

10 October 2017



Ms Suzanne Wylie  
Chief Executive  
Belfast City Council  
City Hall  
Belfast BT1 5GS

Dear Suzanne

**Re: Queen's University Belfast study visit to Curitiba, Brazil**

As you will be aware, a key role for Queen's University Belfast is to support knowledge exchange and transfer between the academic and public sector. Capacity building and sharing learning is also a key role for Belfast Healthy Cities within the city.

We are writing to inform you that we are organising a study trip to Curitiba in Brazil, as part of the Healthy Urban Living and Ageing in Place (HULAP) study, funded partly by the UK's Economic and Social Research Council. A key aim of the research is to identify how policy makers use academic research, and how knowledge transfer can be improved to support policy and decision-making.

For this purpose, an Impact Advisory Group consisting of key agencies in Belfast and Northern Ireland with a remit for the built environment and ageing has been established. The Brazil visit has been designed for this group, to share learning and to create contacts with an equivalent group in Brazil. The Belfast City Council representative on the Impact Advisory Group is Dermot O'Kane, Local Development Plan Manager with the Planning and Place department.

The HULAP study is undertaken in partnership with Pontiff Catholic University of Parana, which is based in Curitiba. It aims to develop understanding of the types of built environment solutions that support physical activity and ageing in place among older adults, and is designed to support sharing of learning between Belfast and Brazil. The visit will focus on innovative planning practice in Curitiba, which was one of the first cities in the world to implement a Bus Rapid Transit system, and will explore planning approaches overall as well as solutions relevant to age friendly environments. This may offer learning and insights that can support the Local Development Plan, which will have a crucial influence on restructuring the physical fabric of the city. The LDP will also have a critical role in helping achieve some of the core outcomes of the HULAP project.

The visit will take place in December 2017 and Queen's University Belfast will cover all costs, including travel insurance. Professor Geraint Ellis of the School of the Natural and Built Environment, who is Principal Investigator within the HULAP study, will lead the delegation.

We would be grateful if Dermot or a Belfast City Council representative, as appropriate would be able to join the delegation.

If you require further information, your office can contact Jonna Monaghan in Belfast Healthy Cities' office on (028) 9032 8811 or [jonna@belfasthealthycities.com](mailto:jonna@belfasthealthycities.com)

Many thanks in advance.

Kind regards.

Handwritten signature of Joan Devlin.

Joan Devlin  
Chief Executive  
Belfast Healthy Cities

Handwritten signature of Geraint Ellis.

Geraint Ellis  
Professor  
Queen's University Belfast

