



<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Review of Street Naming and Property Numbering Policy including Dual Language Street Signage</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	<b>Environmental Services Committee</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> April 2026</b>
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>To be discussed In Committee</b>	<b>No</b>

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)</b>	
Strategic Theme	Healthy, Active & Engaged Communities
Outcome	Implementation of Statutory Requirements
Lead Officer	Head of Health & Built Environment

<b>Estimated Timescale for Completion</b>	
Date to be Completed	n/a

<b>Budgetary Considerations</b>	
Cost of Proposal	n/a
Included in Current Year Estimates	n/a
Capital/Revenue	n/a
Code	n/a
Staffing Costs	n/a

<b>Legal Considerations</b>	
Input of Legal Services Required	Yes
Legal Opinion Obtained	Ongoing

<b>Screening Requirements</b>	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	TBC	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	TBC	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	TBC	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	TBC	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	TBC	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	TBC	Date:

## **1.0 Purpose of Report**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the direction of Members in respect of key matters arising from the ongoing review of the Council's Street Naming and Property Numbering Policy, namely:

- a) The approach to be adopted in respect of dual language street signage procedures
- b) The potential separation of dual language street signage provisions into a standalone policy

## **2.0 Background**

2.1 Council is responsible for ensuring that streets and properties within the Borough are clearly named and numbered. This supports wayfinding for residents, visitors and those working in the area, and facilitates the accurate identification of premises by emergency services, postal operators, utility providers, and Council services.

2.2 Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 sets out Council's statutory duties and discretionary powers in relation to street naming, numbering, and the erection of street nameplates, including dual-language signage. Council is required to comply with these provisions when performing its functions.

2.3 In carrying out this function, Council's primary consideration is public safety, ensuring that streets are uniquely named and properties clearly identified, particularly in emergency situations.

2.4 The current Street Naming and Property Numbering Policy was adopted by Council in March 2015 and has not been subject to a comprehensive review since that time. Council's current policy can be found at Appendix 1.

2.5 Formal requests have been received from over 50 members of the public seeking a review of the Council's dual language street signage policy, with reference made to its alignment with the Council's responsibilities under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

2.6 A briefing paper from Conradh na Gaeilge, on the Council's Street Naming and Property Numbering Policy with specific reference to dual language street signage, has been received and is attached as Appendix 2.

2.7 Amendments to the existing Policy are required for the following reasons:

- To ensure a consistent approach
- To provide clarification of requirements
- To reflect changes in legislative and regulatory frameworks
- To respond to public interest and demand

2.8 The ongoing review is intended to ensure that the Council's approach to street naming and property numbering is fair, equitable, and consistent, while meeting statutory and regulatory obligations and supporting public safety and operational effectiveness.

### **3.0 Policy Review and Draft Status**

3.1 Officers have undertaken a comprehensive review of the Street Naming and Property Numbering Policy and have identified amendments to improve clarity, consistency, and alignment with Council's corporate policy framework. The proposed changes include:

- Reformatting in line with Council's corporate policy framework
- Expanded reference to the legislative context
- Introduction of a standardised application process, including a Privacy Notice
- Clarification of naming conventions, including English language requirements, use of townland names and suffixes
- Enhanced guidance on property numbering in a range of scenarios
- Greater clarity in relation to renaming streets and renumbering properties
- Updated standards for street nameplates, including design, placement and replacement
- Provision for non-postal addresses

3.3 While much of the policy has been reviewed, the draft policy is not yet ready for circulation as direction from Members is required on key matters.

3.4 Once Council Members have provided direction, this will be incorporated, and the revised policy will be brought back to Council for formal consideration.

### **4.0 Decision (a) – Approach to Dual Language Street Signage**

4.1 Under Article 11 of the 1995 Order:

- All primary street nameplates will express the street name in English, as legally required.
- Councils may also erect a second or additional nameplate expressing the same street name in another language.
- A second nameplate may be placed adjacent to an English-only nameplate.
- Use of a non-English street name is not authorised for postal addressing or statutory purposes.
- Councils must have regard to the views of occupiers before deciding whether to erect a dual-language nameplate

4.2 Since the adoption of the current policy, the legislative and policy context has evolved, including:

- The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML)

- The Identity and Language (Northern Ireland) Act 2022
- 4.3 The ECRML is a Council of Europe treaty that protects and promotes historical, traditional, regional or minority languages and guides their use in everyday public life. It encourages governments and public authorities to actively recognise, respect, and practically support minority languages in local public life, helping communities maintain their linguistic and cultural heritage. Countries that ratify the Charter agree to take practical steps to support these languages in areas like education, media, cultural life, and public administration. The UK subscribed to commitments for Irish and Ulster Scots under Part II of the Charter, and a number of provisions for Irish under Part III of the Charter. Under the Charter, Council is expected to help make minority languages visible and usable in everyday local services. Typical responsibilities may include:
- Use of Minority Languages in Public Services
  - Bilingual Signage and Place Names
  - Support for Education and Community Learning
  - Cultural Promotion
  - Media and Public Information
- 4.4 The Council of Europe has expressed concerns when municipal authorities take regressive steps in relation to bilingual signage and sought in such circumstances full compliance with the Charter. The 6th monitoring report on the ECRML in September 2024 specifically called for the need to “*Ensure that local authorities remove prohibitive thresholds for setting up bilingual signage, and that Irish traditional and correct forms of place names are used.*”
- 4.5 The Identity and Language (Northern Ireland) Act 2022, enacted in December 2022, establishes a new statutory framework for national and cultural identity and creates formal structures for the Irish language, Ulster Scots, and Ulster British traditions. The Act:
- Provides formal legal recognition of the Irish language
  - Recognises Ulster Scots as a minority language
  - Establishes specialist commissioners for both traditions
  - Creates a new Office of Identity and Cultural Expression
  - Embeds national and cultural identity principles across public authorities
  - Modernises outdated laws, including repealing the ban on using Irish in courts
- 4.6 It is therefore necessary to consider whether the Council policy on dual language street signage, currently being reviewed, remains appropriate or requires amendment to ensure alignment with these developments and to mitigate potential legal and reputational risk.
- 5.0 Options for Dual Language Street Signage Policy**

5.1 Council Members' direction is sought to confirm the approach to dual language street signage in the revised policy. Members are invited to consider the following options:

### 5.2 **Option 1 – Retain Current Policy (2015)**

- Petition from at least one-third of occupiers required to initiate process
- Threshold of support of two-thirds of all occupiers on electoral register required
- Non-responses effectively treated as opposition
- Five-year restriction on reapplication

