



<b>Subject:</b>	Age-friendly Belfast Plan 2018-2021
<b>Date:</b>	22 June 2018
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director City & Neighbourhoods Services Department
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Damian Connolly, Environmental Health Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
<b>After Committee Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>After Council Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Some time in the future</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Never</b>	<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 Belfast Agenda commits us to ensuring an Age-friendly Belfast. Belfast Strategic Partnership leads the age-friendly process supported by the Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership (HASP), a draft Age-friendly Belfast Plan 2018 – 2021 (Appendix 1) has now been produced to be agreed by partners, including the Council, for public consultation.
1.2	Members will recall that at February Council the following motion was agreed. <i>“This Council supports making Belfast a Dementia Friendly City and, by doing so, would envisage each business and transport provider signing up to having a Dementia Champion and to take part in Dementia awareness training”</i>

1.3	This motion has been addressed within the draft Age-friendly Belfast Plan 2018-2021 under social isolation working with Alzheimer’s Society and Dementia NI and HASP. Supporting dementia friendly communities is a cross cutting theme throughout the plan.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consider and agree the draft Age-friendly Belfast Plan 2018-2021 and in particular to commit to delivering the actions attributable to the Council as highlighted in the body of this report.</li> <li>▪ Agree the draft plan go out for public consultation from 3<sup>rd</sup> July-25<sup>th</sup> September 2018</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	In 2012, Belfast City Council All Party Reference Group on Older People provided the initial leadership to explore Belfast becoming an Age-friendly City. Subsequently, in May 2012, the Lord Mayor signed a declaration committing Belfast to this process That commitment was reconfirmed within the Belfast Agenda.
3.2	<p>An Age-friendly City must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish mechanisms to involve older people throughout the age-friendly process</li> <li>2. Develop a baseline assessment of the age-friendliness of the city under eight domains:</li> </ol> <div data-bbox="320 1182 1046 1843" data-label="Diagram"> </div> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Develop a 3-year city-wide action plan</li> <li>4. Identify measurements to monitor progress against this plan.</li> </ol>

3.3	<p>It was clear that in order to consider and develop these domains we would have to work in partnership with a wide range of voluntary, community and public organisations providing services for older people. Many of the organisations were already Members of the Belfast Strategic Partnership (BSP) which had identified healthy ageing as a priority within its Framework for Action to reduce life inequalities in Belfast. It was therefore agreed by Council that BSP should lead the age-friendly process supported by the existing Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership.</p>
3.4	<p>HASP have been using a range of mechanisms to engage with older people and key stakeholders across the city with a view to identifying priority areas for the next 3 years and updating the baseline assessment. These have included working with city stats and partner organisations to utilise existing data sets, consultation events including the annual Age-friendly Belfast Convention and officer attendance at the Greater Belfast Seniors Forum meetings. We have also secured a number of questions in recent Council residence surveys and supplemented these with a specific age-friendly Belfast survey. AgeNI were also commissioned to consult with some of the harder to reach older peoples groups (disabled, carers, LGBT, BME and people living in residential care) using peer facilitators.</p>
3.5	<p><b>Achievements to date from previous three year Age-friendly Belfast Plan:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In 2017 84% of older people agreed that Belfast is a city where they can live life to the full and this has improved from 79% in 2014.</li> <li>2. There has been an improvement by 10% of older people in Belfast, completing a total of 30 mins or more of physical activity in a typical week.</li> <li>3. 70% of older people were happy with the service they received on public transport in 2017 and this has improved from 63% in 2015.</li> <li>4. There has been an increase in volunteering participation levels in those aged 60+ in 2017 with 17% of older people volunteering in the last 12 months compared to 13% of older people in 2014. There has been a total of 242 volunteers nominated in Belfast City Council's annual Age-friendly Belfast Older Volunteer Awards, with 140 nominated in 2017.</li> <li>5. 35 organisations and businesses have signed up to the Age-friendly Belfast Charter and most of these businesses and organisations have taken steps to train staff and volunteers</li> </ol>

as dementia friends. The Alzheimer's Society has worked with a range of organisations to train 27 dementia friendly champions and create 3,635 dementia friends.

3.6 **Extensive baseline data was collected and from this we know:**

- Deprivation is a major factor affecting Age friendliness of the city with older people in deprived areas doing much worse across the domains and key data sets than the rest of the City
- Northern Ireland has the second lowest rate of employment for older adults in the UK
- 57% of older people report feeling lonely and 25% that they suffer from anxiety/depression
- There are around 3000 people with dementia in Belfast and those figures are expected to treble in the next 20-30 years. Council recently considered a motion to make Belfast a Dementia friendly City and it is anticipated that this work will be integrated with AF action plan.
- Only 15% of older people meet their recommended activity levels
- Around half of older people are not aware of housing options or of support available to adopt homes
- Crime against over 60's is increasing year on year and 21% of older people are affected by financial abuse

3.7 **Age-friendly Belfast Plan 2018-2021**

Our Vision remains that:

