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FULL COUNCIL REPORT

Date Written	September 2014
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Service Area	Adult Services
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	5 th November 2014

To: Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen

Dublin Declaration

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

To inform Council about the invitation received from the Welsh Local Government Agency (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 communities by 2020.

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 A request has been received by the Leader and Chief Executive of the Council to sign a pledge to take forward work based on the World Health Organisation (WHO) over the next five years. This aim being to pledge support to the WHO and United Nations principles to make their communities more age friendly. The public signing is referred to as the Dublin Declaration and forms part of the Irish Republic presidency of the EC.
- 1.2 The Dublin Declaration is a pledge that was signed by Mayors and senior political representatives from Councils across Europe on 13th June 2013 at the EU Summit on Active and Healthy Ageing. It can also be signed remotely and this is currently being facilitated via the WLGA and the Ageing Well in Wales programme.
- 1.3 The principles and the commitment proposed within the Dublin Declaration align fully with existing Welsh policy and local plans to implement the Older People Strategy in Wales and locally.

- 1.4 To support Local Authorities in developing Age Friendly Communities the new National Wales Ageing Well Programme will provide access to customised resources, advice and support from the Generations Together Cymru programme to facilitate training and learning sets to assist in developing and informing their thinking on demographic change and or creating age friendly communities.

2.0 CONTEXT

- 2.1 Europe has a rapidly ageing population and parts of Wales can already see the effects of demographic change, within their communities and on their resources, with a significant and growing percentage of their communities now 50+ years. Councils are already planning to adapt but there is value in sharing and learning from others to create a coordinated and strategic approach across Wales.
- 2.2 The public sector and governments at all levels accept that future policy and practice will need to reflect this unprecedented global trend and that greater emphasis on integrated policies that connect agendas for the environment, housing, health and social care is the most appropriate way forward.
- 2.3 The Ageing Well in Wales Programme, of which local authorities are key strategic partners, is linking with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and European Networks to ensure that Wales has the opportunity to participate and collaborate at a local and national level.
- 2.4 Within the Welsh and local context, the public sector and in particular local councils consistently recognise that integrated policy and practice, working with and listening to communities whilst placing the voice of older people at the centre of local delivery is the way forward to reshape places, policies and practice. Councils have led the way in implementing joined up action as part of the Older People's Strategy and the first round of Integrated Plans is a key vehicle to capitalise on the connectivity of aligning local authority, the NHS and other partners' contributions.
- 2.5 Phase Three of the Strategy for Older People (2013-2023), launched in May 2013, identifies the need to focus on 'creating age friendly places' as a key priority within the overall concept of improving the wellbeing of older people (defined as 50yrs+). The contribution made by reshaping social, environmental and financial resources to focus on this overall goal is a vital element to achieving success. Councils therefore are best placed to lead this action at local and national level.
- 2.6 Signage to the Dublin Declaration has been discussed with the 50+ forum and agreed by the Older People's Champion.

3.0 BENEFITS FOR THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

- 3.1 Signing the declaration will provide further confirmation of this Council's dedication and commitment and will provide recognition on an international stage of the Council's leadership in this area. Overall it will enable the Council to participate in a coordinated network across Wales which will work to adapt the guidelines and toolkits of the WHO to best fit within communities and locations that align with Wales.

- 3.2 Signing does not automatically attract funding but 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.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The declaration and the WHO do not ask for specific resources to be declared. A statement of intent supported by local action plans approved by individual agencies is sufficient.
- 4.2 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

5.0 SINGLE INTEGRATED PLAN AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT SUMMARY

- 5.1 The Single Integrated Plan & Sustainability Impact Assessment has been completed and the proposals positively impact on a number of aspects of the Corporate Plan and Single Integrated Plan, including people in Merthyr Tydfil having the opportunity and aspiration to learn and develop their skills; and people, who live and work in Merthyr Tydfil are supported to enjoy a healthier and better quality of life. No negative impacts have been identified.

6.0 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) screening form has been prepared for the purpose of this report. It has been found that a full EqIA Report is required. Both forms can be accessed on the Council's website/intranet via the 'Equality Impact Assessment' link.
- 6.1.1 The positive impacts are the promotion of Age Friendly communities with a focus on Older People's issues.
- 6.1.2 There are no negative impacts as the Dublin Declaration requires local authorities wherever possible to collaborate and communicate whilst considering the needs and wants of Older People in planning.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that

- 7.1 A public declaration of intent as set out by the proposed Dublin Declaration be made.
- 7.2 The thematic network on creating Age friendly communities coordinated by the Ageing Well in Wales programme be participated in.

- 7.3 Further dialogue through the WLGA with the WHO for Wales to contribute to adapting their guidelines for communities using Welsh communities as pilot sites be supported.

SUZANNE GRIFFITHS
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
WLGA Briefing Paper	April 2013	Lowri Rees, Unit 5, Pentrebach

Consultation has been undertaken with the Corporate Management Team in respect of each proposal(s) and recommendation(s) set out in this report.