*This option maintains the current position but may be considered restrictive and potentially misaligned with evolving legislative expectations.*

### 5.3 **Option 2 – Simple Majority Approach**

- Initiated in writing by any resident or Elected Member acting on their behalf
- Threshold of support from more than 50% of responding occupiers
- Only returned responses are counted

*This option provides a more accessible and democratic approach, reflecting the principle that, as with local elections, results are determined by those who respond rather than the total resident population. However, it may not fully address minority language considerations.*

### 5.4 **Option 3 – ECRML - Aligned Approach**

- Application may be initiated by a resident of the street, Elected Member who represents the DEA or a developer
- Threshold of 15% support from all occupiers
- Non-responses are not treated as opposition
- Reapplication period to be determined by Members

*This option aligns with emerging best practice and minority language obligations but represents a significant change from the current approach.*

## 6.0 **Benchmarking**

6.1 A review of policies across other councils indicates a general trend toward more accessible approaches. Table 1 in Appendix 3 to this report provides an overview of policy across other Northern Ireland Councils.

## 7.0 **Decision (b) – Separation of Dual language Street Signage into a Standalone policy**

7.1 At present, dual language street signage provisions are incorporated within the Street Naming and Property Numbering Policy. Any amendments to any element of a combined policy are likely to require an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA).

7.2 Council Members' direction is sought on whether dual language street signage provisions should remain incorporated within the Street Naming and Property Numbering Policy or be separated into a standalone policy. Members are invited to consider the following options:

7.3 **Option 4 – Retain Current Approach and Maintain Dual Language Street Signage within the Street Naming and Property Numbering Policy.**

7.4 This option retains dual language street signage provisions within the existing Street Naming and Property Numbering Policy. It maintains a single, cohesive policy framework, supporting consistency in decision-making and administration. Any amendments to any part of the policy - including non-language elements - would likely require a full Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA), which may limit flexibility and extend the timeframe for updates.

7.5 **Option 5 – Separate Dual Language Street Signage into a Standalone Policy**

7.6 This option separates dual language street signage provisions into a standalone policy, allowing updates to be made independently and potentially reducing the need for a full EQIA for any amendment, including non-language amendments. It also improves clarity and transparency by clearly defining the criteria and procedures for dual language signage. This approach is not expected to delay the review of either policy. Minimal additional resources would be required to maintain both policies and ensure alignment.

## 8.0 **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Environmental Services Committee recommend to Council the approach on:

- **Decision (a):** The procedural framework for dual language street signage (Options 1, 2 or 3)
- **Decision (b) -** Whether dual language street signage should remain within the Street Naming and Property Numbering Policy or be separated into a standalone policy (Options 4 or 5)

# Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council

## STREET NAMING AND PROPERTY NUMBERING POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Policy Number	
Version Number	Rev 4
Author	

Date of Screening of Policy	
EQIA Recommended?	YES/NO
Date Adopted by Council	March 2015
Date Policy Revised	27 <sup>th</sup> October 2015

# INDEX

## **STREET NAMING AND PROPERTY NUMBERING POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

	<u>Page No</u>
1. Introduction	3
2. Policy Statement	4
3. Definitions	5
4. Accountability and Responsibilities	6
5. Implementation Arrangements or Procedures	7
5.1 New Property Procedure – New Developments	
5.2 New Property Procedures – New Individual Properties	
5.3 Renaming or Re-Numbering Procedure	
5.4 Replacement of Street Name Plates	
5.5 Numbering of Properties	
6. Dual Language Street Signs	11
7. Enforcement	13
8. Finance	14
9. Evaluation and Review of the Policy	14
10. Section 75 Equality and Good Relations	14
11. Contact Details	14

### Appendices:

I	Policy Guidelines
II	Recommendations for the Installation of street name plates
III	Application Form – New developments
IV	Sample Letter - Request to erect street plate in a language other than English
V	Record of changes to policy and procedure

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1** The primary purpose of this local authority function is to provide Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council with adequate street naming and numbering of buildings to help way-finding by the inhabitants, visitors and people who work in the area and to assist the easy identification of premises by emergency services, postal services and utility providers.
- 1.2** Responsibility for delivery of the service rest with the Health and Built Environment Department within the Environmental Services Directorate, where there is daily contact with local residences as well as developers.
- 1.3** In undertaking these functions the primary consideration for Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council is public safety, ensuring that street names are not duplicated and that streets and properties are named and numbered to facilitate easy identification in the event of an emergency

## 2. POLICY STATEMENT

2.1 The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995 affords Council discretion to approve numbers, name streets and provide street signage including street names expressed in languages other than English.

2.2 Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council will endeavour to exercise these discretionary powers in a fair and equitable manner to the reasonable satisfaction of all stakeholders. The needs and requests of all members of the community will be taken into account in accordance with Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Councils statutory duties and responsibilities under the following legislation:-

- The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995;
- Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act; and,
- European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

This policy is primarily to ensure Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council carries out its statutory role under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995. The policy indicates how Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council will actively introduce procedures for carrying out street naming and property numbering as well as dealing with dual naming street naming all in accordance with the above Order.

*(The policy statement should be signed and dated as follows by relevant Council representatives and Trade Union representatives)*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor  
Causeway Coast and Glens Council

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Executive  
Causeway Coast and Glens Council

### **3. DEFINITIONS**

#### 4. ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Council and its officers fully recognise that they are accountable to the public for their actions. Consequently policies and standards have been put in place against which the Council's actions can be judged and procedures exist for dealing with comments and handling complaints.

This section outlines the role of elected members, officers and others as appropriate, in relation to the policy.

The **Mayor and Elected Council Members** are responsible for:

- Accountability to the electorate to ensure the Council complies with the relevant statutory provisions.

The **Chief Executive** is responsible for:

- Accountability to the Council for the relevant statutory provisions.

The **Directors/Head of Service/Manager** are responsible for:

- Being accountable to the Chief Executive for the detailed aspects of the Council Policy particularly in respect of the organisation and arrangements within their respective departments.

The **Officers** are responsible for: or:

- Having an ability to readily identify properties and being confident that buildings are properly numbered and streets are properly named ensuring efficient and effective value for money
- enabling a properly administered system for addressing to ensure the delivery of an equitable property taxation system such as the current system for rating
- the allocation of statutory addresses to improve service delivery through the linking of various organisations' datasets with a common infrastructure based on a definitive list of national addresses. Many service providers require address details before customers can access products.

