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**Democratic Services Section
Legal and Civic Services Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
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BT1 5GS**



**Belfast
City Council**

REMOTE SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

Members of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee will meet via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 23rd June, 2021 at 5.15 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

SUZANNE WYLIE

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. Routine Matters

- (a) Apologies
- (b) Declarations of Interest

2. Presentations

- (a) Translink - Update on Low and Zero Emission Buses
 - Sarah Simpson, Business Change Manager
 - Graeme Smyth, Public Affairs and Project Communications Officer
 - David Graham, Business Change Manager- Future Ticketing
 - William McGookin, Head of Ticketing – Translink
- (b) Department for Infrastructure - Spring Report (Pages 1 - 62)
 - Kevin Monaghan- Divisional Roads Manager
 - Michael McKendry- Belfast North Section Engineer
 - David Williams- Belfast South Section Engineer
 - Liz Loughran - Director of Transport Policy
 - Andrew Grieve - Head of the Walking & Cycling Unit

3. Correspondence - Department for Infrastructure (Pages 63 - 70)

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6
of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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Legal and Civic Services Department Democratic Services Section



Your reference

Being dealt with by Ms Eilish McGoldrick

Our reference EMDFI270521

Email: democraticservices@belfastcity.gov.uk

Date 27th May, 2021

Minister Mallon
Minister for Infrastructure
Department for Infrastructure
Corporate Policy Unit
Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
Belfast, BT2 8GB

Dear Minister Mallon,

Re: Special City Growth and Regeneration Committee, 23rd June - Presentation of DfI half-yearly report.

At its meeting in May, Belfast City Council's City Growth and Regeneration Committee agreed that the Council would write to you to outline a number of requests in advance of the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) half-yearly presentation to the Special Committee meeting on 23rd June. Our intention is to ensure that the Department is aware of specific areas of interest that Members would welcome further information or clarification on and the opportunity to collate this in advance. Members may wish to explore some issues in more detail, hence the request for certain officers to be in attendance.

Accordingly, I would be grateful if you would arrange for the following requests to be addressed in advance of, or during, your Department's attendance and presentation:

- **York Street Interchange Independent Assurance Review.** At its meeting on 14th April, the Committee agreed that the Council would write to you to request a copy of the York Street Interchange Independent Assurance Review Report. Members also welcomed the completion of the Independent Assurance Review. Accordingly, we would appreciate if you could please forward a copy of the Independent Assurance Review Report for dissemination to Members.
- **Update on the Safe Cycle Network.** At the meeting of the 12th May, Members were provided with correspondence from the DfI Eastern Division Manager providing details of the total meterage of cycle lane provision installed by the Department since 2016. In response to this, Members agreed to write to the Minister to;
 - Convey that Belfast is missing a key opportunity given the total meterage of pop-up cycle lanes delivered during the pandemic at a time when other cities were making significant strides in capturing and seizing the uptake and shift in travel patterns. The Committee called for an enhanced programme of safe cycling infrastructure, including pop-up provision to be brought forward at pace, while

simultaneously ensuring that local issues and requirements are captured and incorporated within the design process;

- Request that DfI provide their presentation and details of discussion in advance of the Special Committee;
- Request that DfI have to hand for the Committee the relevant data, including the total meterage of safe cycle network delivered since 2016, and information on the planned roll out of future schemes;
- Request the attendance of Liz Loughran and Andrew Grieve at the Special Committee in anticipation of questions from Members on Walking and Cycling infrastructure provision; and
- Request an update on the current status of e-scooter legislation.

Thank you for your co-operation and assistance on these issues raised by the City Growth and Regeneration Committee.

Yours sincerely



Eilish McGoldrick
Democratic Services Officer

cc. EasternSecretariat@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk



Department for

Infrastructure

An Roinn

Bonneagair

www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

**From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure
Nichola Mallon MLA**

Ms Eilish McGoldrick
Democratic Services Officer
Belfast City Council
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Your reference: EMDFI270521
Our reference: CORR-0939-2021
17th June 2021

Dear Ms McGoldrick

YORK STREET INTERCHANGE INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE REVIEW AND UPDATE ON SAFE CYCLE NETWORK

Thank you for your letter of 27 May 2021 to Minister Mallon on behalf of Belfast City Council's, City Growth and Regeneration Committee, requesting information ahead of the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) half-yearly presentation to the Special Committee meeting that will be held on 23 June 2021. The Minister has read your correspondence and has asked me to respond.

You have requested a copy of the York Street Interchange Independent Assurance Review report for dissemination to committee members. For an independent Project Assurance Review to be effective and of value, exchanges between interviewees and the panel need to be open, frank and confidential in nature. As such, in line with the guidance attached to DAO (Department of Finance) 02/20 (Section 8) The Minister does not plan to publish this report. A copy of this guidance can be found at:

<https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dfp/DAOf0220att.pdf>,

The Minister has, however, published the six recommendations of the review, which can be found at <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/news/mallon-announces-outcome-review-york-street-interchange-scheme> and has asked for further work to be carried out on the recommendations. This work is currently ongoing and the Minister has asked for the outcome to be reported in the autumn of this year.

