

SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

MONDAY 11th APRIL, 2022

MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillors Kyle, Carson, Lyons and McMullan.

External Members: Ms. B. Arthurs, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Superintendent Ford, PSNI;
Mr. A. Hannaway, NIHE;
Miss. K. Jardine, Faith Sector;
Mr. M. McBride, Education Authority;
Ms. A. Roberts, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Ms. A. Tohill, Good Relations, TEO; and
Ms. A. M. White, British Red Cross.

In attendance: Ms. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager;
Ms. D. McKinney, PEACE IV Programme Manager; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Councillor O'Hara and also from Mr. J. Donnelly, Miss. G. Duggan and Mr. I. McLaughlin.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 7th March 2022 were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

Ms. A. Tohill declared an interest in Peace IV update reports 3(a) to 3 (d) in that she sat on the SEUPB PEACE IV Steering Group Committee and that, as the accountable Department, The Executive Office had committed funding towards the Peace IV Programme.

Mrs. B. Arthurs declared an interest in item 3 (e), namely, Peace IV Updates – update on BPR Theme, in that she was an employee of the Forward South Partnership, which acts as the delivery agent for one of the Peace IV projects and left the meeting whilst the item was being considered.

Membership of Partnership

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. A. Hannaway, representing the NIHE, and Superintendent Ford, PSNI, to their first meeting of the Partnership and, on behalf of the Partnership, he thanked Mrs. J. Hawthorne and Superintendent Pollock for the valuable contribution that they had both made to the Partnership.

The Chairperson also advised that Ms. G. Mornhinweg, HSCNI representative, had resigned from the Partnership and again recorded thanks to her. He advised the Members

that Ms. Mornhinweg's husband had passed away suddenly and asked that a letter of condolence be forwarded on behalf of the Partnership.

Noted.

Health and Social Care Trust (HSCT) Presentation on the Development of the Good Relations Strategy

The Chairperson reminded the Partnership that it had agreed to receive a presentation from the Health and Social Care Trust (HSCT) on the Development of its new Good Relations Strategy.

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Ms. Caroline McMenamin, Planning & Equality Manager, HSCT.

Ms. McMenamin thanked the Partnership for the opportunity to present. With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, available [here](#), she provided the Members with an update on the progress made with the development of the Trust's new Good Relations Strategy.

The representative concluded her presentation by emphasising the need for engagement on the new Strategy. She advised that the Trust hoped to involve as many people as possible to obtain their views on the new Strategy including carers, staff and external agencies and she encouraged the Members of the Partnership to share the undernoted information within their individual sectors to encourage engagement:

We want to Hear from YOU

Think about our HSC Regional Good Relations Statement and the 3 main themes:

**Challenging Racism
and Sectarianism**

**Respect, Fairness &
Dignity for all**

**Shared, welcoming and
safe spaces for service
users and staff**

We want to know:

- What is working well in Belfast Trust?
- What could we do to make things better?
- How will we know we have succeeded and things are better?

To get **involved** or to get **more information** please contact caroline.mcmenamin@belfasttrust.hscni.net

During questions, Ms. McMenamin advised that the following issues continued to be highlighted as challenges faced by both users and staff:

- Language barriers – particularly whilst trying to contact GP surgeries;
- Digital isolation;
- Sharps disposal; and

- Prescription service issues.

The Members highlighted the need for there to be a specific focus on asylum seeker and refugee's health needs to ensure that the correct resourcing reached those in need.

The representative advised that she would be keen to discuss the development of the strategy with the Members individually, this would enable them to raise and highlight specific issues within their sectors, and she encouraged them to make contact with her.

The Chairperson thanked the representative for her informative presentation and wished the Trust well with the development of the new Strategy and she left the meeting.

Noted.

Peace IV Update Reports

Secretariat Update

The PEACE IV Programme Manager provided the Members with an update in respect of the Secretariat activity associated with the implementation of the Peace IV Local Action Plan.

The Members were advised that the project activity and project modifications to enable delivery was continuing to be closely monitored and asked to note the discussions on operational issues that had been progressed with the SEUPB as outlined in the Thematic reports.

The officer continued that, as agreed at the previous meeting, following discussions with the SEUPB on operational matters, a business case, outlining the expected level of achievement of delivery, had been submitted to the SEUPB Steering Group for consideration, using the delegated authority granted at the March meeting.

The officer then drew the Members' attention to the key highlights of the business case. She highlighted the critical need for the Council to have greater flexibility of tolerances to be able to manage the programme effectively. She also referred to the broad scope of projects and the differing stages in delivery which required a range of mitigations specific to each project.

The mitigations requested included:

- extended delivery timeframes to March 2023;
- flexible and condensed delivery approaches, such as residential to enable the achievement of contact hours;
- increase in OIG tolerances for contact hours as participants did not have the same level of commitment to projects;
- replacement of cross border activity with day activity and/or residential;
- budget realignment to cover increased costs; and
- reduction in cross border, UK, EU visits, networking events, study trips and residential activity, relevant to BPR3 and BPR4 projects.

The Partnership was advised that the anticipated participant achievement level across the programme varied significantly due to the target groups, nature and stage of delivery of the project. She reported that the CYP3 Personal Change had achieved 100% of targets

whereas BPR2 was estimating a 55% achievement of participant targets with an extended timeframe to September 2022.

The expected level of achievement, subject to mitigations, was then summarised as follows:

- CYP Theme is 72% of the participant target;
- BPR Theme is 66% of the participant target; and
- SSS Theme is 75% of the participant target and full achievement of capital works.

The Partnership noted that, given the challenges faced over the last 2 years and the residual impacts of the pandemic still being experienced, the Council was of the view that the targets and mitigations required were realistic.

