



<b>Subject:</b>	Horizon Cities@Heart Project
<b>Date:</b>	24 April 2026
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Kevin Heaney, Head of Inclusive Growth and Anti-Poverty

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</b>	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Information relating to any individual</li> <li>2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual</li> <li>3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)</li> <li>4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter</li> <li>5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained</li> <li>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</li> <li>7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</li> </ol>	
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
<p><b>After Committee Decision</b></p> <p><b>After Council Decision</b></p> <p><b>Sometime in the future</b></p> <p><b>Never</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the progress of the Horizon Europe Cities@Heart project which successfully secured funding through the Horizon Europe 'Innovation Health Initiative' programme.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee are asked to note the contents of this report including the intention to enter into a MOU with Belfast Healthy Cities in relation to their role in supporting the work required

	from a Belfast perspective, as set out at para 3.6 below, and the proportionate allocation of the €75,000 grant funding secured from Cities@Heart for administration.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	Members will recall that at its meeting on the 21 November 2025, the Committee was updated on the continued work of council officials with QUB and Belfast Healthy Cities colleagues to input to a joint funding submission to the Horizon Europe Innovative Health Initiative grant funding call. The intention was to develop and submit an overall €15million funding bid across seven cities (named Cities@Heart) to enable work to be undertaken with the WHO Healthy Cities Network and innovative technology with the aim of reducing recognised cardiovascular risk factors in order to more effectively manage risk and prevent future cardiovascular events.
3.2	The Cities@Heart proposal focuses on obesity, hypertension, dyslipidemia and diabetes as key drivers of cardiovascular disease and poor health. It seeks to improve awareness, prevention, detection and management of cardiovascular disease. The intention is to identify effective public health activities which offer potential to scale-up. The project will also seek to develop and deploy strategies to leverage engagement and citizen empowerment, raise awareness of cardiovascular disease, effective prevention, early detection and optimal management to improve outcomes.
3.3	The bid involves a range of 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 and specific interventions.
3.4	Members will be aware of the significant health challenges, including cardiovascular disease, impacting on people across the city and will also be aware that addressing health inequalities has been identified as a key priority set out in the Belfast Agenda. It is intended that the Cities@Heart project would build connections and capacity across a broad array of stakeholders, including citizens, patients, municipalities, healthcare providers, policymakers and industry experts, and support the next generation of health technology to address critical barriers in card
3.5	<u>Current position</u> In January 2026, confirmation was given that the Cities@Heart consortium submission was successful and the €15million funding bid secured. As part of the submission the Council and Belfast Healthy Cities has secured €75,000 for 3 years to assist with the overall administration and input into the emerging programme. It is important to highlight however, that there will be future opportunities for Belfast to develop specific funding bids into the overall €15million programme to support specific Belfast based prototyping or demonstrator projects. Any such bids will be developed in liaison with the other city partners involved (e.g. Healthy Cities, QUB, BHSCT, Public Health Authority and importantly community stakeholders). Any proposed bids would be brought into SP&R Committee for consideration and input in advance of submission.

3.6	As previously highlighted to Members, the Council is working closely with Belfast Healthy Cities (BHC) in relation to their role in supporting the work required from a Belfast perspective including, but not limited to, ensuring all relevant city partners are engaged in the developmental work required, capturing and disseminating key information and data, ensuring effective communication and dissemination of key information (e.g. progress updates, key milestones, funding opportunities available to Belfast etc), as well as assisting with the administration, coordination and programme management of Belfast's participation in the overall programme. As Members will be aware the Council shall enter into a MOU with Belfast Healthy Cities to set out how both parties will work together on the project and how the initial €75,000 administration will be allocated.
	<b>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</b>
3.7	€75,000 grant funding has been secured as part of the overall bid to support the administration of Belfast involvement in the project. Future funding opportunities may become available as part of the implementation of the Cities@Heart programme and any associated Belfast focused bids which may be considered would remain subject to future Committee consideration in advance of submission.
	<b>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</b>
3.8	There are no equality/ good relations or rural needs implications arising directly from this report.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None