



Subject:	Belfast Healthy Cities (Review and Funding 21/22)
Date:	Tuesday 9 th March 2021
Reporting Officer:	Ryan Black, Director of City & Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Kelly Gilliland, Neighbourhood Services Manager, CNS Andrew Steenson, Project Development Senior Officer, BHDU

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	At the meeting of the People and Communities Committee on 8 th September 2020, Members agreed to extend the current partnership agreement with Belfast Healthy Cities, until 31 st March 2021 to allow for the submission of the application for Phase VII of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network and the completion of a value for money review of partnership arrangements with Belfast Healthy Cities, who facilitate the city's membership of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network.
1.2	Good progress has been made on the review of partnership arrangements with Belfast Healthy Cities, with a comprehensive research, review and engagement plan developed and agreed across funding partners and a wide ranging consultation process underway. However, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and associated mitigating restrictions has

1.3	<p>resulted in slower than anticipated progress and negatively impacted the timescale for this work to be completed.</p> <p>Given the significance of this review, Members are asked to agree to an extension of the current partnership agreement with Belfast Healthy Cities to 30th September 2021. This extension which will allow for the completion of the review process which was agreed by all funding partners and the implementation of any recommendations highlighted from the completion of the review.</p>
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the content of the report; and • Agree to extend the current partnership agreement with Belfast Healthy Cities to 30th September 2021.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Belfast's membership to the WHO European Healthy Cities Network is facilitated by Belfast Healthy Cities, who are an independent partnership organisation, recognised as having charitable status by The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. BHC is governed by a Board of Directors, elected annually and representing the public, university, voluntary and community sectors and funded by a range of partners including Council, Public Health Agency (PHA), Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSCT) and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE).</p>
3.2	<p>At the meeting of the People and Communities Committee on 4th June 2019, Members agreed that a review be undertaken of the Departments ongoing partnership agreements with a focus on alignment with the Belfast Agenda and value for money. Included within this review was the partnership agreement with Belfast Healthy Cities.</p>
3.3	<p>Furthermore, at the meeting of the People and Communities Committee on 8th September 2020, Members approved an extension of the current partnership agreement with Belfast Healthy Cities, until 31st March 2021 to allow for the completion of both the value for money review of partnership arrangements with Belfast Healthy Cities and the application process for Phase VII of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network. A formal decision on Belfast's re-designation to the WHO European Healthy Cities Network, is expected in Spring 2021.</p>

3.4	<p>Work, led by independent consultancy support, has been progressing well during the initial phases of the review process. However, due to practical difficulties as a result of the mitigating restrictions associated with the Covid-19 pandemic, progress has been more challenging and has resulted in the need to revise the review timescales. The funding partners for Belfast Healthy Cities (BCC, BHSCT, PHA and NIHE) have collectively agreed the need to extend the review timescale to allow for its full completion as agreed at the outset of the review.</p>
3.5	<p>It is now envisaged the review will be completed by late March 2021, with a report brought back to the both the People and Communities Committee and Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in May 2021, outlining the outcome of the review, recommended actions and implementation timescales.</p>
3.6	<p>Members are asked to approve an extension of the current partnership agreement with Belfast Healthy Cities, until 30th September 2021 to allow for the completion of review and to provide an initial period for transition and implementation of the potential review recommendations. NB All other partners have also agreed to extend their funding agreements to end September 2021.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Extending the current partnership agreement with Belfast Healthy Cities as recommended, would have a financial implication of £40,647. This has been included within the revenue estimates for 2021/22 and does not represent any growth.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no Equality or Good Relations Implications and no Rural Needs Assessment required for the recommendations outlined above.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None