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2 October 2014

Global Network of Ageing Friendly Cities and Communities
FCH/ALC
Main Building
World Health Organisation
Avenue Appia 20
1211 Geneva 27
SWITZERLAND

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: World Health Organisation Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities

It is with great pleasure that I write to you in relation to Liverpool City Council's application to join the World Health Organisation (WHO) Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities and to commit to the Network's cycle of continual improvement.

We have undertaken extensive work in planning for population ageing in the Liverpool Local Government Area (LGA), most notably developing an Ageing Strategy 2014-2017 that links to other plans within Council such as the Community Strategic Plan. The Ageing Strategy is a mechanism by which Council has, and will, engage with older people, the wider community, business and other levels of government to improve the health and wellbeing of older people who live in or visit the Liverpool LGA.

Detailed below is a brief outline of the ways in which the Ageing Strategy and the process of its development, implementation and review, satisfies the requirements of the Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

1. Establishment of mechanisms to involve older people throughout the Age-friendly Cities and Communities cycle

The development of the Ageing Strategy has involved older people in the following ways:

- Liverpool City Council Senior and Retirees Discussion Paper, based on direct consultation with older residents (2011);

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- Liverpool City Council Strategic Plan consultations, involving consultations with older people (2012);
- Consultation with the Liverpool Seniors' Network (November 2013);
- Ageing Strategy Survey (paper based and on-line) (2013/2014);
- Consultation with seniors accessing multicultural respite services (NSW Department of Family and Community Services, Inner South West Sydney Branch) (March, 2014);
- Consultation with seniors accessing multicultural health services (NSW Health, South Western Sydney Local Health District) (May, 2014); and
- Discussions with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Development Workers and service providers (Liverpool City Council; Sydney South West Area LHD, Aboriginal Health and Community Health - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders group) (2014).

Older people will continue to be engaged in the delivery of the Strategy via:

- Planned community forums for seniors groups in order to provide an opportunity for older people to provide input into local priorities and activities; and
- Planned establishment of a Seniors Advisory Committee, or other advisory committee involving seniors as representatives (these are draft activities in the Action Plan).

2. Development of a baseline assessment of the age-friendliness of the city and community

Development of the Ageing Strategy 2014-2017 included a gap analysis of Liverpool City against the eight domains outlined in Global Age-friendly Cities: A Guide.

3. Development of a 3-year city-wide action plan based on the findings of this assessment

Following the consultation period and gap analysis, the areas identified for further improvement or enhancement formed the basis of the actions outlined in the final Ageing Strategy. The Strategy covers a three year period.

The Ageing Strategy is linked to Council's long term Community Strategic Plan - Growing Liverpool 2023 by way of incorporating the strategies outlined in the Ageing Strategy into Council's 4 year Delivery Program and annual Operational Plan. These Plans allocate responsibilities for the delivery of the Ageing Strategy and are integrated into individual work plans.

4. Identification of indicators to monitor progress against this plan

Council's 4 year Delivery Program and annual Operational Plan include performance indicators and delivery targets that enable progress to be monitored. Furthermore, each year, Council publishes Annual Reports that provide the community with detailed information on the actions completed against these Plans.

We are confident that the aforementioned commitments by Council satisfy the requirements of the Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. In doing so, we hope to create new opportunities for older people to improve their physical health and well-being as well as increase their social participation and connectedness.

On behalf of Liverpool City Council and the community of Liverpool, I look forward to becoming part of the Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

Yours sincerely



Ned Mannoun
Mayor