



<b>Subject:</b>	Ministerial response to East Belfast Depot
<b>Date:</b>	11 November 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Cathy Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration & Development
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Sean Dolan, Senior Development Manager, City Regeneration and Development

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to inform Members that a response has been received from the Minister for Infrastructure to the Council's <i>East Belfast Depot Site</i> report following a decision by the City Growth & Regeneration Committee to formally submit the report to the Minister for Infrastructure.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	Members are asked to note the response from the Minister for Infrastructure (attached at Appendix 1) in relation to the <i>East Belfast Depot Site</i> report previously undertaken by the Council.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	At the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of the 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2020 the Committee considered the findings of the East Belfast Depot report which undertook a site search

	<p>process to identify suitable locations for a potential relocation of the East Belfast Depot. The site search process identified a number of potential sites however all of them were discounted on the basis that they did not meet the operational requirements of the public transport network. Specifically a number of identified potential sites were located further from the primary transportation corridors that the depot serves, and would perform worse than the existing depot in terms of the key commercial consideration of minimising 'dead mileage'.</p>
3.2	<p>At its meeting on 4 March 2020 the Committee granted approval for a letter to be issued to the Minister for Infrastructure requesting that the findings of the site search and the operational requirements of Translink be given further consideration in the context of the impact of the current depot location on neighbouring residential amenity.</p>
3.3	<p>The Minister has confirmed receipt of the site search report and has advised that she will respond to the findings set out in the report 'in due course' as per the attached response in Appendix 1. Accordingly, it is envisaged that a report detailing the Minister's response will be tabled at a future City Growth and Regeneration Committee.</p>
	<p><b>Finance &amp; Resource Implications</b></p>
3.4	<p>None.</p>
	<p><b>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</b></p>
3.5	<p>None.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>Appendix 1: Letter from Minister for Infrastructure, dated 26 October 2020, acknowledging receipt of Belfast City Council's East Belfast Depot Site report.</p> <p>Appendix 2: Letter from Belfast City Council to Minister for Infrastructure, with East Belfast Depot Site report enclosed.</p>