

Private Document Pack

**Democratic Services Section
Legal and Civic Services Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**



**Belfast
City Council**

29th March, 2024

MEETING OF THE SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Working Group will meet in the Conor Room, City Hall as a Hybrid meeting on Monday, 8th April, 2024 at 1.30 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. **Routine Matters**
 - (a) Apologies
 - (b) Minutes (Pages 1 - 8)
 - (c) Declarations of Interest
2. **Good Relations Quarter 4 Update (Pages 9 - 16)**
3. **Peace IV - Secretariat Update (Pages 17 - 22)**
4. **Peace Plus Belfast City Council Local Action Plan Update (Pages 23 - 26)**
5. **Forth Meadow Community Greenway Walk (Pages 27 - 28)**

SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP**Monday 11th March, 2024****MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP
HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

Members present: Councillor Duffy (Chairperson);
Alderman Copeland; and
Councillors Lyons, McLaughlin and McMullan.

External Members: Mr. L. Gunn, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;
Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council;
Ms. C. McMenamin, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;
Ms. T. Mimna, Good Relations, TEO;
Mr. W. Naeem, Interfaith Forum; and
Ms. A. Roberts, Community and Voluntary Sector.

In attendance: Ms. D. McKinney, PEACE Programme Manager;
Mr. G. McCartney, Good Relations Manager;
Mr. D. Robinson, Acting Senior Good Relations Officer;
Mrs. L. Dolan, Acting Senior Good Relations Officer; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillor Smyth, Mr J Girvan, Neighbourhood Services Manager and Mrs. B. Arthurs, Mr. P. Anderson, Superintendent Henry, Mr. M. McBride, Mr. G. Walker and Ms. A M White.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 5th February, 2024, were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor McMullan declared an interest in the item "The Executive Office Asylum Dispersal Funding Update", in that he was an individual member of Belfast City of Sanctuary, and he left the meeting for the duration of the discussion.

Shared City Partnership Membership (Verbal Update)

The Good Relations Manager advised the Working Group that Mr. Liam Gunn had been appointed as the nominee from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and the Chairperson welcomed him to his first meeting.

The Good Relations Manager also advised that Ms. Clare Guinness, Belfast Chamber of Commerce, had been appointed as the Business representative nominee and, although not at today's meeting, he hoped that she would be available to attend the next meeting of the Partnership.

Noted.

The Executive Office Asylum Dispersal Funding Update

(Councillor McMullan, having declared an interest in this item, left the meeting for the duration of the discussion.)

The Acting Senior Good Relations Officer reminded the Members that, in March 2023, The Executive Office (TEO) had awarded the Council £406,228 of Asylum Dispersal Funding to support proposals to enhance or develop support for asylum seekers. She then provided the Working Group with an update on the projects which had been delivered over the past 9 months, noting that £70,000 of the overall funding awarded by TEO had been allocated to the provision of an Immigration Advice Project, however, following a procurement exercise, whereby no award had been made and following a further commissioning of Regional Immigration Advice Services by TEO, the Council was now proposing to reprofile this money into supporting four further projects.

She reported that, given the increase in the number of people seeking asylum, whom had been accommodated in new areas of Belfast and the growing use of community and voluntary organisations, across the city, it was proposed that the remainder of this funding be used to procure four projects to support the localised community integration and inclusion of asylum seekers in Belfast. This would be done through an open call, prioritising organisations that had not been recipients of this fund, while also inviting applications in areas where asylum seekers have not been traditionally accommodated.

The officer advised that the proposed approach was consistent with previous conversations raised at the Shared City Partnership in relation to supporting capacity within local communities to accommodate the integration and inclusion of asylum seekers.

Following a query regarding the fair distribution of the available funding, the officer encouraged the Members of the Partnership to make any organisations that they felt might be keen to avail of the funding aware of the fact that it would be going out for an open call and assured the Members that officers could provide advice to organisations that were interested in developing projects in relation to asylum seekers.

In regard to specific concerns raised regarding the lack of integration of asylum seekers into the community within the Shankill area, the Good Relations Manager undertook to liaise further with the Member directly.