## 5. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS (OR ASSOCIATED PROCEDURES)

### 5.1 New Property Procedure - New Developments

5.1.1 On making an application for Building Regulations Approval, the Health and Built Environment Department will advise applicants or agents acting on their behalf whenever their application or development requires an application to approve a name and numbering schedule. This application form (see **Appendix III**) should be accompanied by 2No. copies of a location plan indicating the site locality and 2No. copies of site plan indicating the development layout.

This is particularly relevant for large multi-unit developments to avoid the preparation and distribution of promotional literature which includes names that may not have been approved and may not be acceptable. Consultation for the naming and numbering of new developments will only be necessary with the applicant or their agent, as there will be no other person(s) with a legal responsibility for the dwelling(s) at the time when the street naming application is made.

5.1.2 The applicant, or agent acting on their behalf, is asked to provide a number of alternative name proposals for a new development which should not duplicate or give rise to confusion, with any other names in the locality. Considerable favour will be given by Council to proposed names which can provide a social, historical, geographical or topographical link to the characteristics of the area.

5.1.3 An application for street naming must be made on the prescribed application form as set out in Appendix III, giving a reason for the preferred name and a second and third preference. The application should also be accompanied with 2No. copies of a location map and 2No. copies of a site plan.

5.1.4 Following receipt of an application for the naming of a street, the Health and Built Environment Department will consult with the Royal Mail Address Management Unit to check for duplication of any name proposal with existing names within that postal area. If the Royal Mail confirms duplication or has concerns about a name proposed, that name will **not** be considered for approval.

5.1.5 On receipt of correspondence from the Royal Mail that they have no objection to the name proposals, (by Email, fax or written confirmation), Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council (Health and Built Environment Department) will give consideration to the named proposal. It should be noted that the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council do not have to accept any named

proposal put forward by the applicant and may propose an alternative name of their choosing.

- 5.1.6 Following agreement of the named proposal, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council (Health and Built Environment Department) will notify applicants, or agents acting on their behalf.
- 5.1.7 In the event that a name proposal is unacceptable Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council (Health and Built Environment Department) may either request the applicant to submit a further name or may name the street / development and notify the applicant accordingly.
- 5.1.8 Following agreement of a development name, the Health and Built Environment Department in consultation with the applicant will provide a Postal Numbering Schedule.
- 5.1.9 The Royal Mail Address Management Unit will be asked to provide an official Postcode associated with this new development. Once this information is received the Royal Mail and other relevant agencies and the applicant will all be notified by the Health and Built Environment Department, of the official Postal Name, Number and Postcode for a new development.

## **5.2 New Property Procedure - New Individual Properties**

- 5.2.1 Where an individual property requires a postal number, the applicant or agent acting on their behalf will be advised at the commencement of the building works that Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council has the legal responsibility of issuing postal numbers. In considering the individual property number the Health and Built Environment Department will take account of existing postal numbering along the street and will provide a suitable postal number for the individual property that will be numerically sequenced with those existing properties. Written confirmation of the new Postal Number will be provided to the Royal Mail and other relevant agencies such as the Pointer Group and then to the individual concerned.
- 5.2.2 The letter to the individual indicating the new Postal Number will also contain a telephone number to activate the new Postal Number on the Royal Mail system to ensure deliveries can commence to the individual property.

## **5.3 Renaming or Re-numbering Procedure**

- 5.3.1** There are occasions where existing naming and numbering is found to be unsatisfactory and changes need to be made. Complaints may come from various sources and all will be properly investigated before deciding on a course of action. Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council (Health and Built Environment Department) may with the consent of two thirds in number of residents aged over 18 and identified on the electoral register, in any street, plus the owners or tenants in actual possession of commercial premises, but not employees in such premises, consider a request to alter the name of such a street.
- 5.3.2** If it is decided that renaming or re-numbering maybe necessary, the Royal Mail, and other relevant agencies will be consulted and proposals agreed.
- 5.3.3** Observations from all persons affected by a renaming or renumbering proposal are then sought. This shall be by writing to the affected occupiers or where this is not possible by notification in the press and the erection of public notices.
- 5.3.4** Following the expiry of 28 days, a decision will be made by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council (Health and Built Environment Department), taking into account objections and other observations received.

## **5.4 Replacement of Street Name Plates**

- 5.4.1** Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council may at its sole discretion decide to replace street name plates that have been removed or defaced.
- 5.4.2** Where Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council decides to replace a name plate, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council (Health and Built Environment Department) shall initiate proceedings to recover costs from the culprits where such culprits can be clearly identified.
- 5.4.3** Where Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council decides to replace a name plate, the name shall be spelled out exactly as before.
- 5.4.4** Name plates missing or defaced from Housing Executive properties or streets comprising 50% or more Housing Executive properties shall in the first instance be referred to the Housing Executive for replacement.

## **5.5 Numbering of Properties**

- 5.5.1** Where Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council has approved a street name and erected a street nameplate, the occupier of each premise in the street must number the premises with the number approved by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council (Health and Built Environment Department).
- 5.5.2** Occupiers of premises in a street should ensure that numbers displayed are easily identified and read.
- 5.5.3** The name of an individual property has no standing; the property will be identified only by its number and the street in which it is situated.

## 6. DUAL LANGUAGE STREET SIGNS

### 6.1 Introduction

The legislation requires Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, in deciding whether and how to exercise its discretion to erect a street name in a language other than English, to take account of the views of the occupiers of premises in the street.

For the purposes of this policy occupiers shall be taken to be any person aged over 18 and 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.

These policy proposals are designed to promote consistent and reasonable responses and due consideration must be given to the particular circumstances of each application.

The non-English name of a street will not form part of the description of land or address of any person in accordance with the 1995 Order.

### 6.2 Procedure

The procedures 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) Only applications supported by a petition representing not less than one third of the people appearing on the Electoral Register of the street for which the application is made will be progressed.
- ii) Where the foregoing requirements have been met Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council will canvass by post all people aged over 18 and appearing on the present Electoral Register of that street and Councillors within the District Electoral Area as automatic consultees to seek their views on the request to erect a street sign in a second specific language. This letter is designed so as to make the expression of views as simple as possible. Reply will be by way of a pre-paid envelope and should be returned within 28 days of receipt.

A copy of the sample letter is in **Appendix IV**.

