



<b>Subject:</b>	Belfast City Council response to the new substance use strategy for Northern Ireland – “Making Life Better – Preventing Harm and Empowering Recovery: A Strategic Framework to Tackle the Harm from Substance Use”
<b>Date:</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> January 2021
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Ryan Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Kelly Gilliland, Neighbourhood Services Manager, North

<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	Members will be aware that this Committee previously approved the Council’s response to the pre-consultation exercise for the development of this strategy back in September 2019, which was then ratified by Council at its October meeting (this is included in Appendix 2).
1.2	The Department of Health has now developed its draft substance use strategy for Northern Ireland, based on feedback received as part of the pre-consultation exercise, and is now consulting on this. The consultation opened on <b>30<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and closes on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 5.00pm.</b>

1.3	Addressing substance misuse and mental health remain two key priorities within the Belfast Agenda and indeed for members. Therefore as with the pre-consultation response, Council is making the case as part of their response that the new strategy, and the structures associated with it, need to integrate and align with community planning structures to ensure both regional and local impact can be maximised.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve the draft consultation response at Appendix 1 and for this to be submitted to the Department of Health by the deadline of 5<sup>th</sup> Feb.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The draft consultation response is attached at Appendix 1 for Members consideration.
3.2	The Council's response at the pre-consultation stage is included at Appendix 2 – we intend to resubmit this along with our response.
	<u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u>
3.3	There are no financial and resource implications for Council at present.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.4	The consultation document confirms that the Department of Health has completed equality, good relations and rural needs screening (links to these provided within the document).
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 – Draft Council Response  Appendix 2 – Council's Response to the Pre-Consultation on the development of the Strategy  Appendix 3 – “Making Life Better – Preventing Harm and Empowering Recovery: A Strategic Framework to Tackle the Harm from Substance Use” (DoH)