



Teach Uí Aogáin,  
Rae Mhuineacháin,  
An tIúr,  
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**Comhairle an Iúir & Mhúrn**  
**Newry & Mourne District Council**

*Cleireach & Príomhfheimeannach – Clerk & Chief Executive*  
**Thomas McCall**

Ar dTag / Our Ref:

Bhur dTag / Your Ref: **G/4/1**

Dáta / Date:

**23 June 2006**

Ms Geraldine O'Neill  
Sub Regional Transport Plan Team  
Transportation Unit  
Roads Service  
Department for Regional Development  
Room 329 Clarence Court  
10-18 Adelaide Court  
Belfast  
BT2 8GB

Dear Geraldine

**Re: Comments forwarded by Newry and Mourne District Council**

Please find attached comments put forward by Newry and Mourne District Council on the Department of Regional Development's Draft Sub Regional Transport Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment during the consultation process.

Yours sincerely

**Jonathan McGilly**  
**Enterprise Development Officer**  
JMcG/SR/MM

Cc Mr Kevin Scullion



**Building  
Sustainable  
Prosperity**

## **Response to DRD Roads Service – Draft Sub Regional Transport Plan**

### **Background**

DRD Roads Service has invited comments from Newry and Mourne District Council on the Department's Draft SRTP. Comments are to be received no later than Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2006. Officials from DRD Roads Service presented their proposals to elected members on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2006. They outlined the proposed walking, cycle and highway blue prints for Newry, Kilkeel and Warrenpoint as well as outlining the proposals for the rural areas.

### **Kilkeel**

With regard to the cycle blue print for Kilkeel, Members had some concerns that this may not be a major concern for the people of the area. Newry and Mourne District Council would ask that traffic issues on the Moor Road to Kilkeel Rd and the Greencastle Rd to Newry Rd be further investigated.

### **Warrenpoint**

Newry and Mourne District Council are concerned about the proposed junctions for Warrenpoint. Councillors do not believe that imposing Traffic lights at the areas indicated on the maps would alleviate traffic. Elected members are of the opinion that this would create further traffic congestion. With regard to the proposed walking route for Warrenpoint, Members would like this to be extended and the Well Road area of the town should be incorporated into the proposed walking route. Roads Service should also consider alleviating traffic in the town by enhancing the Mound Road as this would provide an alternative route into Warrenpoint.

### **Newry**

The proposed walking and cycle routes for Newry were welcomed. There were concerns that more investigation should be carried on traffic congestion in general in Newry. Elected members outlined their views on this issue and made specific reference to traffic problems at Abbey Yard and Kilmorey Street. Councillors have also asked that the proposed Southern Relief Road be factored into proposed future works.

### **Rural Areas**

Elected members welcomed the proposed works for the rural areas. There was also the view that more public money should be spent on financing Public Transport rather than investing in infrastructure works. The 'Safer Routes to School' initiative was welcomed.

### **Budget**

With regard to the budget for the SRTP, there are some concerns that while the monies available are for the lifetime of the plan, that is, up to 2015, the plan itself does not address the potential future growth and development of the area and does forecast possible expenditure into its budgets. Figures outlined are still not secured, as they are dependant on the availability of public monies.

### **Air Quality**

This Council, as required by the Environment (NI) Order 2002, completed a review and assessment of local air quality within the council area. This identified a risk that

air quality standards for Particles (PM10) and Nitrogen dioxide (NO2) would not be met within parts of Newry City and have therefore declared five Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's) encompassing the streets, Canal Street, Water Street, Kilmorey Street, Bridge Street and St Mary Street. It is considered that road traffic pollution represents a significant contribution to levels of PM10 and NO2 in these areas. The Council is required, in consultation with others, to prepare an Action Plan setting out the steps to be taken in pursuit of achievement of air quality standards. The Council considers that DRD Road Service will be a key partner in the preparation of the Action Plan.

The proposals within the Draft Sub Regional Transport Plan as they relate to Newry City should contribute to improving local air quality within the AQMA's. However, further consideration will be required to evaluate their effect in relation to local air quality. Whilst acknowledging that proposals for a Newry Southern Relief Road fall outside the scope of this plan it would be argued that the implementation of such a scheme would make a significant contribution to reducing congestion within Newry City and consequently result in improvements to local air quality.

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