



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Use of Bus Lanes by Taxis
Date:	10th May, 2017
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager
Contact Officer:	Louise McLornan, Democratic Services Officer

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To bring to the Committee's attention the Notice of Motion re: Use of Bus Lanes by Taxis which was referred to the Committee by the Council on 2nd May.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- note that officers will be submitting a report on the Dfl consultation to the Special meeting on 7th June;</li><li>- defer consideration of the notice of motion and that the item be added to the agenda for the Special meeting; and</li></ul>

	- consider a request by NI Greenways for a deputation to address the Committee
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><b><u>Key Issues</u></b></p> <p>The Council, at its meeting on 2nd May, considered the following Notice of Motion which had been moved by Councillor Beattie and seconded by Councillor Reynolds:</p> <p><b>“This Council supports the decision by the Department for Infrastructure to introduce the twelve week trial period permitting all taxis to use the Belfast Rapid Transit bus lanes and agrees to write to the Department for Infrastructure a letter of support to extend the duration of the trial period for an additional six months and expand the trial to include all Belfast bus lanes.”</b></p>
3.2	In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the Motion was referred without discussion to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee.
3.3	<p>Subsequently, on 3rd May, the Department for Infrastructure (Dfi) has requested a response from the Council on its consultation which is seeking views on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the twelve week trial itself; and</li> <li>• the possible future use of bus lanes in terms of taxi access.</li> </ul>
3.4	The deadline for this consultation is 16th June.
3.5	The timing of the receipt of the correspondence has not allowed adequate time for officers to compile a comprehensive response for consideration at this meeting.
3.6	The Committee will recall that it had agreed to hold a Special Meeting, on Wednesday, 7th June at 5.15pm, to receive the Spring Report from Transport NI and to discuss Car Parking across the city and on-street car parking charges, with representatives from the Department for Infrastructure invited to attend. All Members will be invited to attend the Special meeting.
3.7	Members are requested to note that, due to a restricted timeframe, it is intended that officers will submit a detailed report on the Dfi consultation response to the Committee at its Special meeting on 7th June, which would allow the response, as agreed by the

	<p>Committee, to be submitted by the deadline, subject to Council ratification at its meeting on 3rd July.</p>
3.8	<p>Members are asked to note that, although a General Election has since been called for Thursday, 8th June, that the Department for Infrastructure and Transport NI representatives have held 7th June in their diaries and that other evening meeting dates before the consultation deadline would be difficult to find.</p>
3.9	<p>A request has been received from NI Greenways who wish to present their views on the use of bus lanes by taxis to the Committee.</p>
3.10	<p>As Members will be aware, the normal process for a group wishing to form a deputation to the Committee is for the request to be submitted to a meeting and, if agreed, they are invited to a subsequent meeting. The Committee is asked to consider whether it wishes to accede to the request and that NI Greenways be invited to address the Committee at the Special meeting.</p>
3.11	<p>Given the timeframe for the DfI consultation response on the issue, the Committee might also wish to consider deferring consideration of the Notice of Motion and that the item be added to the agenda for the Special meeting on 7th June.</p> <p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u> None.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> None.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	<p>Appendix 1 - Department for Infrastructure Consultation on the use of Bus Lanes by Taxis Appendix 2 - Request to speak from NI Greenways</p>