

<p>Title of Report:</p> <p>Derry and Strabane Healthy City and District – World Health Organisation European Healthy Cities Network</p>	<p>Officer Presenting: Director of Health & Community</p> <p>Author: Erin Mc Feely, CE, Developing Healthy Communities</p>
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1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations

- 1.1 To present Derry and Strabane’s application to the World Health Organisation’s European Healthy Cities Network for Phase VII (2019-2025) designation. (Appendix 1)
- 1.2 To gain approval for the final application which has been informed through cross sector stakeholder engagement and endorsed by the Healthy Cities Leadership Group, including the Public Health Agency and the Western Health and Social Care Trust.
- 1.3 To seek the support of the Health and Community Committee for a Council resolution supporting Derry and Strabane’s participation in Phase VII in order to fulfil the application requirement.

2 Background

- 2.1 Derry City and Strabane District Council has successfully completed Phase V (2009-2014) and Phase VI (2014-2019) of the World Health Organisation (WHO) European Healthy Cities Network.
- 2.2 An Expression of Interest to join Phase VII of the Network was submitted to WHO in February 2019. Following a pause due to COVID-19, the final application has now been completed.
- 2.3 Phase VII Designation for Derry and Strabane will demonstrate our commitment to global leadership in tackling health inequalities.

- 2.4 Healthy Cities champion a collaborative and holistic approach to tackling health inequalities. The Healthy Cities Network encourages partnerships and innovation to flourish and will therefore support our recovery from COVID-19.
- 2.5 Derry and Strabane Healthy Cities Conference took place online in May 2021 and was opened by the Mayor. The Conference showcased best practice examples from our area which aligned to the Healthy Cities Phase VII Framework. (People, Place, Prosperity, Planet, Participation and Peace)
- 2.6 Ninety participants (from Council, health, business, academic and community organisations) attended the Healthy Cities Conference. Feedback gathered through breakout rooms at the Conference informed the final application.
- 2.7 A stakeholder survey (incl. regional Government Departments) and written submissions from the PHA and DCSDC have also informed the application.
- 2.8 The Healthy Cities designation application is fully aligned to existing strategic initiatives including; the Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan and the City Deal.

3 Key Issues

Process for Designation

- 3.1 The completed application must include a copy of the Council resolution supporting participation in Phase VII and a letter of support from the Mayor.
- 3.2 When the required documentation is submitted to WHO, screening and evaluation will take place. Technical experts will assess the application and make recommendations to the Scientific Committee. The Scientific Committee will either recommend the application for designation or make recommendations for improvement in order to fulfil the criteria.

Summary points from Application

- 3.3 Derry City & Strabane's Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan includes strategic planning for health in the city and district. The November 2019 Statement of Progress on the plan analyses economic, health, environmental and social data to assess Derry City & Strabane's progress towards its health goals, satisfying the WHO's requirement for a City Health Profile.

- 3.4 The city and district has already begun to progress against the WHO's three goals and six themes¹ for Phase VII, and will continue to do so by taking forward the principles and actions outlined in the City Deal and Inclusive Future Fund, Climate Adaptation Plan and Natural Capital Account, as well as the Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan.
- 3.5 Initiatives from statutory bodies including the PHA, HSC and the Western Trust (for example, the move to an Integrated Care Model) will also help the city and district progress within the WHO's goals and themes in Phase VII.
- 3.6 Derry City & Strabane District can be proud of several examples of good practice including: Northern Ireland's first council-level climate adaptation plan, integrating up-to-date mental health approaches into a proud history of peace-building (The Mind, Body and Soul Project), and encouraging sustainable choices from birth with access to an affordable community resource (the Zero Waste North West Nappy Library).
- 3.7 In Phase VII, the city and district will progress action on health across three priority areas: the use of green and blue spaces as a resource for physical and mental health (NW Greenway, Clooney Masterplan), investment in medical education and innovation for the benefit of local communities (City Deal and Inclusive Future Fund, UU Magee Medical School), and streetscape projects that prioritise pedestrians and prosperity (Street Life Regeneration plan, City Deal and Inclusive Future Fund).

4 Implications

Equality, Rural Needs, Climate Change and Data Protection

- 4.1 The application presents best practice examples from Derry and Strabane of our leadership in tackling health inequalities.

¹ Goal 1: Fostering health and well-being for all and reducing health inequities, Goal 2: Leading by example nationally, regionally and globally, Goal 3: Supporting implementation of WHO strategic priorities. Theme 1: Investing in the people who make up our cities, Theme 2: Designing urban places that improve health and well-being, Theme 3: Greater participation and partnerships for health and well-being, Theme 4: Improved community prosperity and access to common goods and services, Theme 5: Promoting peace and security through inclusive societies, Theme 6: Protect the planet from degradation, leading by example, including through sustainable consumption and production

- 4.2 'Planet' is one of the six key themes of the Phase VII Healthy Cities Framework and therefore our leadership in tackling climate change is also illustrated within the application.
- 4.3 The Situational Analysis that accompanies the designation application acknowledges the health inequality impacts experienced within the rural communities of our district. (Appendix 2)
- 4.4 The designation process will involve technical and scientific evaluation of the application and of our commitment to equality, rural needs and climate change. If necessary, WHO will make recommendations in order to strengthen the application.

Financial, Legal, HR, Improvement and Other

- 4.5 The World Health Organisation will implement regular monitoring and evaluation for Phase VII designated Healthy Cities.
- 4.6 Derry and Strabane District Council pays an annual contribution of \$6,000USD to WHO to be part of the Healthy Cities Network.
- 4.7 By maximising the profile of and local engagement with Healthy Cities, DCSDC will get better value for money from its annual contribution to WHO.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 That the Health and Community Committee approve the final application as presented in this report.
- 5.2 That the Health and Community Committee seeks a Council resolution supporting city participation in Phase VII of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network.
- 5.3 That the Health and Community Committee supports the submission of the final application and required supporting documents to the WHO European Healthy Cities Office at the earliest opportunity.

Background Papers

Appendix 1: WHO European Healthy Cities Network Phase VII Application

Appendix 2: WHO European Healthy Cities Network Phase VII Situational Analysis Report

Implementation Framework for Phase VII (2019-2024) of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network: Goals, Requirements and Strategic Approaches [A4 Prelims English public distribution \(who.int\)](#)

Watch every presentation from the Healthy Cities Conference
<https://www.dhcni.com/News/watch-every-presentation-from-the-derry-city-and-strabane-healthy-cities-conference>

The Political Statement 'Declaration of Healthy Cities for Building Forward Better' reiterates commitment to the [Copenhagen Consensus of Mayors](#) and the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) and aligns with:

- The [WHO manifesto for a green and healthy recovery](#)
- [WHO European Programme of Work \(EPW\) 2020-2025: United Action for Better Health in Europe](#)