



Subject:	Correspondence received from the Department for Infrastructure
Date:	8th March, 2023
Reporting Officer:	Cathy Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration and Development
Contact Officer:	Eilish McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer

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 note the correspondence received from the Department for Infrastructure Roads, in response to the queries raised at its presentation to the Committee on 9th November, and the response from the Permanent Secretary regarding the budget allocation for the delivery of the Belfast Cycle Network.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> note the correspondence as set out in the report and to consider if any further action is necessary.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p data-bbox="272 235 432 264"><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p data-bbox="272 309 887 338"><i>Response from DfI Roads – Autumn Report</i></p> <p data-bbox="164 387 1493 573">3.2 The Committee, at its meeting in November, received a presentation for the Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to its Autumn Report 2022. During the meeting, Members had requested information on a number of additional matters, which DfI advised would be investigated and a further update submitted to the Committee in due course:</p> <ul data-bbox="323 645 1401 1704" style="list-style-type: none"> • In relation to the Temporary Bollards on the Donegall Road – Safety Concerns for residents regarding access - update on when this would be addressed; • An update on the residents parking scheme review and what, if any, have/ would be delivered across the City; • The need for residents parking scheme’s along the proposed new Glider Route; • The need to review College Park Residents Parking Scheme; • Lack of communication and the need for Members to have up to date, direct contact details for the DfI Roads Team so that issues could be resolved in a timely manner; • An update on the delivery of Orpen Park / Porter Park Traffic Calming Scheme – was there a plan in place for what this would be and a timeline for implementation; • Update on resurfacing of Roads and Pathways in Belvoir – Grays Park Avenue, Grays Park Gardens and Grays Park Drive; • Cycle Network Development Plan - Resources and Budget Update and data on what had been implemented in the last two years; • Learnings from Limestone/Cavehill proposed cycle lane consultation process; • Potholes and resurfacing in Lagmore Glen/Twinbrook area; • Update on Hill Street Pedestrianisation; and • Update on the expected delivery of 38 disabled Parking Bays which had been approved. <p data-bbox="164 1823 1493 1906">3.3 Accordingly, Democratic Services wrote to Mr. D. McFarlane, Eastern Divisional Roads Manager, requesting an update on the matters raised at the Committee.</p> <p data-bbox="164 1962 1493 2045">3.4 A response was received for consideration (Appendix 1) which included the following website links:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link to the DfI Website DfI Roads Eastern Division - Divisional Manager Department for Infrastructure (infrastructure-ni.gov.uk) • Link to the Autumn Council Report Annual Report to Belfast City Council 2022 Department for Infrastructure (infrastructure-ni.gov.uk) • Link to NI Direct site Public Information Portal https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/travel-transport-and-roads/problems-roads-and-streets <p><i>Response from the Permanent Secretary – Belfast Cycle Network</i></p> <p>3.5 At its meeting in December, the Committee agreed to write to the Department for Infrastructure to request confirmation of the budget allocation for the delivery of the Belfast Cycle Network in the financial year 2022/23.</p> <p>3.6 Accordingly, Democratic Services wrote to the Permanent Secretary to request an update on the matter and the response was received at Appendix 2 for consideration.</p> <p>3.7 <u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None associated with this report.</p> <p>3.8 <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None associated with this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – DfI Roads Response to meeting of 9 November Appendix 2 – DfI Perm Sec – Belfast Cycle Network Allocation

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**DFI Roads
Eastern Division**

Mr John Walsh
Chief Executive
Belfast City Council

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Upper Newtownards Road
BELFAST
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Telephone: 0300 200 7899
Email: Eastern.Secretariat@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Your reference:
Our reference:

Date 10 February 2023

Dear John

QUESTIONS ASKED BY ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS, FOLLOWING THE PRESENTATION OF THE EASTERN DIVISION AUTUMN 2022 REPORT

When I presented the Eastern Division Report to Council on 9 November 2022, I agreed to consider a number of matters. Firstly I would apologise for the delay in responding.

My responses to the outstanding matters received on the evening are as follows:-

The need for residents parking scheme's along proposed new Glider Route Park Scheme.

The Department has recently completed a review of residents' parking schemes and the draft review report will be made public once it is finalised by a Minister. The review report will set out the lessons learnt from the Rugby Road scheme in Belfast, and the other schemes that did not make it to implementation and will be used to establish the policy for such schemes going forward.

The need to review College Park Parking Scheme.

The Department has recently completed a review of residents' parking schemes and the draft review report will be made public once it is finalised by a Minister. The review report will set out the lessons learnt from the Rugby Road scheme in Belfast, and the other schemes that did not make it to implementation, and will be used to establish the policy for such schemes going forward.

Lack of communication and the need for Members to have up to date, direct contact details for the DfI Roads Team so that issues could be resolved in a timely manner.

