

## Belfast City Council

**Report to:** Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

**Subject:** EU Summit - Active and Healthy Ageing Dublin 13th-14th June Dublin

**Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> April 2013

**Reporting Officer:** Siobhan Toland, Head of Environmental Health Service Ext 3281

**Contact Officer:** Damian Connolly, Environmental Health Manager, Ext 3361

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	Across the world life expectancy is increasing as are the prevalence of chronic diseases and disabilities associated with ageing.
1.2	In Belfast around 16% of the population is over 60 and the number of people aged 85+ is increasing. Average life expectancy in the City for men is currently 73.9 and for women it is 79.8 and this is the lowest in Northern Ireland. There are significant inequalities in the city and those living in more affluent areas can expect to live longer and enjoy better health in old age.
1.3	Across the world cities have to develop their structures and services to meet the requirements of their aging populations. Belfast City Council has identified older people as a priority within its corporate plan and in March 2012 the Council agreed that the Lord Mayor should sign a declaration committing Belfast to becoming a more Age Friendly City, thereby encouraging active, healthy aging.
1.4	The All Party Reference Group on Older People chaired by Councillor Kelly oversees the work of the Council in this area. The Council is currently collaborating through its role in the Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership with voluntary and public sector organisations to develop and 3 year age friendly action plan for the City.
1.5	As part of this process it is important that Belfast can learn and share experiences, good practice and work with other Age Friendly Cities in Europe and beyond.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	An EU Summit on Active and Healthy Aging is being held in Dublin on 13-14 <sup>th</sup> June 2013, in association with the Irish Presidency of the Council of the EU.
2.2	This invitation event will be attended by the EU commissioner, Marie Geoghegan-Quinn, senior EU and national policy makers, senior executives, mayors and leaders of existing and aspiring age friendly cities. Belfast has been invited to attend.
2.3	The summit aims to provide a unique opportunity to set the agenda for an Age Friendly Europe at a time when the aging population is profoundly challenging fiscal sustainability.
2.4	This event provides an opportunity for Belfast City Council to help shape this agenda. It is hoped the summit will help drive Europe's prosperity by charting a path for economic growth, improved health delivery, effective financial planning, and intergenerational aspiration for life-long learning and activity.

2.5	It is anticipated that attending this summit will also provide an opportunity for Belfast City Council to learn from the experiences of other cities and ensure it is linked into emerging developments in the age friendly agenda across Europe.
2.6	A similar report will be taken to Health and Environmental Services Committee on 10 April 2013 seeking approval for the Chair or their nominee to attend the summit.
2.7	The programme for this summit is developing and the organisers have indicated they will also be extending an invitation to the Lord Mayor of Belfast together with invited mayors from across Europe to attend the event and to sign a declaration, which sets out the vision, principles and commitments for municipal and national leaders for age friendly cities in a European context.

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	<u>Financial</u>  It is estimated the costs will be approximately £300 for travel and accommodation and will be met for this and the all party reference group representation from the revenue estimates in the service budget.

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relation Considerations</b>
4.1	There are no relevant equality and good relations implications.

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	It is recommended that the Chair of the Reference Group on Older People of their nominee attends this summit in Dublin on 13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> June 2013.
5.2	It is also recommended, subject to the advice that the appropriate elected member is given authority to sign the Declaration on behalf of the Council.
5.3	It should be noted that the Health and Environmental Services Committee is also considering a report for the Chair to attend this summit.

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
6.1	An update report on the summit can be provided to Members

<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
7.1	EU European Union

<b>8</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
8.1	Appendix 1- EU Summit invite