

31st March 2022

**The World Health Organisation  
Headquarters in Geneva  
Avenue Appia 20  
1211 Geneva  
Switzerland**

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re GLOBAL NETWORK OF AGE FRIENDLY CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**

As Mayor of Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, and with the approval of our Elected Representatives, I am pleased to submit this letter of commitment to the World Health Organisation in support of Council's application to become a member of the Age Friendly Cities and Communities Global Network.

Mid and East Antrim, with a population of 139,443 people, covers an area of just over 400 square miles. Extending from the River Bann in the west to the beautiful Antrim coast in the east, it includes part of the Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. As well as the main town of Ballymena, Carrickfergus and Larne, the borough has a wide range of villages and other small settlements.

In 2015 18.1% of the population in Mid and East Antrim was aged 65 and over. By 2030 it is projected that this figure will have increased to 24.6%, the second highest level in Northern Ireland. Significant increases are projected in the population of those aged 85 and over during the next 10 years, which will have implications for the provision of many public services. Ageing also leads to different challenges in terms of a rise in dementia including Alzheimer's disease, increasing demand for residential and home care services and how we support older people to live well at home and within their communities. We will need to ensure that services and communities can respond to these demands.

We are proud of the work we have already undertaken to make our borough an Age Friendly community. Our Community Planning process has identified "Responding to and Ageing Society" as one of our core strategic priorities within our 15 year Community Plan "Putting People First" (2017-2032) to achieve the desired outcome that "*Our older people are active, respected and supported in their community*".

Our Council have also led a partnership to obtain services for "Ageing Well" in the Borough. The Ageing Well model is based on a community planning led partnership approach to support and promote longer, independent and quality living for older people. We have an established and thriving strategic engagement group for older people in "Mid and East Antrim Age Well Partnership." This group is made up of older citizens, Mid and East Antrim Council Representatives, Health Service Colleagues, NI Fire and Rescue, and other partners and it feeds into our very active network of Older Persons' Forums.

Please reply to:

□ **Head Office**  
The Braid  
1-29 Bridge Street  
Ballymena BT43 5EJ

□ **Ballymena Office**  
Ardeevin  
80 Galgorm Road  
Ballymena BT42 1AB

□ **Carrickfergus Office**  
Museum & Civic Centre  
11 Antrim Street  
Carrickfergus BT38 7DG

□ **Larne Office**  
Smiley Buildings  
Victoria Road  
Larne BT40 1RU

□ **Planning Office**  
County Hall  
182 Galgorm Road  
Ballymena BT42 1QL

**Chief Executive  
Anne Donaghy**

Our plans to develop a Strategic Alliance will build on the strong networks, bonds and commitment that we know exists across the borough to promote health and independence for our older citizens for as long as possible. We will also continue to co-produce services and support that have accessibility, inclusiveness, caring and an informed sense of appreciation of older adult needs at their core.

Membership of the World Health Organisation Global Network will help us to achieve our aim of making Mid and East Antrim a positive place for ageing well and I respectfully request that consideration be given to our membership application.

We look forward to becoming part of the WHO Global Network for Age Friendly Communities, working together with communities around the world to achieve and promote our shared Age Friendly vision.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William McCaughey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mayor Councillor William McCaughey  
Mid and East Antrim Borough Council