The Programme Manager advised that a successful and inspiring Future Peacebuilders Conference had taken place on 8th March and that planning was currently underway for the next event scheduled to be held in April 2022, a workshop, focusing on Life Beyond the Walls, with Mr. J. Byrne in the Spectrum Centre.

The Programme Manager highlighted that resource pressures within the PEACE IV team continued. Recruitment for vacant posts was ongoing with the post of Project Development Officer having recently been recruited, in addition, where possible agency staff had been recruited. She advised that, given the increase in activity work pressures continued, the staff resources remained a significant risk to the delivery of the Programme.

The Members noted that, as previously reported, the total spend of the programme to date up to Period 29 (January 22), was £6.2m. The SEUPB had reimbursed claims up to Period 26 (Apr 21) claims totalling £4.78m. Reimbursement of claims for Periods 27-29 (May 2021 – Jan 2022) remained outstanding with a combined value of £1.4m.

The officer detailed that concern regarding the volume and value of outstanding claims had been raised with the SEUPB and recent correspondence from the Director of the SEUPB's Managing Authority had outlined a timeframe for reimbursement, as follows:

Ref. No.	Total value (€)	No. of claims	Ready for certification*		In progress**		Samples waiting to be drawn***	
			Q/E Mar '22	Q/E June '22	Q/E Mar '22	Q/E June '22	Q/E Mar '22	Q/E June '22
4096	438,453.59	6	3					3
4097	304,293.38	3	2					1
4098	939,338.88	6	3					3

The Members were asked to note that a further Period 29 claim for the submission of SSS capital works, valued at £327K had been prepared for submission on eMs and further guidance on the submission approach had been sought from the SEUPB.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it agree the key elements of the business case, the anticipated level of achievement and mitigations required across the programme.

Presentation from CYP4 Young Advocates

(Ms. Leanne Holmes, CYP Thematic Manager, attended in connection with this item).

The Chairperson welcomed Ms. Anne-Anderson Porter, Director of Operations for Co-Operation Ireland, Mr. Aron Hughes and Mr Pearse Smyth, Peer Mentors of the Project , Miss. Naomi McGrady and Miss. Katie Mullan (Young Advocate Participants) to the meeting.

The CYP Thematic Manager commenced by providing an overview of the context for the presentation to the SCP by the CYP4 Young Advocates delivery partner Co-Operation Ireland, and the Young Advocates participants from Twinbrook, Shankill Road, Turf Lodge, and East Belfast.

She reported that, since 2018, 80 young people (aged 16-24) from across Belfast had taken part in the Young Advocates project, this had focused on personal development and building up the leadership skills of young people across the city. The project had targeted participants from neighbourhood renewal areas and used the citizenship intervention model to enable participants to actively champion issues affecting young people.

As with most of the projects, delivery of the project had been affected by the pandemic and the associated government restrictions, with activity having been paused for a period. Following the relaxation of restrictions, the most recent cohort of participants had progressed with the development of a social media campaign. The young people had designed and launched a campaign entitled Share2BAware.

The officer reported that The Young Advocates project was ending in April 2022, having achieved the required participant targets. A cross border closure conference was planned for 23rd April.

The Members noted that learning from the project and the campaign had helped to built lasting relationships with the young people involved and had equipped them to be advocates for peaceful change and future leaders.

At this stage in proceedings she handed over to representatives who proceeded to present on the details of the new Share2BAware Campaign.

The Members were advised that the campaign had been designed by the Young Advocates to try and raise awareness of sexual harassment. It had been officially launched on 11th March, in Crumlin Road Gaol, with the launch having been attended by the Justice Minister, Mrs. Naomi Long, and Councillor Kyle as Chairperson of the Partnership.

The campaign had been developed in collaboration with the sexual abuse charity NEXUS NI and included an animation film, followed by a social media campaign, which was the first of its kind in Northern Ireland.

The Members then viewed and extract from the animation film available [here](#)

The representatives concluded their presentation by highlighting that statistics showed that sexual offenses were on the rise. The Young Advocates stated that they were keen to play a part in raising awareness of this important issue and in educating young people on sexual harassment, its impact on victims and to highlight how victims could access support.

The Partnership endorsed the Share2BAware Campaign and noted that they would be keen to utilise and promote this important educational tool within the appropriate settings.

Several of the Members thanked the young people for their work in developing the campaign and for attending the Partnership to raise awareness of this important issue.

During discussion it was agreed that the Democratic Services officer would circulate the link for the animation film promoting the Share2BAware campaign to all Members of the Partnership to enable the Members to share it within their sectors. The TEO representative also advised that she would be keen to promote the campaign via the TEO Intranet.

The Partnership recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee endorse the Share2BAware campaign and agree, where possible, to circulate and promote the campaign.

Children and Young People (CYP) Update

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

To provide the Shared City Partnership (SCP) with a progress report in respect of the Children and Young People’s (CYP) theme of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan.

2.0 Recommendations

The Partnership is requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that they note the contents of the report.

3.0 Main report

Project Updates

3.1 CYP 1 – TECH CONNECTS, GIGA Training (Afterschool’s and Digital Arts Academies) (Tech Camps) (6-11, 12-16 yr. olds)

GIGA Training has registered between 80 – 100 young people for participation in Tech Camps over the Easter Holidays, week commencing 18 – 22 April 2022. Venues include City Church, Strand Cinema and Avoneil Leisure Centre. With current performance at 55% (386 of target of 859), the delivery agent is increasing activity and exploring larger venues for summer delivery. Giga anticipate full delivery of targets as long as social distancing measures/wider Covid restrictions are not reintroduced.

