

## Policy on Dual Language Nameplate Signage

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## **1.0 Introduction**

1.1 Mid Ulster District Council resolved that a policy and associated procedures be developed to guide the Council in accordance with the provisions of Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995("the 1995 Order"), referenced in Appendix A to this policy, on;

- (i) Erection of dual language Street signage

## **2.0 Policy Aim & Objectives**

2.1 **Policy Aim:** To ensure that requests for the erection of dual language nameplate signage for existing streets are delivered in a fair, equitable and consistent manner.

### **2.2 Policy Objectives:**

- To facilitate Mid Ulster District Council in meeting its statutory obligations with regard to local government Street Signage requirements.
- To lay out and facilitate a process whereby residents may request that their street be named in any other language other than English.
- To facilitate a process that considers requests from residents to have their street sign displayed in their chosen language as well as in English.

## **3.0 Policy Scope and Legislative Framework**

3.1 This policy relates specifically to the naming of the erection of nameplates expressing the name of the street in a language other than English. The statutory basis for this policy is contained within Article 11 of the 1995 Order.

3.2 This legislation empowers Council to authorise the naming of streets within its respective District. It also provides the Council with a discretionary power to erect dual language street signs or second nameplates in a language other than English via Section 1a and 1b. A copy of the relevant statute is included in Appendix A.

3.3 For purposes of this Policy, the following interpretation/ definitions apply as set out within the 1995 Order:

- Nameplate - defined as a means of 'signifying a name in writing'
- Street - defined as 'any road, square, court, alley, passage or lane'.

#### **4.0 Linkage to Corporate Plan**

- 4.1 Referring to Mid Ulster District Council's Corporate Plan 2015-2019, this policy contributes toward the delivery of Corporate Theme 1 *Delivering for Our People*.

#### **5.0 Dual Language Signage Nameplates**

- 5.1 The Council will apply this policy when considering applications for dual language signage expressing the name of the street in a language other than English, to both existing and new streets.
- 5.2 The 1995 Order gives the Council a discretionary power to erect dual language signs or second nameplates, adjacent to the nameplate in English. In exercising this discretionary power, the Council must have regard to any views on the matter expressed by the occupiers of premises in that street.
- 5.3 Criteria - General

The Council in making arrangements and providing opportunities for dual language signage within street naming shall;

1. Have regard to any views on the matter expressed by occupiers of the street.
2. For the purposes of the policy, surveys will be issued to all occupiers (the age of 18 or over) of each dwelling where any person resides in a dwelling, including a house, flat, maisonette or house in multiple occupancy and which is numbered directly off the adjoining street, hereafter referred to as 'property'. Only the views of the occupiers aged 18 or over for each property that is occupied and listed on the Electoral Register at the date of survey will be considered.
3. In relation to properties, the 'occupier' will include the owner and family members or tenants as listed on the current Electoral / Rates Register as residing at that address or tenants in actual possession of the premises, but not employees within such premises at the date of the survey.
4. 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; e.g., Building Control applications.

5.4 The provision of dual language Street Names will normally only be considered in the following circumstances:

- In the case of existing streets, where the Council has been petitioned and/or consulted with the occupiers of premises in that street and other persons it deems appropriate, in accordance with these arrangements.

5.5 Where an applicant does not have English as their first language, information in relation to this policy can be provided in an alternative language. Applications can be accepted in alternative languages if required by the applicant. Please see Appendix D for details.

5.6 Applications for Dual Language Signage will be processed in accordance with the Procedure as outlined in Appendix B

## **6.0 Roles and Responsibilities**

6.1 **Director of Public Health and Infrastructure:** shall have responsibility for implementation of this policy by Mid Ulster District Council, through the Building Control Service.

6.2 **Building Control Service:** shall be responsible for implementing arrangements to administer requests to have an existing name of a Street erected in a language other than English;

## **7.0 IMPACT ASSESSMENTS**

### **7.1 Equality Screening & Impact**

7.1.1 This policy has been subject to equality screening in accordance with the Council's equality scheme screening process. It has been 'screened out' for an Equality Impact Assessment.

### **7.2 Rural Needs Impact**

7.2.1 This policy has been subjected to a rural needs impact assessment and thus can demonstrate regard to rural needs when delivering this public service.

### **7.3 Staff & Financial Resources**

7.3.1 No issues have been identified which will impact on the delivery of Council business as a result of this policy being implemented.

