



Subject:	<i>Statutory Consultee Annual Report</i>
Date:	<i>15 August 2017</i>
Reporting Officer:	<i>Ed Baker</i>
Contact Officer:	<i>Helen Richmond</i>

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 or Summary of main Issues The purpose of this report is to ask members to clear the Statutory Consultee Annual Report and to note that an officer from Planning Service will be participating in a Task and Finish statutory consultation working group.
2.0	Recommendations It is recommended that Members agree the Annual report for onward transmission to the Department for Infrastructure (the Department) attached at Annex A.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Background and Context</u> Section 229 of the Planning (Northern Ireland) Act 2011 (Duty to respond to consultation) placed the previous administrative consultation arrangements in the development management process for planning applications on a statutory basis.
3.2	Consultee bodies that have been identified in Schedule 3 of the Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 ("the GDPO") are statutory consultees and therefore subject to the duty to respond to statutory consultation requests from another district council, or the Department, acting as the relevant planning authority.
3.3	The key requirement on such a statutory consultee is to provide a substantive response to a statutory consultation request within a specified timeframe (usually 21 days). In addition, consultees are also required to provide an annual performance report to the Department specifying their performance in meeting their duty to respond to these statutory requests. The attached report sets out Belfast City Council performance for 2016/17. The department has no plans to publish the report.

3.4	The department has acknowledged that there are shortcomings with the consultation process and is establishing a task and finish working group to identify and introduce improvements. An officer from Belfast City Council has been nominated to attend.
3.5	Financial & Resource Implications There are no additional resource implication arising from the reports.
3.6	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> There are no equality and good relations implications associated with this report.