

SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

MONDAY, 12th JUNE, 2017

MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

Members present: Councillor Kyle (Chairperson);
Alderman Sandford and Councillors Attwood,
Johnston, Nicholl and Walsh.

External Members: Mrs. O. Barron, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;
Mrs. A. Chada, Voluntary/Community Sector;
Mr. K. Gibson, Church of Ireland;
Mrs. M. Marken, Catholic Church;
Mr. M. O'Donnell, Department for Communities; and
Mr. P. Scott, Catholic Church.

In attendance: Mrs. R. Crozier, Assistant Director;
Mrs. M. Higgins, Senior Good Relations Officer; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Election of Chairperson

It was proposed by Councillor Attwood, seconded by Councillor Johnston and agreed that Councillor Kyle would remain as the Chairperson for the period to end on the date of the Annual meeting of the Council in 2018.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Mr. S. Brennan, Mr. P. Mackel and Mrs. G. Duggan.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 8th May were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Presentation on Support for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Belfast

The Partnership was reminded that, at its meeting on 9th May, it had agreed to receive, at a future meeting, a presentation from one of the lead partners involved in the consortium which had been established to support the resettlement of people arriving in Belfast under the Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme.

Accordingly, Mrs. D. Wright, Race Relations Co-ordinator, Vulnerable Syrian Refugee Consortium, was welcomed to the meeting by the Chairperson.

Mrs Wright informed the Partnership that, from late 2015, a number of families from Syria had, on a phased basis, been resettled in Northern Ireland under the

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Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme. To date, eight groups, made up of 117 families and totalling 510 people, had been settled under the initiative and had been assisted by a consortium involving Bryson Intercultural, the British Red Cross, Barnardos, Extern and Save the Children, which had been appointed by the Department for Communities.

Mrs. Wright explained the process actioned upon the arrival of the Refugees in Northern Ireland. She advised that on arrival they would be met at the airport and be taken to a welcome centre where they would spend 4-5 days. At the centre they would receive orientation briefings and information on how to access services such as healthcare and benefits, following which they would then be settled into private rental accommodation.

The representative explained that the families initially required intensive support which included assessing each family's needs, linking the family with community support (when ready) and ensuring that families were settled and could access services independently.

Mrs. Wright advised that, as with today, the organisation also delivered information sessions. She explained that community participation was encouraged but highlighted that, the privacy and safeguarding of the families was of paramount importance, as often these individual had witnessed or experienced great trauma before arriving in Northern Ireland.

The representative acknowledged that there were ongoing challenges which included integration, isolated incidents of prejudice and discrimination, families thinking that their family members could join them (at a later stage) in Northern Ireland, education/employability challenges and housing issues. However, she also highlighted the huge volume of goodwill and community support that had been received. In addition, she highlight the overall success of the joined up/partnership approach that had been adopted.

She then provided clarification on a number of issues which had been raised by the Partnership and concluded her presentation by thanking Belfast City Council, in particular, the Good Relations Unit for its contribution to the successful delivery of the scheme. Mrs Wright further noted that the Northern Ireland approach had been recognised as a model of best practice in terms of the partnership approach adopted.

The Chairperson thanked the representative for her presentation and also for the excellent work that the Vulnerable Syrian Refugee Consortium had undertaken and she then left the meeting.

The Partnership noted the information which had been provided.

Screening of Good Relations Film

The Senior Good Relations Manager advised the Partnership that a Film had been made which documented the work of Belfast City Council's Good Relations Unit and the Members proceeded to view it.

The officer advised that the Film was available on the internet [here](#) should they wish to access it again.

Noted.

Update on the Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme 2017

The Partnership considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members on the delivery of the 2017 Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme to include an update on the groups who have been approved for funding through the 2017 Programme.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Partnership is requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources committee that they note the contents of this report including the list of groups who have been approved for funding through the 2017 Programme.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

Members may recall that at their April meeting they recommended that successful applications to the programme be approved under delegated authority by the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services. At the time of writing a total of 32 applications have been approved.

3.2 The following figures show the numbers of participating groups in comparison with 2015 and 2016.

| | Number of July groups | Number of beacons |
|-------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2015 | 44 | 6 |
| 2016 | 32 | 10 |
| 2017 | 32 | 10 |

3.3 Members should note that a number of the sites that took part in the 2015 programme but had not participated in 2016 have returned to the 2017 Programme. A number of sites that took part in the 2016 programme have indicated that they do not wish to take part in the programme this year but will continue to engage with Belfast City Council and other statutory agencies to address negative behaviours sometimes associated with bonfire sites such as flytipping and community safety issues. In addition, some traditional bonfire sites will not have bonfires in 2017.