- iii) Where two thirds or more of the occupiers appearing on the electoral register have indicated that they are in favour of the erection of a second language street sign, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council (Health and Built

Environment Department) will give due consideration to the request and determine whether, and how, to exercise its discretion to erect a street name in a language other than English, taking into account all available information pertaining to the proposal.

- iv) Consideration will be given to streets where majority opinion on whether to have a second language street sign may differ between readily identifiable, substantial lengths of streets. In these circumstances consideration will be given to the erection of dual language nameplates in those substantial portions of the street where the required two thirds or more of occupiers have expressed a wish for such a nameplate.
- v) When a decision has been taken 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 such as the Language Department at Queen's University. The second language will not be used to express the name of the street for statutory purposes.
- vi) With regard to the design and placing of the street signs the second language sign shall be located immediately below the English version.
- vii) Where an application to have an existing street name expressed in a second language is not approved, the resident/s making the original request will be notified. Any further applications for naming in a second language will not be considered until the expiry of a 5 year period from the date of refusal as it is thought unlikely that the opinion of the occupants of any street would change to an extent where this result would be overturned in any less a period.

### **6.3 Procedure for removal of a street sign in a language other than English**

**6.3.1** A situation could arise, for example, where there has been a change in demographics over a period of time, where the presence of a sign in a language other than English is found to be unsatisfactory and changes need to be made. Complaints may come from various sources and all will be properly investigated before deciding on a course of action. Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council (Health and Built Environment Department) may with the consent of two thirds in number of residents aged over 18 and identified on the electoral register, in any street, plus the owners or tenants in actual possession of commercial premises, but not employees in such premises, consider a request to remove an existing street sign in a language other than English.

**6.3.2** Observations from all persons affected by the removal of the particular sign in a language other than English will then be sought. This shall be by writing to the affected occupiers or where this is not possible by notification in the press and the erection of public notices.

**6.3.3** Following the expiry of 28 days, a decision will be made by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council (Health and Built Environment Department), taking into account objections and other observations received.

## **7. ENFORCEMENT**

**7.1** On occasion it is necessary to consider enforcement action to ensure the display of official street names and postal numbers. In line with our enforcement policy informal action will in all cases be pursued in an attempt to resolve the matter. If however, persuasion fails to achieve results action will normally be taken under Article 11 of the *Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995*.

*(Article 11, paragraph 5) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995* provides that:-

“Any person, who obscures, pulls down, defaces any official nameplate or erects in any street a nameplate showing as the name of the street a name different from the official street name or erects in any street any nameplate purporting to show the name of the street, without authorisation of the Council, shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale.”

**7.2** In addition the said Order provides that:-

Where the occupier of a house or building fails to ensure that it is marked with the number approved by the council – the Council may serve on him a notice requiring him to comply with the notice within 7 days from the date on which the notice is served.

If that person fails to comply with the notice they shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale.

The Council may do anything which he has failed to do and in addition may recover from that person summarily as a civil debt any expenses thereby reasonably incurred.

## **8. FINANCE**

- 8.1** As the erection of street signs and registration of postal numbering are statutory functions the Council will not levy a charge in administering these functions. Where an application for written confirmation of Postal Numbering is made, a Numbering Certificate will be issued by the Council.
- 8.2** The existence and condition of street nameplates will be monitored by officers on a regular basis and repair or replacement carried out. Where signage has been subject to vandalism, repairs will be made or replacement signage erected.

## **9. EVALUATION AND REVIEW OF THE POLICY**

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council (Health and Built Environment Department) will review the policy on an annual basis to take account of any general changes that may be required. The Health and Built Environment Department will also review the policy in respect of any legislative changes that have been introduced.

## **10. SECTION 75 EQUALITY AND GOOD RELATIONS**

Causeway Coast and Glens Council is fully committed to meeting its obligations in relation to Equality and Good Relations under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act. In this regard this policy will be screened using Section 75 guidelines and will be subject to an Equality Impact Assessment if found necessary as a result of the screening process.

## **11. CONTACT DETAILS**

Any issues or queries relating to this policy should be addressed to:

*The Health and Built Environment Department  
Environmental Services Directorate  
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council*

## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX I

#### POLICY GUIDELINES

In the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area, the following policy guidelines have been established and followed over many years:

##### (a) **Naming Streets and Buildings**

- (i) New street names should not duplicate any similar name already in use in the District or neighbouring Districts. A variation in the terminal word, i.e. 'street', 'road', 'avenue', etc, may not be accepted as sufficient reason to duplicate a name, other than where streets are adjacent or within one development.
- (ii) Subsidiary names (e.g. a row of buildings within an already named road being called '.....Terrace') should not be used.
- (iii) All new street names should end with one of the following suffixes:-

Street		for any road
Road	}	for major roads
Way	}	
Road	}	for residential roads
Avenue	}	
Drive	}	
Grove	}	
Lane	}	
Gardens	}	
		(subject to there being no confusion with any local open space)
Mews	-	for houses around an open yard or along a laneway
Place	-	for a square with houses
Link	-	for a road linking two roads
Crescent	-	for a crescent shaped road
Close	-	for a cul-de-sac only
Square	-	for a square only
Hill	-	for a hillside road only

Circus	-	for a large roundabout
Terrace	-	for a terrace of houses (provided it is not a subsidiary name)
Court	-	for apartments or houses around an open yard.

The above list is not exhaustive and all decisions on names remain within the authority of the Council.

- (iv) Avoid aesthetically unsuitable names such as Abattoir Road, Tip Lane, or names capable of deliberate misinterpretation.
- (v) The use of North, East, South or West (as in Alfred Road North and Alfred Road South) (or East, West) is only acceptable where the road is continuous and passes over a major junction. It is not acceptable when the road is in two separate parts with no vehicular access between the two. In such a case one half should be completely renamed.
- (vi) Avoid having two phonetically similar names within a postal area and, if possible, within a District, e.g. Churchill Road and Birch Hill Road.
- (vii) The inclusion of secondary names on signage is permitted whereby the secondary name provides useful reference to a place of non-commercial public use e.g. school, church. The siting of secondary names shall only be by request, with additional costs to be forwarded to the place of referral.
- (viii) Naming of streets with names of persons still alive shall only be allowed where that person has undertaken a deed or act that the Council deems has brought honour to the District.

**(b) The Numbering of Buildings**

- (i) A new street should be numbered with even numbers on one side and odd numbers on the other.
- (ii) Private garages and similar buildings used only for housing vehicles, etc., should not be numbered.
- (iii) Buildings (including those on corner sites) are numbered according to the street in which the main entrance is to be found and the manipulation of numbering in order to secure a 'prestige' address or to avoid an address which is thought to have undesired associations should not be sanctioned.

