

## **SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP**

**MONDAY 6th JUNE, 2022**

### **MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

Members present: Councillors Kyle (Chairperson);  
Councillors Carson, Lyons, O'Hara, McMullan and Verner.

External Members: Ms. B. Arthurs, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Ms. A. Roberts, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Mr. I. McLaughlin, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Ms. A. Tohill, Good Relations, TEO;  
Ms. K. Jardine, Faith Sector;  
Mr. W. Naeem, Interfaith Forum; and  
Ms. A. M. White, British Red Cross.

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

#### **Election of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson**

It was proposed by Councillor McMullan, seconded by Councillor Verner and agreed that Councillor Kyle be reappointed as the Chairperson and Councillor O'Hara as the Deputy Chairperson to the Shared City Partnership from June, 2022 until the Local Government Elections, scheduled to be held in May 2023.

#### **Update in Membership**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Wasif Naeem from the Interfaith Forum to his first meeting. He further advised that the Faith representative would change in August and thanked Ms. K. Jardine for her contribution over the last year. Finally, he advised the Members that Mr. P. Anderson had replaced Mr. M. O'Donnell from DfC and also extended thanks for his contribution.

#### **Condolences**

The Chairman advised the Members of the sad passing of the previous Interfaith Forum representative Dr. Yousuf Hannore. He also extended condolences to former Councillor Stephen Magennis and his family on the recent passing of his wife Tricia.

#### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf Councillor Hutchinson and Mr. P. Anderson, Mr. J. Donnelly, Ms. G. Duggan, Ms. A. Ford, Mr. A. Hannaway, Ms. J. Irwin and Mr. M. McBride.

## **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 9th May 2022 were taken as read and signed as correct.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Ms. B. Arthurs declared an interest in items (2d) PEACE IV Programme – Building Positive Relations (BPR) Update and (4) Update on Action Plan Activities to support Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Inclusion and left the meeting whilst both matters were under consideration.

### **PEACE IV UPDATES**

#### **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.

She drew the Members' attention to the thematic reports which outlined project implementation, activity, and modifications which would enable the achievement of targets to continue to progress. In addition, the officer advised that the secretariat was progressing the project closure of CYP2, CYP3 Personal Change, CYP4 and BPR4 Belfast and the World. Closure reports, supporting evidence, monitoring and evaluation of data was currently being reviewed. It was noted that final payments would progress upon receipt of all the required information.

The Members were asked to note that the Terms and Conditions of the Tender Contracts required the Delivery Partners to retain all original documentation for a period of 7 years after submission of the final claim. The Secretariat was reviewing this position and an update would be provided in due course.

Following further discussions with the SEUPB, extensions for the CYP and BPR themes to March 2023 and to June 2023 for the SSS theme had been requested. This would enable those projects that were continuing to experience challenges to extend delivery, if necessary.

The Partnership noted that, as previously reported, a decision from the SEUPB Steering Committee was anticipated in late June 2022.

The officer advised that valuable discussions and insights on Life Beyond the Walls had taken place on 11th May, with positive feedback having been received about the event.

A virtual Bulgarian Culture Café was scheduled for 7th June, 12.00 -1.00 p.m. The Members were advised that they were welcome to register to attend via the following link.

<https://plannd.co.uk/belfast-peace-iv-bulgarian-culture-cafe/>

A workshop focusing on Reconciling Our Differences, with contributions from Professor D. Morrow and the Wave Trauma Centre was taking place on 9th June, at the Skainos Centre from 11.00 a.m. -1.30 p.m.

In addition, planning was also progressing for a Grand Culture Café on 17th June, 12.00 – 2.00 p.m. at 2 Royal Avenue, to showcase all cultures that had participated in the

Culture Café series and to launch two PEACE IV publications on the diversity in Belfast. An invitation would be circulated once registration had opened.

The Members noted that the Period 30 (February – April 2022) claim, totaling £972,312 had been submitted to the SEUPB. The total spend across the Programme was now £7.1m.

Claims reimbursement had been progressed by the SEUPB, with £731K of claims for BCC Periods 27 and 28 having been reimbursed. The SEUPB was also progressing £171K of claims for NIHE associated with Period 27, with payment due imminently. The total value fully reimbursed to date was currently £5.6m. The outstanding claims value, excluding Period 30, was £520K.

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

### **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 and related appendices.**

#### **3.0 Main report**

##### **Project Updates**

**Implementation of projects is at various stages of delivery, with key highlights outlined below. Members should refer to Appendix I: CYP Project Progress report for further details on activity.**

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

**Promotional artwork has been approved by SEUPB for circulation and release to announce the opening of registrations for the summer technology programmes. GIGA training has provided an implementation plan which outlines full delivery of all targets by August 2022. Delivery will be across the city using Avoniel Leisure Centre, Black Box, Crumlin Road Gaol, City Church, Strand Cinema & Ozone Complex as venues for the remaining sessions for all age groups. Members should note the final number of completed participants as confirmed in the quarterly report are as**

below. Previous reported figures were based on those recruited to the programme.

Age Group	Target	YTD Date	<i>(All contracts end September 22)</i>
6-11 Year Olds:	479	240	239 Remaining
12-16 Year Olds:	380	142	238 Remaining
<b>Total</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>477 Remaining</b>

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

The delivery agent has reported a lack of capacity from their partner BYTES to recruit for this project. Belfast Metropolitan College has put in place additional staff to supplement and aid recruitment.

