Belfast District Council

Report to:	Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	**Notice of Motion: Use of Bus Lanes by registered taxis – Response from the Minister**
Date:	Friday, 16th January, 2015
Reporting Officer:	Mr. Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Officer, 6314

1.0	**Relevant Background Information**
1.1	The Committee will recall that the Shadow Council, at its meeting on 8th December, passed unanimously the following motion, which had been moved by Councillor R. Brown and seconded by Councillor Robinson:

> *"Belfast District Council expresses concern at the proposal to permit all registered taxis to use the City's bus lanes, notes that this proposal will allow for an 8 fold increase in the number of taxis permitted to use these lanes from 500 to approximately 4000 vehicles, believes that this proposal will have a detrimental impact on the levels of cycling and the efficiency of public transport, considers this proposal incompatible with the Council's vision of Belfast as a sustainable City and calls on the Government to limit the use of the City's bus lanes by taxis which are wheelchair accessible only."*

2.0	**Key Issues**
2.1	A letter to the Department (DRD) outlining the Council's decision was forwarded on 9th December and a response from the Minister's secretary (as appended) was received on 8th January.
2.2	The response is self-explanatory and indicates that the Minister (Danny Kennedy) will take a final decision on the use of bus lanes by taxis only when he has seen the DoE's revised regulations.
2.3	The Minister will base his decision on the responses which had been received during the 2012 consultation process on the proposed regulations. Notably, it is pointed out that the Council's viewpoint will be taken on board by the Minister in making a final decision.

3.	Resource Implications
	None

4.	Equality and good relations implications
	None

5.0	Call-in
	This decision is subject to call-in.

6.0	Recommendations
	The Committee is requested to note the information provided.