- (iv) If a building has entrances in more than one street, but is a multi-occupied building and each entrance leads to a separate occupier, then each entrance should be numbered in the appropriate road. Exceptions may be made, depending on the circumstances, for a house divided into flats.
- (v) A **named** building is not under the control of the Legislation and may have more than one number in one street.
- (vii) Postcodes are the responsibility of Royal Mail Address Unit.
- (viii) In residential buildings (e.g. blocks of flats) it is usual to give a street number to each dwelling where the block is up to six storeys in height. When the block exceeds this height or there are not sufficient numbers available because of existing development, it should be given a name and number in the street. The numbering of flats within a named or numbered building is outside the scope of these powers, but developers may be advised that on each floor the numbering should be in a clockwise direction where this is possible, or alternatively to consult the local District Postmaster.
- (ix) When one large old house in a road is demolished and replaced by (say) four smaller houses or in rural situations where all available numbers are taken up it may be necessary to include alpha-numeric references. E.g. 34A, 34B, 34C.

(c) **Renaming or Renumbering Streets and Buildings**

Renaming/renumbering existing streets and buildings is normally only considered when changes occur which give rise (or are likely to give rise) to delivery of similar problems for the occupiers, Post Office, Emergency Services etc. There is no express provision for this under the legislation and thus any such proposal would be carried out in consultation with all parties affected by the changes.

## APPENDIX II

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF STREET NAME PLATES**

1. Street name plates should be fixed as near as possible to street corners, so as to be easily readable by drivers as well as pedestrians. The name plate should normally be within 3m of the intersection of the kerb lines, but where this is not practicable the distance may be varied up to a maximum of 6m.
2. Street names plates should be mounted so that the lower edge of the plate is approximately 1m above the ground at sites where they are unlikely to be obscured by pedestrians or vehicles and at approximately 2.5m where obscuration is a problem. They should never be lower than 600mm or higher than 3.6m.
3. Name plates should normally be fixed at each street corner. At minor crossroads, particularly in residential areas, one plate on each side of the street positioned on the offside of traffic emerging from the road may be sufficient, except where the road name changes, or where it is thought that paragraph 8 would apply.
4. At T-junctions a main street name plate should be placed directly opposite the traffic approaching from the side road.
5. Where the street name changes at a point other than a cross-road, both names should be displayed at the point of change and many Local Authorities have found it useful to include arrows to indicate clearly to which parts of the street the name refers.
6. On straight lengths of road without intersections, name plates should be repeated at reasonable intervals with priority given to such places as bus and railway stations, and opposite entrances to well frequented sites such as car parks.
7. Where two streets branch off obliquely from a common junction with a third street, plates on fingerpost mountings can be useful, provided they do not obscure any traffic sign.
8. Where it might reasonably be expected, for example at intervals only on straight lengths of road or at intersections or T-junctions, many Local Authorities have found it useful to incorporate, on the name plate, information indicating street numbers on either side of the intersection.
9. Whenever practical, street name plates should be mounted on walls, buildings or other boundary structures at the back edge of the footpath. Post mounting or finger mounting should only be used where normal mounting does not make the plate

conspicuous (e.g. where an important side road has a narrow entrance or in the exceptional circumstances mentioned in paragraph 7 above, or where it will frequently be obscured by pedestrian movement and cannot be mounted at the 2.5m height).

10. The name plates should be so fixed that there is a clear space of at least 300mm in every direction between them and any notices, advertisements or other printed or written matter. Where possible greater clearance should be provided. Care should be taken to keep the view of name plates free from obstruction by trees or other growth.
11. Where possible, name plates should be fixed so that they will be illuminated by light from street lamps, especially at important junctions, provided they remain visible to vehicles on the main carriageway.

# Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

## STREET NAMING AND PROPERTY NUMBERING POLICY AND PROCEDURES

### (Application Form – New Developments)

I (*name*).....  
of (*contact address*).....  
.....  
.....  
Telephone number:.....

being the developer of a housing/commercial/housing and commercial\* development  
at (*development location*).....  
.....

**DO HEREBY** apply to Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council for authority to  
name the street(s) in the said proposed development as follows:-

**1. First Preference:**  
.....

**2. Second Preference:**  
.....

**3. Third Preference:**  
.....

I confirm that I have read and I am familiar with the Street Naming and Property  
Numbering Policy and Procedures of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council  
(Copy available on the website – [www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk](http://www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk) – or a hard  
copy is available on request).  
I believe that the street name(s) hereby applied for by me, in order of preference, are  
in accordance with that policy on the following grounds:

**First Preference (reason for name):**

.....  
.....

**Second Preference (reason for name):**

.....  
.....

**Third Preference (reason for name):**

.....  
.....

I acknowledge the sole right of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council to authorise the use of any street name in its district, pursuant to Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995. I also acknowledge it to be an offence to erect in any street any nameplate purporting to show the name of the street without the authorisation of the said Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

I enclose 2No. copies a location map and 2No. copies of a site plan of the proposed development.

**SIGNED:**

.....

**DATED:**

.....

- Location Map Enclosed (2No. copies)
- Site Plan Enclosed (2No. copies)

\* Delete as appropriate.

# Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

**REQUEST TO ERECT STREET NAMEPLATE AT  
(Insert Street Name) IN BOTH ENGLISH AND (Insert Other Language)**

I agree to street nameplates being erected by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council  
for ..... in both English and (Other Language).

I do not agree to the street nameplates being erected by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council  
for ..... in both English and (Other Language).

If approved by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council the street nameplate will be in English and (Other Language) as follows:

**OTHER COMMENTS (if any):**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return in the prepaid envelope provided by not later than (DATE)**

## **Record of changes to policy and procedure:-**

### **21<sup>st</sup> May, 2015**

- References to “*Council*” throughout the document changed to, “*Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council*”;
- Wording of Sections 4.1.5, 4.1.6, 4.1.7, 4.1.8, 4.3.4, 5.2(iii), 5.2(iv) and 5.2(viii) of the existing Street Naming and Property Numbering Policy and Procedures changed.
- Section 6 changed by omission of existing Section 6.1 and incorporating Sections 5.0, 5.1 and 5.2 relating to “Dual Language Street Signs” from Appendix V (Previously referred to as 6.0, 6.1 and 6.2).