With 4 months remaining to the end of the contract, members are asked to note that possible mitigations being considered are an extension or a reduction of targets to within the Output Indicator Guidance, reducing the target by 24 to 136 (85% of target).

<i>Total</i>	<i>66 from a target of 160</i>	<i>94 remaining (contract ends September 22)</i>
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**3.3 CYP 2 – Playing our Part in the City**

The project closure report has been submitted by Active Communities Network and reviewed by the Secretariat. Further evidence of activity has been requested from the delivery partner to enable final closure and payment.

<i>Total</i>	<i>610 young people from a target of 640 123 Parents from a target of 100</i>	<i>Progressing to Closure</i>
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**3.4 CYP3 – On the Right Track – Sports and Personal Change elements**

Members are requested to note a recent request from SEUPB reviewing historical payments made via SLA to sports groups taking part in OTRT. SEUPB’s Financial Control Unit has asked for additional evidence of how payments were processed. This is due to a recent request by NIHE to use an SLA approach with youth groups being turned down by SEUPB. Therefore, potential implications are a risk of previous spend being deemed ineligible, even though Council have written confirmation of approval to use this approach.

Members are also asked to note the resignation of the lead officer, with Council progressing recruitment via an Agency approach to avoid a delay or gap in delivery as there is limited time remaining (programme due to end in September 2022). Due to this setback, the project may require additional time as a contingency due to the

high targets still to be achieved. The Secretariat will explore options with the Leisure Development Manager; no approvals are required at present.

<i>Total</i>	<i>645 from a target of 1800</i>	<i>1155 remaining (contract ends September 22)</i>
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### **3.5 Personal Change – Delivered by Extern**

Members are reminded Extern has completed all project activity and a closure event has taken place. The secretariat is awaiting submission of the final report with supporting evidence to progress final closure and payment.

<i>Total</i>	<i>42 from a target of 42</i>	<i>0 remaining – progressing to closure.</i>
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### **3.6 CYP 4 – Cooperation Ireland (Young Advocates)**

All project activity has been completed and the project is progressing to closure and final payment. A review of the final report and supporting evidence is to be progressed.

<i>Total</i>	<i>81 from a target of 80</i>	<i>0 remaining – Progressing to closure</i>
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### **3.7 CYP 5 – NIHE Local Area Network Partner Delivery**

Delivery is focusing on increasing engagement and contact hours of current participants. No additional recruitment has been achieved during this period. Draft templates for the proposed Resource Allocation process have been submitted to SEUPB for review. A revised procurement plan approach to aid delivery was submitted and approved by SEUPB. The procurement includes specifications for OCN in Peer Mentoring, Anti-racism, Active Citizenship Training to aid delivery. Members are asked to refer to Appendix II. This reassurance of delivery was submitted by NIHE to include an updated implementation and procurement plan.

Members are also reminded of the high risk associated with this project and its current Red status in the RAG report. A reduction of targets was submitted in the business case to SEUPB and is currently not approved at present.

<i>Total</i>	<i>143 from a target of 900</i>	<i>757 remaining (Contract ends September 22)</i>
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### **3.8 Financial and Resource Implications**

To date all PEACE IV costs for the CYP Theme up to Period 28 for BCC totalling £1,349,279 have been fully reimbursed by SEUPB. Claims for the NIHE CYP project up to Period 26, totalling £119,669

have also been reimbursed. SEUPB is progressing verification for NIHE CYP Claims for Period 27 of approx. £16K with payment due imminently. Verification of Period 28 and 29 claims have progressed slightly. Preparation is underway for the submission of the Period 30 February to April 22, valued at £132,898.

### **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 Peace IV 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 to the agenda.

The Members were advised that, following discussion with the SEUPB on the Business Case, a request to extend the Letter of Offer for the Shared Spaces theme to June 2023 and to reallocate underspends from other PEACE IV projects (estimated at £900K) had been submitted to the SEUPB, with a decision expected in June 2022.

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

**PEACE IV Network Scheme – Capital Works** – The Members were advised that works in Section 1 (Clarendon / Glencairn / Forthriver) had now been completed and the site had been handed over to the Council from the contractor on 19th May. The design of the information panels was to be finalised ahead of installation over the summer.

Works on Section 2 (Springvale / INI site) remained on hold following the recent Judicial Review process which had been conceded by the Council in early May. The Members were advised that the Council’s next steps were currently being considered.

Construction works at Section 3 (Whiterock and Falls) was progressing and on track for completion in June 2022. The works at Section 4 (Bog Meadows) was also on schedule for completion during September 2022.

The Members were advised that, as a result of recent instances of anti-social behaviour at Section 3 (Whiterock and Falls), the specification of the paths around the Whiterock to Falls Park had changed from buff SMA to black SNA.

In addition, the planning application for works at Section 5 had been submitted.

All artists had been notified of the outcome of the tender exercise for the public art. The successful artist, Sara Cunningham Bell, had been awarded the contract and a project initiation meeting had taken place on 24th May. The proposed artworks, on the theme of “down to earth”, would comprise of one large flagship artwork, at the junction of the Springfield

Road and the Forthriver Business Park, and two smaller art pieces (locations to be agreed). The artworks would be further developed in conjunction with local schools. The planning application for the works was being prioritised.

- **Programming**

Implementation of the programming aspects were progressing.

