EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The Footpath to the rear of Albert Street, Quadrant Place and Cullingtree Road, Belfast (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020

S.R. 2020 No. 184

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 this rule is to abandon an area of 357.9 square metres of road comprising a footpath on the western side of the Westlink to the rear of Albert Street, Quadrant Place and Cullingtree Road, extending from its junction with Albert Street northwards for a distance of 115 metres to the south side of the Westlink footbridge between Durham Street and Cullingtree Road.

3. Background

3.1. The abandonment has been requested by the Department of Communities to facilitate redevelopment in the area. Following the abandonment the area will be redeveloped to create a new public amenity by DfC Building Successful Communities Team.

3.2. Northern Ireland Housing Executive and The Department for Infrastructure are the owners of the bed and soil. Following the abandonment the land ownership will transfer to Belfast City Council.

3.3. On the coming into operation of the rule, the area of road to be abandoned shall cease to be maintainable by the Department and the public right of way over it shall be extinguished.

4. Consultation

4.1. The PSNI has been informed and has no objection to the abandonment. Belfast City Council has been advised and has no objection.

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