### **19<sup>th</sup> August, 2015**

- Page 2, Page numbers amended;
- Page 3, Para 1.2 “*Building Control Department*” changed to “*Environmental Services Directorate*”;
- Page 7, Para 4.1.9 “such as the Pointer Group” removed;
- Page 10, Para 5.1 “*Having regard to the significant resource consequences of administering the implications of the policy, the policy should be reactive in nature*” removed;
- Page 11, Para 5.2iii “*then the proposal will be put forward to Council for their consideration*” removed, and substituted with revised wording;
- Page 12, Section 5.2 “*Procedure for removal of a street sign in a language other than English*” added;
- Page 15, Para 10.0 Line, “Environmental Services Directorate” added to contact address; 1995”;
- Page 23, Appendix IV changed ‘in both English and Irish’ to ‘in both English and (Other Language)’
- Page 24, Appendix V added “Record of changes to policy and procedure”.

### **16<sup>th</sup> September, 2015**

- All references to “Building Control Department” removed from document and “Health and Built Environment Department” inserted in lieu.

### **27<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

- Page 11, 5.2 ii) add ‘Councillors within the District Electoral Area as automatic consultees’.
- Page 12, 5.2 iv) remove the word ‘long’
- Page 12, 5.2 viii) replace ‘24 months period’ within ‘5 year period’

**Briefing Paper on Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's Street Naming and Property Numbering Policy (with specific reference to dual language street signage)**

**Conradh na Gaeilge**

**October 2025**

We write this paper following the request by Causeway Coast and Glens Environmental Services Committee for a report into the current Street Naming and Property Numbering policy, albeit this letter pertains predominantly to the clause of the policy that facilitates applications for dual language street signage. We wish to provide officers with relevant evidence and guidance which we feel are imperative and should be taken into account in any forthcoming policy review. We trust that the below information will be incorporated in this report and that it will be shared with elected members of the Environmental Services Committee.

**Current with the current application process for dual language street signage in Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council**

- The current trigger of 33% to initiate the process for a dual language street sign is without reasonable basis; demand for a dual language street sign is already gauged in the subsequent survey that is conducted with residents of the street and so the initial petition is excessive and unreasonable, actively placing barriers in the way of residents wishing to apply for dual language street signage. The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML hereafter), to which the UK is a signatory, establishes an obligation on state signatories not to create barriers in respect of the use of a minority language.
- The threshold of support required for an application to be successful is unnecessarily high in any circumstance, but particularly when we take into consideration the fact that Irish is a minoritised language. Minority rights cannot and should not be subject to unrealistic majoritarian quotas. This issue has been addressed directly by the European Committee of Experts on a number of occasions, most recently in their 6th monitoring report on the ECRML in September 2024 where they specifically called for the need to *“Ensure that local authorities remove prohibitive thresholds for setting up bilingual signage, and that Irish traditional and correct forms of place names are used.”*
- The fact that those who do not respond to the survey are deemed to be in opposition to the application for dual language street signage is completely ridiculous and is (as the FOI response will demonstrate later) having an absolutely detrimental impact on applications. As is the case with local elections, only those votes which are cast should be considered.
- The 5 year ban on reapplication is the most restrictive clause of any of the policies across the 11 council areas. It is hugely problematic because it does not account for changing demographics, evolving support and it undermines efforts to promote linguistic diversity, something which is enshrined in the Good Friday Agreement.

## Conradh na Gaeilge Freedom of Information Request

In February 2025, Conradh na Gaeilge submitted a Freedom of Information request to Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council as to the number of applications received by Council for dual language (Irish/English) street signage since 2015 to include a breakdown of the numbers of residents who responded in favour, responded in opposition and those who did not respond to the application for dual language street signage. A response was received in March 2025 and is set out below:

Council has conducted a search of its records and can confirm information within scope of your request is held.

The table below identifies 15 requests and lists the subsequent results of all the applications received since 2015.

	Number consulted	Total replies received	Yes	No	Invalid	Notes
1	30	19	19	0	0	
2	27	13	13	0	0	
3	5	1	1	0	0	
4	34	20	19	0	1	
5	82	34	33	0	1	
6	40	17	13	0	4	
7	21	14	12	1	1	
8	54	30	30	0	0	
9	12	6	6	0	0	
10	4	4	2	0	2	2 received after Deadline Date
11	7	3	3	0	0	
12	23	14	14	0	0	
13	88	41	39	1	1	
14	69	26	26	0	0	
15	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	New development with no occupants -request could not proceed

The above response indicates that the Council have, since 2015, received 15 requests for dual language street signage. Of those 15 requests, none have ever been successful. What the FOI response also demonstrates, however, is that in 100% of the applications, an incredibly clear majority of people responding to the surveys favoured dual-language signage compared to those who are actively opposing (ie responding 'no');

- 0.4% of all residents surveyed actively opposed applications for dual language signage [2/496];
- 95% of all people responding to the survey [230/242] supported dual language signs
- In 86% of all the streets [12/14], not a single resident opposed the application;
- 52% [254/496] of residents consulted did not respond to the survey.

It is clear, therefore, that the current policy that facilitates applications for dual language street signage in Causeway Coast and Glens is not catering adequately to the wishes of residents. What is more, the figures above demonstrate that the non-response clause is having a detrimental impact on applications; there are numerous reasons why people do not respond to a council-posted survey. To assume that those who do not are automatically opposed to the application is presumptuous and wrong. We trust that any report will reflect this reality.

We are also aware that since August 2022, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council have received **52 requests, spanning across 30 streets**, for an update of their current restrictive policy for dual language signage, with calls for it to be more progressive and minority-compliant. Given that international experts, language bodies, elected representatives and now the local community themselves are requesting that the council review and update this policy, we believe there has never been a clearer basis to do so.