Discussion ensued regarding the data around the housing of asylum seekers and following discussion it was agreed that a representative from Mears be invited to a future meeting of the Partnership to provide an overview of its role.

The Partnership agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it approves that the remaining £70,000 of Asylum Dispersal Money be used to procure four further projects to support the localised community integration and inclusion of asylum seekers in Belfast.

Segregation and the Environment Research Report

The Acting Senior Good Relations Officer reminded the Partnership that, as part of the Good Relations Action Plan for 2022/23, provision had been made for the development of a piece of research to identify the links between segregation within the city and its subsequent impact on the environment and the climate.

At its meeting in February 2023, Members of the Partnership: *“noted the report and the actions being taken to implement the recommendations in the research, including the provision already made within the previously agreed Good Relations Action Plan”*. Further, Members agreed *“to publish and disseminate the report, Segregation and the Environment, after further internal and external engagement has taken place”*.

The officer continued that, as part of the further internal and external engagement, the research had been considered by the Chief Officers Management Team (CMT), in February 2023 who had discussed the report and requested that further discussion on the research be undertaken. CMT had also requested that the author of the report would attend a future meeting of CMT to discuss its contents further with them. Mr. Peter Osborne had subsequently attended CMT in April 2023 to input into the conversation and to address queries that the senior management had had regarding the content, background and recommendations contained within the report.

Following this, two workshops had been held with a number of internal staff sections to discuss the research and the recommendations further. Central to this was to look at how the recommendations could be taken forward by various relevant Council sections. In addition, officers had engaged through various meetings and events with external parties.

Once this process had been completed, CMT had considered a revised draft of the report, along with the revised recommendations. Following discussion, CMT had engaged with Party Group Leaders who agreed that officers now progress the report through the Shared City Partnership and for onward agreement by Elected Members.

The Acting Senior Good Relations Officer then drew the Members' attention to Updated Research Report, including updated recommendations, that had been attached as an appendices to the report.

The Partnership agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that, following full Council approval, the research report be launched, published and that the recommendations within the report be progressed.

Peace IV - Secretariat Update

The PEACE Programme Manager provided the Partnership with an update in respect of the activity associated with the closure of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan.

She reported that, as PEACE IV progressed towards closure, officers had been reviewing the ongoing contractual obligations, this included future audit requirements and the retention of all documentation associated with the delivery of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan.

She advised that all documentation associated with the delivery of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan was required to be retained for 5 years after the submission of the final claim, in line with the PEACE IV Programme Rules, therefore, the retention date was until 31st December 2028. In line with this, the contractual obligations, including the retention date, had been outlined to external delivery partners during the On the Spot Verification visit at project closure.

The Programme Manager advised that she had been liaising with relevant Council Departments, including Procurement Services, Human Resources and Finance to ensure compliance with PEACE IV retention requirements. Advice from Legal and Information Governance on the retention of records was being progressed and the archiving of all relevant information would be done in line with the Council's Records Retention Disposal Schedule and Policy.

In term of the reimbursement of PEACE IV claims the officer advised that this was progressing, with the Period 34 BPR claim for Council (£181K) and Period 34 CYP claim for NIHE (£62K) having now been paid. The value of outstanding claims remained as previously reported at £4.2m.

The Peace Programme Manager advised that community stakeholders continued to animate the Forth Meadow Community Greenway and were keen for the Partnership to continue to support the Greenway. They had invited the Partnership Members to participate in a walk along part of the Greenway from Glencairn, to the Springfield Dam and finishing at the City Cemetery, followed by refreshments at St John's Parish.

The Members agreed that this would be valuable as it would enable them to see first-hand the works that had been undertaken.

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

Peace Plus Belfast City Council
Local Action Plan Update

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

The purpose of this report is to provide Shared City Partnership members with an update on the assessment of PEACE PLUS 1.1. Co-designed Belfast Local Community Peace Action Plan, and the proposed Capacity Building Programme.

2.0 Recommendations

Members note the contents of the report and recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that they note the contents of the report.

3.0 Main report

As members are aware, planning for the mobilisation of the Local Action Plan is progressing.