Age Group	Target	YTD Date	<u>(All contracts end Sept 22)</u>
6-11 Year Olds:	399	228	171 Remaining
12-16 Year Olds:	460	159	301 Remaining
Total	859	387	472 Remaining

CYP 1 – TECH CONNECTS, Belfast Metropolitan College (Digital Insights Programme) (17-24 yr. olds)

Members are asked to note approval from SEUPB to permit 35% of cross community contact time within a school setting, which will be more attractive to participants as uptake of afterschool activity is lower within this age group as some young people have part time jobs or caring responsibilities. Belfast Metropolitan College are exploring options to condense delivery and to make it more appealing to take part.

Total	66 from a target of 160	94 remaining (contract ends Sept 22)
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3.2 CYP 2 - Playing our Part in the City

Active Communities Network completed a celebration / closure event at Shankill Leisure Centre 22 March 2022. With representation from SCP, PSNI and participants who have taken part in the programme to date. The purpose was to acknowledge achievements and celebrate friendships made throughout the different cohorts. Programme will be proceeding to final report stage with submission of some case studies of young people, to evidence the impact made of the Playing our Part.

Total	610 young people from a target of 640 109 Parents from a target of 100	Progressing to Closure
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3.3 CYP3 – On the Right Track – Sports and Personal Change elements

Additional resources have been added to the project to aid delivery and recruit sports groups. Sixteen pairs of sports groups have been identified, with 20 young people within each group.

The Lead officer is progressing with confirming schedules of registered groups and confirming approach, whether day activity or residential. The delivery approach is different for each partnership as each group have varying league commitments. Officers are working closely with ACN to achieve condensed delivery across several weekends, rather than on a weekly basis, to complete OCN qualifications. A social media post is also being drafted with links to the programme flyer, for release to highlight the programme across the various online platforms.

However, members are reminded of the high risk associated with this project due to the high targets. Consideration to reduce targets has been included within a business case planned for submission to SEUPB. Lead Officer to review budget to confirm if funds are available to extend to December 2022.

Total	645 from a target of 1800	1155 remaining (contract ends Sept 22)
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Personal Change

The project status is being finalised as complete, based on 100% completion of outputs and outcomes. The final closure event, in the form of a celebration and closure event, took place on 2 March 2022 in the MAC, St Anne's Square, Belfast.

The short story from *Morrow*, which showcased the highlights and achievements of the project premiered on the evening.

The final reporting, case studies and evaluation are to be submitted to enable final payments to be progressed by the secretariat.

Total	42 from a target of 42	0 remaining
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3.4 CYP 4 – Cooperation Ireland (Young Advocates)

Following the successful launch of the social media campaign / animation focused on sexual harassment, members are asked to note the young people have been invited to present to the SCP. Over 90 people including the Minister of Justice attended the launch at Crumlin Road Gael, details were included in the previous month's papers.

The target of 80 participants has been achieved with participants having completed 60 hours cross community contact time. The young people's conference is to take place on 23 April 2022, potentially at the Titanic building. Location will be confirmed and invites to members will be circulated by secretariat. Post conference, end surveys and the final report will be submitted, and this programme will be able to be officially closed.

Total	81 from a target of 80	0 remaining - Due to finish April 22
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3.5 CYP 5 – NIHE Local Area Network Partner Delivery

Members are reminded of the high risk and high targets associated with this project.

Members are asked to note whilst there has been limited additional recruitment during this period, the hours of delivery for current participants have been increased.

NIHE have submitted an updated implementation plan with a reduction in outputs identified. This reduction in hours and participants has been included within the business case being drafted to SEUPB by secretariat.

Procurement is ongoing with training on Anti-racism and Peer Mentoring being sourced at present, to offer to participant groups. NIHE have exhausted the salary budget line and are at present reviewing options. One of the options include allocating internal

NIHE funds towards facilitating the GRO salary, during the potential extension from June 2022 to December 2022.

Total	143 from a target of 900	757 remaining (Contract ends Sept 22)
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3.6 Financial and Resource Implications

The financial position for the CYP theme is as previously reported with £1.66m submitted to SEUPB for verification. To date claims up to Period 26, totalling £1.29m has been reimbursed and a further £370K is outstanding and yet to be verified.

3.7 Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

The draft plan has been equality screened and discussed at the Equality Consultative Forum on 13 May 2015. The Equality Consultative Forum was further consulted on 18 Nov 2020.”

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it note the contents of the report.

Shared Spaces and Services (SSS) Update

The Programme Manager provided an update on the progress made to date in respect of the SSS theme, within the Peace IV Local Action Plan. She advised that implementation of the Shared Space and Services theme was progressing and drew the Members’ attention to the risks associated with delivery which had been attached as an appendix.

She then referred specifically to the Capital Works at the Forth Meadow Community Greenway.

PEACE IV Network Scheme – Capital Works - The works at Section 1 had commenced in June 2021 and were ongoing. Surfacing works, although impacted by the weather, had completed at the end of March.

Installation of the information panel signage would progress once the design had been finalised.

Following planning approval for Section 2 (Springvale) in September 2021, the treatment of the invasive species and remediation works for the asbestos had completed.

The officer advised that discussions were ongoing between the Council and the Education Authority to co-ordinate the proposed works at Springfield Primary and the Section 2 works. The hearing for the application for leave to apply for a judicial review had been considered on 10th March, with a substantive application having been listed for a hearing on 14th June. She reported that urgent discussions were required with the different funders around programme as there were budget risks associated with any delay to works at this section.

The work package for section 3 (Whiterock and Falls) had been issued and works had commenced on 28th February, with an estimated completion date of June 2022.

McQuillans had also commenced the initial phase of works in Section 4 (Bog Meadows) with works due to complete in September 2022.

The Members were advised that the scope of works for Section 5 (West Link) had been agreed and that signage locations were to be confirmed ahead of the submission for the planning application.

