



Subject:	East Belfast Translink Depot – Response from Department for Infrastructure
Date:	5th June, 2019
Reporting Officer:	Henry Downey, Democratic Services Officer, ext. 6311
Contact Officer:	Henry Downey, Democratic Services Officer, ext. 6311

Restricted Reports	
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"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To bring to the Committee's attention a response from the Department for Infrastructure to the Council's correspondence in relation to the East Belfast Translink Depot, following the Council meeting on 4th March.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to note the response and to take such action thereon as may be determined.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The Committee will recall that, at its meeting on 10th October, 2018, it granted approval for officers to meet with Translink representatives to discuss a potential site search that could accommodate any future relocation of the East Belfast Translink Depot. On 13th February, the Committee noted, as part of a report providing an update on infrastructure and transport issues, that Translink had agreed, in principle, to work collaboratively with the Council in

	terms of a feasibility exercise to identify potential sites that could deliver their operational and logistical needs.
3.2	The Committee's decision to note that information had, on 4th March, been amended by the Council to provide that officers enter into discussions also with representatives of the Department for Infrastructure, with a view to identifying other viable locations for the depot prior to proceeding with the study.
3.3	A letter was forwarded subsequently to the Department for Infrastructure and a response from Ms. S. Kerr, Director, Public Transport Division, is attached.
3.4	Ms. Kerr explains that, at present, Translink has no plans to relocate the East Belfast Translink Depot and points out that it continues to play a central role in delivering urban public transport, as it is ideally based to keep operational costs to a minimum. However, the Department for Infrastructure would, she states, not rule out the relocation of the depot in the longer term but would need reassurance that an alternative site would offer a similar level of efficiency and cost effectiveness and could be achieved with no financial detriment to Translink. She adds that she is aware that the Council has commissioned a study to examine alternative sites within the City and that, should the objective be to identify realistic options for further consideration by Translink, those issues would need to be fully addressed.
3.5	Ms. Kerr concludes by stating that she would be happy to meet with Council representatives to discuss the matter further. It should be noted that DfI will be presenting its Annual Spring Report at a future meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee (date to be confirmed) and it is proposed that the Committee discuss the matter with DfI in more detail, if required.
3.6	It should be noted also that the Council has not yet commissioned the study to examine alternative sites within the City which would meet the requirements of DfI and Translink. Approval to undertake the study would be required from the Committee and the Council.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.7	None.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.8	None.
4.0	Documents Attached
	Response from DfI