

**Belfast Rapid Transit Consultation
Comhairliúchán maidir le córas
Luathiompair i mBéal Feirste**

**Question and Answer Booklet
Leabhrán Ceisteanna Agus Freagraí**

November 2009



Department for
**Regional
Development**

www.drdni.gov.uk

AN ROINN

Forbartha Réigiúnaí

MÂNNYSTRIE FUR

Kintra Pairts Fordèrin

Participation in this Consultation Exercise

If you wish to participate in this consultation exercise, the Consultation Pack contains a Summary Document, Detailed Policy Proposals, an Integrated Impact Assessment document, and this Question and Answer Booklet to assist you when submitting your response. Alternatively, you may wish to access the Consultation Pack from our website, at www.drdni.gov.uk.

This publication can also be made available, on request, in large print, Braille and audio alternative formats. Please contact us to discuss your requirements.

The consultation period will run from 23 November 2009 to 19 February 2010. You must respond by **5pm on 19 February 2010**, otherwise we may not be able to take account of your comments. Submissions may be submitted in other languages, including Irish and Ulster-Scots, or in a different format, such as audio tape. We will acknowledge your submission in your chosen language and will publish the Department's response to the issues raised in due course.

Department for Regional Development

Rapid Transit Division

Clarence Court

10-18 Adelaide Street

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About this Consultation

Why is the Department conducting this consultation?

- 1.1. We are asking for your views on the policy proposals and integrated impact assessments outlined in this Consultation Pack for the delivery of a Rapid Transit system in Belfast.

- 1.2. Your response will help us to determine the final policy decisions, which will be published after we have considered all the responses. We will use these final policy decisions to develop proposals for new legislation, which will be subject to approval by the Assembly.

How should you respond to this consultation?

- 1.3. This Question and Answer booklet contains all the specific consultation questions that are included throughout the Consultation Pack. You can respond by completing this Question and Answer booklet and returning it by post, e-mail or fax to:

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Fax: (028) 9054 1129

You may also access the Question and Answer booklet online from our website, at www.drdni.gov.uk.

- 1.4. If you prefer, your submission can be in a different format from that suggested in this Question and Answer booklet, such as audio tape. It would be helpful if your submission could relate to the specific consultation questions or paragraph references.
- 1.5. Before you submit your response, please read the statement on Confidentiality of Consultations . Freedom of Information Act 2000+at Appendix 1 of this booklet.

When should you respond to this consultation?

- 1.6. The consultation period will run from 23 November 2009 to 19 February 2010. You must respond by **5pm on 19 February 2010**, otherwise we may not be able to take account of your comments. We will acknowledge your submission and will publish our response to the issues raised in due course.

Respondent's Details

Name: Sue Christie	Please Return by 19 February 2010 To: Department for Regional Development, Rapid Transit Division, Clarence Court, Belfast, BT2 8GB. E-mail: Brtdrdni.gov.uk Fax: (028) 9054 1129
Organisation (if applicable): Northern Ireland Environment Link	
Address: 89 Loopland Drive Belfast BT6 9DW	
Telephone: 028 9045 5770	
Fax:	
E-mail: sue@nienvironmentlink.org	
I am responding: as an individual <input type="checkbox"/> on behalf of an organisation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Is your response confidential? If so, please explain why (see Appendix 1 “Confidentiality of Consultations – Freedom of Information Act 2000”).	
Provision is made throughout this questionnaire for you to provide additional comments. If, however, you wish to provide more detailed comments on any aspect of the consultation, please feel free to append additional materials and supplementary documents, clearly marked and cross-referenced to the relevant questions, as necessary.	

Questions on Detailed Policy Proposals

Question 1 (page 15)

Do you agree that the Department should have the necessary authority to implement the Rapid Transit proposals?

Yes No

Comments:

Question 2 (page 16)

Do you agree that the Department should take land acquisition powers for the implementation of the Rapid Transit system?

