

Report on	Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan
Date of Meeting	5 th July 2023
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
Contact Officer	Raisa Donnelly, Age Friendly Coordinator

Is this report restricted for confidential business? If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	The purpose of the report is to update Members on the progress of the Ageing Well Initiative and seek approval for the formal adoption of the enclosed Mid Ulster District Council Age Friendly Strategy and Action plan.
2.0	Background
2.1	Members may be aware that the work on an Age Friendly initiative has been progressed through the existing Community Planning partnerships structures with Mid Ulster Council being the lead partner. The Ageing Well Initiative seeks to ensure that the Mid Ulster District Council area is an area that supports older people. Mid Ulster District Council has received funding from the Public Health Agency for the development of an Age Friendly Alliance, an Age Friendly Charter, an Age Friendly Strategy and associated Action Plan. This work is being developed by the Age Friendly Co-ordinator and the Mid Ulster Age Friendly Alliance.
2.2	In November 2021, Members approved the procurement of external expertise to support the development of the Age Friendly Alliance, Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan (Minute Ref E261/21)
2.3	A 12 week period of public consultation was launched Thursday 16th February 2023 and closed on Friday 12 May 2023.
2.4	The Age Friendly Strategy and 3 Year Action Plan seeks to provide the framework to ensure Mid Ulster is an age-friendly district where older people are valued, engaged, and supported to live healthy, active, fulfilling lives.
2.5	This report provides details of the process to date and the engagement carried out with various stakeholders within Mid Ulster and the Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	In December 2021, a procurement process took place to recruit external expertise to assist in the planning process and development of an Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan for the Mid Ulster District council area.
3.2	From April-December 2022 an extensive consultation period took place with older people and key stakeholders focusing on the 8 key themes identified by World Health Organisations and we identified a number of key priorities about the lives of older people.
3.3	The information gathered provided a baseline for future development, it outlined the positive aspects of residing within the Mid Ulster area and highlighted the priorities we need to address within the Mid Ulster District, helping shape a better Age Friendly Community.
3.4	<p>As part of the consultation process and to enable the general public and key stakeholders to put forward their suggestions for improving the experience of growing older, engagement with approx. 425 people has been carried through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Workshops • 10 Focus Groups – in-depth conversations • Guided Conversations • Postcards • Online survey • Hardcopy surveys • Local, regional and national consultations • 12 week public consultation
3.5	A new Age-friendly structure that aligns with Councils' Community plans has been proposed with the formation of an Age-friendly Alliance to deliver on the 3-year Age-friendly Strategy and Action Plan. The Age-friendly Co-ordinator will be responsible for engaging with the Older Persons forum and will report back to the Strategic Alliance on a continual basis to enable effective co-production and consultation with older people throughout all stages of the Age-friendly Strategy and Action plan and any other local issues. The 1st Age Friendly Alliance Meeting was held on 22nd March 2023.
3.6	This is a co-production and people-led process where local people and organisations have made contributions on what it is like to live in their area. Their views informed this three-year action plan for delivery. The various stakeholders have offered invaluable insights to key challenges, solutions, and further engagement. The action plan (Appendix A) contains 8 theme and outcomes, 35 actions with desired goals with Action leads assigned. The actions will enable the Age Friendly Alliance members to work towards their aspirations set out within the strategy. Actions are proposed to be continually reviewed each year.

	Feedback from the consultation process including the 12 week public consultation have been considered as part of the enclosed Mid Ulster District Council Age Friendly Strategy and Action plan for Members consideration.
3.7	The Age Friendly Co-ordinator continues to meet the PHA objectives by working alongside Mid Ulster Loneliness Network, Mid Ulster Disability Forum, Mid Ulster Seniors Network and Mid Ulster Age Well to further develop a positive ageing community within Mid Ulster.
3.8	Should Members be minded to approve the enclosed strategy and action plan, it is proposed that the Age Friendly Co-Ordinator along with the Mid Ulster Loneliness Network will coordinate a show case event to mark the networks 2nd birthday and at the same time seek to launch the Mid Ulster Age Friendly Strategy and action plan during September 2023.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u> Financial: Costs for strategy development, design and print of strategy contained within annual grant funding received from the PHA. Human: Officer time. Risk Management: Considered in line with relevant Council Policies and Procedures.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments Equality & Good Relations Implications: Screened as part of strategy development and considered in line with Council Policies and Procedures. Rural Needs Implications: Screened as part of strategy development and considered in line with Council Policies and Procedures.
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	To note the contents of this report and give approval for the formal adoption of the enclosed Mid Ulster District Council Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix A: Mid Ulster Age Friendly Strategic Plan 2023-2026 Appendix B: Mid Ulster Age Friendly Strategic Plan 2023-2026 (Easy Read)