***Belfast will be a city where older people live life to the full***

3.8 Five new thematic areas of work have been identified:

- **Partnership**
- **Infrastructure**
- **Social inclusion**
- **Health and wellbeing**
- **Financial security**

3.9 These each take cognisance of two cross cutting themes:

- **addressing inequalities**
- **supporting dementia friendly communities**

	<p>For each theme commitment has been secured, from key stakeholders, to deliver specific actions detailed within the plan.</p> <p><b>3.10 Measuring success</b></p> <p>We will know we are making a difference by using an Outcomes Based Approach (OBA). This means measuring how much we did, how well we did it and is anyone better off? We will measure progress against the following outcomes identified within the plan:</p> <p><b>3.11 Partnership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ HASP has effective partnership working</li> </ul> <p><b>3.12 Infrastructure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improved physical environment which encourages walking and active ageing</li> <li>▪ More accessible transport network</li> <li>▪ Increased provision of suitable housing</li> </ul> <p><b>3.13 Social Inclusion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Older people are better informed and supported to engage in social, cultural life and civic life</li> <li>▪ Older people are more connected and less isolated</li> <li>▪ Older people feel more respected</li> <li>▪ Improved community safety</li> </ul> <p><b>3.14 Health and Wellbeing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Older people know how to access services</li> <li>▪ Older people make better lifestyle choices</li> <li>▪ Older people have improved access to H&amp;SC services &amp; support</li> </ul> <p><b>3.15 Financial Security</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improved employment opportunities</li> <li>▪ Improved access to benefits and entitlements</li> <li>▪ Better protection from financial scams and fraud</li> </ul> <p>OBA scorecards will be developed to identify performance and population indicators of our progress.</p>
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<p>3.16</p> <p>3.17</p> <p>3.18</p>	<p><b>Making it happen</b></p> <p>Leadership and governance for Age-friendly Belfast is provided by Belfast Strategic Partnership. The Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership will co-ordinate delivery of the 3-Year Age-friendly Belfast Plan. HASP will regularly report against a detailed plan with short and medium term actions to Greater Belfast Senior Forum, Belfast Strategic Partnership, Belfast City Council All Party Reference Group on Older People and the Community Planning Partnership.</p> <p>The HASP Age-friendly team will provide specific support for the development of the Age-friendly Belfast Charter, intergenerational work, Age-friendly Belfast ambassadors, collaboration on isolation and loneliness and Dementia Friendly Neighbourhood development.</p> <p>Lead organisations as identified will oversee the delivery and performance management of relevant aspects of the Age-friendly Belfast plan and report progress to HASP.</p>
<p>3.19</p> <p>3.20</p>	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>We are seeking Member agreement and commitment to the actions for the Council in the draft plan as presented below. These actions were developed following an internal workshop held on 5<sup>th</sup> March with key officers invited from across the Council to consider the baseline data and thematic priorities and to specifically identify actions that Council services would implement over the next three years to improve the Age Friendliness of the City.</p> <p>The proposed actions attributable to Belfast City Council and Belfast Health Development Unit within the draft Age-friendly Belfast Plan 2018-2021 are:</p> <p><b>Partnership</b></p> <p>Our aim is that HASP has effective partnership working</p> <p>The Healthy Ageing Strategic (HASP) plans to review the current partnership by establishing a baseline by Autumn 2018 and identifying actions and indicators to ensure that HASP becomes a more effective partnership that to plan and delivers the Age-friendly Belfast Plan. It is anticipated the project lead within City and Neighbourhoods service will continue to represent the Council on HASP.</p>

3.21

**Infrastructure**

Our aim is that older people live in a safer environment that encourages walkability and active ageing, supports access to services and transport, and provides for their housing needs.

3.22

**We are seeking Member commitment for:**

- Belfast City Council are responsible for the licensing pavement cafes. The Department for Infrastructure shall produce guidance to Councils for the Licensing of Pavement Cafes. BCC will regulate them in accordance with this guidance to ensure they are sensitive to the needs of street users and the surrounding area.
- Belfast City Council are undertaking research to identify barriers to accessing city centre based shops, entertainment venues, bars, restaurants, accommodation and services with a view to identifying potential improvements, actions or priority areas.
- Belfast City Council to review and implement the Toilet Provision Strategy with a view to improving the accessibility of toilets to the public and encourage active ageing
- Belfast City Council to implement a program of improving the quality standards of strategically located parks and open spaces covering all parts of the City to accredited Green Flag Status. Criteria includes access to toilets, seating, and many aspects that will make them more accessible to older people. Over the next three years the Council shall increase the number of accredited parks from 17 to 23. The Council shall carry out age friendly/dementia friendly walkability assessments of all Green Flag status parks and use the findings to prioritise improvements
- Belfast City Council to increase usage of parks by older people through developing age-friendly and dementia friendly walking routes in parks, holding events attractive to older people and using community outreach target older peoples groups and networks

3.23

**We will build on extensive work already underway through partnership working and progress reports on:**

- The Local Development Plan which will be the planning framework for the city and aim to improve health and wellbeing by design that will promote opportunities for walking, cycling, social interaction and access to services. The Plan will also aim to address current and future residential needs of the growing older population through the provision of sufficient, affordable, life time homes.