Officers have received and responded to initial clarifications from SEUPB regarding the submitted appendices that support the formal application, which indicates that the assessment process has progressed. The time frame for assessment approval and mobilisation of the Local Action Plan is being closely monitored to enable a realistic delivery schedule, any proposed delays will be reported to members, as necessary.

To aid understanding of Council’s obligations in rolling out the Local Action Plan, including the monitoring and evaluation requirements, a request was submitted to SEUPB seeking advice on the proposed training that will be provided for Councils. In response, SEUPB advised they ‘have not decided on approach around this, whether in terms of written guidance or training session with councils,’ and they ‘will revert on any decision and provide collective information to all 17 local authorities.’

In the absence of training / guidance, the management of risk in preparing for mobilisation is critical.

The immediate priorities, as previously reported, include the recruitment of staff, the delivery of a procurement capacity building programme and preparing for procurement. Recruitment of a Lead Officer to support the

development of systems and processes, commenced on 16 February, with further recruitment for project support administration to process in March 2024.

3.2 Capacity Building Programme

The content of the capacity building programme has been discussed with colleagues in Commercial and Procurement Services and Employability and Skills, as outlined below.

Training	Provider
PEACEPLUS Mobilisation Pre- Market Overview	PEACEPLUS Team
Introduction to Tendering	Commercial Procurement Services
Writing a Winning Bid	External Facilitator
Consortium Development	External Facilitator
Collaborative Bidding	External Facilitator
BCC Procurement System and Social Value Procurement Policy	Commercial Procurement Services
PEACEPLUS Monitoring and Evaluation	PEACEPLUS Team

Dates for delivery are to be confirmed, after which stakeholders will be informed and public advertising of the programme will be progressed. It is envisaged that subject to agreement delivery will commence mid-March to May 2024, which should align with the opening of tender calls.

3.3 Financial & Resource Implications

Expenditure associated with the LCAP is eligible from the submission date.

As such expenditure is within the existing budget which will be claimed retrospectively from SEUPB. Council is awaiting guidance on the drawdown of the £30K advance from SEUPB.

3.4 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

Plan has been submitted for equality and good relations screening as well as rural needs assessment.”

A Member commended the work that was currently being undertaken by the Peace Programme Manager and welcomed the fact that the recruitment of a Lead Officer had now commenced and that further recruitment for project support administration was due to commence later in the month. He added that it was disappointing that PEACE IV staff had not been able to be retained whilst transitioning to the new programme.

The Good Relations Manager concurred and stated that, due to the temporary nature of roles in a funded programme, staff had moved on to avail of new opportunities. He stated that ‘future succession planning’ was an issue that needed addressed to try and avoid such a loss of valuable officer experience and knowledge.

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

Chairperson

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Belfast
City Council

SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

GOOD RELATIONS ACTION PLAN QUARTER 4 UPDATE

Subject:	Good Relations Action Plan Quarter 4 Update Report
Date:	8 April 2024
Reporting Officer:	David Robinson, Senior Good Relations Officer (Acting)
Contact Officer:	Godfrey McCartney, Good Relations Manager David Robinson, Senior Good Relations Officer (Acting) Leish Dolan, Senior Good Relations Officer (Acting) Danny Sweeney, Good Relations Officer