Following the PQQ stage for Public Artworks, six artists had been invited to submit tenders. Submissions had been received from all six artists and the assessment process was progressing. She advised that it was anticipated that the planning application for the artworks would be submitted by late April 2022, with works commencing on site in September 2022.

The Members were asked to note that the extension of the works into 2023 might be necessary and, if required, a further report would be submitted in due course following the tender assessment process.

Social Value Clause – McQuillans had contacted Workforce regarding the employment and apprenticeship opportunities available. Advice had also been provided by Council’s Physical Programmes and Employability and Skills Departments. The Members were advised of the following appointments through the programme:

- ground works contractor Demesne Contracts had employed a general operative who was previously unemployed;
- a Civil Engineer apprentice, completing a Level III apprenticeship, had been given a 13-week placement and had commenced on 31st January;
- the contractor had also employed a Civil Engineering placement student from Queens University, until 31st August 2022; and
- a further placement student would join the project in July 2022 for the remainder of the project.

The Programme Manager advised that, as part of the Considerate Construction Scheme, the contractor had contacted local schools, although proposed presentations were restricted until further notice due to Covid 19.

She advised that the contractor representative also attended weekly meetings with the Falls Community Group to provide updates on the works progress and to update on any other issues, such as anti-social behaviour. These meetings were attended by community and political representatives and community police who offered advice and were pro-active in addressing issues.

The officer advised that the contractor’s Site Agent had attended a sod cutting ceremony with Minister Mallon on 1st March at Falls Park. Also, McQuillans were currently collecting items to donate to local food banks with staff working on the project donating goods.

- **Programming**

Implementation of the programming aspects was progressing.

- **Shared History, Heritage and Identity Content / Narratives for Shared Space**

Deliverable targets	Targets achieved
300 individuals	79 engaged to date

The discussion groups continued to be facilitated through all Sections and following approval from the SEUPB on the participation of local schools, engagement had commenced with three local primary schools, Springhill, Springfield and St Clare's.

The agreed narratives for Section 1 had been edited in line with wordcount and Council's "Plain English" policy and were due to be installed in the coming weeks.

The location of 3 information panels at Section 3 had been agreed and the narratives were due to be finalised and submitted for approval soon. Section 4 and 5 narratives were still to be drafted, in collaboration with local communities.

The Members were asked to note that a reduction in contact hours for participation was required and that this had been included in the business case to the SEUPB.

- **Shared Space Volunteer Training**

Deliverable targets	Targets achieved
<i>Sustrans</i>	
30 volunteers (15 Walk and 15 Cycle Leads)	27 recruited across 3 groups
<i>Volunteer Now Enterprise</i>	
15 volunteers (Local Ambassadors)	14 recruited
<i>The Conservation Volunteers</i>	
15 volunteers (Nature Guides)	Currently recruiting

The first cohort of 10 Walk and Cycle Leads had completed their training and received certificates and Sustrans Volunteer Cards, at an informal event on 16th March 2022. Training of a further cohort of 12 volunteers was progressing and a third group of 5 had been recruited.

Following a recruitment drive, Volunteer Now was progressing registrations of 14 Shared Space Ambassador volunteers, with training to commence in April 2022. The project lead was confident that they would recruit up to 20 volunteers, to allow for attrition. Some of the volunteers had been involved with the Luminare event in Springfield Park on 5th March.

The Members were advised that the Conservation Volunteers had experienced difficulty whilst recruiting volunteer nature guides, however, information, recruitment sessions and walk-about to promote the project were underway. An update meeting was scheduled in early April to monitor progress.

The Programme Manager highlighted that, subsequent to the report having been circulated, there had been a further emerging request for the SSS theme seeking The Members to approve extensions to the contracts for the volunteer delivery with Sustrans and Volunteer Now and also the narratives project with Mediation NI to September 2022, to enable delivery and the achievement of targets. She asked the Members to note that the extension would be within the current contract value.

- **Dialogue and Engagement Project (young people, residents and BME groups)**

The Dialogue and Engagement contract was now complete and a final payment was being processed.

The Members noted that a meeting with North Belfast Youth Area Team and Youth Link NI (Youth Engagement and Civic Education project lead) had been facilitated on 9th March, to discuss the recommendation from the “Waste 2 Waste” and MDL reports and building them into project workshops and activities. The recommendations from the report would be reviewed on a quarterly basis.

- **Governance / Management Model**

Viatac Limited continued to engage with the stakeholders, in relation to their draft governance model/s.

The Members were advised that a site visit had been undertaken to Belfast during March and that a stakeholders meeting had been facilitated at the Innovation Factory on 24th March.

Viatac Limited had also completed a second interim report, which had been submitted for review.

The Members were asked to note that a large discussion workshop had been planned for 27th April 2022, in Belfast City Hall, to further discuss the suggest governance model, and that invites would be issued to all key community stakeholders in due course.

- **Youth Engagement and Civic Education**

Deliverable targets	Targets achieved
400 young people	Commitment from approx. 80 young people.

A commitment to participate in the project of up to 80 young people had been received from the Blackmountain Action Group, the Forthspring Inter Community Youth and the New Life Church. Links were also being progressed with other youth providers through the Springfield Road Cluster and Greater Shankill Partnership. In addition, a link was also being investigated with Charter NI, the Nubia Youth Club and Sandy Row.

Youth Link NI had been involved in discussions to incorporate actions to address the recommendations in the MDL and “Waste 2 Waste” reports.

- **Modular Building**

A meeting to confirm the booking process for the building had been facilitated on 9th March. At this meeting, it had been agreed that booking would be via Outdoor Leisure and that OSS would provide staff cover to open and close the building, in line with the agreed bookings. An article promoting the building was in the latest edition of City Matters which had recently been circulated to households across the City.

