



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Health and Environmental Services Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Global Forum on Urbanisation and Health</b>
<b>Date:</b>	8th September, 2010
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Mrs. S. Wylie, Director of Health and Environmental Services, ext 3260
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### Relevant Background Information

The World Health Organisation has organised a Global Forum on Urbanisation and Health to be held in Kobe, Japan, from 15-17 November and it has invited the City of Belfast to take part in this in its capacity as a designated Healthy City.

The Global Forum is a high level event which will bring together municipal leaders, national authorities and key stakeholders across multiple sectors promoting intersectoral actions to achieve improved health and health equity in urban settings.

Belfast is one of 15 designated Healthy Cities worldwide which has been asked to participate. It is a credit to the city that it is recognised as having achieved a considerable level of success in delivering the WHO requirements over its 22 years' involvement with WHO through the Healthy Cities Network. It is in recognition of the fact that the Council, as a key player and funder of Belfast Healthy Cities, has made a significant contribution to these actions that the invitation was issued.

The focus of the Forum will be on committing to key principles and actionable items in order to pave the way for a global urban health initiative. It will provide cities with an opportunity to showcase their work, highlight the challenges they face, describe the actions they are undertaking and be part of a declaration to reduce urban health inequities.

This is a particularly relevant time for Belfast to be involved in such an initiative as it has recently established the Belfast Health Development Unit, along with the Public Health Agency and the Belfast Trust, to more effectively address health inequalities in Belfast.

### Key Issues

An invitation to participate has been issued to the Lord Mayor of Belfast by the Director of the WHO Centre for Health Development. However, the Lord Mayor is unable to attend and has nominated the Deputy Lord Mayor, who has confirmed his availability. The WHO will also cover the travel and subsistence costs for the Deputy Lord Mayor.

The Deputy Lord Mayor will be expected to participate in debates and will also sign a declaration on behalf of Belfast to reduce health inequalities and is therefore likely to need the support of a Council officer who has a background in health inequalities and working with Healthy Cities.

**Resource Implications**

The cost of an officer attending the event is estimated at £2000.

**Recommendation**

The Committee is asked to authorise the attendance of the Director of Health and Environmental Services (or her nominee) at the WHO Global Forum on Urbanisation and Health.