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

<b>Deliverable targets</b>	<b>Targets achieved</b>
300 individuals	224 recruited

Engagement with groups was ongoing, with the focus on establishing two groups with communities around Section 5 (West Link) to help to develop narratives for the information panels anticipated for this section. Over 170 pupils, along with teachers, from Springfield, Springhill and St Clare’s Primary Schools had participated in group discussions, over two days.

The narratives for the Section 1 information panels were to be finalised by the end of May and quality supporting photos / pictures were being sourced.

The Members’ attention was drawn to the Narratives for the information panels along Section 3 (Whiterock / Falls Park), as outlined in Appendix IV of the agenda.

The Members were asked to agree the narratives for Section 3 and to provide comments or suggestions to the PEACE IV Programme Manager by 13th June, 2022.

- **Shared Space Volunteer Training**

<b>Deliverable targets</b>	<b>Targets achieved</b>
<i>Sustrans</i>	
30 volunteers (15 Walk & 15 Cycle Leads)	27 recruited across 3 groups
<i>Volunteer Now Enterprise</i>	
15 volunteers (Local Ambassadors)	8 recruited (6 withdrew)
<i>The Conservation Volunteers</i>	
15 volunteers (Nature Guides)	8 recruited

The Members were advised that:

- Sustrans currently had a group of 17 volunteers that were continuing to participate in the Walk and Cycle Leaders volunteer training;
- Volunteer Now had 8 Shared Space Ambassador volunteers participating in training that had commenced on 4th May (the volunteers had assisted with the Swamp Festival event on 14th May in Bog Meadows); and
- The Conservation Volunteers had 8 Volunteer Nature Guides recruited and actively participating in training, having recently completing First Aid training.

The Members noted that further information and recruitment sessions to attract further volunteers were being planned.

It was further noted that Sustrans, Volunteer Now Enterprise and The Conservation Volunteers had all participated in the Governance model discussion on 27th April, providing input from the volunteer sector's perspective.

- **Governance / Management Model**

The Members were advised that Viatac Limited had provided an interim report on the development of the governance model, including an evaluation, outcomes and suggested next steps, this had been attached as an appendix to the agenda.

Model options under consideration:

- **Coordination through a non-single identity organisation; Steering group function through a cross-community group of organisations:**

Day-to-day coordination and management responsibilities passed to a neutral organisation. This organisation reports to a joint steering group made up of local organisations responsible for the strategic decisions and direction;

- **Coordination through a cooperation between two or more existing community organisations in cooperation with council; Steering group function through a cross-community group of organisations:**

Day-to-day coordination and management responsibilities passed to a consortium of local organisations from across the Greenway route, for example, a combination of the local Partnership Boards and/or Community Councils. This cross-community group would report to a joint steering group responsible for the strategic decisions and direction;

- **Coordination through BCC; Steering group function in a newly constituted body:**

Identified Council officer(s) perform the day-to-day coordination tasks and the steering group function would be delegated to a cross-community organisation that was constituted for this purpose from a list of relevant stakeholders;

- **Coordination through council contractor; Steering group function in a newly-constituted body:**

An existing (non-single-identity) organisation from North/West Belfast or elsewhere contracted to perform the day-to-day coordination tasks and the steering group function delegated to a cross-community organisation that was constituted for this purpose from a list of relevant stakeholders; and

- **Creation of a Community Interest Company (CIC) or other newly constituted body for coordination and steering in cooperation with Council:**

A completely new cross-community body constituted for both the day-to-day coordination tasks and the steering group function from a list of relevant stakeholders.

The Members were asked to note the report and to provide comments or suggestions to the PEACE IV Programme Manager by 13th June, 2022.



The Peace IV Programme Manager advised that, given that engagement with the key stakeholders had been challenging, it was felt that further engagement sessions would be necessary to address gaps. A contract uplift and addendum to the contract was also being progressed.

The Members were also advised that, on review of the Governance interim report and internal discussions, further support to implement the agreed Governance Model would be required. As such, the Members approval for further procurement of a suitable contractor to progress this element over the summer was requested. It was noted that the estimated contract value would be approximately £60,000, for a 6-9 month contract and that this would be subject to the approval of the SEUPB.

- **Youth Engagement and Civic Education**

<b>Deliverable targets</b>	<b>Targets achieved</b>
400 young people	Commitment from 120+ young people.

Youth Link NI continued to network with local youth organisations. Young people from Nubia, Forthspring and Blackmountain had started participating in the project in mid-May 2022. Registration documentation had been issued to Youth Link for the young people to complete and would be forwarded to the PEACE IV Team.

- **SSS Activities and Animation Programme**

<b>Deliverable targets</b>	<b>Targets achieved</b>
- 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 - “Swamp Festival in Bog Meadows – approx. 1700 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 second large public spectacle event, a “Swamp Festival”, had been held on 14th May 2022, in Section 4 (Bog Meadows), with approximately 1,700 people having attended from communities along the Greenway and from other parts of Belfast. ArtsEkta would compile and submit an event evaluation report in due course.

The Peace IV Team and ArtsEkta continued to review and agree the events calendar, ensuring that all communities along the Forth Meadow Community Greenway were included and informed of the up-coming events / activities, which included:

- Community Cycle and Picnic – 28th May;
- Mini Colour Run (Falls Park) – 5th June;
- Mini Colour Run (Glencairn Park – 12th June;
- Large Colour Run event (Woodvale Park) – 18th June;
- Bog Meadow Foraging Walk – 19th June; and

- Big Dig Potato Harvest (St James Community Farm) – 25th June.

