

APPENDIX 1

To: Department for Infrastructure

Re: Transport Scheme Consultations

The Department recently requested comments in relation to a number of transportation proposals within the Belfast area, which were considered by the City Growth and Regeneration Committee at its meeting on the 8th August 2018.

The proposals considered by the Committee were the: M1 and M2 hard shoulder bus lanes; traffic calming in Tennent Street; Rathgar Street, proposed one-way traffic; waiting restrictions on various streets in the city; and the extension of the bus lane on the Holywood Road.

The high volume of travel by car into and out of Belfast, particularly by single occupancy private cars for commuting purposes has previously been highlighted as a challenge for the city through our work on the Belfast Agenda. The Committee, therefore, welcomed the opportunity to comment on the proposals and the work to further the potential for more sustainable and safer travel within Belfast.

The Council recognises that the continued development / use of the extended hard shoulder bus lanes on the M1 and M2, especially during congested periods, will improve journey time reliability for public transport users and would be supported as part of the ongoing initiatives to encourage a modal shift. In addition to this Council would encourage the department to continue to review and extend the current Park & Ride facilities on strategic public transportation networks across the city, and to continue to investigate and promote the installation of continuous bus lane provision along the M1 & M2 corridors.

On a similar basis the proposal to extend the city bound bus lane on a section of Holywood Road to assist public transport movement along this arterial route would also be supported by Council, in the context of the wider Belfast Rapid Transit proposals for the east of the city.

The detailed measures proposed for improved road safety, enhanced traffic movement and to address the challenges of all day commuter parking are also welcomed. The Council supports the proposals in relation to the traffic management for parts of Tennent and Rathgar Streets along with the suggested waiting restrictions for Apollo Road, Connswater Street, Stoneyford Street, Ballymacarrett Road (Frazer Pass), Ballymacarrett Road, Frazer Pass (Ballymacarrett Road), Cussick Street and Townsend Street.