## **8.0 Support and Advice**

8.1 Advice and guidance on the implementation of this should be sought from the Head of Building Control

## **9.0 Communication**

- 9.1 The Building Control Service within the Public Health & Infrastructure Department of Council is responsible for the communication, delivery and adherence to this policy

## **10.0 Monitoring and Review Arrangements**

- 10.1 Implementation of this policy will be routinely monitored and a formal review undertaken 24 months from its effective commencement date.

**Appendix A**  
**Article 11, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern**  
**Ireland) Order 1995**

*Street names and numbering of buildings*

**Powers of councils in relation to street names and numbering of buildings**

11.—(1) A council may erect at or near each end, corner or entrance of any street in its district a nameplate showing the name of the street; and a nameplate erected under this paragraph—

- (a) shall express the name of the street in English; and
- (b) may express that name in any other language

(2) A council may, immediately adjacent to a nameplate erected under paragraph (1) which expresses the name of a street in English only, erect a second nameplate expressing the name of the street in a language other than English.

(3) Neither this Article nor anything done by a council thereunder authorises or requires the use of the name of a street expressed in a language other than English as, or as part of—

- (a) the address of any person; or
- (b) the description of any land; for

the purposes of any statutory provision.

(4) In deciding whether and, if so, how to exercise its powers under paragraph (1)(b) or (2) in relation to any street, a council shall have regard to any views on the matter expressed by the occupiers of premises in that street.

(5) Any person who—

- (a) obscures, pulls down or defaces any nameplate erected under paragraph (1) or (2);
- (b) erects in any street any nameplate showing as the name of the street a name different from that in any nameplate erected in the street under paragraph (1) or (2); or
- (c) erects in any street any nameplate purporting to show the name of the street, without the authorisation of the council for the district in which the street is situated,

shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale.

(6) Where a council has exercised its powers under paragraph (1) in relation to any street, the occupier of each house or other building in that street shall ensure that that house or building is at all times marked with such number as the council may approve for the purposes of this Article.

(7) Where a person fails to comply with paragraph (6) the council may serve on him a notice requiring him to comply with that paragraph within 7 days from the date of service of the notice.

(8) A person who fails to comply with a notice served on him under paragraph (7) shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale.

(9) Where a person fails to comply with a notice served on him under paragraph (7) in respect of any house or other building, the council may itself do anything which he has failed to do and may recover from that person summarily as a civil debt any expenses thereby reasonably incurred by it.

(10) In this Article—  
“nameplate” includes any means of signifying a name in writing; “street” includes any road, square, court, alley, passage or lane.

(11) The power of a council to erect a nameplate under paragraph (1) or (2) includes power—

- (a) to erect it on any building or in such other manner as the council thinks fit; and
- (b) to cause it to be erected by any person authorised in that behalf by the council.

(12) The following statutory provisions shall cease to have effect, namely—

- (a) sections 64 and 65 of the Towns Improvement Clauses Act 1847<sup>F6</sup>;
- (b) in section 38 of the Towns Improvement (Ireland) Act 1854<sup>F7</sup> the words “naming the streets and numbering the houses and also so much thereof as relates to”;
- (c) section 21 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907<sup>F8</sup>;
- (d) section 19 of the Public Health and Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 1949<sup>F9</sup>; and
- (e) so much of any local Act as relates to the naming of streets or the numbering of houses or buildings



## **Appendix B**

### **Dual Language Signage Nameplates: *Procedure***

In deciding whether it should exercise its discretionary powers in relation to erection of dual language nameplates under Article 11 of the 1995 Order, the Council shall only do so after having regard to the views of occupiers of premises which has its frontage immediately adjoining that street.

The procedure for seeking and assessing the views of occupiers and criteria to be applied in deciding whether to erect a dual language nameplate in a language other than English is;

