EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The Alexandra Square, Lurgan (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021

S.R. 2021 No. 11

1. Introduction

1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department for Infrastructure to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.

1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under Article 68(1) and (5) of The Roads (Northern Ireland) Order 1993 and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

2. Purpose

2.1. The purpose of the rule is to abandon an area of 572 square metres of former road at Alexandra Square car park, Lurgan extending from its junction with Alexandra Square for a distance of 37 metres in a north-westerly direction.

2.2. The area of former road in question will be abandoned as the Department is of the opinion that it is no longer necessary.

2.3. On the coming into operation of the rule, the area of road in question shall cease to be maintainable by the Department.

3. Background

3.1. The abandonment is required to regularise the situation on the ground.

3.2. Following the transfer of off-street car parks to local Councils in 2015, responsibility for Alexandra Square car park was transferred to the local Council. As the area to be abandoned comprises part of the car park it must be abandoned in order to allow the transfer of title to the Council.

3.3. The Department has initiated the abandonment to regularise the title of the Alexandra Square car park at the request of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council.

4. Consultation

4.1. The PSNI has been consulted and has no objection. Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council has also been advised of the proposed abandonment.

4.2. In accordance with the statutory consultation process a notice in respect of the proposed abandonment was published in the local press for two successive weeks. In addition, a notice was posted on site and the statutory undertakers were notified of the proposal.

4.3. Following the advertising of the notice in the local press, no objections were received.

5. Equality Impact

5.1. Consideration has been given to compliance with Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. No equality issues have been identified by the Department and no issues were raised following the publication of the notice in the press.

6. Regulatory Impact

6.1. A Regulatory Impact Assessment was not considered necessary as the proposal does not result in any costs or savings to business, charities or the voluntary bodies.

7. Financial Implications

7.1. None.

8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

8.1. Consideration has been given to compliance with Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. No human rights issues have been identified by the Department and no issues were raised following the publication of the notice in the press.

9. EU Implications

9.1. Not applicable.

10. Parity or Replicatory Measure

10.1. Not applicable.

11. Additional Information

11.1. Not applicable.