### **Profiling the Irish language in the council area**

#### **MS-B05a: Knowledge of Irish (per LDG)**

	<b>All usual residents aged 3 and over</b>	<b>Some ability in Irish (count)</b>	<b>Some ability in Irish (%)</b>
<b>2011</b>	135500	11,926	8.8%
<b>2021</b>	137,156	13,698	9.99%
<b>Increase</b>	-	+1,772	+1.19%

#### **MS-B07a: Frequency of speaking Irish (2021 only)**

<b>Geography</b>	<b>All usual residents aged 3 and over</b>	<b>Can speak Irish: Speaks Irish daily</b>	<b>Can speak Irish: Speaks Irish weekly</b>	<b>Can speak Irish: Speaks Irish less often than weekly</b>	<b>Can speak Irish: Never speaks Irish</b>	<b>Can speak Irish</b>
<b>Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council</b>	137,159	2,284	1,617	2,748	687	7,336
	%	1.67%	1.18%	2.00%	0.50%	5.35%

#### **MS-B12a: Main language**

	<b>All usual residents aged 3 and over</b>	<b>Main Language: Irish</b>	<b>Main Language: Irish (%)</b>
2011	135,500	167	0.12%
2021	137,160	231	0.17%
Increase	-	+64	+0.05%

#### **MS-B27: Main language by broad age bands [2021]**

<b>Geography</b>	<b>All usual residents aged 3 and over</b>	All usual residents aged 3 and over: Irish	Usual residents aged 3-14 years: Irish	Usual residents aged 15-39 years: Irish	Usual residents aged 40-64 years: Irish	Usual residents aged 65+ years: Irish
Causeway Coast and Glens	137,155	231	73	71	71	16
Causeway Coast and Glens	137,155	0.17%	0.34%	0.17%	0.15%	0.06%

### Irish-medium youth club providers

<b><u>IM Youth Clubs</u></b>
<b>Ruairí Óg</b>
<b>Glór na Maoile</b>
<b>Dún Geimhin</b>

### Irish Language Provision in Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

<b><i>Provider Name</i></b>	<b><i>Type of Provision</i></b>
Ionad Teaghlaigh, Baile an Chaistil	Ballycastle Irish language centre & classes
Cultúrlann Léim an Mhadaidh	Limavady Irish language centre & classes
Glór Dhún Geimhin   Dungiven	Irish language community group & adult education
Glór Léim an Mhadaidh   Limavady	Irish language community group & adult education
Pobal an Chaistil   Ballycastle	Irish language community group & adult education
Glór na Maoile   Ballycastle	Irish language community group & adult education
Conradh na Gaeilge   Glenullin	Irish language community group & adult education
Campa Chormaic Chontae Dhoire	Irish language sports camp for youth
Drumsurn Irish Classes	Irish language adult classes
Cumann Eoghan Rua CLG	Irish language adult classes
Conradh na Gaeilge Dhún Lathaí	Dunloy Irish language classes

Cross and Passion   Ballycastle	Secondary School teaching Irish
Our Lady of Lourdes   Ballymoney	Secondary School teaching Irish
St Cillian's   Garron Tower	Secondary School teaching Irish
St Mary's   Limavady	Secondary School teaching Irish
Loreto   Coleraine	Secondary School teaching Irish
Dominican College   Portstewart	Secondary School teaching Irish
St Pat's   Dungiven	Secondary School teaching Irish

### Irish Medium Education Overview

Causeway Coast and Glens
Naíscoil Léim an Mhadaidh
Naíscoil Neachtain
Naíscoil Ghreanacháin
Naíscoil an Chaistil
Gaelscoil Léim an Mhadaidh
Gaelscoil Neachtain
Gaelscoil an Chaistil
Gaelcholáiste Dhoire (founded 2015)

### Best-practice, international standards and other relevant evidence

When determining the most appropriate threshold of support, it is important to look at what the international experts have said, as well as the existing best-practice policies of other council areas.

The UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues issued guidance on the question of dual language street signage in 2017, stating the following;

*“Street and locality names and topographical indicators intended for the public are important as markers of social identity, culture and history. A good, practical approach adopted in most countries is for the authorities to provide transparent legislation or procedures to allow bilingual or even trilingual signs, usually following the proportionality principle where there is a sufficient concentration or demand for such signs in minority languages. **While national legislation varies, the low threshold where it is considered practicable and reasonable to provide such signs tends to vary between 5 per cent and 20 per cent of the local population, with the lowest threshold usually associated with the use of a minority language that also has some kind of official status or for traditional, historical reasons. The criteria for the display of signs in minority languages must be given a clear and unambiguous legislative basis for it to be effectively implemented. Bilingual or multilingual signs***

*used by public authorities demonstrate inclusiveness, and that various population groups share a locality in harmony and mutual respect.”<sup>1</sup>*

Since this guidance was issued, Belfast City Council (2022), Derry City and Strabane District Council (2024) and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council (2022) have implemented a threshold of support of 15% of residents for successful applications for dual language street signage.

Other council areas, including Newry Mourne and Down and Mid Ulster have adopted policies with a support threshold of 50+1% of respondents (ie a simple majority of respondents); the logic for this rationale is that, as is the case with local elections, results should only determined by voter turnout (ie respondents) rather than voter population (ie residents). Only those votes which are cast count.

**Other relevant standards and guidance**

<p><b>Equality Commission: Practical Guidance on Equality Impact Assessment</b></p>	<p><a href="https://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Employers%20and%20Service%20Providers/Public%20Authorities/EQIA-PracticalGuidance%282005%29.pdf">https://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Employers%20and%20Service%20Providers/Public%20Authorities/EQIA-PracticalGuidance%282005%29.pdf</a></p>	<p><i>“A policy intended specifically to address the needs of a particular group may well be justifiable, indeed necessary, in order to promote equality of opportunity for that group.”<sup>2</sup> (lch 22) -</i></p>
<p><b>Equality Commission Response to the Consultation by the Education Authority on draft interim language policies</b></p>	<p><a href="https://minutes.belfastcity.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=117971">https://minutes.belfastcity.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=117971</a></p>	<p><i>“The Commission considers that the use of minority languages, particularly Irish or Ulster Scots languages in Northern Ireland, for common or official purposes would normally and objectively be considered to be a neutral act that would not be discriminatory.</i></p> <p><i>The speaking or use of any language in Northern Ireland should be a neutral act and should not be perceived as a threat to any individual or group, nor should it be intended in such a manner.</i></p>

1

[https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Minorities/SR/LanguageRightsLinguisticMinorities\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Minorities/SR/LanguageRightsLinguisticMinorities_EN.pdf)

2

[https://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Employers%20and%20Service%20Providers/Public%20Authorities/EQIA-PracticalGuidance\(2005\).pdf](https://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Employers%20and%20Service%20Providers/Public%20Authorities/EQIA-PracticalGuidance(2005).pdf)