Yes No

Comments:

NIEL agree this will be necessary. However it is important the Department does not abuse this power and that all relevant stakeholders are consulted prior to any area of land being considered for acquisition through this means. This is of particular importance if important ecosystems and/or recreational areas will be affected, e.g. the Comber Greenway. NIEL feel this route in particular already serves a vital role to the community and should not be acquired for the purposes of the Rapid Transit network.

Question 3 (page 16)

Do you agree that the Department should have the power to purchase, lease and dispose of goods, services and facilities for the Rapid Transit system?

Yes No

Comments:

The Department must take the ‘best technology’ approach when purchasing new equipment. Purchases of equipment and facilities should also be well thought-out and include a whole-life costing. Purchases must be well maintained to ensure longevity.

The Department must ensure leases are awarded with a series of strict targets, including low carbon and efficiency measures, which are monitored and reported on regularly. This will ensure the provision of a high quality service ensuring the Public Transport Network as a whole and the Rapid Transit system in particular are viewed as a viable and preferable alternative to the private vehicle. It is only through this shift in behaviour that Northern Ireland will meet its greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Question 4 (page 17)

Do you agree that a performance-based contract should be introduced for the operation of the Rapid Transit system?

Yes No

Comments:

NIEL believes a performance-based contract is vital if the Rapid Transit system is to offer a high quality service and be considered the preferred mode of transport over the private vehicle.

NIEL would like clarification of the performance indicators proposed to be used. A broad spectrum of indicators with appropriate compliance monitoring will be necessary. These should include ensuring vehicles comply to the latest environmental standards in terms of emissions, fuel efficiency, etc.

Question 5 (page 18)

Do you agree that the Department should be responsible for:

- specifying Rapid Transit service requirements, quality-of-service and the fare levels;
- awarding the Rapid Transit contract; and
- monitoring and reporting on Rapid Transit operator performance?

Yes No

Comments:

Sufficient funding must be in place to ensure the roles of the Department can be fulfilled. NIEL believes a reallocation of the transport budget (currently 20% to public transport, 80% road infrastructure) is required urgently to reflect the aim of shifting public behaviour towards using public transport instead of the private car.

NIEL believes that fare levels and structures must be regulated to ensure competitive rates for customers and make the Northern Ireland Rapid Transit system in particular and the public transport network as a whole the preferred alternative to the private vehicle. The aim should be to create a network that provides passengers with good value for money but is also financially and environmentally sustainable in the long term.

As stated in our response to Q 4, NIEL would like clarification of the performance indicators proposed to be used.

Question 6 (page 18)

What are your views on the proposal to offer financial incentives to the Rapid Transit operator to grow the Rapid Transit market, introduce innovation and improve services?

Comments:

NIEL believes financial incentives would help drive innovation and efficiency improvements and promote use of the service. However, these incentives should only be awarded on submission of a sound proposed action plan. The Department should then be responsible for monitoring progress of the plan.

Question 7 (page 20)

Do you agree with the proposed powers to regulate passenger conduct on Rapid Transit Vehicles and in/on Rapid Transit premises?

Yes ✓ No

Comments:

NIEL believes offences and fines must be sufficient to encourage good practice by operators and to deter antisocial behaviour including littering. Repeat offenders should be given higher fines and/or bans. This will help maintain a high quality service ensuring the public are more likely to consider public transport in preference to a private vehicle.

Question 8 (page 21)

Do you agree that the dedicated public transport corridors on which Rapid Transit operates should be strictly enforced?

Yes ✓ No

Comments:

The Rapid Transit network will only function effectively if the dedicated corridors remain free of unauthorised traffic and/or obstructions. NIEL would like to see an overall shift in prioritisation of road use from favouring private vehicles to favouring the whole public transport network. This will help reduce journey times and make public transport a more attractive option.

Question 9 (page 21)

Do you agree with the proposed powers for the Department to install, operate and maintain off-board ticketing machines?

