EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The Footway to the rear of Quadrant Place, near Albert Street, Belfast (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2022

SR 2022 No.22

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 19.537 square metres of footway on the western side of the Westlink to the rear of Nos. 10 and 11 Quadrant Place, Belfast.

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

3. Background

3.1. The rule will abandon an area of 19.537 square metres of footway on the western side of the Westlink to the rear of Nos. 10 and 11 Quadrant Place, Belfast.

3.2. The abandonment has been requested by Belfast City Council and forms part of an Environmental Improvement Scheme which will include a new pathway, outdoor sports facilities and general landscaping of the area. This abandonment rectifies an administrative error which inadvertently omitted this area of land from being included in The Footpath to the rear of Albert Street, Quadrant Place and Cullingtree Road, Belfast (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020 (S.R. 2020 No. 184).

3.3. The Department is of the view that this area of road is not necessary and may be abandoned. The bed and soil of the area of road in question is owned by Belfast City Council.

3.4. Following abandonment the area will be redeveloped for Department for Communities to create a new public amenity and land ownership will transfer to Belfast City Council.

4. Consultation

4.1. The PSNI has been consulted and no objection has been received. Belfast City Council is the applicant.

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.