- **SSS Activities and Animation Programme**

Deliverable targets	Targets achieved
20 cross community activities/events, (to an audience of a minimum of 1200 attendees)	3 cross community activities / events to an audience of approximately 1000+ people
- 4 Public spectacle events (150 people at each) – 2 in Springfield Park	- “Luminate” event in Springfield Park – approx. 1500 people
- 6 Medium sized creative animation activities / events (50-100 people at each).	- “River Clean event” – approx. 100 people
- 10 small community focused activities / events (30 to 50 people at each)	- “Sunflower Festival” – approx. 50 people

The first event, Luminate, had taken place on 5th March and attracted over 1000 people, from local communities and across Belfast to the Springfield Dam. A small “Sunflower Festival” and medium “River Clean” event had taken place on 12th and 20th March, with approximately 200 people having attended.

The need for further consultation with local community organisations had been highlighted and an engagement session had been facilitated in The Innovation Factory on 21st March. Opportunities for involvement in the large events and suggestions for medium and small events had been discussed.

The Members noted that a briefing paper on the SSS theme was being compiled and would be submitted to both the West and North Area Working Groups.

The Members noted that the SEUPB had reimbursed all Claims up to Period 26 totalling £1,639,342. The reimbursement of claims for Period 27-29 totalling £257K remained outstanding. A supplementary claim for Period 29 valued at £327K for capital works was also being prepared for submission to the SEUPB for reimbursement.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it note the contents of the report and the SSS Progress Report and agree to the extension of contracts for the volunteer delivery with Sustrans and Volunteer Now and also the narratives project with Mediation NI to September 2022, to enable the delivery and achievement of targets.

Building Positive Relations (BPR) Update

The Partnership considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

To provide the Shared City Partnership (SCP) with a progress report in respect of the Building Positive Relations (BPR) theme of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan.

2.0 Recommendations

The Partnership is requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee that they note the contents of the report and related appendices and agree:

- **BPR1 Cross Community Networks**
Modification as approved by SEUPB to permit a cross border residential to Dublin for the CCAN in East Belfast Network, as part of the place shaping stage.
- **BPR5 ROMA**
To uplift the contract with FSP by 10%, approximately £16,900, subject to budget agreement with the secretariat and approval by SEUPB.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

Implementation of BPR projects is ongoing and face to face activity is increasing, although members should note that Covid 19 impacts continue to affect delivery and participation due to illness with Covid 19. Progress is outlined in Appendix I Progress report.

3.1 BPR1 – Cross Community Area Networks (CCAN)

Progress of establishing the 6 CCANs is ongoing with the number of registered participants now confirmed at 101.

Members are requested to note and agree a project modification submitted for the East Belfast CCAN to undertake residential activity and increase delivery hours. This request was progressed as a priority to SEUPB and has been approved as it was similar to a previous request for another CCAN.

Members should note that the South Belfast Network intends to bring on board the Donegall Pass Community Forum to their network as a peer group which will add value to the existing group and help build on the participant numbers and engagement hours.

The submitted implementation plan suggests greater numbers will be achieved as the participant pool has been widened and more interest generated across the networks in particular in the South and North.

The current position is 101/900 participants with 50-80 hours engagement from the required 200 hours.

3.2 BPR2 – Creative Communities Project

Delivery with established clusters is progressing.

Discussion to replace St. Malachys with Rosario in the Football Cluster are progressing, and Rosario has expressed interest with potentially 14 participants. This combined with the other partner, Albert Foundry with 15 participants, should provide a strong creative cluster.

Approval for delivery of the East Cluster via a residential approach has been confirmed by SEUPB, based on clear parameters which were outlined to the delivery lead and, Radius, the group coordinating the residential. Officers are pleased to note that the residential took place and went well with 32 people attending.

Staffing resources remain an issue within the project and recruitment is ongoing as such an assurance of delivery from senior management is being progressed

Members should note that to date within BPR2 6 of 8 cluster groups have been achieved, 92/264 participants registered.

3.3 BPR3 – Transform for Change Project

Transformative Leadership Programme

The PEACE IV team continue to be activity involved in the project with 2 introductions and 2 project development sessions scheduled for April.

The Resource Allocation Agreement for the Project Action Plan with a lead organisation of Cliftonville Parent Teachers Association has been issued for signature. The cluster plan includes actions to; rejuvenate a disused space within the school to bring people together, a story telling bench to be crafted by volunteers from the Men's Shed, and the local PTA will coordinate engagement from other interested parties.

The procurement for delivery of the Project Action Plan at the Black Gates has been issued to suitable artists and art activities have commenced with the associated groups including the lead organisation, Stewartstown Road Regeneration Project.

A further 3 action plans, 2 from West, and a further submission from North have been submitted for assessment.

NICVA's coordinator has since resigned, the Project and Programme Managers are meeting with NICVA to ascertain contingencies to ensure continued delivery.

Members should note that the Project Support Officer post has been filled with an agency staff member due to join the team in mid-April.

Progress within the Transform for Change project shows 5 of 15 clusters June 21-June 22 complete. 5 are currently live and 5 are in the process of being recruited.

Overall figures show 34/45 courses completed with 5 live and 5 planned bringing an anticipated completed figure of 44/45 courses.

Current collective participant numbers show 491 have completed with 100 registered on current courses. Target figure is anticipated to be 634/900 completed by June 2022.

3.4 BPR4 – Belfast and the World (BATW)

Delivery of activity with 4 groups is continuing, although project staff have been impacted by Covid 19, which has resulted in some sessions being rescheduled.

Planning for delivery of Study visits to Cork and Dublin is ongoing.

Progress for Belfast and The World shows 178/200 participants realised with the delivery lead confident that engagement hours will be achieved – or exceeded.