Contact details for the DFI Roads Team can be found on the Department's website, please follow this link:-

[DfI Roads Eastern Division - Divisional Manager | Department for Infrastructure \(infrastructure-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

In addition, I have included a link to the Autumn Council report which contains a list of names and contacts within the Division, including areas of responsibility:-

[Annual Report to Belfast City Council 2022 | Department for Infrastructure \(infrastructure-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/travel-transport-and-roads/problems-roads-and-streets)

It should also be noted that elected representatives can report problems with roads and streets using NIDirect Public Information Portal

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/travel-transport-and-roads/problems-roads-and-streets>

Councillor Tracy Kelly asked in relation to the Temporary Bollards on the Donegall Road following safety concerns raised by residents regarding access. Could you provide an update on when they would be removed.

The Department has reviewed the pop up cycle lanes installed during the pandemic and will be reviewing the current arrangements with an aim to providing permanent infrastructure. The pop up cycle lane on the Donegall Road will be included within this review.

Councillor Bunting asked for an update on the delivery of Orpen Park / Porter Park Traffic Calming Scheme. Is there a plan in place for what this will be and a timeline for implementation.

Following on from the formal consultation, it has been necessary to carry out a review of the design. This matter is still receiving attention and I am unable to give a timeline for implementation at this stage.

Councillor Bunting asked for an update on resurfacing of Roads and Pathways in Belvoir – Grays Park Avenue, Grays Park Gardens and Grays Park Drive.

The footways and carriageway in the Grays Park area remain on a 3 year priority resurfacing programme. Whilst no contract has been in place for a number of months, I understand that the new term asphalt resurfacing contract will be in operation for the beginning of the next financial year. The schemes in the Grays Park area will be implemented on a scheme priority basis from 2023 onwards, subject to the availability of the necessary resources and utility clearance.

Cycle Network Development Plan - Resources and Budget Update and data on what has been implemented in the last two years.

Implemented in the last two years – Dublin Road two-way cycle lane (2-way 0.48km), Donegall Road one-way cycle lane (0.8km), Grosvenor Road two-way cycle lane (0.53km), Crumlin Road country-bound cycle lane (1km), Castle Street cycle lane High St toucan crossing at Skipper St (£50k) Comber Greenway location signage.

Learnings from Limestone/Cavehill proposed cycle lane consultation process

Following on from the initial commencement works that were undertaken on Limestone Road and the decision for another consultation to be undertaken, my staff will be contacting individuals / groups who provided comments on the pop up cycle lane design. Once this information has been gathered and considered, my staff will commence the formal consultation.

Councillor Duffy asked for an update on repairs to potholes and resurfacing in Lagmore/Twinbrook.

A staff member from Belfast North Maintenance Section Office met with Councillor Duffy on 10 November 2022 and explained that any actionable defects / potholes in Lagmore Glen had been identified for repair and work instructions subsequently issued to the appointed contractor to programme the work. A temporary repair was carried out on 15 November 2022 followed by a permanent repair on 25 November 2022.

It should be noted that members of the public and elected representatives can report problems with roads and streets using NIDirect Public Information Portal <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/travel-transport-and-roads/problems-roads-and-streets>

It was also confirmed that DfI Roads had identified Lagmore Dale and Lagmore Avenue for future resurfacing but that final design associated with Blue/Green initiatives are still to be concluded. Councillor Duffy agreed that he would follow up on current position regarding Blue/Green schemes for these streets with the relevant section.

Councillor Whyte asked for an update on Hill Street Pedestrianisation – Blue Green Division?

The Department will shortly be carrying out a consultation to gauge public opinion on the pedestrianisation of Hill Street. The outcome of this consultation will be used to shape any further programme of works in this area.

Update on the expected delivery of 38 disabled Parking Bays which had been approved.

I can advise that the Notice of Intention for these bays was advertised in the local press on the 25 January 2023. This allows a 22-day period for objections or representations. If none are received the bays will go forward for the 'Order' to be made and the bays are marked on the ground. Unfortunately, we cannot give a date at present as to when this legislative process will be completed.

I hope this information is helpful



DES MCFARLANE
Divisional Roads Manager

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**From the Permanent Secretary
Dr Julie Harrison**

Eilish McGoldrick
Democratic Services Officer
Belfast City Council

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Your reference: EMcG. CGR.12.12.2022
Our reference: SCORR-0025-2023
15 February 2023

Dear Ms McGoldrick,

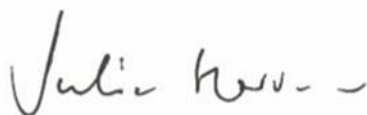
BELFAST CYCLE NETWORK – BUDGET ALLOCATION

Thank you for your letter of 18 January 2023 on behalf of Council's City Growth and Regeneration Committee enquiring how much funding has been allocated for delivery of the Belfast Cycle Network this financial year. Apologies for my slow reply.

While the initial allocation for schemes identified in the Belfast Cycling Network Delivery Plan was £700k, actual spend is likely to be in the region of £490k as unfortunately progress on the delivery of a number of schemes has been slower than originally anticipated for a variety of reasons. The Department has had helpful discussions in recent months with Council colleagues on Transport Strategy and Active Travel in the context of the Climate Act and current operating environment. I am due to meet John Kyle and Sammy Douglas soon to discuss how we can work more effectively together on these issues.

I trust you will find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



JULIE HARRISON

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