

Report on	Dual Language Signage Survey Correction
Date of Meeting	8 th January 2024
Reporting Officer	Terry Scullion, AD Property Services
Contact Officer	Colm Currie, Senior Building Control Officer

Is this report restricted for confidential business? If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To advise Members on the correction to an error with the result of a survey for Rossmore Road, Dungannon and which was reported to Environment Committee on 12 September 2023.
2.0	Background
2.1	In accordance with the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) NI Order 1995 – Article 11 the Council is tasked with the responsibility to erect dual language signs or second nameplates, adjacent to the nameplate in English.
2.2	The Policy for Street Naming and Dual Language Signage – Section 6.0 (See Appendix 1) as adopted forms the basis for considering requests expressing the name in a language other than English, to both existing and new streets.
2.3	In accordance with the Policy as adopted, all occupiers as listed on the Electoral Register residing on the street/road as noted below were canvassed, by post seeking their views on the request to erect dual-language street nameplates in the Irish Language as requested in each case.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Building Control Service within the Environment Directorate issued occupiers of the undernoted street, correspondence seeking their views on the request to erect a dual-language street nameplate.
3.2	In the September Environment Committee report it was incorrectly reported that the dual language survey for Rossmore Road, Dungannon, had returned a result that confirmed 60% of residents were in favour of a dual language sign being erected on that road (that language being Irish) as detailed below:-

Incorrect Result: September 2023 Environment Committee:

Name of Street	Rossmore Road, Dungannon
Language Requested	Irish
Date Request Validated	23/05/2023
Survey Request Reported to Environment Committee	14/06/2023
Surveys Issued	17/07/2023
Surveys returned by	14/08/2023
Survey Letters Issued	63
Survey Letters Returned	21
Replies in Favour	12
Replies not in Favour	8
Invalid	1
Valid Returns	20
Percentage in Favour	60%

However, the correct result which had not been communicated in the report was that in fact only 50% confirmed that they were in favour that a dual language sign should be erected:

Correct Survey Results:

Name of Street	Rossmore Road, Dungannon
Language Requested	Irish
Date Request Validated	23/05/2023
Survey Request Reported to Environment Committee	14/06/2023
Surveys Issued	17/07/2023
Surveys returned by	14/08/2023
Survey Letters Issued	63
Survey Letters Returned	25
Replies in Favour	12
Replies not in Favour	12
Invalid	1
Valid Returns	24
Percentage in Favour	50%

3.3

All issued surveys were provided with an addressed envelope for return to Magherafelt Offices for return by the close of business at 5pm on 14th August 2023. Following the close of the survey, the completed surveys were compiled, results calculated, and the final Committee report issued. Results were also referred to the Council's Assets Development team from Building Control to prepare for the erection of the sign. However, several completed, and date stamped surveys had been delivered into the Dungannon Office instead of Magherafelt office. Unfortunately these had not been accounted for in the final calculations, or in the report prepared for Committee. Nonetheless, these were included in recalculating results and the residents of Rossmore Road were advised by letter that less than 51% of respondents were in favour of the proposal and, therefore, in accordance with Mid Ulster District Council's Policy on Dual Language Signage, this proposal had been refused by the Council.

<p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p> <p>3.6</p>	<p>On 6th December 2023, when attempting to erect the new dual language signage Council was approached by several residents of Rossmore Road, and an elected member and made aware of the outcome of the survey that they had received which contradicted the erection of the nameplate. Following a subsequent investigation, it was found then that the results communicated in the Committee report and Council's installation team were incorrect.</p> <p>In all future surveys, all addressed envelopes for return of surveys will have 'Confidential – survey' added. Also, measures have been put into place to ensure that reception staff responsible for the management of post in all 3 offices (Cookstown, Dungannon & Magherafelt) have been made aware to immediately transfer future completed surveys to the Building Control Office at that location for recording and for onward transfer to the dual language survey administrator in Magherafelt Office. Furthermore, results and reports will not be compiled and calculated until a check has been undertaken with all office locations for any unaccounted-for completed surveys.</p> <p>In accordance with the Dual Language Signage Nameplates Policy, where not more than 51% of the completed replies returned by occupiers indicate that they are in favor of the erection of a dual language street nameplate, on this occasion it is therefore confirmed that the dual language nameplate at Rossmore Road, Dungannon will not be erected.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Other Considerations</p>
<p>4.1</p>	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: Within Current Resources</p> <p>Human: Within Current Resources</p> <p>Risk Management: None</p>
<p>4.2</p>	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: None</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: None</p>
<p>5.0</p>	<p>Recommendation(s)</p>
<p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p>	<p>That Members note the result of the survey for application of Dual Language Nameplates in Irish for the street as detailed below.</p> <p>Where more than 51 % of occupiers of the street as noted below did not respond to indicate that they were in favour of the erection of a dual-language street nameplate, then the dual language nameplate will not be erected.</p>

	1. Rossmore Road, Dungannon
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 - Policy for Street Naming and Dual Language Signage