

## **SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP**

**Monday 12th June, 2023**

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

Members present: Alderman Copeland and Councillors Duffy, McLaughlin and McMullan.

External Members: Ms. A. Tohill, Good Relations, TEO;  
Mr. A. Hannaway, NIHE;  
Ms. A. Roberts, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council;  
Mr. P. Anderson, Department for Communities; and  
Ms. A. M. White, British Red Cross.

In attendance: Ms. N. Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager;  
Ms. D. McKinney, PEACE Programme Manager;  
Mr. S. Lavery, Programme Manager;  
Ms. L. Dolan, Good Relations Officer;  
Mr. D. Robinson, Good Relations Officer; and  
Ms. V. Smyth, Democratic Services Officer.

#### **Introductions and Welcome**

The Elected Members, external members and officers delivered a brief personal introduction.

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

It was agreed that the new Elected Members appointed to the Shared City Partnership would discuss the positions in advance of the August meeting during which the election for Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson would take place.

#### **Apologies**

Apologies were received on behalf of Ms. B. Arthurs, Superintendent Ford, Mr. W. Naeem, Mr. S. Hamilton and Mr. A. Irvine.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 27th March 2023 were taken as read and signed as correct.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor McMullan reported that he was an independent member of the Belfast City of Sanctuary.

Ms. A. Tohill, TEO, declared an interest in PEACE PLUS (item 2) and in Peace IV. (item 3c) and she left the meeting at both points during the meeting.

Ms. A. M. White declared an interest in Full Dispersal Fund (item 4b).

### **PEACE PLUS Update**

The Programme Manager provided Members with an update on recent activity and high-level feedback with regards to the development of the PEACE PLUS 1.1. Co-designed Local Community Peace Action Plan for Belfast.

He acknowledged that the Peace IV Programme Manager would be involved in in PEACE PLUS going forward.

He provided an update on the following areas for discussion at the meeting:

- Stage 2 process for the development of the Local Action Plan.
- Proposed budget allocation model for each Theme.
- Next steps in developing the local action plan

The Members were advised that the development of the £15.1 million Local PEACE Action Plan was being delivered in 3 stages:-

- Stage 1 Co-design needs and opportunities;
- Stage 2 Co-design long list of priority projects;
- Stage 3 Action Plan submission.

The plan would be delivered under the following 3 Thematic Areas:-

1. Community Regeneration & Transformation (Capital Projects);
2. Thriving and Peaceful Communities;
3. Building Respect for All Cultural Identities.

The Programme Manager advised that the call for the Council's Local Action Plan was yet to be open, however, the officers anticipated this would happen within the next few weeks. He advised that it was recommended via the Shared City Partnership and approved by Council that for Themes 2 and 3, Stage 2 would be delivered through the facilitation of Thematic Working Group sessions with internal / external stakeholders to develop project ideas for the 11 concept areas that may be included in the final submission to SEUPB, as detailed in the report.

The Programme Manager informed the Members that the total budget that was likely to be received was £15,170,431 (based on Euro to GBP rate and subject to change). He stated that this was a crucial stage of the development of the plan and there was a need to start to consider how much funding would be allocated to each of the 11 concept areas as well as the capital element of the plan. Agreeing the specific detailed funding for each project was complex and required further development of project ideas and ongoing financial interrogation. However, there was a need to seek approval on the high-level percentage allocations that would be attributed to each of the 3 themes. This would allow the officers to work with stakeholders, via the 11 established working groups, to put the detail around potential projects to be included in the plan, subject to the Members' authorisation.

The Programme Manager referred to the table below which provided a high-level overview of the guidance received from SEUPB with regards to minimum and maximum allocations for each theme and the proposed allocation model. Feedback was being sought from the Corporate Management Team in relation to same.

<b>Theme</b>	<b>SEUPB % Allocation Guidance</b>	<b>% Proposed Allocation</b>	<b>Indicative Amount (Less 20% admin) *</b>
<b>1. Local Community Regeneration &amp; Transformation</b>	30%-40%	40%	£4,854,538
<b>2. Thriving &amp; Peaceful Communities</b>	30%-40%	40%	£4,854,538
<b>3. Building Respect for All Cultural Identities</b>	Min 20 %	20%	£2,427,269

The Programme Manager asked the Partnership to note that this was just an initial assessment of what might be the final allocation for each theme, and further detailed work had to be undertaken to agree the specific amount for each project, with the following being taken into consideration. He outlined the rationale behind each allocation as detailed in the report and advised that if the Partnership were in agreement with the indicative percentage allocation model, the officers would start to further engage with the 11 working groups to develop detailed project plans.

