



Subject:	Signage Scheme Proposal for the Gaeltacht Quarter Area
Date:	23rd October, 2020
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor / Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Sarah Williams, Governance and Compliance Manager

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 or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek approval for officers to participate in a working group being established by Forbairt Feirste to look at the development of a signage scheme for the Gaeltacht Quarter.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	It is recommended that the Committee consider the report.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The Council has received a request from Forbairt Feirste for the Council to participate in a working group which would include Forbairt Feirste, the Department for Infrastructure and Tourism NI. The purpose of this working group would be to look at the development of a signage scheme for the Gaeltacht Quarter (see attached proposal in Appendix).

3.2	Forbairt Feirste is a development agency, funded by the Department for Communities, which aims to create socio-economic opportunities for the Irish speaking community of Belfast. It was established in 1994 to promote economic regeneration through promoting the city's Gaelic heritage.
3.3	<p>The types of signage Forbairt Feirste would like the working group to examine include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Welcome signage on the main thoroughfares into the Quarter ii) Directional signage for tourists and residents alike that cover the main buildings, the natural places of interest within the Quarter. iii) A street and road signage scheme. iv) Directional signage that cover the proposed network of linear walkways. v) A complete signage scheme within the Quarter and in the City Centre that integrate the Quarter with other existing Quarters in Belfast and that specifically include the Quarter in the directional and tourist signage in Belfast City Centre.
3.4	It is proposed that the relevant Council officers attend the meeting to determine what is being proposed so that further details could be considered by Members. In the first instance this would involve officers from Culture and Tourism, Building Control and the Equality & Diversity Unit however different teams may also need to be involved in any discussions for example Physical Programmes and City & Neighbourhood Services to ensure alignment with planned capital and programme investment in Shared Spaces and Services such as Peace IV Forth Meadow Greenway proposals.
3.5	The specific issue of street signage in the Gaeltacht Quarter was raised at People & Communities Committee in January 2019 when a Member requested that a standalone dual language street naming policy be introduced for the Gaeltacht Quarter and asked officers to investigate further. The issue of dual language street signage is currently being considered by Members.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.6	Financial implications are as yet unknown and would need to be determined.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.7	Any proposed change to policy in relation to these issues would be subject to an Equality Screening process.
4.0	Documents Attached
	Appendix - Request from Forbairt Feirste on Signage Scheme Proposal for the Gaeltacht Quarter