3.5 BPR5 – Supporting Connected Communities - LINCS Project

The delivery of project activity is continuing, with participant numbers having increased slightly to 102 people actively engaged. The leadership programme has delivered 3 sessions to date with between 7-11 participants attending, further sessions are scheduled for April 2022.

Across the neighbourhood participant forums, 67 participants have completed the required contact hours and it is anticipated another 29 will complete. It is envisaged that a total of 96 core participants will complete by September 2022.

Equality analysis of the project shows representation and breakdown of participants across all of Belfast as follows: PUL 32%, CNR 28% and BAME 39% with 1% not declared. Gender representation remains more female with 61% of participants who completed surveys identifying as female and 37% male.

The symposium shared learning event has been rescheduled for early May 2022.

3.6 BPR5 – Traveller Project - Supporting Connected Communities

The Genealogy exhibition is to be showcased on the 12th April at the Maureen Sheehan Centre. The exhibition will mark the completion of the workshop and will celebrate the participants involvement and is open to friends and family and the wider public. The exhibition is mobile and will be hosted in local libraries and community centres over the coming months to highlight the work achieved and to promote inclusion of the Traveller community.

The Empowering Young Women workshop programme and exhibition has been awarded to the Falls Women Centre and plans are progressing to commence activity early May with participants from both the traveller and settled communities ready to engage.

A quotation for a further workshop programme focusing on Produce Garden is due to be released on the 4th April and the final Health & Wellbeing workshop scoping exercise is underway with draft quotation document being finalised.

Networking is improving with linkages with Fall's Women Centre, the Heart Project and associated SureStart groups, having proved a positive pathway for engaging traveller women and their families, as well as including families from the local communities.

A community event is planned for late April and approximately 20 traveller women and children have agreed to attend.

Members should note that some cost savings from the Traveller Support Hub are to be reassigned to the BPR5 Roma project, as outlined in the business case to SEUPB.

The Traveller Project objective of holding 4 workshops, each with 10 participants, achieving 26 hours of engagement is progressing, with one currently complete with 10 participants reaching target engagement hours.

As referenced above, the Empowering Young Women workshop is due to commence in May 2022.

3.7 BPR5 – Roma Project - Supporting Connected Communities

The delivery partner continues to offer capacity building sessions through the Roma Support Hub and updated attendance details and Advice Pro data has been submitted.

Delivery of the English Language classes started in February in East Belfast, and classes also commenced in South Belfast in March 2022, currently there are 12 participants attending regularly across the 2 classes.

A breakdown of the Intercultural Advocacy Training has also been provided and Advice classes have also been identified.

A new case officer has also been recruited.

An implementation plan has been submitted by the delivery partner and a signed letter of assurance confirms the delivery partner's commitment to delivery of contract.

As previously reported the delivery partner has requested an extension to September 2022 to fully achieve all training elements and to continue the capacity sessions within the Hub. The

delivery partner has identified increased costs in associated with the extended delivery of the Support Hub, members are requested to agree in principle to uplift the contract by 10%, approximately £16,900, subject to budget agreement with the secretariat and approval by SEUPB. This uplift in the budget will be met through the £66K savings associated with the Traveller Support Hub.

Targets met to date include 5 participants registered for Advice Level 3 Training classes – 12 participants from both the current Hub attendees and a mixture of new participants will achieve the 28hrs of engagement and complete the English classes.

3.8 BPR6 – St. Comgalls

Workshops, seminars and networking events for youth and adult cohorts continue, and the delivery partner has advised the adult component is now fully recruited.

The project provided an implementation plan covering the remainder of their contract (finishing May 22) and members should note that no extension or major revisions have been requested.

The project has a number of elements to deliver during April including further thematic networking events and seminars (codesigned by workshop participants) and study trips for participants (NI/ROI-based) and a best practice trip within NI (Seamus Heaney Homeplace) to inform development of resources. The citywide engagement programme will also complete sessions.

The building completion is scheduled for April with BCC Physical Programmes facilitating a launch event.

Members are reminded that delegated authority has been assigned to the Programme Board to review the full suite of educational and exhibition material content, which will also be reviewed and agreed by SEUPB with a further report to SCP in May.

3.9 Cinematography Project

Filming of project activity as opportunities arise is continuing with Morrow Communications.

Short 'celebration' films for CYP2 and CYP3 Extern have been screened at project closure events and shared online. CYP4 and BPR4 are in production and will be showcased at project closure events in April.

Projects that have yet to identify film opportunities, CYP5 and BPR5 Roma, are to be progressed. The contract manager continues to work to coordinate this with delivery partners. All other projects have captured a range of activity providing good coverage.

The PIV team is aiming to secure further additional filming coverage via BCC Corporate Comms of BPR5 Traveller project and CYP3 OTRT due to limitations within the scope of the Morrow contract.

3.10 Financial and Resource Implications

To date spend on the BPR Theme is approximately £2.6m. Claims totalling £1.8m has been fully reimbursed by SEUPB. Payment of Claims for Period 27-29 with a combined valued of £796K is outstanding.

3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

The draft plan has been equality screened and discussed at the Equality Consultative Forum on 13 May 2015. The Equality Consultative Forum was further consulted on 18 November 2020.”

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it note and agree the following modifications:

- BPR1 Cross Community Networks – as approved by the SEUPB, to permit a cross border residential to Dublin for the CCAN in East Belfast Network, as part of the place shaping stage; and
- BPR5 ROMA - to uplift the contract with FSP by 10%, approximately £16,900, subject to budget agreement with the secretariat and the approval of the SEUPB.

Peace Plus Update

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the PEACEPLUS Partnership for 1.1. Co-Designed Local Community Peace Action Plan for Belfast.

