

<b>Report on</b>	Draft Age Friendly Strategy and Action plan
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> January 2023
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Raisa Donnelly, Age Friendly Coordinator

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	The purpose of the report is to update Members on the progress of the Ageing Well Initiative and share a draft of the Mid Ulster District Council Age Friendly Strategy and Action plan prior to the launch of the public consultation.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Members will 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 an Action Plan. This work is being developed by the Age Friendly co-ordinator.
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	This report provides details of the process to date and the engagement carried out with various stakeholders within Mid Ulster and the draft Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan for public consultation.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
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	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. 419 people has been carried out to date through:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 Workshops</li> <li>• 10 Focus Groups – in-depth conversations</li> <li>• Guided Conversations</li> <li>• Postcards</li> <li>• Online survey</li> <li>• Hardcopy surveys</li> <li>• Local, regional and national consultations</li> </ul>
3.5	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 draft action plan for delivery. The various stakeholders have offered invaluable insights to key challenges, solutions, and further engagement. The draft action plan (Appendix A) contains actions that 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.
3.6	The public consultation will be launched during February 2022 and will be live for a period of up to 12 weeks. Thereafter, feedback will be considered and a final strategy will be presented to a future Development committee for Members consideration.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Human Resources Implications</u></b></p> <p>Financial: Costs for strategy development contained within annual grant funding received from the PHA.</p> <p>Human: Officer time.</p> <p>Risk Management: Considered in line with relevant Council Policies and Procedures.</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<p><b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b></p> <p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications: To be considered in line with Council Policies and Procedures.</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: To be considered in line with Council Policies and Procedures.</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	To note the contents of this report.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix A: Draft Mid Ulster Age Friendly Strategic Plan 2023-2026