



Subject:	Presentation from Belfast Healthy Cities
Date:	9 th September 2025
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services, CNS
Contact Officer:	Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager, CNS

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

	The purpose of this report is to provide background to the presentation that will be provided by Belfast Healthy Cities CEO, Charlene Brooks at the September P&C meeting.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>Background</p> <p>Belfast's membership of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network is facilitated by Belfast Healthy Cities (BHC), an independent partnership organisation. In May 2021 the City of Belfast was successful in its application to re-designate as a WHO Healthy City and participate in Phase VII of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network until April 2026.</p>
3.2	<p>WHO European Healthy Cities Network Annual Conference</p> <p>Belfast Healthy Cities invited representatives from Belfast City Council to attend the Annual WHO Business Meeting in June 2025. Healthy Cities conferences are the main forum for both political and technical participants from member cities from across the WHO European Network to share experiences, debate and discuss health challenges from the perspective of cities throughout the WHO European Region. As no Elected Members were available to attend, Belfast Healthy Cities were invited to attend a later meeting of committee to update on the key issues discussed at the Annual Business meeting in Turkiye.</p> <p>The event, held from 17–19 June 2025 at the Atatürk Cultural Center in Bursa, brought together city leaders, public health experts, policymakers, and practitioners from the WHO European Region under the theme 'Resilient Healthy Cities: Creating Sustainable Urban Futures for All'. Over three days, delegates explored how urban environments can be designed and governed to improve health, tackle inequalities, and respond to pressing challenges such as climate change and demographic shifts.</p>
3.3	The conference showcased a range of innovative projects through abstract presentations, including Belfast's own "Greening the City" initiative, which was warmly received as an example of urban transformation that supports community health and environmental resilience as well as the Healthy Places Healthy Children programme which focuses on the link between children's health and wellbeing and the built environment.
3.4	In addition to providing an overview of the key issues discussed at the meeting, Ms Brooks will also highlight the key work areas that BHC are involved in at present and provide detail on the approach for developing Phase VIII of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network.
3.5	<p>Financial & Resource Implications</p> <p>Belfast Healthy Cities receives annual funding of £81,294 from Belfast City Council. The current three year funding agreement concludes on 31 March 2026. Council is a core funder of Belfast Healthy Cities alongside BHSCT, PHA and NIHE.</p>
3.6	<p>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</p> <p>None identified.</p>
4.0	Appendices
4.1	Copy of presentation from Belfast Healthy Cities – to follow