2.0 Recommendations

That Members note the contents of this report and

- Note the recommendation made at the recent SP&R meeting on the governance arrangements for 1.1. Co-Designed Local Community Peace Action Plan for Belfast.
- Agree in principle to logistics for running future SCP meetings.
- Agree to SEUPB appointed consultants attending the next SCP meeting to provide an overview on the role of the

PEACEPLUS Partnership for the oversight of the 1.1. Co-Designed Local Community Peace Action Plan for Belfast.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Background

As reported at the March SCP meeting SEUPB is currently seeking approval from the European Commission for the development of the PEACE PLUS Programme, a €1 billion investment to progress towards a peaceful and stable society in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland. It comprises of six themes, which encompass 22 individual investment areas for possible submissions for investment.

3.5 Co-designed Local Community Peace Action Plans (priority 1.1)

As with previous PEACE Programmes, one of the key investment areas for Council is the development of a Local Community Peace Action Plan for the city. This programme is under theme 1 Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities, Investment area total funding (€110 Million). There is an expectation that Belfast may receive funding of at least £15 million (with a possible increase of up to £17 million or more).

3.3 PEACEPLUS Partnership

It is a requirement that each Action Plan should comprise of a PEACE PLUS local authority partnership which will oversee the co-design and implementation of a process in their local authority area which will be used to inform the development and delivery of an overarching PEACE Action Plan(s) ensuring alignment with the local Community Plan for the area.

Following officer engagement with SEUPB, officers made a recommendation to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at their March committee meeting that, the current Shared City Partnership (SCP) will take on the responsibilities associated with the PEACEPLUS Partnership and development of the Co-Designed Local Community Peace Action Plan for Belfast.

The key reasons that officers engaged with SEUPB on this model included:

- There was a significant refresh of the SCP recently, which included recruitment of new members from the Community and Voluntary Sector.
- The SCP is a formal working group of the Council that oversees the Good Relations Strategy and Action Plan and PEACE IV Plan via SP&R.
- SCP will continue post PEACEPLUS completion and will have sustainability with capacity to continue to work on Peace and Reconciliation post PEACE funding.

- SCP has representation from across Political parties.
- SCP has a good mixture of elected members, statutory agencies, interested groups and community partners across the four pillars outlined above.
- SCP membership currently has clear alignment with community planning partnership members.

SEUPB have advised that they are content that the preferred option above is an acceptable model for overseeing the future PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan.

3.4 Logistics for meetings of the SCP (incorporating oversight of the PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan)

The PEACE IV Local Action Plan is continuing to be delivered, with the current Letter of Offer for funding extended to December 2022. As the SCP has oversight of the Peace IV Programme and the Good Relations Action Plan and to ensure clear delineation between programmes, it is proposed that the business of the SCP would be divided into two distinct parts as follows.

- Part 1 - continued oversight of Good Relations Strategy and Action Plan as well as the PEACE IV Local Action Plan.
- Part 2 - oversight on the co-design process required to make a submission for the Belfast PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan.

3.5 SEUPB appointed Consultants

To assist in the development of the PEACEPLUS Action Plans, SEUPB has contracted a consultants consortium, including Blu Zebra and Locus Management to work in supporting each Council. They are currently working on the development of the methodology for emerging PEACEPLUS partnerships and their future role in overseeing the Co-Designed process to develop local action plans. We are proposing that they attend the next SCP meeting to provide an overview of their work to date with regards to PEACEPLUS partnerships. If members are in agreement, officers will invite them to the next meeting.

3.6 External Support

At the March SCP meeting, officers also advised that SEUPB have also given approval to councils to use a maximum of €100,000 on resourcing the development of the local action plan. This expenditure is not additional to any final award that the Council receives, it will be included in the PEACE PLUS Action Plan application and when successful, will form part of the letter of award for reimbursement.

Members were advised that we were going to the market for consultancy support with a budget of £28,500 for the development, facilitation, and submission of the

Belfast PEACEPLUS Local Community PEACE Action Plan under investment area 1.1 of the PEACEPLUS Programme. Following this recent procurement exercise, we did not receive any submissions from the five companies invited to quote.

Based on feedback following this exercise and current market conditions, we are now proposing to go back to the market, by way of full public tender exercise, with a refreshed specification and increased budget totalling £48,000 (subject to SEUPB approval) to seek this support to help us develop our local action plan.

It is important that we get the right consultancy support for this work as it will help develop the systems and processes including the design and facilitation of a consultation and engagement framework and associated local area informal governance to enable Council to submit their Local Community PEACE Action Plan. The successful applicants will be expected to undertake a co-designed approach with members, the local community and stakeholders to develop a prioritisation list for possible projects, develop and draft the action plan for consideration by Council and write the detailed plan and engage with SEUPB on any changes required post submission.

3.7 Financial and Resource Implications

N/A

**3.8 Equality or Good Relations Implications/
Rural Needs Assessment**

The Plan, once produced, will need to be screened for equality and good relations implications along with completion of a rural needs assessment.”

Following discussion, the Partnership:

- noted the decision made at the recent meeting Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in regard to the governance arrangements for 1.1. Co-Designed Local Community Peace Action Plan for Belfast and agreed, in principle, the logistics for running future SCP meetings;
- agreed that the SEUPB appointed consultants would attend the May SCP meeting to provide an overview on the role of the PEACEPLUS Partnership for the oversight of the 1.1. Co-Designed Local Community Peace Action Plan for Belfast; and
- noted that further training and clarification regarding the remit of the Partnership relating to PEACE PLUS would take place to ensure the Members were fully cognisant of their roles and responsibilities.

Approach to Cultural Expression Programme 2022

The Partnership considered a report which detailed the Council's overall approach to the Bonfires and Cultural Expression Programme as agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its March Meeting.