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes No

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues				
1.1	To update the Shared City Partnership on the delivery of the Council's Good Relations Action Plan during Quarter 4 which covers the period January – March 2024.				
2.0	Recommendation				
2.1	That Members note the contents of the report and recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that they too, note the contents of the report.				
3.0	Main Report				
3.1	Members will be aware that, as reported, the Council's Good Relations Action Plan contains £294,644 towards programme costs, made up of funding from the Council and The Executive Office's District Council's Good Relations Programme.				
3.2	Members will recall that during over the first 3 Quarters of the delivery of the Action Plan, a total of £246,614.84 was allocated to projects. During Q4, a further £38,750 was allocated bringing a total allocation to £285,364.84. A request will be made to The Executive Office to reprofile the slight under-allocation of £9,279.16, plus any subsequent underspend identified as projects complete, into salaries and administration, ensuring full spend of the Action Plan budget.				
3.3	Activity for Q4 is summarised as follows:				
	Code	Project Summary	Budget	Progress in Quarter 3	Total allocated
	BCC1	Good Relations Small Grants Programme.	£154,644	All projects in receipt of letter of offer and currently being delivered	Fully allocated
	BCC2	St Patrick's Day Civic Events programme	Increased to £20,000	Following reprofile of BCC6, it was agreed to provide £20,000 towards the preparation of the Carnival Parade to improve the diversity of the event.	£20,000 allocated in Q4
	BCC3	Positive Cultural Expression Programme	Increased to £30,000	Beacon Programme delivered. 11 groups supported to deploy a beacon on the 11 th July. Increased allocation following reallocation of BCC6 in Q3.	Fully allocated
	BCC4	Civic Engagement and Learning Programme	£10,000	Full allocation delivered in Q1.	Fully allocated
	BCC5	Minority Ethnic Inclusion Programme	£30,000	2 projects supported in Q4.	£11,000 allocated towards Roma Engagement and £6,000 allocated to the revision of the Refugee Transition Guide

	BCC6	Civic Engagement and Strategic Priorities	£0	Following 2 unsuccessful quotation exercises, this budget was reallocated to BCC2 and BCC3.	Did not proceed
	BCC7	Interface Engagement and tackling sectarianism and racism	£40,000	2 further projects allocated support for interface events.	£1,750 allocated in Q4
	BCC8	Shared Education Schools Programme	£10,000	Programme being delivered in Q3 and Q4.	Fully allocated
	BCC 9	Strategic Intervention Programme	£0	N/A	£0
		TOTAL	£294,644		£38,750
3.4	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>All costs within the District Council's Good Relations Action Plan are covered within existing agreed budgets.</p>				
3.5	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>All activity within the District Council's Good Relations Action Plan seek to improve Good Relations between people from different political, religious, and racial backgrounds.</p>				
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached				
	1. Quarter 4 2023/24 Summary Action Plan update template				

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Appendix 1: 2023/24 Quarter 4 Action Plan Programme Summary Report

Code	Key Priority	Project Summary	23/24 Programmes	Budget	Progress in Quarter 3	Total Q4 allocation
BCC1	All 4 themes – projects will be aligned to relevant theme	Council Community Provision Support Programme. Criteria will reflect focus on the 4 T;BUC themes and will provide opportunities for organisations across Belfast to engage in activities which promote the TBUC outcomes.	Good Relations Small Grants Programme to include Good Relations and Intervention outcomes	£154,644 Total: £154,644	45 projects were awarded letters of offer following an open application process in Q1. Projects ongoing.	£0
BCC2	Cultural expression	St Patrick's Day Civic Events programme to embed Good Relations Outcomes into events marking the celebration of Saint Patrick's Day.	Supporting the Tourism and Events Unit with events around St. Patrick's Day to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public events - Cultural activities such as music, dance, poetry 	£20,000 Total: £10,000	Following a reprofile of BCC6 in Q3, it was agreed to provide £20,000 towards the preparation of the Carnival Parade to improve the diversity of the event.	£20,000 Total: £20,000
BCC3	Cultural expression	Positive Cultural Expression Programme – to support capacity building to facilitate the positive expression of cultural heritage through training and awareness raising programmes and the provision of bonfire beacons, with a view to cultural inclusion in the City's Year of Culture in 2024.	Suite of delivery options to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity building - Training and mentoring - Leadership development - Events such as community beacons and local community celebrations. 	£30,000 Total: £30,000	Beacon Programme underway. Assessment of Sites and repairs to Beacons complete. 11 groups supported to deploy a beacon on the 11 th July. Increased allocation of £10K, following reallocation of BCC6.	£0
BCC4	Shared Community	Civic Engagement and Learning Programme Develop programme of events and training on good relations/diversity issues to increase knowledge of diversity and cultural competence. Involve residents in an enhanced Day of Reflection to mark those who suffered as a result of the conflict in and about Northern Ireland.	A calendar of programmes and events, open to the public, staff and members on Good Relations issues to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Living Library Event, - Visits to Cultural and Faith locations such as an Orange Hall, Culturlann, Synagogue, Mosque, Orange Museum, Roddy McCorley Museum, sporting bodies, Chinese Resource Centre. - Events to mark HMD, Refugee week, Black History Month and Day of Reflection, • Training opportunities to challenge anti-Muslim hatred 	£10,000		£0

