



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Belfast on The Move Draft Response
Date:	24 November 2010
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen Director of Development ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Keith Sutherland Planning & Transport Policy Manager Ex 3578

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Minister for Regional Development launched the 'Belfast on the Move' proposals in City Hall on the 30 th September. The Department for Regional Development (DRD) states that the proposals are 'a significant step in the promotion of sustainable transport in Belfast City Centre'. The main aims of the proposals are to reorganise traffic management within Belfast City Centre to facilitate the reduction in general traffic levels and encourage walking, cycling and public transport.
1.2	The Department launched a public consultation process on the proposals and has asked for comments to be submitted by the 30 November 2010. A summary of the 'Sustainable Transport' measures proposed are outlined in Appendix 2 along with an information leaflet from DRD. The comments received from Council departments have been incorporated into the draft response which is attached in Appendix 1 for consideration.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The main elements of the 'Sustainable Transport' proposals include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The redistribution of existing road space to provide priority to public transport through the provision of extensive bus lanes for use by all public transport vehicles, including taxis and cyclists.- The shifting of northbound through traffic from Great Victoria Street onto a route along Hope Street and Durham Street, with southbound traffic continuing to use Great Victoria Street.

2.2	<p>The proposals seeks to facilitate the delivery of the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over 2.6km of new bus lanes which will also accommodate cyclists and taxis; - 1.3km of new dedicated cycle lanes; - 20 new controlled pedestrian crossings points; and - approximately 390m of new dedicated service bays.
2.3	<p>The main changes to traffic management proposals lie to the west side of the city centre including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hope Street changing to two way movements; - northbound through traffic diverted via a Hope Street / Durham Street route; - southbound traffic continues on Great Victoria Street; - Durham Street becomes one way northbound; - Grosvenor Road becomes one way westbound from Great Victoria Street to Durham Street; - College Square North becomes one way eastbound, and - the potential southbound 'rat run' along Barrack Street is discouraged by traffic calming.
2.4	<p>In the central core the focus is on new crossings, bus lane provision and changed priority at junctions.</p>
2.5	<p>Longer term proposals are also included in the consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rapid Transit – the sustainable transport measures will facilitate a circulatory bus route pattern that will support the future Rapid Transit service in the city centre including provision for five Rapid Transit halts. - Bankmore Link and Streets Ahead Enabling Measures Phase 2 - The next phase of DSD's Streets Ahead project proposes the full pedestrianisation of Donegall Place and further restriction on Donegall Square North (Rapid Transit only access)
2.6	<p>It should be noted that DRD have stated that the Streets Ahead Phase 2 measures will significantly reduce road capacity for traffic travelling through the city centre and it is proposed that displaced traffic will be accommodated by completing the City Centre Ring Road linking Durham Street to Cromac Street (Bankmore Link).</p>
2.7	<p>The Council's Transport Policy generally supports measures that promote sustainable transport options for the city centre. Measures to reduce the amount of through traffic using the city centre, with increased priority for pedestrians and public transport would be welcomed.</p>
2.8	<p>It should however be noted that during previous consideration, the Council did not endorse the longer-term proposal for the completion of the southern section of the City Centre Ring (Bankmore Link). The response suggested that consideration should be given to sustainable transport options such as the implementation of Rapid Transit, park & ride and expansion of Quality Bus Corridors prior to building new road infrastructure.</p>

2.9	<p>In relation to the short term measures, the Council would request further detail or clarification around a number of issues as outlined in Appendix 1 including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - parking and moving traffic offences; - waste collection and street cleansing access; - access and servicing for St Georges Market; - disabled access; and - impact on air quality.
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3	Resource Implications
	None

4	Equality Implications
	None

5	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is requested to consider and if appropriate endorse the content of the suggested response to the proposed 'Belfast On The Move' consultation as set out in Appendix 1.

6	Decision Tracking
Further to agreement, that if appropriate, a response be submitted to the Department for Regional Development	
Timeline: 30 November 2010	Reporting Officer: John McGrillen

7	Key to Abbreviations
DRD - Department for Regional Development	

8	Documents Attached
<p>Appendix 1 – Draft Council Response Appendix 2 – Summary of Sustainable Transport Measures and DRD Information leaflet.</p>	