In terms of the Belfast Cycling Network, you made a number of requests. The Department published '*Making Belfast an Active City – Belfast Cycling Network 2021*' on 4 June 2021. This document demonstrates the Minister's vision for better cycling infrastructure for Belfast over the next 10 years. Officials are currently working on plans to implement a number of schemes during the remainder of my tenure. Those schemes will be funded from my £20 million Blue / Green Infrastructure Fund. The Minister plans to publish a delivery plan later this year to lay the ground work for the

implementation of coherent, connected and safe cycling routes for everyday cycling in the city over the next ten years.

The key to implementation will be through consultation and the Minister would appreciate the continued support from the Council to ensure that together we achieve this vision to benefit all of Belfast's communities.

The Minister is content that the Department's Walking and Cycling Champion and her staff attend the Committee to answer questions in respect of the Belfast Cycling Network, along with officials from DfI Roads Eastern Division.

The information on meterage of safe cycling infrastructure delivered since 2016 is not readily accessible, but will be collated and made available for the Committee as soon as possible.



KATHRYN MCFERRAN
Private Secretary to the Minister

Mrs Suzanne Wylie
Chief Executive
Belfast City Council
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BT1 5GS

Annexe 7
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BELFAST
BT4 3SQ

Telephone: 0300 200 7893
Email: easternsecretariat@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Being Dealt With By: K Monaghan
Direct Line: 028 9052 6140

Your Ref:
Our Ref:

Date: 18 June 2021

Dear Suzanne

QUESTIONS ASKED BY ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS, FOLLOWING THE PRESENTATION OF THE EASTERN DIVISION PROGRESS REPORT

When I presented the Eastern Division Report to Special City Growth and Regeneration Committee on 24 November 2020, I agreed to give consideration to a number of matters. My response to these is as follows:

1. Alderman Brian Kingston – asked for 20mph zone to be considered for Tennent Street and Springfield Primary Schools

As you may be aware DfI Minister Nichola Mallon MLA was able to commit funding from the capital budget towards the introduction of part-time 20mph speed limits at 103 schools across Northern Ireland, so that parents, children and staff will be safer as they go to and from school on a daily basis. Priority listings have been developed for each Division based on scores calculated using the assessment framework contained within the Department's current road safety at schools policy document.

Given the restricted budgets for works of this nature, as well as the practicalities of delivery, it was necessary to limit the number of schools to around 100 in this year's programme.

Should further tranches of part-time speed limits at schools be considered, these schools will be considered for inclusion in future programmes together with other similar schools.

2. Alderman Brian Kingston – Requested a review of the request for the provision of dropped kerbs for Hemsworth Court

I can confirm this request occupies 11th position on our prioritised list of locations awaiting inclusion in our programme of works and forms part of a scheme to provide dropped kerbs in the wider Malvern area.

We are very keen to support proposals that better develop active travel routes. As we receive a high volume of requests and would like to do so much more than the funding allocated to our department permits. We will however explore the provision of this dropped kerb scheme once budgets are finalised.

3. Alderman Brian Kingston – requested the assessment of Ambleside Street and Tennent Street for resurfacing.

Both Ambleside Street and Tennent Street have been added to our 3 year potential resurfacing programme. However, when compared with other sites competing for inclusion in our annual resurfacing programme, these streets do not rate highly enough to be include in the programme for 2021/22, we will continue to consider them for future programmes.

The Department will however continue to carry out cyclical maintenance safety inspections of the above streets, at which time any defects that meet the current intervention level will be marked out for repair.

4. Alderman Brian Kingston – requested pedestrian measures on Crumlin Road at Bilston Road.

With regards to your request for provision of a refuge island, we carried out an assessment at this location, which highlighted this junction was regularly used by buses and HGV's turning into and out of Bilston Road. A swept path analysis was also carried out for articulated vehicles which indicated a pedestrian refuge island could not be accommodated within this junction.

5. Alderman Brian Kingston – requested the signalisation of the junction of Ballysillan Park and Ballysillan Road.

I will arrange for an assessment of this junction when traffic volumes return to normal. I shall contact you again once the outcome is known.

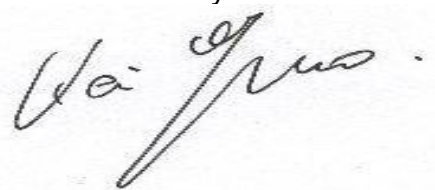
6. Cllr Mal O'Hara – Would like to know where we stand at present given the target of 130km cycle lanes by 2025?

The draft Belfast Bicycle Network consultation document proposed a cycling network of around 130km and set out a time frame for delivery of the network of ten years. It was estimated that 40% of the network already existed but acknowledged that it may not be of sufficient standard, for example in relation to width and lighting. I am pleased to note, Minister Mallon has now published the final Belfast Cycling Network.

Belfast Bike Life 2019 reports that there is around 41 miles (66km) of good quality cycling infrastructure in Belfast, although a proportion of this (e.g. in parks) does not feature on the proposed cycling network.

I hope this satisfactorily answers the outstanding questions / concerns, raised by Aldermen and Councillors during the presentation.

Yours sincerely



KEVIN MONAGHAN
Divisional Roads Manager

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