3.24

- The Belfast Agenda and the councils emerging approach to area working, to deliver our services in a more integrated way that is focused on the needs of people in local areas to make sure better outcomes for older people and their wider communities.
- The Active Belfast Travel Plan-Department for Communities working with Belfast Strategic Partnership

3.25

### **Social inclusion**

Our aim is that older people are more socially, culturally and technologically connected.

#### **We are seeking Member commitment for:**

- The use of Advice NI website Portal for Older People Northern Ireland (POPNI) as the central information platform for information for older people in Belfast. HASP partners, including the Council, will sign up to use this portal and update their information regularly.
- Belfast City Council, the Department for Communities and Libraries NI will collaborate with citywide technology and isolation group to deliver a comprehensive programme to deliver more digital inclusion sessions and courses with older people to include:
  - intergenerational programmes
  - one-to-one approaches
  - use of social media
  - financial security
  - use the POPNI website
- Belfast City Council and Volunteer Now to increase nominations of volunteers from hard to reach groups in Belfast develop for the Age-friendly volunteer awards and volunteering programmes
- Belfast Health Development Unit, Greater Belfast Seniors Forum and Volunteer Now to identify older champions to promote the Take 5 steps to wellbeing messages across the city
- Belfast City Council, Belfast Health Development Unit, Greater Belfast Seniors Forum, Alzheimer's Society and Dementia NI to review and update the Age-friendly Charter to ensure that:
  - Improvements are being made by organisation signed up to the charter
  - Increase the number of organisations signing up to the charter
  - Develops and supports customer care assessments
- Alzheimer's Society, Dementia NI, Belfast City Council to establish a dementia friendly city task and finish working group:



<p>3.26</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ to host an awareness event in Belfast City Hall with Belfast city centre businesses</li> <li>○ to work with businesses in Belfast City Centre to improve dementia training/awareness (including awareness of the JAM card)</li> <li>▪ Alzheimer’s Society and Dementia NI, and HASP group to work with partners to extend the Dementia Friendly Neighbourhood initiative, including 2 additional neighbourhoods, and work with BME and LGB&amp;T older people</li> </ul> <p><b>We will build on extensive work already underway through partnership working and progress reports on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Belfast Strategic Partnership Emotional Resilience Strategy</li> <li>▪ Age-friendly Belfast events, updates and calendar and a seniors page in the City Matters magazine delivered to all household in Belfast</li> <li>▪ Positive Ageing Month, including specific programmes for ‘hard to reach’ groups of older people and linking to the development of Belfast as a Learning City</li> <li>▪ Belfast Safer City Plan</li> <li>▪ Co-ordinated planning for extreme weather and emergency preparedness with older people</li> </ul>
<p>3.27</p>	<p><b>Health and wellbeing</b></p> <p>Our aim is that older people have better access to a range of recreational, health and social care services required to sustain their physical and mental health.</p>
<p>3.28</p>	<p><b>We are seeking Member commitment for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Active Belfast to ensure the Get Active Belfast Action Plans for each of the seven pledges will support active ageing and encourage healthy lifestyles among older people.</li> </ul>
<p>3.29</p>	<p><b>Financial security</b></p> <p>Our aim is that older people have more financial security.</p>
<p>3.30</p>	<p><b>We are seeking Member commitment for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Belfast City Council, Economic Development Unit working alongside the Department for Communities, Job Centres Online and employer stakeholder’s will work to reduce the working age population economic inactivity rates. They will ensure employability and skills interventions appropriately target older people, in particular:</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment Academies. These are employer-led programmes, focused on supporting those furthest from the labour market. In addition to the Hotel, Construction and Hospitality Employment Academies which will continue to grow, new sectors being explored and developed include Tourism, Transport, Public Sector, Retail, Childminding, Care, Advanced Manufacturing, Creative &amp; Digital Industries etc., in line with employer demand.</li> <li>• Business start-up and business growth programmes.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Belfast Strategic Partnership will promote and support an Age-friendly Business Award in the Belfast Business Awards focusing on improved employment opportunities and staying longer in workplace.</li> <li>▪ Age-friendly Belfast and Belfast City Council will refocus the Be Prepared information sessions across the city on financial security, benefits uptake and scam awareness. Working with Department for Communities, Scamwise NI, Advice NI and other advice services</li> </ul>
3.31	<p>Members are asked to consider and agree the draft Age-friendly Belfast Plan 2018-2021 and in particular to commit to delivering the actions attributable to the Council as highlighted above.</p>
3.32	<p>Members are asked to agree the draft plan go out for public consultation from 25<sup>th</sup> June-17<sup>th</sup> September 2018.</p>
3.33	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u> The Council commitments can be carried out under existing resources</p>
3.34	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> Equality screening has been carried out.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 – The draft Age-friendly Belfast Plan 2018-2021