The table below, contained within the report, outlined the current key milestones to develop the Local Action Plan.

<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Key Milestone</b>
June 2023	SEUPB Open Call
June 2023	Ongoing Concept Working group meetings
23 June 2023	Citywide Thematic Workshop Number 4
July - Aug	SCP Consideration of project Concepts
Sept 2023	Council approval of project concepts
Sept 2023	Public workshop to present draft Plan
Oct 2023	Stage 3 formal plan submission
Nov – Dec 2023	Action Plan submission to SEUPB
June – July 2024	Letter of Offer received
Late Summer – Autumn 2024	Delivery of local action plan commences

Discussion ensued in relation to project funding allocations. The officers addressed the concerns raised and provided reassurance around fairness, indicative allocations, procurement and communication processes.

A Member asked for a better sense of the overall picture and a wider vision of the framework within the Belfast Agenda from a PEACEPLUS perspective. The Neighbourhood Services Manager suggested organising a Belfast Agenda presentation at a future meeting.

The Members noted the contents of the report and provided feedback and:-

- Agreed to the indicative % allocation model on the basis that there was significant work still required to agree specific budget allocations for both Capital and Revenue spend under each project concept area and that this model was subject to change;
- Noted the updated process Stage 2 development of the Local Action Plan.

### **Peace IV Updates**

#### **Secretariat**

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

The Peace IV Programme Manager advised that the closure of all CYP and BPR projects had now been completed and the achievement of targets by project was as referenced in each thematic report. The status of closure requirements was outlined in Appendix I - CYP and BPR Closure Status, final claims for both themes, totaling £337,495 had now been submitted to SEUPB. The breakdown across the two themes as CYP: £121,527 and BPR: £215,968. Decisions and final project modifications, agreed via delegated authority to the PEACE IV Programme Board during the pre-election period, was also reflected in the thematic reports. She added that the next step was to undertake post project evaluations at a project and thematic level. The Members were requested to note that reporting on PEACE IV would reduce over the coming months as programme closure progressed.

A review of workplan activity delivered by the PEACE IV Secretariat had taken place and was outlined in Appendix II - Peace IV Wider Workplan – Review of Deliverables. This review highlighted the extensive additional activity that supplemented PEACE IV programme delivery. The level of achievement was reflective of the challenges in delivery presented by Covid-19. A review of feedback and impacts would be analysed in the Post Project Evaluation.

As previously reported, the verification of claims by SEUPB was an ongoing issue. The submission of the Period 34 SSS claim (valued at £925k) had increased the outstanding claims awaiting SEUPB verification to £5.06m.

The Peace IV Programme Manager had been liaising closely with SEUPB regarding claims reimbursement and verification of NIHE Period 30/31 and SSS Period 30 claims had progressed. SEUPB had also provided a schedule for reimbursement, up to September 2023 and this would be closely monitored by the Programme Manager.

To reduce the value of outstanding claims, and ease any pressure on the Council's finances, the Members were requested to note that the Peace IV Programme Manager had requested that SEUPB offset the £625k cashflow payment received in

December 2022, from Period 30 and 31 claims to Period 33 and 34 claims. SEUPB was to confirm agreement of this approach.

The Audit, Governance and Risk Service (AGRS), within the Council was currently reviewing the lessons learnt of PIV to support continuous improvement and to inform / enhance the delivery of future Peace programmes. The review focused on:

- Governance structure – meetings, reporting, monitoring compliance, risk management;
- Management responsibilities – Managing project managers and secretariat staff;
- Project delivery and contract management – managing and monitoring project delivery and contract management;
- Funding claims – process around payments to contractors, receipt of claims, and submitting funding claims to SEUPB.

A workshop with key officers directly involved in the delivery of PEACE IV and members of the Programme Board and thematic steering groups took place on 11th May 2023. A further report on the review would be presented to the Members in due course.

The Members heard how the PEACE IV team had been operating with significant reduced resources of 2 staff. This was due to staff resignations with the closure of the programme imminent, as well as sickness absence. The Members were advised that all existing staff contracts would end on 30th June 2023, discussions with HR on staffing options were currently ongoing. The PEACE IV Programme Manager had recently been appointed as the Programme Manager for future Peace Programmes and would provide some support and continuity to enable PEACE IV programme closure and outstanding claims. Support for the outstanding claims and closure requirements would be provided by the Council's Finance and Physical Programmes departments.

A Member thanked the Peace IV Programme Manager and the team for the work that had been undertaken to deliver the programme.