Noted.

Good Relations Action Plan Update 2022/2023

The Partnership considered the following report:

1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

To update the Partnership on delivery of the District Council Good Relations Plan (DCGRP).

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to recommend to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee that the City Hall be lit up on 5th July to mark the Memorial Week of the Srebrenica genocide.

2.2 Members are asked to note the remaining contents of the report, particularly projects within the previously agreed Action Plan that are underway. Members should also note that update reports will be provided quarterly to the Partnership, in line with our reporting pattern with The Executive Office.

3.0 Main report

Delivery of the DCGRP Action Plan for the current year 2022/23 has commenced with Officers planning a number of activities, events, grant assessments and projects.

3.2 BCC1 – Good Relations Grants Programme

Application for Good Relations grants opened on 28th February and closed on the 4th April. Applications will be assessed against the pre-agreed scoring criteria and letters of offer will be issued in the first week of June. It is envisaged that 80% of the budget of £120,000 will be allocated at this stage, with the remaining 20% allocated on completion of projects.

3.3 BCC3 – Cultural Expression Programme (Beacons)

An assessment of the current stock of Beacons along with an assessment of potential requests for Beacons in July is currently underway. A more detailed report regarding the Council's agreed approach to the Bonfire & Cultural Expression Programme is outlined in a separate paper.

3.4 BCC4 – Shared Community (Events and Research)

Planning is underway for a number of events to take place over the coming months; in particular:

- Day of Reflection; agreed at April Council, to take place on June 21st in City Hall
- Remembering Srebrenica; The screening of the film Quo Vadis Aida, will take place in The Queen’s Film Theatre on 5th July at 6.00pm. Council will support this event through publicity and provision of hospitality. In addition, Members are asked to recommend to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee that the Council be lit up on 5th July to mark the Memorial Week of the Srebrenica genocide.
- The research project on the links between Climate Change and Segregation will commence in the coming quarter.
- Events will be organised to mark Refugee week, to take place in June.
- Planning is underway to procure the leadership programme to grow young Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic leaders in the City as part of wider leadership and volunteer development.

3.5 BCC5 – Shared Community (Migrant Forum)

- The quarterly meeting of the Migrant Forum will take place in June.
- Support for advice and outreach to the Roma Community through the Roma Hub will also commence.

3.6 BCC6 – Safe Community (Men’s Sheds project)

- Support for the delivery of the Men’s Sheds Project will be scoped and procured
- Continuation of the orientation and cultural competence of new and host communities delivered by the Red Cross.

3.7 BCC7 – Safe Community (Interface Engagement)

An event for stakeholders will be delivered in early May to develop projects with community and statutory partners which will be rolled out throughout the lifetime of the 2022/23 Action Plan.

3.8 BCC8 – Children and Young People (Schools Shared Education Programme)

This project continues for the remainder of the Academic Year, with pupil-to-pupil contact having recommenced following the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions. This project will then recommence in September and run until the end of the Action Plan period.

3.9 BCC9 – All Themes (Strategic Intervention Programme)

The development of potential projects has commenced and it is hoped to have projects delivered from the summer time onwards.

3.10 BCC10 – Shared Community (Shared City Projects)

The specification for the Good Relations Audit project has commenced.

3.11 Financial and Resource Implications

All costs are covered through the District Council Good Relations Action Plan budget for 2022/23 as agreed by Members in February 2022.

**3.12 Equality or Good Relations Implications/
Rural Needs Assessment**

All the projects/programmes have been approved as per the DCGRP 2022/23.”

The Good Relations Manager further advised that, due to the unprecedented increase in the number of asylum seekers arriving in Belfast and the challenging accommodation circumstances which they are encountering, the Council would work with Mears and community partners to develop a yearlong programme of activities to try and alleviate the isolation that young people, in particular, were encountering. Activities would include events to mark the end of Ramadan, social and cultural activities, play development and learning activities during the summer and an allocation of £8,000 would be provided, to include programmes run by Mears and Community Partners.

During discussion a Member raised concern regarding funding being directed to a commercial organisation. The Good Relations Manager advised that this was a new and emerging need and therefore it was felt that this organisation was best placed to implement the programme immediately, she confirmed that it would be working with community partners.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it adopt the recommendations as outlined at section 2.0 of the report and that £8000 be allocated towards a programme of activities for asylum seekers led by Mears, subject to clarification if Mears could access the Mears Foundation to fund this work as their staff would be delivering the service, to ensure there was no duplication with what Mears had been contracted to currently undertake and that The Executive Office were content to support the project.

Letter of offer from The Executive Office (TEO)

The Good Relations Manager referred the Members to a report which provided specific detail regarding the intention to proceed with the activity that had been set out in aforementioned minute (Quarter 1 activity).

The Members were reminded that the Council received 75% of the costs for the delivery of it's Good Relations Action Plan from The Executive Office (TEO). She advised that, whilst it was likely to receive the same allocation as it had in 2021/22, to date, no formal letter of offer had been received.

The Members noted that the Council currently contributed £328,263 towards the overall delivery of the Action Plan, as well as £59,500 towards the bonfire programme for beacon related costs and clear-ups. The total Council contribution to staffing and programmes in the Good Relations Action Plan was £387,763.

The Good Relations Manager advised that, if the delivery of the Action Plan was to proceed as originally planned, several projects would need to commence in Quarter 1 (April – June 2022). If all desired projects were to commence, this would necessitate a commitment of £380,896.10 to cover staffing and programmes for Quarter 1.

The Members noted that this figure included a full commitment at 100% to any project allocated funding

The Partnership noted that, whilst no formal letter of offer had been received from TEO, the Departmental Management Team were content to proceed using the Council's 2021/22 allocation figures.

Chairperson