The Members noted that information on these events and booking of tickets could be accessed through Eventbrite at: (<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/forth-meadow-community-greenway-40614725793>)

- **Resource Allocation**

The SEUPB had reviewed the application documents, and final amendments of the documents were being returned to the SEUPB for approval, ahead of a call being opened in early June.

As previously reported, the initial call would be to support community activities / events across Springfield Park and at sites in Section 1, completing September / October 2022.

The Members noted that the total spend to date for the SSS theme was £1.89m. The SEUPB had progressed payment of Period 27 and 28 claims bringing the total reimbursed to date to £1.82m. Reimbursement of claims for Period 29 valued at £75K remained outstanding. Preparation for the submission of Period 30 claims estimated at £496K was underway.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it:

- agree in principle the FMCG Governance Model Interim Report (April 2022);
- agree the procurement of a suitable contractor to implement the Governance model, and
- agree the Narratives for the Information Panels on Section 3 (Whiterock/Falls).

### **Building Positive Relations (BPR) 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 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 and Resources Committee that they note the contents of the report and related appendices and agree:**

- **BPR 3 Transform for Change**  
The allocation of the £1500 available per project to engage local communities on the project concept is realigned to enable post evaluation and showcase the project.

- **BPR 4 Centenaries**  
The request for a direct award payment to BATW providers, Corrymeela to take forward facilitation of the EU/NI study visits.
- **BPR6 St. Comgall's**  
To note approval of the modification to amend a case study trip from NI to ROI (Monaghan) and an external best practice visit from Wolverhampton to Bellaghy.

### **3.0 Main report**

#### **Key Issues**

Project activity is progressing with each project at different stages of delivery. Members should note that Covid 19 impacts such as illness / isolation continue to affect participation and retention levels. The status and risk associated with projects is outlined in Appendix I Progress Report.

### **3.1 BPR1 – Cross Community Area Networks (CCAN)**

Participation in the project is gradually increasing, participant numbers remain at 109/900. An increase in hours is also noted increasing from 80 to up to 90 hrs from the required 200.

Following approval of the contract uplift for Parkhood, work is progressing to provide a contextual 3D drawing on the potential reshape of the wall and associated work is to be presented to CCAN participants and next steps agreed.

Recent discussions with NIHE have highlighted a positive increase in engagement hours and progression into next stages across most of the CCANS, with an increase in participants, which is currently being confirmed through monitoring data.

### **3.2 BPR2 – Creative Communities Project**

Delivery of activity with established Creative Clusters is progressing. Rosario and Albert Foundry for the Football Cluster met in May with 18 participants attending and further sessions are planned. An implementation plan was submitted from the artist, which outlines plans for the coming months and is a positive step forward.

External recruitment for a new lead Project Officer has closed and an update on the outcome has been requested. The newly appointed Culture Manager met with the Programme Manager and Thematic Manager to discuss the current position and agree the next steps.

Commitments were provided from the Culture Manager to progress actions to enable resources to increase implementation of the project

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

### **3.3 BPR3 – Transform for Change Project**

#### **Transformative Leadership Programme**

Delivery of project activity is continuing; the PEACE IV team remains actively involved in the facilitation of project development meetings to progress Action Plans.

Cluster Project Action Plans have been fully approved and resource allocations are now signed, enabling the Cliftonville project and the Dam Proud Cultural picnic to progress.

Further Resource Allocation Agreements for West and North are also progressing with lead organisations identified.

Members are requested to note that a combined project encompassing 4 TLP groups with a potential Resource Allocation Agreement of £16k has been requested. The proposed project centres on historical figures across Belfast and designing a walk that highlights key figures across Belfast. This would be supported by the production of an information booklet, highlighting key historical points. The action plan is still in draft format and requires further research and development.

As previously reported, an artist has been appointed to work in collaboration with the participants and the lead organisation, Stewartstown Road Regeneration Project, to reimagine the 'Black Gates' at Suffolk/Lenadoon. The programme manager met with the lead organisation and an alternative approach to include further community engagement is under review to meet the communities' needs and progress the project.

Members are asked to note that the approach for the BPR3 Cluster Action Plan development, included the provision of £1500 for each cluster to engage with the wider community to showcase the planned project concept and ensure community buy in. Due to the pandemic, and a change to virtual delivery this provision has not been fully utilised. As such it is requested that members agree to use this allocation in a post evaluation / community engagement approach to showcase the project and consider the next steps for each developed project. All procurement associated with the post evaluation event will be conducted by the PEACE IV team.

Achievement of targets to date shows 37/45 courses completed. Revised figures show 5 live courses and 1 to be scheduled bringing anticipated completed figure of 42/45 courses. The current collective participants completed, has increased from

previously reported 492 to 527 reflecting the position up to April 2022.

Planning and delivery of study visits and best practice events is progressing. The first study visit completed was across the West and East of the city; a community social enterprise at Colin Allotments and Eastside Visitors Centre encompassing the greenway hosted 15 participants and two partner facilitators. Participant feedback was very positive.

Further study visits include; Coleraine Cornfield Project/Focus on family community gardens scheduled for the 16th June, the 22nd June is a visit to South Belfast's Radius Housing and the final visits will be to Holywell Trust Community Initiative and a tour of walls.

Members are requested to note that a final Networking and project closure event celebrating the achievements of the Transform for Change project, is planned for the 27th June at the Clayton Hotel with further details and invites to follow.