Yes ✓ **No**

Comments:

NIEL believes the off-vehicle ticketing must be integrated across all forms of public transport, including the Rapid Transit system, to make the service more user-friendly, helping to increase usage of the public transport network. As suggested by NIEL in our response to the Public Transport Reform consultation, the Department should look at the oyster card system currently in place in London with a view to introducing a similar structure here.

Appropriate funding will need to be in place for the procurement, installation and maintenance of the necessary hardware and software. NIEL would like to reiterate the need to address the current 20% portion of the transport fund allocated to public transport.

Please make any further comments on the Detailed Policy Proposals here, ensuring that you clearly refer to any relevant questions or responses submitted above.

Questions on Integrated Impact Assessment

In considering these questions you should bear in mind that it is proposed that a further Integrated Impact Assessment screening exercise will be undertaken prior to the implementation phase of the Rapid Transit project.

Question 1

Do you have any views on the Integrated Impact Assessment Screening conclusion reached by the Department?

Yes No

Comments:

Any screening process must include a robust scoping study of urban rapid transport routes. This should clearly identify all environmental impacts including those on gardens, open space, street trees and wildlife. All viable routes must be considered and a holistic approach taken in the decision-making process. This should include environmental, social, economic and health implications.

Question 2

Are there any particular equality issues that need to be considered in relation to the policy proposals contained in the Detailed Policy Proposals booklet?

Yes No

Comments:

NIEL believe a strategic environmental assessment will be necessary if an environmentally sensitive area is likely to be impacted upon during construction of the dedicated Rapid Transit corridors. As stated in Question 1, all viable routes must be considered and a holistic approach taken in the decision-making process. This should include environmental, social, economic and health implications.

Comments on Equality Screening

We welcome your comments on any aspect of the draft equality screening document. Please bear in mind that it is proposed that a further screening exercise will be undertaken prior to the implementation phase of the Rapid Transit project.

Comments:

No comment.

Appendix 1: Confidentiality of Consultations – Freedom of Information Act 2000

The Freedom of Information Act provides the public with the right to request access to information held by the Department. This includes information provided in response to consultations.

The Department will publish a summary of responses following the completion of this public consultation. If you would prefer your response to be treated as confidential, please let us know, **stating your reasons clearly**. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, in itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

If we are asked to disclose responses under Freedom of Information legislation, we will take any requests for confidentiality into account. However, confidentiality cannot be guaranteed.

We will handle appropriately any personal data you provide in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

For further information about the confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner's Office (or see web site at: www.ico.gov.uk)

Appendix 2: List of Consultees

All Government Departments (11 + 2 Junior Ministers)

All Local Government Councils (26)

All MLAs (108)

All NI Members of Parliament

All NI Members of European Parliament

All NI Party Leaders

All Road Service Licence Holders

All Rural Community Transport Partnerships

All 10B Permit Designated Bodies

All Education & Library Boards

All Health & Social Care Trusts and Board

Abacus Professional Recruitment

Age Concern Northern Ireland

Age Sector Platform (ASP)

Agent for the Copyright Libraries

Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union (AEEU)

AMICUS

An Munia Tober

Antrim Borough Partnership

Ards Local Strategy Partnership

Armagh City and District Partnership

Bahai's Office for NI

Ballymoney District Partnership

Barnardos NI

Barnardos, Tuar Ceatha Project

Belfast Butterfly Club

Belfast Chamber of Trade & Commerce

Belfast City Centre Management
Belfast Harbour
Belfast Healthy Cities Project
Belfast Hebrew Congregation
Belfast International Airport
Belfast Solicitors Association
Bodleian Library, Oxford
British Association for Shooting and Conservation
British Deaf Association (NI)
British Library
Bryson House
BT Headquarters
Business Development Group
Cara-friend
CARE in Northern Ireland
Carers Northern Ireland
Carlingford Lough Commission
Castlereagh Partnership for Peace & Reconciliation
Catholic Bishops of Northern Ireland
Cedar Foundation
Child Poverty Action Group
Children in Northern Ireland (CiNI)
Children's Law Centre
Chinese Welfare Association
Chrysalis Women's Centre
Church of Ireland House
Citizens Advice Bureau
City of Derry Airport
Civil Law Reform Division
Coalition on Sexual Orientation (CoSo)

