

Report To: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 29th April 2104

Lead Member / Officer: Councillor Bobby Feeley

Report Author: Sandra Jones,
Older People's Strategy Development Officer

Title: Dublin Declaration

1. What is the report about?

A request has been received from the WLGA to sign a pledge, to take forward over the next five years; work based on the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations principles to make their communities more age friendly. The public signing will be known as the Dublin Declaration and forms part of the Irish Republic presidency of the EC. (Please see Appendix 1)

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1 To inform Cabinet about the invitation received from the WLGA to sign up to the Dublin Declaration with other Local Authorities in Wales, the UK and regions within Europe to collaborate on developing policy and practice to create age friendly places by 2020.
- 2.2 To inform Cabinet of the offer from the WLGA to offer one day's free support or Development training to all Welsh Councils on demographic change and/or creating age friendly communities.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1 That Cabinet agree to support DCC signing up to the declaration.
- 3.2 That Cabinet agree to request WLGA support or training on demographic change and/or creating age friendly communities.

4. Report details.

- 4.1 The principles and the commitment proposed within the Dublin Declaration (Appendix1) align fully with existing Welsh policy and local plans to implement the Older People's Strategy in Wales. Phase Three of the Strategy for Older People (2013-2023), launched in May 2013, identified 'creating age friendly places' as a key priority within the overall concept of improving the wellbeing of older people. The contribution of reshaping social, environmental and financial resources to this overall goal is a vital element to achieving success. Councils with the support of the WLGA are best placed to lead this action at local and national level.
- 4.2 Although the signing does not automatically attract funding it will place the Authority within a global and European network that will be working to devise high quality bids

for funding when these come on stream from various sources. For example, the EC has identified a potential pot of €9 billion under the EC Horizon 2020 Health, Democratic Change and Wellbeing stream. The EC Health for Growth Programme (2014-2020) is €446 million.

- 4.3 The WHO have produced a strategy and action plan for *Healthy Ageing in Europe 2012-2020*, which gives invaluable insight into how small and subtle changes can significantly improve the daily lives of older people and how integrated action is the most appropriate way forward. Their strategy is underpinned by; evidence-based practice, toolkits and guidelines to support local agencies amend policy and practice. It articulates “postponing implementation of healthy ageing policies in a period of austerity may prove more costly in the long term and can be counter-productive to the sustainability of agencies and social policy”.
- 4.4 To Support Local Authorities in developing Age Friendly Communities the WLGA are offering in partnership with the new National Wales Ageing Well Programme a free tailored one day workshop that will help us develop and inform our thinking on demographic change and or creating age friendly communities. Those Local Authorities who have signed up to the Dublin declaration will be given priority for the delivery of the WLGA’s free support or training. It will also give the Local Authority access to best practice tools and resources from across Europe.

The Dublin Summit in June 2013 and Declaration of Commitment (Appendix 1)

- 4.5 Under the auspices of the Irish Presidency of the European Union, senior political representatives of European cities, municipalities, communities and regions gathered together at a Summit on “Age friendly communities” in June 13-14 in Dublin. Wales was invited to join a public declaration of signing up to a common set of principles and actions that will be known as the Dublin Declaration. A similar initiative occurred in Madrid in 2007, which helped to strengthen collaborative action across Europe.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

Creating Age Friendly Communities directly contributes to the priority to protect vulnerable people and ensure that they are able to live as independently as possible.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.

Although an equalities impact assessment has not been completed at this time, equality of opportunity for residents will be increased by their living in Age Friendly Communities. It will enable greater empowerment, autonomy, choice and control.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

No local consultation has been completed in the very short timescale available.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report but signing up to the declaration enables the Council to be part of a network that will potentially enable the Authority to leverage future funding opportunities as and when these come on stream

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

No risks can be identified in relation to endorsing this Declaration.

11. Power to make the Decision

The Cabinet is requested to approve the signing of this Declaration.

**THE DUBLIN DECLARATION
ON AGE-FRIENDLY CITIES AND COMMUNITIES IN EUROPE 2013**

On the occasion of the 'EU Summit on Active and Healthy Ageing', held in Dublin, Ireland on the 13-14 June 2013, under the Irish Presidency of the European Union, we, the mayors and senior political representatives of European cities, municipalities, communities and regions unanimously declare the following:

We will:

Promote the 'Dublin Declaration on Age-Friendly Cities and Communities in Europe 2013' (Dublin Declaration 2013) in appropriate national and international forums, fostering the maximum adherence possible to its values, principles and premises, in terms of plans, programmes and resources, in order to implement the commitments in this Declaration within a reasonable period of time.

Collaborate with all relevant regional and local stakeholders to support the full application of the pledges in the Dublin Declaration on Age-Friendly Cities and Communities in Europe 2013, including cooperation with the WHO European Regional Office and its Network of Cities committed to developing age-friendly environments as part of the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. This will involve commencing a multi-year cycle of continual assessment and improvement to make their environments more age-friendly.

Communicate through local and regional channels and networks between the various cities and communities to stimulate and support advances in the promotion of equal rights and opportunities for older citizens and to share learning about advances in policies and practices which improve their lives.

Supporting Pledge

The undersigning cities and communities also pledge, where it is within their area of responsibility and economically feasible, to further the following specific actions, and to incorporate them into key planning instruments to strengthen long term sustainability: Promote among the general public **awareness of older people**, their rights, needs, and potentials, and highlight the positive social, economic and cultural contribution they make.

Ensure that the views and opinions of older people are valued and listened to and that structures and **processes of citizen-centred engagement** are developed to ensure that older people have an adequate involvement in decision making and are actively involved in the design and creation of innovation and change.

Adopt measures to develop **urban spaces and public places** that are inclusive, sharable and desirable to all, including older people, and ensure that publicly used buildings promote the dignity, health and well-being of users of all ages, and are fit for purpose to meet the changing needs of an ageing society.

Promote and support the development of neighbourhoods and communities for all ages that are diverse, safe, inclusive and sustainable, and that include **housing** for older people that is of the highest quality. Particular attention should be given to the needs of older people in assisted living, residential care and nursing homes where their dignity and autonomy is at greater risk.

Work to establish **public transport systems** that are available and affordable to all, including older people, and are 'seamless' within and across the various modes of transport that exist. The transport systems should also promote and facilitate personal transport use, such as cycling and driving by older people.

As these become more difficult, personal alternatives such as affordable taxis and car-pooling, which interconnect with the public system, should be made available.

Promote the **participation of all, including older people, in the social and cultural life** of their community by making available a diverse range of events and activities that are accessible, affordable and tailored to be inclusive of them and promote their integration into the community. This should include the promotion of intergenerational activities.

Promote and support the development of **employment and volunteering opportunities** for all, including older people, and recognise their positive contribution, and include the provision of **lifelong learning** opportunities in order to empower older people and promote their autonomy.

Ensure that a comprehensive and integrated range of affordable, easily accessible, age- friendly and high quality **community support and health services** is available to all, including older people, to include health promotion and prevention programmes, community-based support services, primary care, secondary acute hospital, rehabilitation services, specialist tertiary, long-term residential and compassionate end of life care.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL:

The Leader of Denbighshire County Council – Councillor Hugh Evans

Sig: _____

Date: _____

Denbighshire County Council's Older People Champion-Councillor Bobby Feeley

Sig: _____

Date: _____