1. A valid letter, signed by an occupier of the street must be made to Council to enable this matter to be considered. Requests should be made to the Building Control Service within the Public Health and Infrastructure Department. A letter of request shall be valid if; it is from an occupier who appears on the Electoral Register as maintained by the Electoral Office for NI; the applicant's address is referenced on the letter and; the individual's name is clearly stated and the letter has been signed by the petitioner (who must be an occupier of premises on the street). A letter may be received by email but it must be attached as a file and signed. The Council shall not accept a request made within the body of an email.
2. The Environment Committee will receive notification of submitted requests by way of valid letters as referenced at 1, above. A letter will be deemed to be valid where it is submitted by a minimum of one householder on that street. The Environment Committee will be informed of requests which have been validated and are proceeding to survey.
3. Following validation, the Council will canvass, by post, each occupier within a household as listed on the Electoral Register; seeking their views on the request to erect a dual-language street nameplate. Each household will receive a letter accompanied by survey forms based on the number of occupiers listed on the Electoral Register. The requisite number of survey forms for individuals registered at that address will be forwarded to each household (See Appendix E)
4. The occupiers will be advised of the date by which completed surveys must be returned. Incomplete or illegible survey returns will not be counted. Completed surveys which has been signed and name printed as required, must be returned in the self- addressed envelopes provided for that purpose. Only replies received by the specified date shall be considered.
5. For purposes of assessment where 51 % (rounded to nearest whole number) of occupiers that respond indicate that they are in favour of the erection of a dual language street nameplate, then the results of the survey will be forwarded to the Environment Committee for information confirming that the dual language nameplate will be erected

6. For purposes of assessment where 51 % (rounded to nearest whole number) of occupiers that respond indicate that they are not in favour of the erection of a dual-language street nameplate, then the results of the survey will be forwarded to the Environment Committee for information confirming that the dual language nameplate will not be approved or erected
7. In specific circumstances a report may be brought to the Environment Committee to determine an application where there are particular issues requiring the Members consideration
8. If the request is refused by those households surveyed, further requests will not be considered until the expiry of 12 months from the date at which the Environment Committee refuses it.
9. Where a request for Irish Language signage, the Irish Language Section within Department of Culture and Arts and/or an approved translator will provide the translation of the street name. Any other language shall be obtained from an approved translation service the cost of which will be notified to the Environment Committee when receiving the report on the outcome of the survey. The second language will not be used to express the name of the street for statutory purposes.
10. The layout, font and size of lettering of the second language shall be in accordance with that as shown in Appendix C.
11. Following the Council's decision with regards to the request on Dual Language Signage for a particular street/road, the outcome will be published on the Council Website. Where requested, written confirmation of the decision will be forwarded to relevant households.
12. Where agreed, a new dual language nameplate will be erected at the start and finish of the street or road in question and at such points along it as required e.g. at other road junctions, in accordance with any operational requirements as determined by the Property Services Team.

## Appendix C Name Plate Layout

**AGREED:** 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018 Environment Committee  
23<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 Full Council

### Mono-Lingual New Road / Street Signage

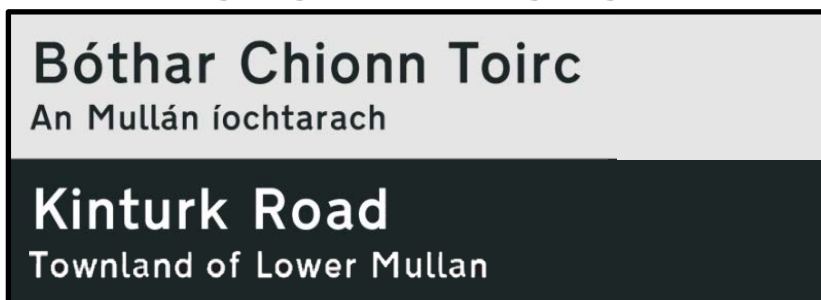


#### Example signage

##### Specification

- Name Plate Dimensions: 200mm x length to suit road name
- Background Colour: White
- Font & Colour: Transport Medium; Black
- Road Name font size: Upper case; 70mm Lower case; 50mm
- Townland font size: Upper case; 30mm Lower case; 22mm
- Text Justification: Left hand

### Dual Language Street Signage



#### Example signage

##### Specification

- Name Plate Dimensions: 460mm x length to suit road name
- Background Colour: Dark Grey Value; C:77 M:63 Y:64 K:69  
Light Grey Value; C:0 M:0 Y:0 K:10
- Font Type: Transport Medium
- Font Colour: Dark Grey Value; C:77 M:63 Y:64 K:69  
Standard White
- Road Name font size: Upper case; 63mm Lower case; 50mm
- Townland font size: Upper case; 40mm Lower case; 30mm
- Text Justification: Left hand

