

Report to:	Shadow Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Request for Meeting – Dr Eddie Rooney, Joint Chair of the Belfast Strategic Partnership
Date:	24 October 2014
Reporting Officer:	Suzanne Wylie, Director of Health and Environmental Services
Contact Officer:	Sharon McNicholl, Corporate Planning and Policy Manager

1.0 Purpose

1.1 To consider a request from the Joint chairs of the Belfast Strategic Partnership to receive a briefing on the partnership and the key strategic health issues facing the city.

2.0 Background

2.1 The Belfast Strategic Partnership (BSP) was established in 2011 to address the inequalities and health and wellbeing challenges faced within Belfast. Jointly chaired by the chief executives of Belfast City Council, Public Health Agency and the Belfast Trust, it was established to:

- Support a citywide collaborative approach across sectors to better address the city’s health and wellbeing challenges; and
- Set the strategic direction for health and wellbeing improvement in Belfast, through the development of agreed priorities and shared framework for action.

2.2 The BSP is made up of representatives from the statutory, private sector and community and voluntary sectors as well as a representative from each of the political parties (current council). In 2011, following wide consultation and research, the BSP produced a strategic health and wellbeing framework for the city – A Framework for Action to Address Life Inequalities. The key themes within the Framework for Action are:

- Mental health and emotional wellbeing
- Alcohol and drugs
- Early years / early interventions
- Lifelong learning
- Regenerating living places and healthy spaces

2.3 The Framework also identifies the following cross cutting themes:

- Poverty
- Healthy ageing and age friendly Belfast
- Active Belfast

2.4 The BSP is supported by the Belfast Health Development Unit (BH DU) which is made up of staff from Belfast City Council, the Public Health Agency and the Belfast Health and Social Services Trust in a co-located unit. Together the unit supports the delivery of the actions outlined in the Framework for Action.

3.0 Key Issues

3.1 A number of recently published research reports highlight the importance of addressing health and wellbeing and the significant challenges facing Belfast and indeed the region. Moving

forward, it is critical that Belfast, through the BSP and with the support of Elected Members, continue to champion and strategically influence the approach to health and wellbeing at a regional and local level in order to secure a properly resourced, strategic and joined-up approach.

3.2 The joint chairs of the BSP therefore kindly request the opportunity to speak to Elected Members (Shadow council) to appraise them of key developments and issues.

4.0 Resource Implications

4.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

5.0 Equality and Good Relations Implications

4.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 Members are asked to approve the request for a briefing from Dr Eddie Rooney and to agree that this should be included on the Shadow SP&R agenda for 28th November 2014.