			Involve delivery partners such as UK Pivot, Tell Mama, Faith Matters, ASCONI.	Total: £10,000		
BCC5	Shared Community	<p>Minority Ethnic Equality and Inclusion Programme To facilitate partnership working on the inclusion and participation of new communities.</p> <p>To deliver actions arising from the recent Inequalities research, this includes commissioning a volunteer and befriending programme that supports the integration and inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers.</p> <p>To support the Roma Hub to provide outreach and engagement to the Roma Community to the Roma Community</p> <p>Support localised opportunities to promote the integration and orientation of current minority ethnic communities, through good relations initiatives</p>	<p>Quarterly meetings of the Belfast Migrant Forum</p> <p>Working internally and externally to progress a programme of volunteer support that develops the skills of refugees and asylum seekers and links them with opportunities commensurate with their skills.</p> <p>Provision of outreach to the Roma Community, through the Roma Hub</p> <p>Working with Migrant Forum Members, Red Cross, Barnardo's, Conway Education and other Migrant Forum members, to commission proposals to support integration of new communities.</p>	<p>Total: £30,000</p>	<p>2 projects were supported in Quarter 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forward South towards Roma Engagement and - The Law Centre towards the revision of the Refugee Transition Guide 	<p>£11,000</p> <p>£6,000</p> <p>Total: £17,000</p>
BCC6	Children and Young People	<p>Involving young people in civic engagement and strategic priorities Implement practical recommendations from the Segregation and the Environment research</p> <p>Involve young people in influencing and participating in programmes in Council parks and open spaces, to create Good Relations activity through such engagement.</p>	<p>Develop and deliver a plan of action to involve young people in initiatives that can improve the environment while also contributing to reducing segregation and improving Good Relations.</p> <p>Support the Council's Parks Outreach team to create Good Relations activity within parks and open spaces that can contribute to building Good Relations outcomes in such public spaces.</p>	<p>£0</p> <p>Total: £0</p>	<p>Following 2 unsuccessful quotation exercises, this budget was reallocated to BCC2 and BCC3.</p>	<p>£0</p>
BCC7	Safe Community	<p>Interface Engagement and tackling sectarianism & racism Work with a range of internal and external stakeholders to identify strategic projects that will:</p>			<p>Sectarianism and racism initiative did not proceed.</p>	

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> develop and deliver a city-wide initiative on anti-sectarianism and anti-racism to include other agencies and government support progress towards the softening, transformation and/or removal of interface barriers. 	<p>Support relationship building between Deliver strategic training, information and engagement work to tackle sectarianism and racism</p> <p>Work with key community delivery agents to deliver innovative localised cross-interface projects to build relations at the local level</p>	<p>£40,000</p> <p>Total £40,000</p>	<p>2 further projects supported in Q4;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross community St. Patrick's Day event at St. Comgalls East Meets West Community Centre programme 	<p>£1,250</p> <p>£500</p> <p>Total: £1,750</p>
BCC8	Children & Young people	Shared Education Schools Programme To support shared education activity between pupils from P5 – P7, including cross community engagement between parents, across 4 partnerships (9 schools).	Deliver a menu of interactive engagement activities between the 4 partnerships to increase understanding and respect for different community and racial backgrounds.	<p>£10,000</p> <p>Total £10,000</p>	Programme delivery underway in Q3 and will continue into Q4.	£0
BCC 9	All 4 themes – projects will be aligned to relevant theme	Strategic Intervention Programme To deliver a targeted, strategic and proactive intervention programme to address good relations issues arising from conflict, anti-social behaviour and localised hate crime.	Deliver 4 year-long, area based, good relations focussed strategic intervention projects across Belfast. Local consortia will be invited to apply for this programme.	<p>£0</p> <p>Total £0</p>	£23,000 from this programme was reallocated towards small grants to support 5 projects that were delivering on the objectives of the Strategic Intervention Funding, prior to the budget cuts. No further activity was delivered.	£0
Page 15				£294,644	Quarter 4 allocation	£38,750
				£294,644	Quarter 3 allocation	£61,970.84
				£294,644	Quarter 2 allocation	£0
				£294,664	Quarter 1 allocation	£184,644
				£294,664	Total allocation	£285,364.84