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

## **CYP**

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 note the contents of the report and related appendices and recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to note the modifications considered and agreed via Programme**

Board, via delegated authority during the pre-election period (April and May 2023), as follows:

**CYP 1 –**

- **Belfast Metropolitan College (Tech Connects)**
  - **To extend contact hours threshold to 20 hours and agree completion of the project based on 50% achievement.**
- **Tech Connects IT equipment reallocation to agree:**
  - **to keep the EOIs application open, on a rolling basis, until all equipment is allocated.**
  - **to extend the applications to all groups that participated in the PEACE IV programme**

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1 CYP 1 TECH CONNECTS Equipment Reallocation**

The uptake of Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for the reallocation of PIV CYP1 Tech Connects equipment to community organisations has been relatively low, with approx. 30% of equipment re-allocated to date. Members are requested to note the allocation as outlined in Appendix I.

The reallocation criteria require applicants to demonstrate how ‘cross-community work (between CNR-PUL and/or BME communities.)’ will be achieved. One applicant has requested equipment for use at their Arabic Saturday School, which clearly demonstrates working with BME communities, in this instance ethnic minority and vulnerable young people.

The PEACE IV Programme Board considered this request and agreed the re-allocation of equipment to the group, based on working with BME community.

Members should note that the call for EOIs application will continue to remain open and will be promoted via Council’s social media until all equipment is allocated.

**3.2 Project Updates**

Members are requested to note the modifications considered and agreed via delegated authority by the PEACE IV Programme Board, during the pre-election period (April and May 2023) as follows:

**CYP 1 –**

- **Belfast Metropolitan College (Tech Connects)**
  - **To extend contact hours threshold to 20 hours and agree completion of the project based on 50% achievement, subject to approval by SEUPB.**

- **Tech Connects IT equipment reallocation to agree:**
  - **to keep the EOIs application open, on a rolling basis, until all equipment is allocated.**
  - **to extend the applications to all groups that participated in the PEACE IV programme**

### 3.3 CYP Achievement of Targets

**All activity within the CYP theme has now completed and projects closed. Members are requested to note the level of achievement for the CYP theme against targets as outlined below:**

<b>CYP THEME Project / Delivery Partner</b>	<b>Original Target Participants / Hours</b>	<b>Reduced Target Participants Hours</b>	<b>Achievement against target</b>
CYP1 Tech Connects Afterschool / GIGA Training	490  26 hours	400  26hrs 80% - 20.8hrs	475/400 target @ 26hrs = 119% achievement
CYP1 Tech Connects Tech Camps GIGA Training	490	400  26hrs 80% - 20.8hrs	358/400 target @ 26hrs = 90% achievement
CYP1 Tech Connects – Insights project Belfast Met	160  26 hours	110  26hrs Reduced target of 20hrs permitted by Governance	55/110 target @ approved hrs = 50% achievement
CYP1 Tech Connects Total	1152	1152	1022/ 1152 target (inc 133 Ashton – FabLab) =89% achievement
CYP2 Playing our Part in the City	640 young people 100 parents  44hrs young people 30hrs parents	No Change  28 hours for parents & 32 hours for Young People 26hrs for Covid affected cohorts	603 young people  109 parents  = 712/740 =96% achievement
CYP3 On the Right Track Sports Project Leisure / Sports inc OCN Training via ACN	1800 across all categories  26-31 hours per young person 26-39 hours per young champion 26 hours per sports coach upskilled	1303 across all categories  26hrs 80% - 20.8hrs	682 young person 54 young champion 30 sports coach = total 766/1303 target = 59%  Final check on figures being finalised
CYP3 Personal change	40  305hrs	40  Reduction to 265hrs for all cohorts approved	43/40 target = 108% achievement
CYP4 Young Advocates	80  75 hours	80  Cohorts 1-3 – 75hrs Cohort 4 – 60hrs	87/80 target @ approved hrs =109%
CYP 5 Local Area Networks NIHE	900  (Core: 144 / Peer: 756)  Core: 200 hours Peer: 30 hours	Overall Reduction from 900 to 292  Core: reduced to 92 Peer: reduced to 200 Core: 100hrs Peer: 30hrs, 80% - 24hrs	1 core @ 100hrs 140 peer @ approved hrs  =141/292 = 48% achievement
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4612</b>	<b>3329</b>	<b>2662/3329 = 80% achieved</b>

### **3.4 Impacts of CYP projects**

Impacts of each project are outlined in project closure reports. Initial indications of the impact of projects demonstrate positive results for those participating in projects. Participants have developed skills and capabilities in good relations and personal development as well as building relationships across a wide range of young people and organisations.

The Post Project Evaluation process, including analysis of the monitoring and evaluation data, is underway and will also contribute to confirming the impact of the projects. A further report on impacts will be presented to members in due course.

