EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The Little Victoria Street Car Park, Belfast (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026

S. R. 2026 No. 160

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 213.976 square metres of road at Little Victoria Street Car Park extending from a point 10 metres north of its junction with Downshire Place for a distance of 23 metres in a northerly direction and an area of 137.184 square metres of road previously known as Little Brunswick Street now incorporated within Little Victoria Street Car Park extending from no. 2 Bruce Street for a distance of 12 metres in a southerly direction.

2.2. The areas of road in question will be abandoned as the Department is of the opinion that they are no longer necessary.

2.3. On the coming into operation of the rule, the areas 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 abandonments have been requested by the Department to facilitate the transfer of ownership of the car park to Belfast City Council. The abandonment of former roads that ran through the car park forms part of the transfer process.

3.2. Following the abandonments the land will revert to Belfast City Council.

4. Consultation

4.1. The PSNI has been consulted and has no objection. Belfast City 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. Following the advertisement 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.