		<p><i>The Commission considers that the speaking or use of the Irish language in the community does not diminish the entitlements of those whose right to their British identity is guaranteed in the Good Friday Agreement. Similarly, the Commission considers that the wider use of Ulster Scots does not diminish the entitlements of those whose right to their Irish identity is guaranteed.”</i></p>
<p><b>Human Rights Commission Briefing paper on the implications of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, European Convention on Human Rights and other instruments’.</b></p>	<p><a href="https://peig.ie/images/Taighde/nihrc-briefing-paper-minority-language-rights-and-ecrml-june-2010.pdf">https://peig.ie/images/Taighde/nihrc-briefing-paper-minority-language-rights-and-ecrml-june-2010.pdf</a></p>	<p><i>“The Commission is aware of arguments that there are ‘sensitivities’ regarding the Irish language ... <b>In general restricting use or promotion of Irish to accommodate the ‘sensitivities’ of others would be incompatible with freedom of expression...</b> “The same principle indicates that the sensitivities of non-Irish speakers could be met by ensuring that English is not excluded from appearing alongside Irish in corporate identities.”</i></p>
<p><b>Council of Europe’s 5th Monitoring Report on the UK’s implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCPNM) -</b></p>	<p><a href="https://rm.coe.int/5th-op-uk-en/1680ab55b4">https://rm.coe.int/5th-op-uk-en/1680ab55b4</a></p>	<p><i>“The Advisory Committee asks the authorities to guarantee a transparent and consistent approach to the display of topographical indications in minority languages across England, Scotland and Northern Ireland, in conformity with Article 11(3) of the Framework Convention.”</i></p> <p><i>Part 168 - “bilingualism in signposts should be promoted as it conveys the message that a given territory is shared [...] by various population groups.” [pg 32].</i></p>
<p><b>3rd Monitoring report of the Committee of Experts on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by the United Kingdom</b></p>	<p><a href="https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=09000016806dbb43">https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=09000016806dbb43</a></p>	<p><i>Paragraph 123: The Committee of Experts has been informed about several instances, especially within local councils, where it was decided not to promote or use the Irish language as it may contravene section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act, which states that public authorities should take due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity, among others between</i></p>

		<p>persons of different religious belief and political opinion. The Committee of Experts emphasises that the adoption of special measures in favour of regional or minority languages aimed at promoting equality between the users of these languages and the rest of the population or which take due account of their specific conditions is not to be considered an act of discrimination against the users of more widely used languages.</p>
<p><b>3rd Monitoring Report on the UK's implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCPNM)</b></p>	<p><a href="https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=090000168008c6c2">https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=090000168008c6c2</a></p>	<p>(Paragraph 147) - "The Advisory Committee was disconcerted to hear that some representatives of the authorities consider that promoting the use of the Irish language is discriminating against persons belonging to the majority population. Such statements are not in line with the principles of the Framework Convention... It also reiterates that... implementation of minority rights protected under the Framework Convention [is] not be considered as discriminating against other persons."</p> <p>(Paragraph 126 &amp; 158) - "The Advisory Committee has been informed that, in some instances, the need for keeping good relations has been used as justification for not implementing provisions in favour of persons belonging to minorities, such as the erection of bilingual signs... Additionally, it finds it problematic that the official policy is to limit the erection of such signs to certain areas where the issue would not raise controversies. The Advisory Committee is concerned that this approach is not in line with the spirit of the Framework Convention... the aim of which is to value the use of minority languages... with a view to promoting more tolerance and intercultural dialogue in society."</p>
<p><b>DfC Guidance Document for Local Authorities on the implementation of the European Charter for Regional Minority Languages</b></p>	<p><a href="https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/communities/dfc-guidance-on-european-charter-regional-minority-languages.pdf">https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/communities/dfc-guidance-on-european-charter-regional-minority-languages.pdf</a></p>	<p>"The Council of Europe has expressed concerns when municipal authorities take regressive steps in relation to bilingual signage, and sought in such circumstances full compliance with the Charter:"</p> <p>"...the Committee of Experts would like to point to its standing interpretation of the Charter with regard to 20% thresholds in</p>

		<p><i>other States Parties, which, taken alone, has always been perceived as being too high. A 50% threshold is, in any case, too high as it would deprive minority languages of full protection under the Charter in any place where a 50% threshold is not reached.”</i></p> <p><i>The adoption of special measures in favour of regional or minority languages aimed at promoting equality between the users of these languages and the rest of the population or which take due account of their specific conditions is not considered to be an act of discrimination against the users of more widely-used languages.”</i></p>
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## Appendix 3

Table 1 Overview and comparison of other Council Policies

<p>Antrim &amp; Newtownabbey Borough Council (approved 2022 with review after 3 years)</p>	<p>To initiate the process- Petition representing not less than 1/3 of the people appearing on the Electoral Register of the street</p> <p>2/3 support threshold of all those canvassed</p> <p>No further requests for that street until the expiry of 36 months from date of refusal</p>
<p>Ards &amp; North Down Borough Council (2023)</p>	<p>To initiate the process - petition representing not less than 1/3 of the people appearing on the Electoral Register of the street</p> <p>2/3 support threshold of the occupiers.</p> <p>People not returning a reply will be deemed not to be in favour of the application.</p>
<p>Armagh City, Banbridge &amp; Craigavon Borough Council</p>	<p>To initiate the process – petition representing at least 33% of residents</p> <p>2/3 support threshold of the occupiers.</p>
<p>Belfast City Council (2022)</p>	<p>To initiate the process – a single resident can request</p> <p>15% support threshold.</p> <p>Non-responses are no longer counted as "No" votes.</p>
<p>Derry City &amp; Strabane District Council (adopted March 2025)</p>	<p>To initiate the process – an occupier of the street or local Elected Member</p> <p>15% support threshold</p> <p>No further requests for a different language (in addition to English) will be accepted/considered until the expiry of 10 years from the date at which the Council ratified the decision</p>
<p>Fermanagh &amp; Omagh District Council</p>	<p>To initiate the process – a resident of the street or local Elected Member</p> <p>15% support threshold</p>
<p>Lisburn &amp; Castlereagh City Council</p>	<p>To initiate the process - petition of at least 1/3rd of the residents of the street</p> <p>2/3 support threshold of valid returns</p> <p>A follow up request will not be considered within a 12-month time frame</p>
<p>Mid &amp; East Antrim Borough Council</p>	<p>No formal dual-language street sign policy</p>
<p>Mid Ulster District Council</p>	<p>To initiate the process – Any resident on that street</p> <p>support threshold of 51% of the occupiers that respond.</p>

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council (separate Bilingualism Policy)	To initiate the process - Any resident or Elected Member (acting on their behalf) may submit a written request A simple majority of responding residents must be in favour
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