### **3.5 Financial and Resource Implications**

Final claims valued at £121.5K for expenditure incurred, up to Period 34 - 31 March 2023, have now been submitted to SEUPB.

The total spend across the CYP theme is £2.33m, against a revised LoO funding award of £2.96m. The underspend of £634K is attributed to reduced staffing levels, reflects the challenges in delivery by some projects and delivery based on targets achieved.

Reimbursement of claims totaling £1.7m has been received to date, with £554K remaining outstanding to date. Reimbursement of NIHE claims for Period 30 and 31 has just been received from SEUPB. As such £270K remains outstanding from SEUPB.

Further details of project expenditure are outlined in Appendix II, CYP Financial Position at Programme Closure.

### **3.6 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 noted the contents of the report and related appendices and recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to note the modifications considered and agreed via Programme Board, via delegated authority during the pre-election period (April and May 2023), as follows:



## **CYP 1**

- Belfast Metropolitan College (Tech Connects):
  - To extend contact hours threshold to 20 hours and agree completion of the project based on 50% achievement.
- Tech Connects IT equipment reallocation to agree
  - To keep the EOIs application open, on a rolling basis, until all equipment was allocated;
  - To extend the applications to all groups that participated in the PEACE IV programme.

## **SSS**

The Peace IV Programme Manager provided the Shared City Partnership with a progress update in respect of the Shared Spaces and Services (SSS) theme of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan.

The Members were informed that the capital and programming elements of the Shared Space and Services theme were continuing to progress, as highlighted in the Progress Report (Appendix I).

### • **PEACE IV Network Scheme – Capital Works**

The Members were asked to note that Works at Section 2 (Springvale lands) was still ongoing. Delays with NIE connections on the site, resulted in a requote / reschedule of the works, causing a minor delay, which was now anticipated for 30th June 2023, with handover to Council shortly after.

SEUPB had approved an extension to 11th August 2023 to enable finalisation of the contractor's account and the processing of payments.

### • **Signage**

To enable a Council decision on the dual language approach and signage installation, SEUPB had approved a project extension to 30th September 2023 for this work. However, as with all Council decisions, Council approval for the proposed signage was subject to a 'call in'. As such it is unlikely that the signage would be designed, ordered, manufactured and installed by the 30th September 2023 extension date. With this unforeseen circumstance and to enable delivery, SEUPB were requested to approve a further extension to 31st December 2023, but this was not approved.

### • **Public Art Pieces**

Production of the flag-ship art piece had now been completed and the officers were waiting on confirmation from the artist on readiness for installation, which was expected in early June 2023, with an unveiling provisionally scheduled for Thursday 29th June 2023, with a further contingency date of 4 July 2023. The Members would be updated once dates had been confirmed.

- **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	257 recruited
51 narratives (3 narratives x 17 panels)	52 draft narratives
12 contact hours per participant	152 participants (68%) achieved over 10 hours 200 participants (89%) achieved 6 hours+.
Compilation document of all stories	Draft being finalised

Discussion to finalise the narrative compendium had progressed with format / style confirmed with the delivery partner. A final version was submitted for review on 24th May 2023.

The Members were asked to note that the proposed locations of all the information panels and narratives were being reviewed and were still to be agreed, although as with other signage highlighted in Section 3.3, the installation had been delayed, pending the Council's decision around dual language.

- **Resource Allocation – Animation Activity**

During April 2023, Artsekta had delivered two community activities along the Greenway, an “Easter Trail” at Glencairn on 8th April 2023 and a “Bark in Park” event at Springfield Dam on 30th April 2023.

Four community activities were also coordinated in May. A Swamp Festival in Bog Meadows on 15th May 2023, a funday and community picnic at Grosvenor Recreation Centre and Blythfield Community Garden on 20th May 2023, a heritage walk around City Cemetery on 21st May 2023 and a foraging walk at Glencairn on 27th May 2023.

- **Resource Allocation – Community Led Activity**

The Members were requested to note that following a resubmitted application, Forthspring Inter-Community Group had been awarded support to deliver a range of activity along Forth Meadow Community Greenway, which included Tai Chi in Springfield Dam and cross community activity between some of the local schools (Springfield and St Clare's). The call had now closed with no further applications received. As such this element of support would be underspent.

- **Shared Space Volunteer Training**

<b>Deliverable targets</b>	<b>Targets achieved</b>
Sustrans	
30 volunteers (15 Walk & 15 Cycle Leads)	27 completers across 3 groups
Volunteer Now Enterprise	
15 volunteers (Local Ambassadors)	13 completers
The Conservation Volunteers	
15 volunteers (Nature Guides)	12 completers

Project closure reports had been received from all 3 project leads and were currently being reviewed. SSS were now progressing towards final payments and projects' closure.

