



Subject:	Request from Belfast Healthy Cities to attend Annual Business Meeting
Date:	12 May 2026
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Information relating to any individual2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual3. 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 matter5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction7. 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	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
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/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to advise members of an invite from Belfast Healthy Cities for either the Chair or Vice Chair of People and Communities committee or a suitable nominee from the Committee to attend the 2026 WHO European Healthy Cities Network Annual Business Meeting and Technical Conference in Viana do Castelo, Portugal; 16-18 June 2026.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	Committee is asked to consider the invitation and advise whether Council will be represented at the conference and if so, by whom.
3.0	Main Report
	Background
3.1	Belfast's membership to 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.
3.2	In previous years the Chair or a representative of the People and Communities Committee has attended as part of the Belfast delegation. Members may recall that they recently agreed to endorse Belfast's application to Phase VIII of the WHO Healthy Cities Network; the application process is currently underway.
3.3	<u>WHO European Healthy Cities Network Annual Conference</u> Belfast Healthy Cities has contacted Council to invite representatives to the Annual WHO Business Meeting planned for June 2026. 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.
3.3	Further detail on the meeting is provided in Appendices I and II. Public sector organisations should cover the costs of a member attending. One political representative from Belfast is asked to attend, relevant BHC staff and a BHC board member will also attend but they will cover those costs. Costs for attending the meeting in person will depend on the duration of stay however will cover return flights and accommodation and is likely to be in the region of £1,000.
4.0	Financial and Resource Implications
4.1	As public sector organisations cover the cost of political members attendance at WHO European Healthy Cities Network Annual Meetings, the cost for a political representative to attend will have to come from council budgets. It is anticipated that the costs of attendance will be in the region of £1,000 which Belfast City Council would have to come from existing budgets, although this cost is not within planned expenditure.
5.0	Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessment
5.1	None
6.0	Appendices
6.1	Appendix 1 – Invite Appendix 2 – Programme overview