



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	"Ageing Globally – Ageing Locally" conference
Date:	23 rd September 2011
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1	Relevant Background Information
	<p><i>The World stands on the threshold of a stunning demographic transformation. It is called global ageing and it promises to reshape virtually every dimension of the economy and society over the next few years"</i> Centre for Strategic and International Studies, <i>Global Ageing Preparedness Index</i> (2010).</p>
1.1	By 2041, the number of people aged 75 and over in both Northern and Southern Ireland is projected to reach almost 1 million, with 30% of the population aged over sixty. This shift will deeply impact on the personal, social and economic spheres of every society in the 21st Century. In addition, based on current trends, after the age of 65 the Northern Ireland population is expected to spend around half of their remaining years in poor health. ¹
1.2	Older people are among the population group most likely to live on a low income, with single pensioners at greater risk of low income than pensioner couples. 65% of households with one or more people over pension age in the Belfast Trust area have an income of less than £300 per week and 88% of lone pensioners are in this financial position ² .
1.3	Recent research through the Northern Ireland Housing Executive ³ found that owner occupation of houses for older people in Belfast is 55%. Health related fragility is a major reason for older people needing to move home and older households are more likely to occupy unfit homes.
1.4	As a City we need to be prepared for an increasingly ageing society and plan for how this will affect us economically, socially and culturally e.g. as the number of retired people increases, the number of tax payers decreases and the costs of pensions, benefits and health care will also rise significantly.

¹ 2010 Annual Report of Registrar General, NISRA

² Divided by Health: A City Health Profile, Belfast Healthy Cities: 2008

³ Future Need and Demand for Appropriate Models of Accommodation and Associated Services for Older People, NIHE: 2011

2	Key Issues
2.1	A major international conference, "Ageing Globally – Ageing Locally", is taking place in Dublin on 2 & 3 November 2011, hosted by the Centre for Ageing Research and Development in Ireland (CARDI).
2.2	Featuring a host of international experts as well as leading researchers and professionals from the ageing sector in Ireland, this event will explore a number of issues including how different countries address challenges and opportunities of population ageing, why global ageing matters to Ireland and how policy makers, business and service providers can best plan for changing demographics.
2.3	This event will promote the value and role of ageing-related research specifically for policy and practice. Learning from this conference will support the development of integrated approaches through the Belfast Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership and its links to the Belfast Strategic Partnership/Belfast Health Development Unit. One of the confirmed speakers is Sir Michael Marmot , Chair of the Commission on Social Determinants (World Health Organisation).
2.4	Each country must find its own answer to challenges brought by ageing populations. However, we can learn from each other and this conference will focus on exchanging ideas, successful strategies and practices.

3	Resource Implications
	<u>Financial</u>
3.1	The costs for attending the 2 day conference in Dublin including travel and accommodation are 450 Euro per delegate.

4	Recommendations
4.1	The Committee is asked to agree that the chair of the All Party Reference Group (or her nominee) and an officer from the Health and Environmental Services Department attend the conference in November 2011.

Documents Attached
Appendix 1: Conference brochure