## **Appendix D- Accessibility Statement**

The information included in this policy can be made available in alternative formats, such as audio, braille, easy read or large print and may be provided in alternative languages, upon request. Please contact Mid Ulster District Council's Corporate Policy & Equality Officer on 03000 132 132 Ex 24612 or via [ann.mcaleer@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:ann.mcaleer@midulstercouncil.org)



Comhairle Ceantair  
**Lár Uladh**  
**Mid Ulster**  
District Council

Appendix E

18 February 2019

Our Ref:- «Ref»

The Occupier  
50 Ballyronan Road  
Townparks of Magherafelt  
Magherafelt  
BT45 6EN

Ref: Application for Dual Language signs at Name of Street/Development

Dear Sir/Madam

Mid Ulster District Council have received an application to erect street nameplates in ??? in addition to the current name for the street as indicated above.

The Council's Policy on Street Naming & Dual Language Signage outlines that individuals who meet the following criteria are eligible to register their preference on this matter:

A person who resides on the street in question and appears on the Electoral Register as maintained by the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland.

Our records would indicate that you meet the above criteria.

In accordance with these arrangements I would be grateful if you would complete the attached survey form and indicate your preference in this matter. The completed survey form should be returned to these offices in the addressed envelope provided by **Tuesday 19 March 2019**. *Survey forms received after this date will not be considered.*

On completion of this survey Council will provide a determination on this request on the basis of the majority preference as submitted. For approval to be considered, at least 51% of respondents must be in favour of the proposal (i.e. street nameplates being erected in ???, in addition to English for Name of Street/Development).

If you have any queries on the above please contact Willie Wilkinson in the Magherafelt Office by either:

Tel: 03000 132 132 (Ext 22208)

Email: [willie.wilkinson@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:willie.wilkinson@midulstercouncil.org)

Yours faithfully

W Wilkinson  
Head of Building Control

Enc

Cookstown Office  
Bun Buid  
Cookstown  
BT80 8DT

Dungannon Office  
Lincfield Road  
Dungannon  
BT17 6LJ

Magherafelt Office  
Ballyronan Road  
Magherafelt  
BT45 6EN

Telephone 03000 132 132  
[info@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:info@midulstercouncil.org)  
[www.midulstercouncil.org](http://www.midulstercouncil.org)



Comhairle Ceannair  
**Lár Uladh**  
**Mid Ulster**  
District Council

19 February 2019

Our Ref:- MUDL0078

The Occupier (1)  
50 Ballyronan Road  
Townparks of Magherafelt  
Magherafelt  
BT45 6EN

Ref: Application for Dual Language signs at Name of Street/Development

Dear Sir/Madam

Please read the following statements below carefully. Tick your preferred option in the appropriate box, print your name and address and sign the document. Then return this letter which has your reply in the addressed envelope provided by 19 March 2019.

Thank you for your time completing this survey.

Yours faithfully

W Wilkinson

Head of Building Control

#### Options

1. I WISH to have a Dual Language nameplate erected at Name of Street/Development, the additional language being ???

☐

2. I DO NOT WISH to have a Dual Language nameplate erected at Name of Street/Development, the additional language being ???

☐

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

The results of this survey will be available to view on [www.midulstercouncil.org](http://www.midulstercouncil.org) but should you wish to receive written correspondence detailing the outcome of the survey please tick this box.

☐

## Appendix 2

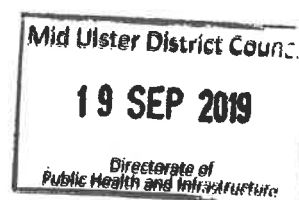
Scutchers Lane

Ballinascreen

Co. Derry

BT45 7HP

13/09/2019



Tá cónaí orm ar an eastát dar ainm Scutchers Lane i mBaile na Croise agus ó tharla go bhfuil polasaí Gaeilge ag Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh, tá mé ag iarraidh ár n-ainm an eastáit le bheith dátheangach cosúil lena ceantair eile sa pharóiste.

I live in Scothers Lane Ballinascreen and I would like the name on our estate to be bilingual like other places in our parish which would be keeping with the council's Irish language policy.

Le meas

24 September 2019

The Mills  
Lower Annagher  
Washingbay Rd  
Coalisland  
Co Tyrone  
BT71 4UB

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Ref: Application for Dual Language Signs**

I wish to apply for the erection of Irish Language nameplates in my street according to the Mid-Ulster District Councils Street Naming & Dual Language Signage Policy.

Yours faithfully,

Resident

