

re:Source :Consultations

Responses

Pollution Preventions and Control Regulations

NIEL supports the concept and practice of recovering costs and providing fines that together act as significant deterrents to polluting behaviour.

Policy Proposals for Rapid Transit

A modern, fully integrated rapid transit network in Belfast should help encourage the necessary shift in behaviour from a reliance on private vehicles to much greater use of public and active transport. This network should use the 'best technology' available to ensure maximum customer service and minimum environmental impacts. All viable routes must be considered and a holistic approach taken in the decision-making process, taking into account environmental, social, economic and health implications.

Consultation on PPS 7 Addendum (Draft): Safeguarding the Character of Established Residential Areas

NIEL welcomes the planning policy update to safeguard the character of established residential areas, both for new builds and conversions, and to reduce the risk of urban flooding through the increased use of permeable paving. Decisions on whether to grant permission should also be consistent with sustainable development criteria and the entire property should meet at least minimum environmental standards. It is vitally important that gardens and public 'green' space are protected as they provide environmental, social and health benefits. It is also vital the natural environment, as well as the built environment, is given appropriate protection to ensure compliance with existing legislation, including the Wildlife Order 1985. The policy must remain flexible enough to permit higher density housing schemes, both in major settlements and, where appropriate, in rural locations. Transport networks must also be considered during the planning process if we are to increase the use of public and active transport and reduce reliance on private vehicles.

Draft Offshore Renewable Energy Strategic Action Plan 2009-2020 and Strategic Environmental Assessment

A Strategic Environmental Assessment will identify the general areas for offshore renewables development. These can provide significant contributions towards our target of 40% renewables by 2020. However, care must be taken in the siting of all developments to ensure that marine habitats are protected. The need for these developments makes the case for a Marine Bill with powers to designate Marine Protected Areas and an intersectoral Marine Management Organisation.

