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| <b>Subject:</b>           | Update on the Reference Group on Older People   |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 12th October 2021   |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services   |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Kelly Gilliland, Neighbourhood Manager<br>Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer, Community Provision |

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| <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"/>  |

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

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| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>  |
| 1.1        | The purpose of this report is to report to committee on the key issues discussed at the Reference Group on Older People Meeting held on 13 <sup>th</sup> September 2021.  |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>  |
| 2.1        | The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Note the report and approve the minutes from the Reference Group on Older People meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021.</li><li>• Note the request at 3.5 for Council to support the Commissioner for Older people in Northern Ireland's campaign and whether Belfast City Council should support this via our corporate communication channels .</li></ul> |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Main report</b>  |
|            | <u>Key Issues</u>   |
| 3.1        | The Reference Group on Older People is a working group of the People and Communities Committee which consists of an elected member from each of the political parties.  |

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| 3.2 | <p>The minutes from the Reference Group on Older People are brought before the Committee for approval. The key issues discussed at the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021 meeting were:</p> <p><b><u>Election of Chairperson</u></b></p>   |
| 3.3 | <p>Alderman Copeland was appointed Chairperson for the period ending June 2022.</p> <p><b><u>Update by the Commissioner for Older People for Northern Ireland</u></b></p>  |
| 3.4 | <p>The Commissioner for Older People discussed current issues for older people in Northern Ireland</p>   |
| 3.5 | <p>It was agreed that the working group would make a recommendation to the People and Communities committee that the Council would be supportive of the Commissioner who is requesting that the Northern Ireland Assembly establish a hardship fund to provide financial support for older people, given the future anticipated rise in energy prices and that a press statement or suitable communication in support of this campaign is considered by the committee.</p> <p><b><u>Update on Development of Age-friendly Belfast Plan 2022-2025</u></b></p> |
| 3.6 | <p>The planned process for developing the new Age-friendly plan was outlined to members. It was agreed that a joint meeting be held, with the Greater Belfast Seniors Forum in November 2021</p> <p><b><u>Age-friendly Belfast Activities and Events</u></b></p>   |
| 3.7 | <p>There was a presentation on the activities and events during the last year and on Positive Ageing Month 2021 and the Safe Seniors Packs produce with the Police and Community Safety Partnership.</p> <p><b><u>Climate Engagement by Older People</u></b></p>   |
| 3.8 | <p>The Resilience Coordinator presented an overview of the work undertaken by the Climate Commissioner and her staff. There was discussion as to how to include older people in this.</p>  |

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| <p>3.9</p> <p>3.10</p> | <p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>All events and activities are met within existing resources.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>There are currently no equality or good relation implications in relation to this report.</p> |
| <p><b>4.0</b></p>      | <p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p>  |
|                        | <p>Appendix 1 - Minutes of Reference Group on Older People Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Age-friendly Belfast Positive Aging Month Programme</p>  |