#### **3.4 BPR4 – Belfast and the World (BATW)**

The project closure event on the 30 April 2022 at the Clayton Hotel Belfast, was a great success with over 50 participants in attendance. The event encompassed a Civic Play on Partition and representatives from Council and PEACE IV attended. Contributions from participants and poignant reflections shared the learning and success of the project.

Final monitoring data is under review and indicated that over 170 participants have completed the programme achieving 26 hours of engagement.

A meeting is scheduled with the coordinator to draw together all required information to process completion of project.

As previously reported, officers are liaising with Corrymeela and SEUPB on an agreed approach for the facilitation element of the study visits, residentials and day activities. The need to align the content of the study visits with the project content may require a direct award approach. Provisional dates and bookings are being progressed by the project support officer.

Members are advised the facilitation element is currently with SEUPB for approval.

#### **3.5 BPR5 – Supporting Connected Communities - LINCS Project**

The LINCS Symposium took place on 6 May at Belfast Castle. The positive and engaging event was attended by all Neighbourhood forum participants, key stakeholders, PIV programme manager and United Voices. Cinematography/social media clips were captured by Morrow and

positively reflected comments from participants and the LINC coordinator.

The Leadership programme continues to have a strong group of regular attendees, with 9 fully committed participants and sessions occurred throughout May. Wider participant targets saw a small increase with 70 now reported as completers from a target figure of 96.

### **3.6 BPR5 – Traveller Project - Supporting Connected Communities**

Delivery of the Empowering Young Women workshop programme commenced in May. Indicators are positive with 10 participants recruited and engaging in sessions.

Following nil submissions for the produce garden workshop. A stakeholder engagement session was held to capture feedback from potential suppliers. Main points indicated a lack of capacity within the market to deliver this proposal. Based on this feedback, an alternative proposal is required and a stakeholder engagement session to ascertain areas of interest to enable delivery of the final workshop target will be arranged with key organisations identified as working with the traveller community.

The Health & Wellbeing workshop quotation received one submission, the assessment process is progressing and approval to award is being sought from SEUPB.

The Traveller Project targets include delivery of 4 engagement programmes, each with 10 participants, achieving 26 hours of activity via workshops and exhibition is progressing. Current achievement is one programme complete with 10 participants reaching target engagement hours and one programme underway.

### **3.7 BPR5 – Roma Project - Supporting Connected Communities**

Engagement in the Roma Hub continues to attract Roma participants. As a result, an increase in the Women's Group previously noted as 28 now has 40 Roma women registered.

The schedule and programme outline for delivery of the Advocacy training has been provided, with commencement dates to be finalised.

The Advice Training Course has noted sessions as starting with a blended approach of teacher led and self-directed learning. Revised figures indicate 5 registered participants, registrations and monitoring data has been submitted.

Updated attendance trackers for the English Classes indicate continued uptake in activity and engagement. Registrations indicate 10 in the South class and 14 attending in the East, which comprise of current and new participants.

Targets met to date include 5 participants registered for Advice Level 3 Training classes – 24 participants from both the current Hub attendees and a mixture of new participants will achieve the 28 hrs of engagement and complete the English classes. Increased participation in the Women’s group with 40 registrations.

### **3.8 BPR6 – St. Comgalls**

Project activity is ongoing having been extended to end August 2022. Copius has provided evidence to show the adult workshops component has now completed.

Thematic networking events and seminars have been slightly delayed until the building handover and are expected to take place late May.

Members are requested to note that a modification to amend a case study trip from NI to ROI (Monaghan) and an external best practice visit from Wolverhampton to Bellaghy is being agreed by SEUPB and approved by the BPR Thematic Chair and Programme Manager under delegated authority from the SCP.

### **3.9 Cinematography Project**

The filming of project activity by Morrow Communications is ongoing as and when suitable opportunities arise.

Planning for the next short story film for BPR3 Transform for Change project closure in June will celebrate the participant’s journey and highlight the project’s impacts.

Council Communications Department is exploring further promotion of the short story films to Members, internally to BCC staff and also the wider public.

Recent filming captured activity for the BPR3 first study visit to Colin Allotments- and Eastside visitor centre. Roma and LINCS clips are also being scheduled for social media issue and promotion.

Members are requested to note that the contract modification to add further On the Right Track Sports filming, to contribute to recruitment efforts, was rejected by SEUPB on the basis that a 10% contract uplift has already been agreed. Other options are to be explored.

Morrow have captured over 8 filming opportunities and produced 4 social media clips from February to April and 36 social media clips have been used on BCC social media platforms.

### **3.10 Financial & Resource Implications**

The financial position for the BPR theme, is a total spend of approx. £2.6m. SEUPB has progressed payment of BCC claims for Period 27 and 28, which brings the total reimbursed to date as £2.2m. The verification of NIHE claims for Period 27 is currently progressing. Claims outstanding totals £418,995.

Preparation for submission of the Period 30 estimated at £323K is currently progressing.

### **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 adopt the recommendations as outlined at section 2.0 of the report.

## **BCC7 Interfaces Paper**

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 on developing projects under the BCC7 Interface Projects Programme further to the Good Relations Workshop held with interface groups on 12th May 2022.

