



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Cycling Issues
<b>Date:</b>	11 August 2010
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John McGrillen, Director of Development ext 3459
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### Relevant Background Information

A notice of motion regarding the introduction of a cycle rental scheme in Belfast was outlined at the October 2009 Development Committee and Officers were requested to discuss the matter with the Department for Regional Development (DRD) with a view to providing a future update. The recent launch of the Dublin bike scheme which seeks to encourage cycling in the city centre through the hire of bicycles for public use at a range of dedicated 'bike stations' was cited as an example.

### Key Issues

A number of meetings have taken place between Council representatives, the DRD Transportation Unit and the Strategic Investment Board (SIB) to discuss the opportunities to develop a public bike hire scheme within the Belfast City Council boundary. Presentations were also made by Ciaran Fallon to various organisations on the background to the bike hire scheme in Dublin. It was agreed that consultants would be appointed to explore the feasibility of establishing a public bike hire scheme in Belfast, including the preparation of a Business Case that meets Northern Ireland Guide to Expenditure Appraisal and Evaluation (NIGEAE) standards. The SIB have agreed to draw up a shared Terms of Reference for the feasibility study and fund the commission.

The Minister for the Department for Regional Development, Conor Murphy announced at the Belfast Cycle City - Visions for the Future Conference, on the 1<sup>st</sup> June, the setting up of a joint project to examine the feasibility and options for introducing a public bike hire scheme in Belfast. It is proposed that the Council participates in the joint project to explore the potential for the introduction of a bike hire scheme.

Members may wish to note that a separate research project was carried out on the bike hire schemes across Europe, by the British Council and DRD Transportation Unit intend to use this research to inform the study. A copy of the research Report is attached in Appendix 1.

The DRD Transportation Unit recently set up an Active Travel Forum which includes representatives from public, private, voluntary and community groups. The Council is represented on the Forum by the Development Department and Health and Environmental Services Department. The Forum will seek to identify the opportunities to improve walking and cycling across Northern Ireland and contribute to the proposed 'Active Travel Strategy' that the DRD has committed to developing as part of the broader transportation policy approach. The Forum has met twice and a seminar has also taken place. Minutes and Terms of Reference are attached in Appendix 2.

#### **Resource Implications**

There are no resource implications for Council at this stage.

#### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that Committee endorses the proposed joint working on the project to explore the potential for a bike hire scheme in Belfast and note ongoing participation in the Active Travel Forum.

#### **Decision Tracking**

There is no decision tracking attached to this report

#### **Key Abbreviations**

DRD - Department for Regional Development  
SIB - Strategic Investment Board

#### **Documents Attached**

Appendix 1 - Bikes in Belfast Report  
Appendix 2 - Terms of Reference and Minutes from the Active Travel Forum