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Belfast
City Council

SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

PEACE IV SECRETARIAT UPDATE

Subject:	PEACE IV Programme - Secretariat Update
Date:	8 April 2024
Reporting Officer:	Debbie McKinney, Programme Manager (ext 6034)
Contact Officer:	Debbie McKinney, Programme Manager (ext 6034)

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
	To provide the Shared City Partnership (SCP) with a progress update in respect of the activity associated with the closure of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan.
2.0	Recommendations
	The Partnership is requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee that they note the contents of the report and appendices.
3.0	Main report
3.1	Document Retention
	The archiving of records and documentation associated with PEACE IV is progressing, as reported in March 2024. However members are advised that recent correspondence from SEUPB (Appendix I) amends the programme rules and the retention date “for a period of five years from 31 December of the year in which the last payment by SEUPB to the Lead Partner took place.”
3.2	As members are aware a significant value claims are yet to be reimbursed by SEUPB, and as such the retention date is dependent on SEUPB processes and timeframe for reimbursement and therefore, cannot be fully determined at this point.
3.3	It is proposed that working on the basis that all claims reimbursement will be received during 2024, a preliminary revised date of 31 December 2029 is determined. This revised retention date will be communicated to all PEACE IV delivery partners and internal Council departments. Remedial action will also be taken on the current archiving of records.
3.4	However given that the programme and projects have progressed to closure, Members are requested to note that adherence to this revised retention date may pose a risk to Council and delivery partners in relation to future audits of the programme.
3.5	Claims Reimbursement
	Members are requested to note that reimbursement of the Period 34 BPR claim to NIHE has

	<p>now been completed, as such all NIHE claims have now been reimbursed.</p> <p>The value of outstanding claims remains as previously reported, at £4.2m, with the breakdown as follows:</p> <table> <tr> <td>BPR Theme</td> <td>£215,968.46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CYP Theme</td> <td>£232,823.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SSS Theme</td> <td>£3,758,339.26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£4,207,131.52</td> </tr> </table> <p>Officers are continuing to liaise with SEUPB to progress the verification of outstanding claims.</p>	BPR Theme	£215,968.46	CYP Theme	£232,823.80	SSS Theme	£3,758,339.26	Total	£4,207,131.52
BPR Theme	£215,968.46								
CYP Theme	£232,823.80								
SSS Theme	£3,758,339.26								
Total	£4,207,131.52								
3.6	<p>Financial & Resource Implications</p> <p>As previously reported, all programme expenditure claims, totalling £12.9m, have been submitted to SEUPB for reimbursement. The current financial position of reimbursement of approximately £8.7m.</p>								
3.7	<p>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</p> <p>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.</p>								
4.0	<p>Appendices</p> <p>Appendix I – SEUPB Memo to Lead Partners – Programme Rules</p>								



To: Project Lead Partners

From: Phil Heaton

Date: 21 March 2024

**Re: INTERREG VA AND PEACE IV PROGRAMMES – CHANGES TO
PROGRAMME RULES: DOCUMENT RETENTION & INCOME GENERATION**

Dear Lead Partners,

Please be advised that the programme rules have been updated to reflect the European Commission's requirements regarding Retention of Documents and Income Generation.

Retention of Documents

Please see below the updated requirements on the length of time to retain project records:

*Beneficiaries/Recipients shall keep available all records and supporting documents, including statistical records and other records related to the project, as well as records and documents in an electronic format, **for a period of five years from 31 December of the year in which the last payment by SEUPB to the Lead Partner took place.** This period shall be three years where the funding is of an amount lower than or equal to EUR 60 000.*

For example, if the SEUPB made the last payment on 12 March 2023, the supporting documents must be retained until 31 December 2028.

