



Subject:	Horizon Cities@Heart Project
Date:	18 April 2025
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
Contact Officer:	Kevin Heaney, Head of Inclusive Growth and Anti-Poverty Mark Mulholland, External Funding Coordinator

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

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1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this paper is to update Members on an opportunity offered to the Council to be part of a joint Horizon Europe and Innovative Health Initiative grant funding call.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee are asked to:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> note the content of this report and agree that the Council continues to engage with QUB and Belfast Healthy City (BHC) to explore a possible role for the Council in the Cities@Heart project. Any future financial or other implications will be brought back to Committee for consideration and approval.
3.0	Main report
3.1	The Council has been approached to work with QUB and Belfast Healthy City to bring forward a joint funding submission to the Horizon Europe and Innovative Health Initiative grant funding call. The intention of the overall €15million funding bid across seven cities (named Cities@Heart) would be to enable work to be undertaken with the WHO Health Cities Network & innovative technology to reduce recognised cardiovascular risk factors (Hypertension, High cholesterol, obesity & inactivity) in order to more effectively manage risk and prevent future cardiovascular events.
3.2	Cities@Heart will focus on obesity, hypertension, dyslipidaemia and diabetes as key drivers of cardiovascular disease and poor health. The intention would be to identify effective public health activities which offer potential to scale-up. It will also seek to develop and deploy as well as strategies to leverage engagement and citizen empowerment, raise awareness of cardiovascular disease, effective prevention, early detection and optimal management.
3.3	The emerging bid will involve representatives, including public sector, academia and industry experts, from across seven municipalities including Izmir (TR), Belfast (NI), Łódź (PL), Cork (IE), Udine (IT), Birmingham (EN) and Utrecht (NL). Each have diverse communities and a commitment to deploy multi-disciplinary health strategies.
3.4	<p>Together with citizen and industry co-creation, the cities will apply a structured, multi-sector methodology that includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> city-level approaches to reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease; a digital ecosystem that will power the development of European health technology and economic growth, integration of health policy and health economics to deliver cost-effective city-level solutions; and sustainability at its core using an implementation framework that can apply across the 1800+ cities in the WHO European Healthy Cities Network.
3.5	Cities@Heart will build connections and capacity across our broad array of stakeholders, including citizens, patients, municipalities, healthcare providers, policymakers and industry, and support the next generation of health technology to address critical barriers in cardiovascular disease across Europe. Members will be aware that addressing health inequalities is a priority set out in the Belfast Agenda. This funding proposal may enable related work to be taken forward at a local level and officers are engaging with QUB, BHC, PHA and BHSCCT to explore opportunities for Belfast.

3.6	Members should note that the Council has been asked to be a partner in the submission and the emerging programme of work. Further clarity is being sought on the role of Council in the project, the level of officer involvement, the scale of project funding available to local government and the role of industry partners. Any future request for resources would be subject to Members consideration and agreement.
	Financial & Resource Implications
3.7	There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. Officer time will be required to help shape the emerging bid and programme of work.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
3.8	There are no equality/ good relations or rural needs implications arising directly from this report.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None