

Belfast City Council

PLANNING COMMITTEE

AGENDA ITEM 3

Subject:	Listing and De-listing of Buildings including Reconsidered Matter
Date:	Thursday, 23rd April, 2015
Reporting Officer:	Clifford McIlwaine, ext. 2300
Contact Officer:	Keith Sutherland, Urban Development Manager, ext. 3578

Is this report restricted?	Yes	No	x
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes	X No	

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The Report provides an outline of the recommendations from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) in respect of proposals to list buildings within Belfast and sets out information in respect of a request from Council to reconsider an element of a report to the 11 th March 2015 Shadow Planning Committee.
1.2	The Council, at its meeting on 1st April, referred back to the Committee the minute of the former Shadow Planning Committee of 11th March, under the heading "Listing and De- listing of Buildings". The Planning Committee was requested to reconsider the matter in respect of Danske Bank and further information has been received in relation to the Belfast Telegraph building (minute of 11th March attached for information Appendix 1).
1.3	Further correspondence has been received from the NIEA regarding the proposed listing of buildings in Belfast. Article 42 of the Planning (NI) Order 1991 (now Article 80 of the Planning (NI) Order 2011) requires the Agency to consult with the Council before placing any building on the statutory list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest as detailed in Appendix 2.
2.0	Recommendations
	 The Committee is requested to: reconsider the minute of the 11th March in respect of the Danske Bank and the previous decision in respect of the Belfast Telegraph; if appropriate, agree to receive deputations from the Danske Bank and the Belfast Telegraph in respect of the proposed listing of their respective headquarters buildings with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency also invited to attend the meeting at which the proposals will be reconsidered; and support the recommendations for the listing of the five properties as detailed in Appendix 2.

3.0	Main report
3.1	Reconsidered Matters The Committee will be aware that the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) has been consulting with the Council to ascertain its views on proposals to list and de-list a number of buildings in the City. The former Shadow Planning Committee considered reports in this regard at its meetings in February and March.
3.2	At the March meeting, a letter was tabled on behalf of Danske Bank requesting that the Committee agree not to support a proposal to list the bank's corporate headquarters in Donegall Square West. That letter had indicated that the building was the bank's Northern Ireland headquarters and the listing of it would impose unnecessary constraints on the ability of the bank to re-develop the building.
3.3	The Committee noted the receipt of the letter but agreed, given the building's unique architectural and contemporary style, to support the proposal to list the building.
3.4	The representatives of Danske Bank subsequently addressed the Council on 1st April to request that the decision to support the listing be rejected. On the advice of the Town Solicitor, the Council agreed to refer the minute back to the new Planning Committee.
3.5	A letter has since been received by the Chief Executive from representatives of the Belfast Telegraph outlining its concerns at the proposal to list the Telegraph's building in Royal Avenue. Again, it is suggested that such a proposal could affect plans which the Telegraph have drawn-up to re-develop that site. The former Shadow Planning Committee had agreed to support the proposal to list the building.
3.6	 Proposed Listing of Buildings The Department is currently considering the listing of the following properties and has requested the Council's comments in respect of five properties (see Appendix 2): A. 20 Knockdene Park 'Astolat', Belfast Ref: HB26/13/048 B. Fernhill House (Former People's Museum), Glencairn Park. Ref: HB26/38/004 A C. Fernhill House Outbuildings, Glencairn Park, Glencairn Rd. Ref: HB26/38/004 B D. Waterworks Park, Antrim Road. Ref: HB26/44/027 B E. 263 Belmont Road, Belfast. Ref: HB26/13/011
3.7	The Committee may wish to note that Council is the owner of property D (Waterworks Park) where the proposal is to list the railings and entrance features. It should also be noted that the Council was consulted in error as the identified owner of B and C. Whilst the Council is the owner of the surrounding Glencairn Park NIEA have been notified of the error in respect of their current records for the House and outbuildings.
3.8	The NIEA have requested that the Council consider the information provided regarding the buildings proposed for listing and provide a response within 6 weeks of the consultation. It is suggested that the Committee supports the listing of the buildings on the basis of the information provided by NIEA set within this report and appendix 2.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	 Appendix 1 - Minute and associated appendices of March Shadow Planning Committee Appendix 2 - NIEA Consultation Property Evaluations Summary Appendix 3 - NIEA Consultation Correspondence