The FMCG volunteers continued to support delivery of activity along the Greenway. For example, weekly led walks in Falls Park and Bog Meadows; monthly led cycles from Springfield Dam to Glencairn Park, via Woodvale Park; collaboration at Festival of Learning events and Falls Park Bike and Trike Treasure Trail; and Planet Protect Workshops with the Nature Guides. With the weather improving, the volunteers were looking into collaboration between the Walk Leads and Nature Guides. Progress updates from Sustrans, Volunteer Now and The Conservation Volunteers, on the additional activity, had been provided.

- **Governance / Management Model Implementation**

MDL, the consultants appointed to implement the governance model had facilitated further discussions with the FMCG Advisory Group and the Council's Neighbourhood Services Managers during their most recent visit on 26th and 27th April 2023. Agreement on the level of support from the Council for the Advisory Group had been confirmed, although long term resourcing was required. Discussions on the coordination of shared activities and services along FMCG were progressing with MDL in Belfast on 7th to 9th June 2023 for final discussions and hand-over to the Council. With the completion of the contract, a final report would also be provided.

- **Youth Engagement & Civic Education**

<b>Deliverable targets</b>	<b>Targets achieved</b>
280 young people	386 young people registered from Nubia, Blackmountain, Glencairn, Forthspring, St Peters, Ballysillan, Clonard, Corpus Christi, GVRT, Holy Trinity, Malone College, St Genevieve's, Belfast Boys Model and Youth Initiatives
60 contact hours per participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 278 young participants (72%) have achieved a minimum of 60 contact hours.</li> <li>• 360 young participants (93%) have achieved a minimum of 48 contact hours.</li> </ul>

Youth Link had submitted the project closure report and, following review, project closure would progress with final payment based on the level of achievement

as referenced above and an “On The Spot” visit to sample original project documentation.

- **SSS Activities and Animation Programme**

A Project Closure Report was received and, following review, final payment had been made and the project was now closed.

- **Financial and Resource Implications**

Claims for the SSS theme up to Period 33 totalling £3.5m had been submitted to SEUPB, with £1.9m reimbursed to date. Clarifications relating to SEUPB verification of outstanding claims had been progressed. The current value of outstanding claims was approximately £1.4m.

The Partnership noted the contents of the report and related appendix and recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee:-

- An extended period to 11th August 2023, to enable for delivery/closure, payments and finalisation of contracts;
- A request for an extended period for delivery of FMCG signage to 31st December 2023.

## **BPR**

The Partnership considered the undernoted report.

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

**To provide the Shared City Partnership with an update on 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 note the contents of the report and related appendices and recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to note the report and level of achievement for the BPR Theme.**

### **3.0 Main report**

#### **3.1 BPR Achievement of Targets**

**All activity within the BPR theme has completed and projects closed.**

**Members are requested to note the level of achievement for the BPR theme against targets as outlined below:**

BPR Theme Project / Delivery Partner	Original Target Participants / Hours	Reduced Targets Participants / Hours	Achievement against target
BPR1 (Cross Community Area Networks CCAN) NIHE	1044  144 Core 900 Peer  Core: 200 hours Peer: 30 hours	Overall reduction from 1044 to 585  Core: reduced to 100 Peer: reduced to 485 Core – 120 hrs Peer – 30 hrs, 80% - 24hrs	8 Core @ approved hrs 127 Peer @ approved hrs  =135/585 target = 23% total achievement
BPR2 Creative Communities BCC – Tourism, Culture, Arts & Heritage	400  90 hours	144  42hrs Further tolerance of 80% – 33.6hrs requested from governance	82 @ approved hrs = 57% achievement
BPR3 Transform For Change NICVA	960  30 hours	620  21 hours	592 @ approved hrs =95% achievement
BPR4 Belfast and the World Corrymeela	200  26 hours	190  26 hours	177 @ approved hrs = 93% achievement
BPR5 LINCS Northern Ireland Alternatives	80  105 hours	96  54 hours	112 @ approved hrs = 116% achievement
BPR5 Roma Forward South Partnership	20    BPR/ Advocacy & skills: 28 hours Advice training – 84 hours	ESOL: 12 Building Positive Relations/ Advocacy and skills: 20 Advice Training: 5 Overall: target 20 unique participants  Reduction to contact hours under Advice training from 84 to 58 hours approved. No reduction to remaining target hours approved	5/ 12 target ESOL 4/5 target Advice training 18/20 Building positive relations/ Advocacy and skills = total 18/20 core unique participants complete =90% achievement
BPR5 Traveller BCC TSO	40  26 hours	40  26 hours	19 @ approved hrs = 48% achievement
BPR6 St Comgalls Copius Consulting	Adult/ young people): 40  Adult: 46 hours Young people: 33 hours	40  Adult: 32 hours Young people: 33 hours	48 @ approved hrs = 120% achievement
<b>Total</b>	<b>2640</b>	<b>1735</b>	<b>1183/1735 = 68%</b>