If any State Aid was granted (de minimis or GBER) to any partner or final beneficiary, all documentation must be made available for a period of 10 years from 31 December of the year in which the last payment to the Lead Partner took place. Records and documents pertaining to audits, appeals,



litigation, and the pursuit of claims relating to legal commitments or pertaining to OLAF investigations shall be retained until such audits, appeals, litigation, pursuit of claims or investigations have been closed.

Other, possibly longer statutory archiving periods, as required by national law, or due to legal charges, remain unaffected by the rules mentioned above.

Further details can be found under Section 11.6 of the Programme Rules.

Income Generation

Lead Partners are required to monitor any net revenue accrued:

- during the lifetime of the project, and
- up to 3 years after the project or 28th February 2025, whichever is earlier.

Projects should keep good records of all income generated so as to demonstrate whether net revenue has occurred.

If net revenue was not already determined and deducted from the project budget at application stage, net revenue must be reported to SEUPB. **It is Lead Partners' responsibility to inform SEUPB of net revenue as soon as it is anticipated, so that it can be netted off appropriately.**

Further details can be found under Section 6.33 of the Programme Rules.

A full list of changes to the Programme Rules can be found as an Annex to this letter.

Please note, it the Lead Partner's responsibility to ensure that all project partners are informed of the content of this memo. Thank you for your cooperation.

Regards,

Phil Heaton
Interim Programme Manager, Managing Authority

**Annex 1: List of Changes in Version 10 of the PEACE IV & INTERREG VA****Programme Rules**

Section	Summary of Change
3.9	Reference to document retention, updated to reflect Section 11.6
6.33	Requirement for net revenue monitoring confirmed as <i>“within three years of the completion of a project, or by February 28th 2025, whichever is earlier”</i>
11.6	Retention requirement updated to reflect EU Commission requirements.
Annex III, Section 4	Reference to document retention, updated to reflect Section 11.6. Reference to net revenue monitoring updated to reflect Section 6.33.
Annex 4 (new)	New Annex added, specifying the programme’s recoupment framework for projects that do not meet output indicator requirements.
Output Indicator Guidance; Priority 4	Removal of reference to requirement for gender breakdown.

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Subject:	PEACE PLUS Belfast Local Community Action Plan Update
Date:	8 April 2024
Reporting Officer:	Debbie McKinney, Peace Programmes Manager (ext 6034)
Contact Officer:	Debbie McKinney, Peace Programmes Manager (ext 6034)

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
	The purpose of this report is to provide Shared City Partnership members with an update on the assessment of PEACE PLUS 1.1. Co-designed Belfast Local Community Peace Action Plan, and the proposed Capacity Building Programme.
2.0	Recommendations
	Members note the contents of the report and recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that they note the contents of the report.
3.0	Main report
3.1	The assessment of the PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan has progressed with clarifications received from both SEUPB and TEO. The Programme Manager is currently liaising with relevant officers across Council to consider and compile suitable responses to the clarifications.
3.2	Members are requested to note that the SEUPB clarifications were received on 27 March 2024, with a response return by 9 April 2024, which equates to 7 working days. Given the complexity of the Action Plan, the extent and scope of the clarifications, the imminent financial / leave year-end period as well as the Easter Holidays, a request to extend the response timeframe has been submitted to TEO and SEUPB. TEO has agreed to extend the timeframe to 15 April 2024, with no detriment to the approval timeframe. A response on the extended timeframe from SEUPB is to be provided.
3.3	As previously reported, the timeframe for assessment approval and mobilisation of the Local Action Plan is being closely monitored, at this stage the original timeframe of a Letter of Offer by June 2024 remains achievable.
3.4	Recruitment of staff to mobilise the PEACEPLUS Programme is continuing with interviews for the Lead Officer taking place and the advertising for the Programme Support Assistant, Project Officer and 3 x Project Managers in March 2024.
3.5	Capacity Building Programme
	Details of the Prepare to Procure Capacity Building Programme, as outlined in Appendix I,