### **2.0 Recommendations**

The Partnership is requested to note the contents of the report, and recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that they approve funding for the following projects from the Good Relations Action Plan:

- **Belfast Interface Project to be awarded £3,407 towards the Shared Futures Project taking place between July 2022 and March 2023.**
- **TAMHI to be awarded £3,900 towards the Golf for Wellbeing project taking place between July and October 2022.**
- **Intercomm/ DCP to be awarded £15,000 towards Peace in the Park event, Alexandra Park on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2022.**
- **Westland Shared Space Project - £1,500 to be awarded towards good relations workshops and signage to promote and encourage shared use of space.**



- **Blackmountain Shared Space Project**  
BMSS to be awarded funding of £2,000 towards a Youth Leadership Development Programme to take place later in the financial year.
- **CCRF/Limestone United: Partnership Working at the Interface**  
CCRF to be awarded £5,626 to work in partnership with Limestone United to deliver facilitated cross community training/educational sessions for young people in the Manor Street/Cliftonpark and the Oldpark areas.

### **3.0 Main report**

As previously reported to the Partnership, Officers held a planning workshop in Belfast Castle with the overall objective of generating workable projects for the current financial year, that would have a meaningful impact on interface areas. Members are asked to note that this is in keeping with the overall approach set out in the Good Relations Action Plan 2022/23 under the BCC7 Interfaces Programme.

Thirty-five people attended the meeting, including members of the Voluntary and Community sector, IFI and statutory bodies (DoJ and NIHE).

The workshop focused on identifying the main barriers to good relations work in interface areas and exploring projects that may overcome these hurdles. A note of the meeting is attached at Appendix 1 for Members' information.

A considerable number of challenges were raised regarding current interface working. Delegates felt that Council should take a strategic role in interface and GR issues in the City. Essentially there was a call for a comprehensive mapping exercise on voluntary bodies working across interfaces, what they were doing, how they were funded and where opportunities lay for synergy.

In relation to the above mapping exercise, Members will recall that TEO are currently undertaking such an exercise and had agreed that once completed, they would present to the Shared City Partnership. Given the TEO's role in providing strategic funding across the statutory and community and voluntary sectors, as well as to other central government departments, they are best placed and resourced to collate this information. In addition, they will be in a position to ensure the data is current which will be more beneficial than a one-off exercise which will only represent one point in time.

It was agreed that groups would need further time to develop relevant project proposals and a deadline for submission of relevant proposals of 30th May was agreed. Once these have been received and worked up to ensure they align with the aims of the

Council's Interface Programme, these will be presented to the Shared City Partnership.

In the interim, a number of proposals have been received requiring consideration at the June SCP meeting given that they are due to commence in July/September. These are outlined below:

#### **Belfast Interfaces Project - Shared Futures Project**

The Shared Futures Project is a community based digital innovation project that was funded by BCC last year. It fosters and develops cross community approaches to common problems and issues through technology. The project Partners are Animorph Animation and Professor Peter Bloom of Essex University who is leading on developing social aspects of the project. This phase of the project is taking place between July 2022 and March 2023.

The request for funding of £3,407 will enable BIPs partner organisations, Animorph and Professor Bloom, to travel to Belfast for seven face to face sessions with community organisations and staff. The aim is to strengthen the co-design process, promotion of the digital platform, provide face to face meetings with young people in the Youth Shared Futures group, and to allow for comprehensive testing of new digital tools such as the Urban Design Toolkit that is under development.

#### **Intercomm/DCP - Peace in the Park**

A cross community Peace Festival is to be held in Alexandra Park on 10th September 2022, involving entertainment, children's activities and cross community cultural events. The funding of £15,000 will go towards stage hire, ancillary equipment and performance artists. Whilst it is acknowledged that this is a significant amount of funding, the benefits of the project would be deemed valuable in that it is encouraging sharing of a perceived contested and divided space, exposing people to aspects of different culture, and developing links across the wall in the Park.

#### **TAMHI Golf for Wellbeing**

This project, requesting £3,900 brings young people and adults together (22 participants) across the divide through the medium of Golf. The project will involve people from TAMHI, St Mary's, Beann Madighan, Pearces GAC, 22nd Old Boys, Carnmoney Colts, Ballysillan Swifts, Grove United, Brantwood FC., Star ABC, Kronk ABC, St. Malachy's OBFC, Woodvale FC., North Belfast Harriers, Jo Jitzu, Albert Foundry and Westland FC. It seeks to create young leaders, while challenging sectarian attitudes and encouraging positive mental health outcomes among people who may not otherwise have the opportunity to play golf.

### **Westland Shared Space**

The project will involve broadening the appeal of the venue to both traditional communities, but additionally introducing young women to soccer and other sports. A request for £1,500 entails good relations workshops, signage, and has the long-term ambition of leveraging in capital investment to expand the facility and its offering.

### **Black Mountain Shared Space**

BMSS will be running a project later in the year focussing on youth development, developing young leaders in the community and are seeking funding to run a pilot programme over the summer to fully develop their main project. Award sought is £2,000.

### **CCRF/Limestone United**

CCRF will provide a series of facilitated cross community training/educational sessions for young people in the Manor Street/Cliftonpark and the Oldpark area, exploring the history and changed in the demographics of the area. They will conduct a survey of young people in the vicinity to assess attitudes and refine approaches. Award sought is £5,626.”

A Member raised the possibility of including anti-sectarian training as part of the projects. The Good Relations Manager noted that this had been previously discussed and from a Council perspective, as part of the Good Relations Action Plan, anti-sectarian training could possibly be sourced, or groups asked to undertake training as part of a Letter of Offer condition. Further discussion ensued in relation to the challenges and issues faced in relation to addressing cultural and minority identity biases and how these were interlinked.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it adopt the recommendations for the six projects as outlined at section 2.0 of the report.

