EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The Dogwood Walk Footpath, Route F1386, Craigavon (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2011

S. R. 2011 No. 341

1. Introduction

1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department for Regional Development 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 445.8 square metres of footpath/cycle track at Dogwood Walk Footpath, Craigavon, to the south of Craigavon Leisure Centre. The rule also requires the retention of any equipment belonging to statutory undertakers in the area to be abandoned and preserves their right to maintain such equipment there.

3. Background

3.1. The proposed abandonment has been requested by architects acting on behalf of Craigavon Borough Council, who wish to incorporate the area to be abandoned into the construction of a new Community Hub (meeting place) adjacent to Craigavon Leisure Centre.

3.2. The bed and soil of the area of road to be abandoned is owned partly by the Department (in unregistered title) and partly by the Council. Following the abandonment the area owned by the Department will be disposed of in accordance with the procedures laid down for the disposal of government owned land and the rest will revert to the Council.

4. Consultation

4.1. The PSNI has been consulted and has no objection. Craigavon Borough Council is the applicant.

4.2. A Notice in respect of the proposed abandonment was published in the local press for 2 successive weeks and statutory undertakers notified of the proposal. No objections have been received. BT have requested an easement which will be dealt with as part of the disposal process.

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.