

 Belfast City Council	STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Subject:	Draft Public Health Agency Partnership and Engagement Strategy 2025-2030.
Date:	19 th December 2025
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City & Organisational Strategy
Contact Officer:	Kevin Heaney, Head of Inclusive Growth & Anti-Poverty Brian Carr, Portfolio and Programme Manager Michelle McParland, Portfolio and Programme Coordinator

Restricted Reports									
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input type="checkbox"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Information relating to any individual Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) Information in connection with any labour relations matter Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 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 Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime 									
<p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <table> <tr> <td>After Committee Decision</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Never	<input type="checkbox"/>								

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to set out for Members consideration a draft council response to the recently published Public Health Agency's draft 'Partnership and Engagement Strategy 2025-2030'.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. note the contents of this report ii. consider and agree proposed draft Council response attached at appendix 1 iii. agree that the proposed Council response, reflecting any comments received from Members of the, be submitted to the Public Health Agency (PHA) in line with the deadline (19 December 2025). The response will state it remains subject to ratification by Full Council in January 2026.
3.0	Background
3.1	The Public Health Agency (PHA) has recently published for consultation a draft Partnership and Engagement Strategy for the period 2025-2030. The purpose of the draft Strategy is to set out a set of priorities with measurable indicators which shows a strong commitment to working with people and communities. A copy of the draft strategy is available @ Public Health Agency Partnership and Engagement Strategy 2025-2030 HSC Public Health Agency . Feedback is sought by 19 th Dec. 2025.
3.2	The stated vision is to "to make partnership and engagement working essential to Health and Social Care in a way that supports a healthier population". The draft strategy shows that the PHA is renewing its commitment to working in partnership with others. It intends to do this through two key areas: listening to people's experiences and involving them.
3.3	PHA states that it is making changes to how it works to better support people's health, with plans to deliver services more locally, focusing on neighbourhoods and tackling health inequalities. PHA intends to create a focused team which will support how the PHA engages and partners with service users, carers, families, communities and the general public with a view to improve health and wellbeing for everyone.
3.4	<p>Key considerations</p> <p>In reviewing the draft strategy, there is a clear omission or reference to the role of local authorities and the Council in promoting health and wellbeing within the city or the collaborative work already underway with the PHA in delivering the ambitions set out within the Belfast Agenda.</p>

3.5	In fact, the Council is already actively partnering with the PHA, and wider health sector partners, on a number of initiatives and programmes under the auspices of community planning including the joint funding and work being taken forward through the Belfast Health and Development Unit (e.g. Take 5, Active Belfast, Age Friendly Belfast), Heathier Systems 4 Healthier Weight (previously known as whole systems approach to obesity), Belfast Learning Cities.
3.6	The draft response attached at appendix 1, outlines these key points for consideration of the Public Health Agency.
	Financial & Resource Implications
3.7	There is no financial or resource implications contained within this report.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
3.8	There are no equality or good relations implications associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1: Draft Belfast City Council response