



Dual Language Street Sign Policy

1) **Background**

In August 2018 the Council agreed that a new policy be drafted for consideration.

This policy was approved by the Council on 30 May 2022 subject to a review after 3 years.

2) **Legislation**

Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 gives Councils the broad discretionary power to erect dual language street signs or secondary nameplates in a language other than English.

3) **Criteria – general**

The Council in making arrangements and providing opportunities for dual language signage within street naming shall have regard to the following:

- (i) Whilst the Council must have regard to any views on the matter expressed by the occupiers of premises in that street it is also entitled to take into account other lawful considerations affecting its decision.
- (ii) The terms of this policy are not absolute and can be departed from in appropriate circumstances on the facts of an individual case.
- (iii) None of the requirements stipulated at any given stage in the process as outlined in this policy are absolute and the Council retains a discretion, having regard to all the relevant circumstances of the case, to advance any petition onto the next stage of consideration, notwithstanding failure to meet the stipulated criteria, if it appears to the Council that there are good reasons to do so.
- (iv) The naming of the street in a language other than English does not authorise or require its use as, or part of, the address of any person or the description of the land for the purpose of any statutory provision.
- (v) For the purposes of this policy occupiers shall be taken to be any person whose name appears in the current Electoral Register plus the owners or tenants in actual possession of commercial premises, but not employees in such premises.
- (vi) Decisions under this policy will be made by the full Council only.

4) Procedure

The process for seeking and assessing the views of occupiers and the criteria to be applied in deciding whether to erect a street sign in a language other than English are as follows:

- i) Applications supported by a petition representing not less than one third of the people appearing on the current Electoral Register of the street for which the application is made will be progressed to the next stage. The petition will be brought to the Council to seek approval to move to the next stage of the process.
- ii) If approval to progress is granted by the Council, the Council will canvass by post all people appearing on the current Electoral Register of that street and seek their views on the request to erect a street sign in a second specified language. Those canvassed will be given 4 weeks to respond in writing from the date of the letter being issued by the Council.
- iii) Where two thirds or more of all those canvassed have indicated that they are in favour of the erection of a second language street sign, the matter will be brought before the Council for decision.
- iv) When a decision has been taken by the Council to erect a street sign in a second language the translation from English to that second language will be carried out by an independent, competent Body approved by the Council.
- v) The second language sign shall be located immediately below the English sign and the size of lettering shall be of the same size as the English version. In instances where the translation to a second language would require the need for the nameplate dimensions to increase in size, the lettering shall be reduced in size to maintain standard nameplate dimensions.
- vi) If the request is refused by the Council, further requests for that street will not be considered until the expiry of 36 months from the date at which the Council refuses it as it is thought unlikely that the opinion of occupants of any street would change to an extent where this result would be overturned in any less a period.
- vii) Should occupiers wish to invoke a revocation of the Council's decision to provide street signs in a language other than English, the Council will follow the same process as set out above.
- viii) Council will process a maximum of 3 applications per month on a first come basis.