	<p>have been finalised and circulated to the PEACEPLUS stakeholder mailing list and wider public. To maximise broad participation, places are restricted to one representative per organisation and allocated on a first come basis.</p> <p>The first session which focused on an overview of the PEACEPLUS Programme and timeframe for delivery was delivered on 28 March 2024.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>As previously reported expenditure associated with the LCAP is eligible from the submission date and therefore expenditure is within the existing budget which will be claimed retrospectively from SEUPB.</p> <p>A response from SEUPB regarding the drawdown of the £30K advance is yet to be received.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>Plan has been submitted for equality and good relations screening as well as rural needs assessment.</p>
4.0	<p><u>Appendices</u></p>
	Appendix I – Prepare to Procure Capacity Building Programme

APPENDIX I - PREPARE TO PROCURE
Capacity Building Programme

Training	Date	Time	Venue	Address
PEACEPLUS Mobilisation Pre-Market Overview	Thurs 28 March 2024	10am-12pm	Spectrum Centre	331-333 Shankill Road, Belfast BT13 3AA
Introduction to Tendering	Tues 9 April 2024	10am-1pm	Skainos Centre	239 Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 1AF
Writing a Winning Bid	Thursday 25 April 2024	10am-1pm	Girdwood Community Hub	10 Girdwood Avenue, Belfast BT14 6EG
Consortium Development	Wednesday 8 May 2024	10am-1pm	Innovation Factory	385 Springfield Road, Belfast BT12 7DG
Belfast City Council Procurement System and Social Value Procurement Policy	Thursday 16 May 2024	10am-1pm	EBCDA East Belfast Community Development Agency	55 Templemore Ave, Belfast BT5 4FP
PEACEPLUS Monitoring and Evaluation	Wednesday 22 May 2024	10am-1pm	Girdwood Community Hub	10 Girdwood Avenue, Belfast BT14 6EG
Consortium Development	Tuesday 28 May 2024	10am-1pm	Spectrum Centre	331-333 Shankill Road, Belfast BT13 3AA

To register to attend any of the above sessions, please email peacepluslap@belfastcity.gov.uk

Places are allocated on 1st come basis and restricted to one representative per organisation.

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Belfast
City Council

SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

FORTH MEADOW COMMUNITY GREENWAY - PEACE
IV

Subject:	Forth Meadow Community Greenway
Date:	8 April 2024
Reporting Officer:	Debbie McKinney, Programme Manager (ext 6034)
Contact Officer:	Debbie McKinney, Programme Manager (ext 6034)

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
	To provide the Shared City Partnership (SCP) with an overview of the walk on Forth Meadow Community Greenway, which is scheduled following the SCP meeting on 8 April 2024
2.0	Recommendations
	The Partnership is requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee that they note the contents of the report and appendices.
3.0	Main report
3.1	Forth Meadow Community Greenway Members Walk
	As agreed at the SCP meeting in March 2024, a walk along Forth Meadow Community Greenway has been arranged for SCP members. The walk will follow the meeting of 8 April 2024.
3.2	As members are aware Forth Meadow Community Greenway connects existing open spaces in north and west Belfast along a 12km route from Clarendon Playing Fields to the new Transport Hub in the City Centre. The transformation works included the addition of new paths and cycle ways along the route, additional planting, new pathway surfaces, new street furniture and public art.
3.3	The walk represents an opportunity for members to see first-hand the transformation achieved by the PEACE IV project, understand the ongoing challenges, and potential for further activity and development.
3.4	Members are advised that the walk will commence at the Innovation Factory, at approximately 2.30pm and will include walking to Section 1 in Glencairn through the Springvale Lands Section 2 and Section 3 Springfield Dam / Springfield Road through Falls Park and the City Cemetery. It is envisaged the walk will take approx. 1-1.5 hours, with refreshments provided in St Johns on completion.
3.5	Transport between sections may be provided, on request.

3.6	Council officers, community and faith representatives including Fr Martin Magill and Canon Tracey McRoberts will join the walk to outline to SCP members the activities they deliver to promote the common good and usage of Forth Meadow Community Greenway
3.7	Members are requested to confirm attendance on the walk and also outline any transport requirements.
3.8	<p>Financial & Resource Implications</p> <p>Any costs associated with the activity will be met within current budgets</p>
3.6	<p>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</p> <p>As per previous PEACE IV reports, 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.</p>
4.0	Appendices
	N/A