

Appendix

Council Response - Review of Alfred Street / Upper Arthur Street Cycle lane

The Council supported the introduction of the Alfred Street / Upper Arthur Street scheme as part of the proposals to improve the city centre cycle network. The scheme contributes to delivering a number of the outcomes of the Belfast Agenda in particular “Belfast is a vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable city”. An indicator of this outcome is to increase “the percentage of all journeys which are made by walking, cycling or public transport”.

In relation to the review of the cycle lane, the Council would suggest that the following issues are considered:

1. the gaps between the wands are currently too wide, as a result vehicles can access the cycleway and park. Further consideration should be given to the design of the segregation in order to prevent the vehicles from accessing and parking in the cycle lane. Motorist can also access the cycleway from side junctions and consideration should be given to preventing access for vehicles at the various junctions along the route.
2. Alfred Street is within the Linen Conservation Area boundary. It should be noted that any development should be in sympathy with the character and appearance of the Conservation Area. Development guidelines for Alfred Street state that consideration should be given to upgrading the amenity of Alfred Street. It is considered that the appearance of the wands is not sensitive to the Linenhall Conservation area and consideration should be given to an alternative design.
3. Access from and to Ormeau Avenue from the Alfred Street Cycle way is problematic. Further measures should be considered to give greater priority for pedestrian and cyclists using the shared pavement.

It should be noted that Councils street cleansing vehicles will need access to the cycle lane and the design of the separation should allow access for these vehicles. The Council would request that any amendments to the design as part of this consultation are brought back to Council officers for discussion and approval.

Transport Scheme Consultations

DfI have requested feedback from the Council on a number of minor transport schemes throughout the city. Details on the proposals are outlined below and it is suggested that the Council welcome the proposals in order to improve traffic progression and road safety.

1. Waiting Restrictions:

1. Howard Street and East Bridge Street - Proposal to introduce waiting restrictions

DfI is proposing to take forward the necessary legislation to extend the waiting restrictions on sections of Howard Street and East Bridge Street. The current restriction is from 8am to 6pm and the amendment is to change it to 7am to 7pm, Monday to Saturday in line with the Glider bus lane operational hours. The restriction is to ensure there is no parking during the operation of the Glider bus lane.

2. Station View - Proposed changes to waiting restrictions

Following construction of a lay-by outside the new apartment development on Station View a length of existing waiting restrictions (single yellow line) along the length of the lay-by is no longer required. The removal of this length of waiting restriction will require a new legislative process.

The proposal is to revoke the existing legislation that relates to 19m of waiting restrictions (single yellow line) at the lay-by and introduce a new amended legislation for reintroduction of two separate lengths of 'Prohibition of Waiting', Monday to Friday, 8.30am – 6.00pm, of approximately 8 m and 70m respectively.

3. Cooke Court, Cooke Mews and Lavina Square – Request for waiting restrictions

Follows concerns raised by a local residents group regarding parking issues in the above locations. Due to the density and duration of parking, DfI have identified traffic progression and road safety issues at the location and it is proposed that the waiting restrictions will be a combination of 'At Any Time' and 'Working Day' restrictions where parking is prohibited Mon-Fri 8.00am – 6.00pm.

4. Dromara Street – Proposed waiting restrictions

The issue of all day parking is causing difficulties for refuse collection vehicles on Dromara Street. The Department is proposing the introduction of additional waiting restrictions on the section of Dromara Street opposite no's 2 to 20. It is proposed to introduce in total approximately 47m of 'Prohibition'.

5. Balmoral Road - Proposed Waiting Restrictions

The Department is proposing to introduce waiting restrictions on a section of Balmoral Road following a request from DVLA to improve traffic progression in the area. It is considered that the proposal will reduce congestion along the route.

6. Crumlin Road – Proposed Waiting Restrictions

The Department propose to extend the waiting restrictions along the Crumlin Road outside the Mater Hospital and Court house building.

7. King Street, Belfast - Proposal to introduce a taxi bus rank

The taxi bus rank will operate Monday to Sunday 0700 - 2300hrs on the King Street (western side), in a lay-by at a point 6.5m south of its junction with Francis Street for a distance of 23.5 m in a southerly direction with a maximum of 4 taxi buses permitted in the rank.

8. Whitla Street - Proposed Abandonment

DfI is proposing to abandon the land/footpath on Whitla Street. The abandonment is deemed necessary to formally remove from DfI records part of an old street that no longer exists.

9. Westlink backpath between Albert Street and Cullingtree Road - Proposed Abandonment

The Department is proposing to abandon the land and footpath to facilitate an environmental improvement scheme in conjunction with Belfast City Council and NIHE.