



<b>Subject:</b>	Representation on Association of Port Health Authorities Executive Board
<b>Date:</b>	7 December 2021
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Siobhan Toland, , Director of City Services, City & Neighbourhood Services Department
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	David Cuthbert, City Protection Manager, City & Neighbourhood Services Department

<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 purpose of this report is to update Members on recent changes made by the Association of Port Health Authorities (APHA) to their processes for regional representation onto the Association's Executive Board. Belfast City Council previously provided an Elected Member representative to this Board, however going forward, in line with APHAs requirements, this role will be undertaken by a nominated officer from the NI Ports Liaison Area Network.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Note the report and change from Elected Member to Officer representation.</li></ul>

3.0	<b>Main report</b>
	<b>Background</b>
3.1	The Association of Port Health Authorities (APHA) is a UK wide organisation representing the interests of Local Authorities and Port Health Authorities which have responsibilities for public, animal and environmental health controls at sea and airports.
3.2	Belfast City Council is a corporate member of the Association, and following Local Government elections in 2019, Councillor Brian Heading was nominated as a regional representative to the APHA Board for a 2 year term, in November 2019. This 2 year term finished at the end of November 2021.
3.3	At the time of previous nomination in 2019, membership of APHA's Executive Board typically comprised of a mix of both officers from some Councils/Port Authorities and a small number of Elected Member representatives from 8 regions around the UK.
	<b>Key issues</b>
3.4	In November 2019, APHA adopted an updated version of its 'Articles of Association', and subsequently made revisions to its 'Operating Arrangements' in April 2020. These revisions updated arrangements for regional representation to the APHA Board, specifically that Board representation would be invited from each of the 6x Ports Liaison Area Network (PLaN) groups, with appointments for an annual (1 year) term. <i>(Copies of the Articles of Association and Operating Arrangements documents can be made available to Members on request).</i>
3.5	As a result of these changes there are now no Elected Member representatives on the Board from any UK region, instead Officer representatives have been nominated from the regional PLaN groups.
3.6	The Northern Ireland Port Liaison Area Network group is scheduled to meet in early December 2021 and will be asked to nominate a NI regional representative to the APHA Board. Given Belfast has the largest Port with associated Port Health expertise, it is anticipated that the NI PLaN members may request that a Belfast City Council Officer undertake this role.
3.7	Whilst this will necessitate a Belfast City Council Port Health Officer to attend Board meetings to participate, this has generally already been the case in supporting the Elected Member Representative (Cllr Brian Heading) in this role over the past number of years. Board meetings are held 3 times per year and last around 3 hours. Over the past 2 years these meetings have

	<p>been held virtually online, however prior to the Covid-19 pandemic these meetings took place at the offices of the Association in London.</p>
3.8	<p>APHA membership continues to present benefits for Belfast City Council, particularly at an operational and peer learning level . Officer participation will provide helpful insight into emerging issues and best practice in other Ports, while also affording an opportunity for NI and Belfast Port Health issues to be advocated and considered at a UK level.</p> <p><b><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p><i><u>Financia!</u></i></p>
3.9	<p>There are no additional financial implications arising from this report. Costs of the Council's membership and attendance at Board meetings etc are being met within existing budgets and Port Health team resources.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p>
3.10	<p>There are no equality, good relations or rural needs implications as a result of this report.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None