



Belfast City Council

Report to: Health and Environmental Services Committee

Subject: **Application for the Erection of a Dual-Language Street Sign**

Date: 12th April, 2010

Reporting Officer: Trevor Martin, Head of Building Control, Ext 2450

Contact Officer: Stephen Hewitt, Building Control Manager, Ext 2435

Relevant Background Information

The power for the Council to consider applications to erect a second street nameplate in a language other than English, is contained in Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.

An application has been received to erect a second street nameplate at a section of Broadway, showing the name of the street expressed in a language other than English. The second language is Irish. Broadway is a long street bisected by the M1/Westlink interface and where the majority opinion on whether to have a second language street sign in Irish may differ between readily identifiable, substantial lengths of the street.

The Council's policy on Dual Language Street Signs makes provision for erecting them in sections of a street where that street is of substantial length and to recognise the diversity of opinion that might be had on such an application. The policy states that *"consideration will be given to "long streets" where majority opinion on whether to have a second language street sign may differ between readily identifiable, substantial lengths of the street. In these circumstances consideration will be given to the erection of dual language nameplates in those substantial portions of the street where the required majority of occupiers have expressed a wish for such a nameplate"*.

The application was for the portion of street leading from the Falls Road to the Westlink junction and did not include the portion of Broadway leading from the Westlink Junction to Donegall Avenue. The translation was authenticated by Queens University, the approved translator for Belfast City Council.

In accordance with the Council's policy for the erection of dual language street signs, surveys of all persons appearing on the Electoral Register for that section of Broadway named in the previous paragraph, were carried out and the following responses were received.

Broadway, BT12

31 people (81%) are in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate
1 person (3%) had not completed the survey fully
6 people (16%) did not respond to the survey

Key Issues

To consider the following application for dual language street signs for an existing street name within the City.

| English Name | Non-English Name | Location | Applicant | Persons Surveyed |
|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Broadway | An Bealach Leathan | Off Falls Road BT12 | Councillor Caoimhín Mac Giolla Mhín | 38 |

Resource Implications

There is a cost of £200.00 covering the cost of the manufacturing and erection of these dual language street signs. The cost for these street signs has been allowed for in the current budget. There will be no additional human resource or asset implications.

Recommendations

As more than two thirds of the total numbers of persons surveyed in the portion of the street are in favour of the proposal to erect a second street nameplate in Irish at the above location, the Committee is recommended to approve the application.

Decision Tracking

If the decision is to refuse the application, then a letter will be sent to the applicant within 5 days of the Council decision, advising them of the decision.

If the decision is to grant the application, then the applicant and all relevant organisations are advised within 14 days of the Council decision. Building Control will arrange for the dual language sign to be erected within 8 weeks.

The person responsible for the actions above is Trevor Martin, Head of Building Control.