### 3.2 Impact of BPR projects

Impacts of each project are outlined in project closure reports, as well as independent external evaluations for BPR3 Transform For Change, BPR5 LINCS and BPR5 ROMA.

The independent evaluation conducted by S3 Solutions for the Transform for Change project is outlined in Appendix I – for members to consider and review the impact and learning from the project

Initial indications of the impact of projects demonstrate positive results for those participating in projects. Participants have developed skills and capabilities in good relations and personal development as well as building relationships across a wide range of organisations.

The Post Project Evaluation process, which includes the analysis of the monitoring and evaluation data, is underway and will also contribute to confirming the impact of the projects. A further report on impacts will be presented to members in due course.

### **3.3 Cinematography Project**

All video content capturing the Belfast Peace Journey has now been received, and the issue of clips, as appropriate will be progressed by BCC Communications team.

The final PEACE IV programme film has been completed and a showcase of the film for members and delivery partners is being planned.

### **3.4 Financial and Resource Implications**

The final BPR claim valued at £215.9K for expenditure incurred, up to Period 34 - 31 March 2023, has been submitted to SEUPB for verification and reimbursement.

The total spend across the BPR theme to project closure is £4.6m, against a revised LoO funding allocation of £5.1m.

The underspend of £552K is mainly attributed to reduced staffing and reflects delivery based on targets achieved.

Reimbursement of claims totalling £2.8m has been received to date, with £1.8m remaining outstanding. Further details of project expenditure are outlined in Appendix II, CYP Financial Position at Programme Closure.

Concerns regarding the reimbursement of claims has been highlighted to SEUPB, and a schedule for reimbursement has been provided.

### **3.5 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 noted the contents of the report and related appendices and recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to note the report and level of achievement for the BPR Theme.

A member also thanked the PEACE IV Programme Manager for all her work on the Programme, particularly in the challenging circumstances of the last few years.

### **Good Relations**

#### **Good Relations Action Plan 2023/24, Reduced Budget Reprofile and Response to TEO & Spending Plans for 2023-2024**

The Good Relations Officer provided some background to the Good Relations Action Plan for the benefit of new Partnership Members and provided an update on the current status of the budget pressures following correspondence from Gareth Johnston, Deputy Secretary, the Executive Office, on 5th April 2022, and to provide information to assist the Council's corporate response to the EQIA by 7th June.

On an annual basis the Council submitted the District Council's Good Relations Action Plan to the Executive Office. Councils were required at a minimum to fund this programme at a ratio of 25% Council and 75% TEO but for 2023/24 the profile was 40% BCC and 60% TEO, which had been the case for Belfast City Council in previous years.

The 2023/24 Good Relations Plan was submitted in January, and the Council's overall financial profile for the Good Relations Programme was detailed below: -

Council Contribution	£413,320.10
Executive Office Total Contribution	£606,893.00
<b>Total Budget for Good Relations Programme</b>	<b>£1,020,213.10</b>

Reports were brought to Shared City Partnership and the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in March 23. Broadly, the Council had agreed to proceed as follows:-

- With the delivery of the Good Relations Action Plan 2023/24 under delegated authority of the Director of Neighbourhood Services, allocating up to 25% of the total Plan until a formal Letter of Offer had been received by TEO.
- Approve the increase in the allocation of grant aid under BCC1, to incorporate an additional £23,000 from the BCC9 Strategic Intervention Programme in order to include projects that met the objectives of this programme.

A further delegated authority report was presented on the 23rd March which agreed grants to the value of £154,644 were recommended. The total budget for projects during 2023/24 available for distribution was £143,000. It was normal to over-commit as groups tend to underspend, and throughout 2023/24 the Council would have the ability in year to either reprofile budget or bid for additional funds if they became available.

