



Subject:	Proposal for dual language street signs at Raphael Street and McClure Street
Date:	8 th April 2025
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control.
Contact Officer:	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager, ext. 2430 Heather Wylie, Property and Legal Coordinator, ext. 2464

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

- Information relating to any individual
- Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
- Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
- Information in connection with any labour relations matter
- Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
- Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
- Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

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

Yes No

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	
1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider applications for the erection of dual language street signs on Raphael Street and McClure Street which are outside the Street Naming and Numbering Policy as there are either no properties and occupiers residing on the street (Raphael Street) or no occupiers on the electoral list (McClure Street)
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	Members are asked to consider the contents of the report and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In relation to Raphael Street to determine if the application should proceed to the agreed additional consultation process for City Centre streets before being brought back to committee. 2. In relation to McClure Street to agree that the application survey should be deferred to allow sufficient time for the electoral register updates to take place enabling the normal survey process to be undertaken. The revised register is published in December each year
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The Council may erect a second street nameplate in a language other than English pursuant to Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.
3.2	The legislation requires the Council, in deciding whether and how to exercise its discretion to erect a street name in a language other than English, to take account of the views of the occupiers of the premises in the street. The Council will normally canvass all people appearing on the electoral register of the street and seek their views on the request to erect a street sign in a second language.
3.3	The Council's policy on the erection of a second street nameplate requires that at least fifteen percent (15%) of the occupiers surveyed must be in favour of the proposal to erect a second street sign in a language other than English, to progress to Committee for consideration.
3.4	In addition, the EQIA carried out in respect of the Policy states that any decision relating to the erection of a second nameplate in the city centre (business core) will, in addition to the current policy considerations and the survey of occupiers, be subject to a wider public consultation to reflect the community of users in accordance with the Council's policy on placing public adverts.
	<u>Raphael Street</u>
3.5	In relation to Raphael Street there are no properties located on the street and therefore no occupiers residing on the street to be surveyed.
3.6	There are a number of other streets in the immediate area which have been approved for dual language signs (Cromac Street, Catherine Street, Eliza Street Terrace, Lower Stanfield Street and Upper Stanfield Street). The adjacent street (McAuley Street) failed to meet the minimum 15% threshold when surveyed in January 2025 and this application has been closed.

3.7	In addition, Raphael Street has been identified as being situated within the city centre boundary agreed for the purposes of the dual language streets signs policy.						
3.8	For streets that meet the 15% threshold of occupiers in favour of the proposal and which fall within the city centre boundary, the current process is to take these streets through an additional public consultation in the form of newspaper adverts. These adverts are placed in Belfast Telegraph, Newsletter and Irish News to give the community of users an opportunity to provide representations in relation to the proposal. Any street which does not meet the 15% threshold is closed in line with process, subject to consideration of any exceptional circumstances.						
3.9	However, as this street has no occupiers and it has not been possible to carry out a survey, members are asked to consider if the application should proceed to this additional consultation.						
3.10	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="272 651 587 723">English Name</th> <th data-bbox="587 651 887 723">Non- English Name</th> <th data-bbox="887 651 1348 723">Location</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="272 723 587 831">Raphael Street BT7 2DD</td> <td data-bbox="587 723 887 831">Sráid Raphael</td> <td data-bbox="887 723 1348 831">Off Cromac Street BT7</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	English Name	Non- English Name	Location	Raphael Street BT7 2DD	Sráid Raphael	Off Cromac Street BT7
English Name	Non- English Name	Location					
Raphael Street BT7 2DD	Sráid Raphael	Off Cromac Street BT7					
3.11	The translation was authenticated by Queens University, the approved translator for Belfast City Council.						
	<u>McClure Street</u>						
3.12	McClure Street has 22 newly constructed properties which have recently become occupied. There are currently no residents registered on the electoral register, and therefore no data to allow the completion of a survey in accordance with policy.						
3.13	In addition, there are no other properties located on this street in which the views of occupiers, owners or tenants in possession can be canvassed.						
3.14	The electoral office has advised that electoral information is continually updated as new registrations are received with a new publication of the list created each December. They have also advised they will write to occupants of new properties providing an opportunity to register but this is a voluntary process. In these circumstances it is proposed that the application survey be deferred until publication of the new electoral list in December 2025 to allow for the standard process to take place.						
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3.16	The translation was authenticated by Queens University, the approved translator for Belfast City Council.						
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>						
3.17	The cost of public consultation in relation to Raphael Street is within existing budgets. There are currently three other streets which have met the 15% threshold at street survey which are being taken through this process. These applications are being held to minimise advertising costs pending the outcome of this report.						

	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.18	<p>Applications for dual language street signs are subject to an initial assessment for any potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations, and rural needs. Applications are also presented to elected members who are given the opportunity to raise any adverse impacts on equality or good relations through a member notification process.</p>
3.19	<p>The initial assessments and elected member notifications carried out for the applications being considered did not identify any potential adverse impacts on the ground of equality, good relations or rural need.</p>
4.0	Appendices
	None