



Subject:	Age Sector Platform Belfast Pensioners Parliament
Date:	5 December 2017
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department
Contact Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Assistant Director, City & Neighbourhood Services Department Damian Connolly, Environmental Health Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	Age Sector Platform have asked the Council for support with the Belfast Pensioners Parliament 2018 and have sent a proposal to the Council asking the Council for a contribution of £3,000 and the use of The Great Hall for a day in March 2018 for the parliament. The funding is required to cover the cost of the catering on the day, conference materials and transport costs. Members are asked to consider this request and agree any support to be provided.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none">Consider agreeing to contribute £3,000 and use of the City Hall to Age Sector Platform to support the Belfast Pensioners Parliament in March 2018.

3.0	Main Report
<p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p>	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Belfast Agenda states that people over 60 already make up one fifth of our population and it is forecast to increase dramatically to over one third by 2050. We need to celebrate this achievement but also plan ahead so that older people live life to the full for as long as possible.</p> <p>Members will be aware that The Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership within BSP is currently developing a new 3 year Age-friendly Belfast Action Plan. Council officers have a leading role within HASP and it is anticipated will presented the draft Action Plan to members in the new year for consideration.</p> <p>The Age-friendly planning process ensures that older people have a voice and shape the services and decisions affecting their lives. We have well established ongoing engagement processes in place with older people which we use to identify priorities and to develop our action plans to secure improvements that will make Belfast more age friendly. As part of this the Council holds an annual Age-friendly Belfast Conference and age friendly questions are included in council residence surveys.</p> <p>The Greater Belfast Seniors Forum represent hundreds of older peoples groups across the City and officers attend all meetings. There is an annual joint meeting of the Greater Belfast Seniors forum and the All Party Reference Group on Older People where the older people can directly engage with elected members and in recent years the Lord Mayors' have hosted the Christmas Meeting of the Greater Belfast Seniors Forum in The Lord Mayor's Parlour.</p> <p>In addition 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>
<p>3.6</p> <p>3.7</p>	<p><u>Age Sector Platform</u></p> <p>Age Sector Platform represents a strong unified voice for older people in Northern Ireland. It is the charity responsible for the Northern Ireland Pensioners Parliament.</p> <p>Age Sector Platform has a membership of individuals and older people's groups across Northern Ireland, representing approximately 200,000 people.</p>

3.8	<p><u>Local Parliaments</u></p> <p>There are plans to hold a parliament in each of the eleven council areas. These parliaments provide older people from across Northern Ireland with a local forum to discuss concerns they have in greater detail. They allow both local and regional issues to be identified, debated and voted upon. These events also offer an opportunity to provide information on local services and facilities.</p>
3.9	<p><u>Benefits</u></p> <p>The Belfast parliament event will be attended by up to 100 older people and will be a mutually beneficial partnership with Belfast City Council that complements The Belfast Agenda and Age- friendly Belfast programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enabling meaningful consultation and engagement between older people and Belfast City Council - with a particular focus on 'hard to reach' older people. ▪ Providing opportunity for older people to engage with their elected representatives on Belfast City Council and to inform The Belfast Agenda. ▪ Age Sector Platform recognises the range of progressive activity taking place as part of Age Friendly Belfast and believes that the local parliament has a role to play in complementing and supporting this and that the parliament could become a key component in the Age Friendly Belfast calendar.
3.10	<p>It will enable Councillors and city council staff to hear the opinions and views of older people and support community participation by older people – increasing their confidence and supporting social inclusion.</p>
3.11	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The £3,000 can be funded within the existing budget.</p>
3.12	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - Proposal from Age Sector Platform