Following the correspondence issued from the Deputy Secretary, on the 11th May 2023, TEO had issued an Equality Impact Assessment on The Executive Office's Spending Plans for 2023-2024. It was important to note at this stage that correspondence was also received in parallel via an email from TEO which stated: -

“A 12 week public consultation period will now commence and a link to the EQIA is provided below. However, given the necessity to finalise initial funding allocations for TEO programmes and funded groups, and to provide clarity to stakeholders, **I'd ask that responses to the consultation are submitted by 7 June 2023 where possible.** Responses received up until the consultation closure date on 2 August 2023 will still be considered - these may be used to consider further mitigation measures, to inform in-year budget reallocation processes or to direct any additional funding (or further reductions) that emerge over the course of the financial year.”

Following the above email, the Council received a further email from TEO on 17th May 2023 stating:-

“You will all be aware of the budget position for the 2023/24 DCGRP and that the EQIA has now issued.

The allocation for the DCGRP will be **53%** of last year's budget.

In order for us to progress with drafting Letters of Offer, I would appreciate if you can provide me with a breakdown of your budget which is **£301,537.28** by salary and programme costings, by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023.”

On receipt of this email, the Good Relations Manager and the officers within the Good Relations Team, based on the budget verified by Finance, had revised the Action Plan based on the 53% funding allocation. Detailed analysis had been provided in an accompanying Appendix 1. The Members were asked to note several key points: -

- The proposed budget protects the staff resource, that is, Council contribution would be directed to staff resources and this would be used as the match funding element to any TEO Budget that emerged.
- Programmes had been reduced in most cases to achieve a budget neutral impact for the financial profile of the Council. TEO requested the reprofiled budget to be forwarded to them by 'close of play' on 31st May 2023. The Good Relations Manager submitted this subject to the necessary Committee and Council approvals.
- Contingency plans were in place for programme delivery if further funding became available.

The summary table below shows an overview of the budget: -

<b>Programme name</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>New</b>
<b>Good Relations Small Grants programme</b>	BCC1	<b>£120,000</b>	£154,644
<b>St. Patrick's Day Civic Events Programme</b>	BCC2	<b>£30,000</b>	£10,000
<b>Positive Cultural Expression Programme</b>	BCC3	<b>£50,000</b>	£20,000
<b>Civic Engagement and Learning Programme</b>	BCC4	<b>£20,000</b>	£10,000



<b>Minority Ethnic Inclusion Programme</b>	BCC5	<b>£82,000</b>	£30,000
<b>Civic Engagement and Strategic Priorities</b>	BCC6	<b>£40,000</b>	£20,000
<b>Interface Engagement and Tackling Sectarianism &amp; Racism</b>	BCC7	<b>£80,000</b>	£40,000
<b>Shared Education Schools Programme</b>	BCC8	<b>£25,000</b>	£10,000
<b>Strategic Intervention Programme</b>	BCC9	<b>£48,000</b>	£0.00
<b>Staff Contribution to Programme</b>			£6,893.28
<b>Total</b>			<b>£301,537.28</b>

As stated, TEO issued the EQIA on 12th May 2023 on their spending plans for 2023-2024, its purpose being to examine the potential options for potential reductions and the potential equality impacts of these options. Councils could respond to the consultation under the following 6 questions: -

1. Do you agree that TEO has gathered the necessary data to inform its decisions around the allocation of its budget?
2. Do you agree with TEO's assessment of the options for budget reductions?
3. Do you agree with TEO's assessment of equality impacts of the options considered for budget reductions?
4. Do you agree that TEO has correctly identified all relevant mitigations that could help reduce the adverse equality impacts of the budget reductions?
5. Do you agree with TEO's overall assessment of the business areas where budget reductions will need to be made?
6. Do you have any other comments you would like to add about this consultation?

The officers within the Good Relations Unit prepared information to assist the Council's corporate response which was included for information.

In year budget pressures remained and would impact on the Council's ability to react to any issues which may arise during the year.

#### **Original Budget Agreed for 23/24**

Council Contribution	£413,320.10
Executive Office Total Contribution	£606,893.00
<b>Total Budget for Good Relations Programme</b>	<b>£1,020,213.10</b>

#### **53% TEO Reduction Budget for 23/24**

Council Contribution	£413,320.10
Executive Office Total Contribution	£301,537.28
<b>Total Budget for Good Relations Programme</b>	<b>£714,857.38</b>

The Good Relations Officer highlighted that the proposed spending cuts to the District Council’s Good Relations Programme by TEO may result in regression in Good Relations Programmes across the City due to lack of Programme budget, which in turn could have a negative impact on communities, interface areas and the City.

There was lengthy discussion and the Members raised concerns in relation to the EQIA, TEO’s funding cuts and the potential impact of the cuts. Ms. A. Tohill gave further context to TEO’s position. A Member stated there was a need to think about how to mitigate the negative impact of cuts especially in interface areas.

