



Report to	Town Planning Committee
Subject:	Proposed 20 mph speed limit in Belfast City Centre
Date:	Thursday, 7th August, 2014
Reporting Officer:	Barry Flynn, Democratic Services Officer, ext. 6312
Contact Officer:	Barry Flynn, Democratic Services Officer, ext. 6312

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Correspondence (copy herewith) has been received from the DRD Roads Service seeking the Council's views on the proposed introduction of a 20 mph speed limit within the city centre. Initially, the scheme will operate on a pilot basis and an evaluation will be undertaken at its conclusion. The Roads Service placed a 'Notice of Intention' in local newspapers on 30th July and is seeking responses to its proposal by 21st August.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The extent of the area in which the speed limit would be introduced is outlined in red on the map appended to this report. The rationale behind the proposal is, primarily, to enhance road safety within the city centre area. It is felt also that the proposal would promote further the use of public transport and cycling across Belfast.
2.2	However, at this stage, the Committee should note that the proposal will be introduced <i>only</i> on a pilot basis. Therefore, it is anticipated that the Council will be provided with a further opportunity to comment prior to any changes being implemented permanently.
2.3	The Development Committee, at its meeting on 19th August, will consider a report that will address the wider implications of the reduction to the speed limit. In order to formulate a corporate view, the Committee's views will be incorporated within any response to the DRD.

3	Resource Implications
	None

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	None

5	Recommendations
	The Committee is requested to comment on the DRD proposal.

6	Decision Tracking
The Committee's comments in the matter will be incorporated within any corporate response to the DRD.	

7	Abbreviations
DRD – Department for Regional Development	

6	Documents Attached
Correspondence and map from DRD	