhill Park, Florenceville Avenue & Genoa Street</p>
3.4	<p>It is suggested the Council is supportive of the introduction of waiting restrictions at Broadway, Broomhill Park, Florenceville Avenue and Genoa Street. Transport NI has stated that the proposals will prevent congestion and improve the flow of traffic in these areas. In addition the restrictions should improve accessibility for pedestrians by preventing vehicles from parking on the footway.</p> <p>Proposed Taxi-Bus Ranks – Bridge Street & North Street</p>
3.5	<p>It is suggested that the Council welcomes the provision of the proposed taxi-bus ranks at the above locations. This is subject to DRD engagement with the frontages along the proposed ranks.</p> <p>Proposed Taxi Ranks – Bridge Street, Dublin Road, Botanic Avenue & High Street</p>
3.6	<p>It is suggested that the Council welcomes the proposed extension and additional provision of ranks for public taxi hire which could enhance provision for customers in Belfast. This support recognises the important role that taxi operators perform in supporting access and contributing to the successful management of the economy in Belfast. This is subject to DRD engagement with the frontages along the proposed ranks.</p>
	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p>
3.7	<p>None</p>
3.8	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p>

	None
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
4.1	Appendix 1 - Response to TransportNI on proposals. Appendix 2 - TransportNI correspondence and consultation layout drawings Appendix 3 - Current taxi rank provision in Belfast City Centre