Coiste-na n-iarchimi
Coleraine Borough Strategic Partnership
Coleraine Harbour
Commissioner for Children & Young People
Committee on the Administration of Justice
Community Development and Health Network
Community Foundation
Community Places
Community Relations Council
Community Transport Association (CTA)
Concordia Partnership for Progress
Confederation of British Industry (CBI)
Conservation Volunteers Northern Ireland
Consumer Council for NI
Cookstown District Partnership
Co-ownership Housing Association
Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside
Craigavon District Partnership
Cruse Bereavement Care (NI)
Derry Well Woman
Disability Action
District Judge (Magistrates Court)
District Partnership for Derry City
Down District Strategy Partnership
Down Syndrome Association
East Belfast Partnership Board
Economic Research Institute of Northern Ireland
Employers Forum on Disability
Equality Commission for NI
Equality Forum NI

Executive Council of the Inn of Court of NI
Falls Community Council
Falls Women Centre
Federation of Passenger Transport
Federation of Small Businesses
First Division Civil Servants Association
Food Standards Agency
Foyle Women's Aid
Foyle Women's Information Network
FPA NI
Friends of the Earth
Gay & Lesbian Youth Northern Ireland
George Best Belfast City Airport
Gingerbread NI
Greenway to Stay Campaign
Guide Dogs for the Blind Association
Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland
Help the Aged (NI)
HM Council of County Court Judges (NI)
HM Revenue and Customs
Human Rights Commission
Inclusive Mobility and Transport Advisory Committee
Indian Community Centre
Inland Waterways Northern Ireland
Institute of Directors
Institution of Highways and Transportation . Northern Ireland
Invest Northern Ireland
Irish & Local Studies Department, Central Library
Irish Congress of Trade Unions (NI Committee)
Irish Transport Trust

Larne District Partnership
Larne Harbour
Law Centre (NI)
Law Society of Northern Ireland
Library of Trinity College, Dublin
Limavady District Partnership
Living Streets
Local Government Staff Commission for Northern Ireland
Londonderry Harbour Office
Lower North Belfast Community Council
Magherafelt Area Partnership Ltd
Magherafelt Women's Group
MENCAP
Methodist Church in Ireland
Mid-Ulster Women's Network
Ministry of Defence
Mobilise NI
Moyle District Partnership
Mr A Arlow
Ms O'Kane
Multi-Cultural Resource Centre
National Energy Action
National Library of Ireland
National Library, Scotland
National Library, Wales
Newry & Mourne Peace & Reconciliation Partnership
Newry & Mourne Senior Citizens Consortium
Newry & Mourne Women Ltd
Newtownabbey Local Strategic Partnership
NI 2000

NI Anti-Poverty Network
NI Bird Watchers Association
NI Cycling Initiative
NI Environment Link
NI Islamic Centre
NI Women's Aid Federation
NI Women's European Platform (NIWEP)
NIACRO
NIE
North Belfast Partnership
North Down District Partnership
North West Forum of People with Disabilities (Derry)
North / South Ministerial Council
Northern Ireland Assembly
Northern Ireland Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux
Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Northern Ireland Chamber of Trade
Northern Ireland Chest, Heart and Stroke Association
Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Equality
Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities
Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action
Northern Ireland Court Service
Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Northern Ireland Gay Rights Association
Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission
Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission
Northern Ireland Law Commission
Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA)
Northern Ireland Office
Northern Ireland Ombudsman

Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance (NIPSA)
Northern Ireland Publications Resource
Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network
Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA)
Northern Ireland Tourist Board
Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company
Northern Ireland Walking Forum
NSPCC
NTL Cable Tel
NUS-USI Northern Ireland
Office of Fair Trading
Office of the Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland
Omagh Women's Area Network
Omnibus Partnership
Parents' Advice Centre
Parents and Professionals and Autism
Participation and the Practice of Rights Project
Participation Network
Peace and Reconciliation Partnership Ballymena
Phoenix Gas
Planning Service
POBAL
Police Service for Northern Ireland
Polish Association NI
Presbyterian Church in Ireland
Press for Change
Protestant, Unionist, Loyalist Network
Quarry Products Association
Queen's University Belfast Library
Queer Space

Rainbow Project
Relate NI
Road Safety Council for Northern Ireland
Roads Service
Royal National Institute for Blind People (RNIB) NI
Royal National Institute for the Deaf (NI)
Rural Community Network
Rural Development Council
Rural Support
S.T.E.P. (South Tyrone Empowerment Programme)
Save the Children
School of Law, Queen's University Belfast
School of Law, University of Ulster
Sense NI
Sikh Cultural Centre
Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (SOLACE)
South Belfast Partnership Board
Sperrin Lakeland Senior Citizens Consortium
St Angelo Airport
Staff Commission for Education and Library Boards
Strabane District Partnership
Strategic Investment Board
Sustainable Northern Ireland
Sustainable Organic Living Environment
SUSTRANS
The Odyssey Trust
Titanic Quarter Ltd
Training for Women Network Ltd
Translink
Travellers Movement NI

TSO Bibliographic Department
Ulster Archaeological Society
Ulster Scots Heritage Council
Ulster Society for the Protection of the Countryside
Ulster Wildlife Trust
ULTACH
Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technology
UNISON
UNITE
University Library, Cambridge
Warrenpoint Harbour
West Belfast and Greater Shankill Enterprise Council
West Belfast Partnership Board
Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust
Womens Centre
Womens Forum
Womens Forum Northern Ireland
Womens Information Group
Womens Resource & Development Agency
Womens Support Network
World Wide Fund for Nature
Youth Council for NI
Youthnet

Appendix 3: Code of Practice for Consultation

The Government has adopted a code of practice on consultations. The code of practice applies to all UK public consultations by government departments and agencies, including consultations on EU directives.

Though the code does not have legal force, and cannot prevail over statutory or other mandatory external requirements (e.g. under European Community Law), it should otherwise generally be regarded as binding unless Ministers conclude that exceptional circumstances require a departure.

The code contains seven criteria. They should be reproduced in all consultation documents. There should be an explanation of any departure from the criteria and confirmation that they have otherwise been followed.

Consultation Criteria

Criterion 1: When to consult

Formal consultation should take place at a stage when there is scope to influence the policy outcome.

Criterion 2: Duration of consultation exercises

Consultations should normally last for at least 12 weeks with consideration given to longer timescales where feasible and sensible.

Criterion 3: Clarity of scope and impact

Consultation documents should be clear about the consultation process, what is being proposed, the scope to influence and the expected costs and benefits of the proposals.

Criterion 4: Accessibility of consultation exercises

Consultation exercises should be designed to be accessible to, and clearly targeted at, those people the exercise is intended to reach.

Criterion 5: The burden of consultation

Keeping the burden of consultation to a minimum is essential if consultations are to be effective and if consultees buy-in to the process is to be obtained.

Criterion 6: Responsiveness of consultation exercises

Consultation responses should be analysed carefully and clear feedback should be provided to participants following the consultation.

Criterion 7: Capacity to consult

Officials running consultations should seek guidance in how to run an effective consultation exercise and share what they have learned from the experience.

A full version of the code of practice is available on the Better Regulation Executive web-site at <http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file47158.pdf>.

If you consider that this consultation does not comply with the criteria or have comments about the consultation process please contact:

**Consultation Co-ordinator,
Department for Regional Development,
Rapid Transit Division,
Clarence Court,
10-18 Adelaide Street,
BELFAST,
BT2 8GB.
E-mail: Brtdrdni.gov.uk**

Contact Us:

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