EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The Vennel, Bangor (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2022

S. R. 2022 No. 66

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 two areas totalling 506 square metres at The Vennel, Bangor, consisting of 159 metres of road from its junction with Southwell Road and 347 metres of road comprising footpath from its junction with Queen's Parade.

2.2. The areas 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 shall cease to be maintainable by the Department and the public right of way over them shall be extinguished.

3. Background

3.1. The abandonment has been requested to facilitate the re-development of the Queen's Parade area of Bangor. The areas to be abandoned are owned by the Department for Communities and following the abandonment the road entering the site from the western edge will be built over with an apartment block. The road tracking from the southern to northern edge of the site will be partially used as a pedestrian access, with delivery/service access only for vehicles to the rear of the proposed development and adjacent properties.

4. Consultation

4.1. The PSNI has been consulted and has no objection to the abandonment. Ards and North Down Borough Council has also been advised of the proposed abandonment and no objection has been received.

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 advertisement of the notice in the local press, one objection was received. The objection was considered and the Department has responded to the objector but the objection has not been withdrawn.

4.4. The Department is satisifed that the appropriate processes have been followed in relation to the proposed abandonment and that the issues raised by the objector have been fully addressed.

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.