The Partnership agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee to agree the approach for reprofiling the reduced Good Relations budget, note the concerns raised and the contents of the EQIA report.

### **Update on TEO Asylum Full Dispersal Fund**

The Good Relations Officer provided the Members with an update on the projects funded through the Home Office Dispersal Funding and to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to use reprofiled money to support the continuation of the Barnardo’s School Readiness and Parenting Project.

The Members were reminded that in December 2022 the Executive Office (TEO) had requested Councils, at short notice, to submit urgent proposals for projects to enhance and/or develop support and services for asylum seekers, which could be funded by TEO through Home Office Dispersal Funding. In response, the Council submitted proposals in December 2023, which were considered and approved as eligible for funding by the Executive Office.

In March 2023, TEO awarded the Council £406,228 to support the proposals submitted until 31st March 2024.

The following projects and support costs had been agreed by the Council, via the People and Communities Committee, and TEO, with most projects now mobilised.

**Table 1.**

<b>Delivery Partner</b>	<b>Summary of project</b>	<b>Costs</b>
<b>Proposal 1: Red Cross</b>	Asylum Support and Triage Project, providing bilingual helpline and casework support	£152,643
<b>Proposal 2: Barnardos</b>	Family Help Project – Supporting parents and children coping with displacement through conflict, with a focus on school readiness, child development and parenting.	£65,000
<b>Proposal 3: Conway Education Centre</b>	Language, mentoring, training befriending and integration programme	£41,125
<b>Proposal 4:</b>	Community Integration Programme and trauma therapy intervention	£14,728

<b>Lower Ormeau Residents Group</b>		
<b>Proposal 5: Belfast City Council</b>	Cultural Competence and conscious / unconscious Bias Programme	£20,000
<b>Proposal 6: Belfast City Council</b>	Project Management & Coordination Costs	£40,000
<b>Proposal 7: Immigration and Legal Advice Project</b>	Currently out for tender	£72, 732

Due to delays with TEO issuing a Memorandum of Understanding in respect of this funding, some of the planned costs in relation to the project management and co-ordination had not been used.

It was proposed that £20,000 of the allocated project management and coordination costs that had been allocated were reprofiled to continue to deliver the Barnardo's Family Help Project, that was due to complete in August 2023, to allow for continuation until March 2024. The remainder of the projects had a completion date up until the end of March 2024.

Further updates on projects would be provided at future Shared City Partnership meetings.

The Members noted that the contents of the report and agreed the approach for reprofiling costs in relation to the Asylum Dispersal Fund.

### **Update on Good Relations Events**

The Members noted the following events in which Good Relations were involved. The Neighbourhood Services Manager encouraged the Members to attend.

**Event:** Refugee Week: Understanding the Lived Experience of Asylum Seekers

**Date:** Monday 19th June 2023

**Time:** 10:00am to 12.30pm

**Format:** A space in City Hall to meet, chat and hear directly from people who had to leave their home and familiarity to seek safety in Belfast.

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

**Event:** Day of Reflection

**Date:** Wednesday 21st June 2023

**Time:** 10:00am – 4:00pm

**Format:** Hosted in the City Hall this event would provide a space to mark the Day of Reflection, it would include opportunities to participate in creative arts, listen to poetry and readings or engage in quiet reflection.

**Registration:** Drop in event and no registration was required.

### **Membership of Shared City Partnership (Verbal Update)**

The Neighbourhood Services Manager provided an update on the current business membership. Ms Geraldine Duggan had written to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Partnership to advise that, as a result of the cessation of funding, BCCM would have to concentrate on other activities and, therefore, unfortunately had to resign from the Partnership. A letter had been sent to Ms Duggan thanking her for her contribution.

She also advised that it was likely that a new nominee would be required relating to recent movement at the Chamber of Commerce. In addition, as agreed previously, there was an annual rotation for a faith representative between the 4 main churches. Therefore, the Church of Ireland nominee would sit on the partnership for the next year, commencing in August and she advised that the Church of Ireland had been contacted with regards to nominating a faith representative. She acknowledged and thanked Andrew Irvine, Methodist Church for his contribution which had come to an end.

The Neighbourhood Services Manager suggested bringing a paper to the Partnership in August in relation as to how to nominate members from the Business Sector.

She also advised that the recently elected Councillor McLaughlin would sit on the Partnership as an Elected Member, and this would leave a vacancy in representation from the community/voluntary sector in North. Therefore, she asked the Partnership to agree that the vacancy be advertised as previously, with networks and groups being contacted for expressions of interest.

The Members approved this approach.

Chairperson