



Subject:	Response from Permanent Secretary for DfI: Use of Bus lanes by Taxis
Date:	14th June 2017
Reporting Officer:	Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
Contact Officer:	Louise McLornan, Democratic Services

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The Committee will recall that it recently agreed to send a letter of support for a six month extension to the trial of taxis using Belfast Rapid Transit bus lanes in the City Centre, while also requesting that all bus lanes be included in the extension.
1.2	A response from the Permanent Secretary has now been received.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the response from the Permanent Secretary.
3.0	Main report
	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>3.1 A response has been received from the Permanent Secretary (Appendix 1) outlining that the Department has received a range of representations and that there are competing views on the way forward.</p> <p>3.2 He advises that, as the end of the 12 week trial had been determined by the then Minister for Infrastructure, Chris Hazzard MLA, following discussions he had with representatives of the taxi industry and the cycling lobby, the trial had ended, as planned, on Sunday 14th May.</p> <p>3.3 He advises that the Department is currently working to inform decisions on future taxi access to bus lanes, including analysis of traffic data gathered during the trial, and collating the information which has been received since the start of the trial.</p> <p>3.4 He reminds the Committee that a public survey on the issue, which opened on 16th June, is available on the NI Direct website and that the Department would take into account the Council's view.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>3.5 None associated with this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>3.6 None associated with this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - Letter from the Permanent Secretary, Mr. Peter May