



Subject:	DfI Autumn Report Presentation to Special CGR Committee 23.10.2021
Date:	8 th September 2021
Reporting Officer:	Cathy Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration and Development
Contact Officer:	Sean Dolan, Senior Development Manager, City Regeneration and Development

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 purpose of this report is to request that Members agree to receive the Department for Infrastructure Autumn report update to the special meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee on 23 rd October 2021.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: 1) Agree to receive the DfI Autumn Report Update to the Special Meeting of the CG&R Committee on the 23 rd October 2021; 2) Note the issues previously discussed at the presentation of the Spring Report 3) Note the update on the Car Parking Strategy Action Plan and proposed timelines for the review of the Car Parking Strategy

3.0	Main report
3.1	<p data-bbox="292 192 451 226"><u>Background</u></p> <p data-bbox="292 255 1474 443">The Department for Infrastructure have requested permission to present their Autumn Infrastructure Report to the Special Meeting of the CG&R Committee on the 23rd October 2021. This request is in keeping with the DfI bi-annual reports to the Council works completed and proposed works of the Department.</p> <p data-bbox="292 517 437 551"><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p data-bbox="292 602 1474 680">At the meeting June meeting of the CG&R Committee Members received the Spring Update from DfI and raised the following discussions with the Department;</p> <p data-bbox="292 754 1027 788"><u>York Street Interchange Independent Assurance Review</u></p> <p data-bbox="292 801 1474 1081">Members previously requested that the Minister forward a copy of the Independent Assurance Review Report and to advise on the opportunities for the Council to contribute to the implementation of the review recommendations. Correspondence with the Minister was shared with the Committee in March 2021 and officers can now confirm that DfI have commenced a number of engagements with Council Officers and the Strategic Advisory Group in September and October 2021.</p> <p data-bbox="292 1155 552 1189"><u>Safe Cycle Network</u></p> <p data-bbox="292 1202 1474 1541">The Department launched the Belfast Cycling Network and its programme ‘Making Belfast an Active City’ in June 2021. At the June presentation DfI confirmed that the outline delivery plan, including funding, would be published by Autumn 2021. Members highlighted the need for an expansion of the 20mph zones of Safer Routes to Schools scheme, the Cycle Network Deficit across the city but in particular in North and South Belfast, the need for segregated cycling infrastructure and the need for long term funding to deliver the required level of safe cycle infrastructure.</p> <p data-bbox="292 1610 1474 1946">The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Infrastructure to reiterate the need for working in support of investment into the required protected cycle lane network in our city and communities, and to support the further roll out of the Belfast Bikes scheme extending its reach and accessibility throughout the city. The Committee also noted that the implementation of further cycling infrastructure, both temporary and permanent, should be done in consultation with locally affected communities and businesses prior to implementation and the response will be reported back into this Committee when available.</p>
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3.6	<p>Other issues raised with the Dfl include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implementation of the SUDs policy and the integration into schemes; • 20mph zones in the city centre; • Pedestrianisation of the City Centre – an Update on the Bolder Vision for Belfast will be provided in a separate report to this Committee 								
3.7	<p><u>Car Park Strategy</u></p> <p>The Members of the CG&R Committee agreed that Council would undertake a review and refresh of the Council’s Car Park Strategy and at the August meeting Members requested an update on the timelines of this review. The Car Park Strategy was launched in 2018 and included over 40 actions to address the car parking and congestion issues surrounding the city centre. An update on the action plan is provided in Appendix 1 of this report.</p>								
3.8	<p>Members are asked to note the progress made on a number of the actions contained within the Car Parking Strategy Action Plan, and to note the importance of the partnership with Dfl in delivering the Action Plan.</p>								
3.9	<p>Officers are currently drafting the specification and Terms of Reference of the Car Parking Strategy and propose that this work is commenced following the completion of the Bolder Vision for Belfast Public Consultation. This is due to the close relationship of both of these pieces of work, and the importance of the Bolder Vision for Belfast in setting the strategic context for the future provision of infrastructure within the city centre, the findings of which will be used to inform the next stages of the Car Parking Strategy. The timelines for the Bolder Vision are for public consultation to be carried out from 27th September to 20th December 2021, with finalisation of the document to take place between January and April 2022. As such the proposed timeline for the Car Parking Strategy review is;</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="300 1518 1455 1863"> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Specification and Terms of Reference completion</td> <td style="text-align: right; vertical-align: bottom;">Dec 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Procurement and appointment of External Consultant</td> <td style="text-align: right; vertical-align: bottom;">Jan-Mar 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Review & refresh of the Car Parking Strategy</td> <td style="text-align: right; vertical-align: bottom;">Mar 2022 – June 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Finalisation of the Review</td> <td style="text-align: right; vertical-align: bottom;">June 2022</td> </tr> </table>	Specification and Terms of Reference completion	Dec 2021	Procurement and appointment of External Consultant	Jan-Mar 2022	Review & refresh of the Car Parking Strategy	Mar 2022 – June 2022	Finalisation of the Review	June 2022
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	<p><u>Meeting Logistics</u></p> <p>Members are asked to note that the Special Committee Meetings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee for September and October 2021 will be online only due to lack of availability of rooms within City Hall.</p>
3.10	<p>Financial & Resource Implications</p> <p>The procurement of external consultant advice associated with the review of the Car Parking Strategy will be met from within existing approved budgets up to £40k.</p>
3.11	<p>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</p> <p>Equality, Goods Relations and Rural Needs implications will be considered within the review of the Car Parking Strategy.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices – Documents attached</p> <p>Appendix 1 – Car Parking Strategy Action Plan Update</p>