### **Update on Action Plan Activities to support Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Inclusion**

The Partnership considered the following report:

#### **“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

Members will be aware that the Good Relations Action Plan has several actions to support the integration and inclusion of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities. This report seeks to provide members with an update on work undertaken in this area, and to seek approval to use the resource identified in the action plan for the Roma Community to continue to support the Roma Hub, and provide for engagement activities over the Summer and Autumn months.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

**That Members note the contents of this report and approve that funding, identified in the action plan, is used to support the Roma Community to provide outreach through the Roma Hub and engagement activities over the Summer and Autumn months.**

## **3.0 Main report**

### **3.1 Key Issues**

**Members will be aware that the number of people arriving in Belfast to seek asylum has increased significantly over recent years, and the arrival rate continues to be high with no sign of declining. It is anticipated that increased numbers of asylum seekers arriving in Belfast as well as resettlement programmes will be a regular occurrence.**

**Prior to June 2021, asylum seekers in Northern Ireland were primarily accommodated in ‘Dispersal Accommodation’, in apartments and houses throughout Belfast. Asylum seekers were part of local communities. In June 2021, the Home Office introduced a model of ‘contingency accommodation’. This model, of accommodating asylum seekers in hotels is currently the norm for newly arrived asylum seekers, which has implications for asylum seekers and promoting inclusion, and for Belfast as a ‘City of Sanctuary’.**

**Other than the dining area, there is limited provision within the hotels for residents to gather and socialise, many of the hotels have no outdoor space for the children to play. Council’s Play Development team have been running a play development service in some of the hotels, to engage parents and children, but beyond this and a couple of small-scale projects run by community interest groups, there is very little structured activity to engage those living in the hotels in integration programmes.**

**The Home Office has stated that the contingency accommodation is a temporary arrangement and that a process is underway to procure additional Dispersal Accommodation outside of Belfast.**

**The current situation, with increased numbers of people seeking asylum and being accommodated in Belfast, has impacted services as well as placing pressure on the community organisations that support refugee and asylum seekers.**

**Members will also be aware that the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine has seen a significant number of people displaced and seeking refuge across Europe.**

**There is no accurate data on arrivals in Belfast, but it is understood that around 1400 have arrived in NI under the Homes for Ukraine**

Scheme. Currently the Council is leading on the co-ordination of a temporary Ukrainian Advice Hub in Belfast, operating weekly on a Monday and Friday.

Members will also be aware that a structured government programme of resettlement was established 5 years ago to resettle Syrian Refugees. Syrians coming under this scheme were dispersed across most council areas, however a high number of people housed initially outside of Belfast have now, in recent years, looked to move to Belfast. Plans for a similar scheme have also been undertaken by The Executive Office to prepare for the resettlement of Afghan Refugees, however no matches have been offered by the Home Office to date.

Council, through our Good Relations Action Plan have provided a number of initiatives to support the integration and inclusion of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities. Members will also be aware that we have commissioned research, with our partners in the BHSCT and the Public Health Agency to examine the lived experience of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities, this research is due to complete in September. The research has built into it an innovative model of engaging 8 people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities as peer researchers in the project, developing them with skills and experience in interviewing, data collection and data analysis and ensuring that the scope of the research reaches into communities.

#### Update on current programmes in the Good Relations Action Plan

##### Orientation programme for asylum seekers

Through the previous Good Relations Action Plan, the Red Cross had been contracted to provide orientation information and follow up case work to asylum seekers in the hotels to support their integration. We are exploring ways of extending this programme until March 2023. We are also currently looking at other sources of funding to replicate this model to support the orientation of Ukrainian Nationals.

##### Integration initiatives to support the inclusion of asylum seekers isolated in hotels

A quotation exercise has commenced to procure an organisation to provide programmes to engage those asylum seekers accommodated in the hotels, addressing isolation and providing pathways to link them with other services across the city, including Council parks, open spaces, community centres etc. The procurement process will be completed in July. In addition, Good Relations are currently working with our Play Development team to run summer scheme activity for the children during the summer months.

### **Supporting the leadership development of Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Other Young people**

A quotation exercise is currently underway seeking proposals from organisations to provide a programme that mentors and supports young Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Other Community leaders, for leading roles in the community. Within this programme 70% of uptake will be reserved for people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities. The programme will involve leadership development, mentoring and links with our employability support programmes.

### **Events to mark Refugee Week and promote diversity and inclusion**

Through the Good Relations Action Plan, a number of diversity events are scheduled over the coming months. This includes training during Refugee Week. We are also supporting the Big Lunch in South Belfast, organised by City Church, that will provide opportunities to celebrate Refugee Week and promote contact between neighbouring communities in South Belfast. City Hall will also be lit up on 20th June to celebrate Belfast's Refugee and Asylum Communities. We have also planned activities to mark Community Relations Week and Black History Month, members will find more details in the events paper.

### **Support for the Roma Community**

Members will recall the excellent project that Council initiated, and Forward South delivered during Covid. This project was critical in developing relations with members of the Roma community during Covid, developing trusted messaging and linking the Roma with wider support services. Following on from this, contact with the Roma has continued through the Council funded Peace IV Roma Hub. This Peace IV project is due to end in September, further sources of funding have not yet been identified to sustain this work, which may result in no direct project engaging with the Roma community. Members will be aware that there is a proposal in the action plan to 'enhance the Forward South initiative providing support and advice to the Roma Community in South Belfast'. It is now proposed that members recommend that the £12,000 resource for this project is used to support costs to continue the Roma Hub engagement over the Summer and Autumn months. As members will know it has taken an incredible amount of work to develop trust and relationships with the Roma community and this project has made significant inroads in that respect.

