



Subject:	Invite to WHO European Healthy Cities Network Annual Business Meeting 2025
Date:	14 th January 2025
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services, CNS
Contact Officer:	Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager, CNS Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer – Community Provision, CNS

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes No

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

	The purpose of this report is to advise members of an invite from Belfast Healthy Cities for either the Chair or Vice Chair of People and Communities committee or a suitable nominee from the Committee to attend the 2025 WHO European Healthy Cities Network Annual Business Meeting and Technical Conference 16-20 June 2025 in Bursa, Türkiye.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Committee is asked to consider the invitation and advise whether Council will be represented at the conference and if so, by whom.
3.0	Main report
3.1	Background Belfast's membership to the WHO European Healthy Cities Network is facilitated by Belfast Healthy Cities (BHC), an independent partnership organisation. In May 2021 the City of Belfast was successful in its application to re-designate as a WHO Healthy City and participate in Phase VII of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network until April 2026.
3.2	WHO European Healthy Cities Network Annual Conference Belfast Healthy Cities contacted Council on 18 December 2024 to invite representatives to the Annual WHO Business Meeting planned for June 2025.
3.3	Healthy Cities conferences are the main forum for both political and technical participants from member cities from across the WHO European Network to share experiences, debate and discuss health challenges from the perspective of cities throughout the WHO European Region. Further detail on the meeting and a link to the full programme will be forwarded when available.
3.4	Public sector organisations should cover the costs of a member attending. One political representative from Belfast is asked to attend, relevant BHC staff and a BHC board member will also attend but they will cover those costs. Costs for attending the meeting in person will depend on the duration of stay however will cover return flights and accommodation and is likely to be in the region of £1,000.
3.5	Financial & Resource Implications As public sector organisations cover the cost of political members attendance at WHO European Healthy Cities Network Annual Meetings, the cost for a political representative to attend will have to come from council budgets. It is anticipated that the costs of attendance will be in the region of £1,000 which Belfast City Council would have to come from existing budgets, although this cost is not within planned expenditure.
3.6	Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment None identified.
4.0	Appendices
4.1	N/A