

# Legal and Civic Services Department

## Democratic Services Section



Date: 11th November, 2021

Email: [private.office@communities-ni.gov.uk](mailto:private.office@communities-ni.gov.uk)

Minister for Communities,  
Ms Deirdre Hargey MLA,  
Causeway Exchange,  
1-7 Bedford Street,  
Belfast  
BT2 7EG

Dear Minister,

### **Public Realm Projects Belfast**

At its meeting in August 2021, Belfast City Council's City Growth and Regeneration Committee agreed that the Council would write to the Minister for Communities and the Minister for Infrastructure, in relation to public realm projects within the city centre.

At its meeting on the 13th October 2021, the Committee raised concerns regarding the proposal to revert Donegall Place to two-way bus lanes with associated adjacent halts as a retrospective step in public realm and infrastructure provision through the Civic Spine of the city centre. These decisions were subsequently ratified at full Council on 1st November.

In advance of the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan, the Committee would welcome your support in progressing a short, sharp review of effective public transportation connections into the city centre and city centre network planning, led and prioritised with a people and place based design approach.

The Committee would also welcome your support in expediting the processes to deliver public realm and infrastructure projects within the city centre, to assist in transforming the city at a faster pace. The Council is committed to working collaboratively with the Departments for Communities and Infrastructure, through the Bolder Vision for Belfast, supported through representation from Council officials on the relevant Belfast Streets Ahead Programme Board.

Democratic Services Section  
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Accordingly, I would be grateful if you would please consider how your Department can assist in bringing forward, at pace, the required interventions and projects to transform the city.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a smaller 'D' and a trailing flourish.

Carolyn Donnelly  
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