### **Migrant Forum**

Members will be aware that we have a Council led Migrant Forum that has been operating for over 12 years. This Forum has continued to grow over the years providing a regular forum for debate and discussion on issues related to inclusion, access and

**service delivery for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities, there are over 40 members represented on this Forum.**

### **City of Sanctuary Motion**

**Members will recall that the Council passed a motion in April supporting the move to make Belfast a City of Sanctuary (See Appendix 1). This motion was positively welcomed within Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities. Following on from this, work is underway to develop an internal Race Equality and Diversity Action Plan – that will review how we deliver our services and identify actions that we can take as an employer to create a more diverse workforce. In addition, Council have agreed that John Tully, Director, City & Organisational Strategy, be appointed as Race Champion to oversee the development of this work.**

### **Financial & Resource Implications**

**The costs relating to projects within this report are covered within the annual Good Relations Action Plan, 75% of which is allocated to Council by The Executive Office under the District Council's Good Relations Programme.**

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

**All activities in the report are aligned with one of the four Good Relations Outcomes within the Action Plan, which has been screened for equality, good relations, and rural needs, and screened out.”**

## **Appendix 1**

### **Notice of Motion**

That this council supports Belfast City Council becoming a “Council of Sanctuary” and supports the initiative to have Belfast recognised as a “City of Sanctuary”.

#### **As a council we recognise that:**

- a) A “Council of Sanctuary” is a place that provides a welcome and safe place for asylum seekers, refugees and migrants and supports the conditions that will allow people from these backgrounds to feel safe, valued and included in Belfast.
- b) We recognise as leaders we have a responsibility to receive and include new residents with care and dignity.
- c) This commitment to become a “Council of Sanctuary” does not seek to provide preferential treatment to one community over another, instead it recognises that during the arrival, settlement and integration journey, asylum seekers, refugees and migrants face many challenges and that as city leaders we will play our part in working to build a culture of welcome, equality and inclusion.

- d) This council will work to implement a “City of Sanctuary” through our actions and policies, through understanding the lived experience of communities that are new to Belfast and through supporting our partners in the community and voluntary sectors.

**The Council Resolves to:**

- Join a network of cities and towns which promote the inclusion and welfare of people who are fleeing violence and persecution in their own countries and become a recognised “Council of Sanctuary”
- Continue to understand the lived experience of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants living in Belfast
- Continue to work with organisations in the city who support refugees, asylum seekers and migrants
- Challenge anti-refugee and anti-migrant attitudes wherever they are found
- Ensure equality in the provision of our services and facilities and that public spaces can be accessed and enjoyed by everyone
- Develop an internal Race Equality and Diversity Action Plan – that will review how we deliver our services and take action as an employer to create a diverse workforce.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it grant authority for the funding, as identified in the action plan, to be used to support the Roma Community to provide outreach through the Roma Hub and engagement activities over the Summer and Autumn months.

It was further agreed that the following the lack of submissions for the Leadership Development of Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Other Young people Programme, the funding assigned to this programme would be reassigned to the Ukraine Advice Hub initiative. The officers would continue to explore ways in which the Leadership Programme could be delivered in the future.

**PEACE PLUS (verbal update)**

The Goods Relations Manager updated the Members in relation to the Peace Plus programme tender which had not received any submissions. She explained that feedback from the market advised that capacity and uncertainty around the timeline were the main reasons why no one had submitted a bid. She provided the Members with details of a planned approach to keep the programme on track. This included the potential to make a direct award, subject to agreement from the SEUPB and the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

Noted.

**Events Update**

The Good Relations Manager advised the Members of the following events which they were welcome to attend:

**Event:** Schools Shared Education Programme Showcase and Celebration Event

**Date:** 13th June 2022 at City Hall

**Time:** 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.



**Format:** In person event with participating schools and funders

**Registration:** This event is not open to the public

**Event:** Day of Reflection

**Date:** 21st June 2022 at City Hall

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Format:** Open, drop in event, for the public

**Registration:** This event is open to the public and will be advertised via Council channels

**Event:** Refugee Week – International Organisation for Migration Training

**Date:** 20th June 2022

**Time:** 10.30 a.m. -12.00 p.m.

**Format:** Online

**Registration:** [goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk)

**Event:** Remembering Srebrenica – Showing of Quo Vadis Aida at QFT

**Date:** 5th July 2022

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

**Format:** Tickets are on sale from QFT to the general public. Tickets can be made available for the SCP Members, however, they should contact the Good Relations Manager at [goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk) by 13th June to avail of this offer.

**Event:** Strategies for addressing anti-muslim hatred

**Date:** 22nd and 29th September 2022

**Time:** 10.00 a.m. -12.00 p.m.

**Format:** Online

**Registration:** [goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk)

**Event:** Living Library – borrow an individual like a book

**Date:** 28th Sept 2022

**Time:** 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.

**Format:** Belfast City Hall

**Registration:** [goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk)

**Event:** Black History Month – series of workshops looking at matters such as Black History, the history and diversity of the African and Caribbean Communities and what inclusion means.

**Date:** 7th,14th and 21st October

**Time:** 10.00 a.m. -12.00 p.m.

**Format:** TBC

**Registration:** [goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk)

The Members were advised to contact the officer responsible for the event should they require any additional information.

Noted.

Chairperson