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- 3.4 A contract for the repair, fill and installation of the bonfire beacons has been awarded. There was an increased level of interest from groups interested in using a bonfire beacon instead of a traditional bonfire this year. However, not all sites are suitable for use of the current beacon and this consideration will inform the approach to beacon feature when developing the use of beacon type structures for 2018 and identifying suitable sites.**
- 3.5 At the May meeting of the Shared City Partnership members requested that officers should develop an approach to capture the positive contributions of the 2017 Bonfire and Cultural Expression programme. As requested, officers are facilitating a meeting with the elected members of the partnership and staff from the communications team to develop this area of work.**
- 3.6 The second meeting of the cultural networks in south and east Belfast will take place week commencing 12 June. Officers are engaging with groups that have received funding through the programme to encourage participation on the cultural networks. Further meetings of the networks in north and west will take place in September.**
- 3.7 Financial & Resource Implications**
- All activity that is referenced in this report can be delivered through existing budgets.**
- 3.8 Good Relations Implications**
- The Bonfire Programme aims to promote the positive celebration of culture which will have a positive impact on good relations.”**

An updated list of participants was circulated at the meeting which detailed 34 groups that had been approved for funding through the 2017 Programme.

Following a number of queries in relation to the Programme, the Assistant Director advised that, whilst it helped to address issues around the bonfires in July, it was a cultural expression programme with the ultimate aim of promoting greater cultural expression and understanding throughout the whole year and not just over this period.

Discussion then ensued as to how the use of beacons and other creative forms of cultural expression could, where possible, be promoted.

The Senior Good Relations Officer advised the Partnership that the use of beacons was complex, with some locations not being suitable and having different levels of support within communities in relation to their use. She continued that beacons were also expensive and advised that the Housing Executive was currently working on

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designing a new prototype which could hopefully be fabricated at a lower cost and would be more durable than the current beacons.

The Partnership noted the recommendations as set out within the report.

Update on Review of St. Patrick's Day Celebration Grants Scheme

The Partnership was reminded that, at its meeting on 10th April, it had recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee an option of replacing the small grants with a series of community events and a cultural hub activity. The Partnership was advised that, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 21st April, had rejected this decision and it had instead agreed to maintain the current grants programme.

At its May meeting, the Partnership had agreed that it would be beneficial to commence the process of reviewing the St. Patrick's Day Small Grants Programme for 2019 at the earliest opportunity. The Senior Good Relations Officer advised that in terms of commencing the process of review, as a starting point, it was suggested that a survey would be undertaken to obtain the views of prospective grant recipients availing of the small grant in the next round of funding, which would be for activity taking place between 1st October, 2017 and the 31st March, 2018. The officer advised that applications to this tranche were currently open and that the closing date was 7th July. She continued that it was further proposed that all applicants would be contacted after the summer with a view to completing to survey and advised that further feedback would be brought back to the Shared City Partnership at this stage.

The Partnership was also asked to note that a review of Belfast City Council festivals and events was currently underway and it was anticipated that an agreed Council strategic approach to festivals and events in the City would be in place by April 2018. Any decision to amend the current grants programme would, therefore, have to be made before the results of this exercise were public, if it was to be implemented before the next funding round in 2018 (for activity in 2019).

The officer advised that it was proposed that the findings of the survey would form the basis of the development of any future options as to how the resource of £30,000 would be spent in 2019.

A Member suggested that it would be useful if the views of Elected Members could also be sought to enable these to be fed into the consultation process.

The Partnership agreed that a survey questionnaire would be circulated to prospective recipients of the next round of St. Patrick's Day Celebrations, with an update report on the findings to be submitted to a future meeting.

Community Relations Week and International Day of Peace

The Senior Good Relations Officer provided the Partnership with an update on events that the Good Relations Unit would be delivering during Community Relations Week and also on how it proposed that the Council would mark the International Day of Peace on 21st September 2017.

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She advised the Partnership that the Community Relations and Cultural Awareness Week would run from 18th – 24th September and that it would provide an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of our culture and heritage, promote cultural diversity and tackle sectarianism and racism. She continued that the theme for this year was 'Safe Space, Shared Place' and advised that 'it would focus particularly on youth and how a community could be created where everyone would feel safe and secure, whilst showcasing the plethora of places that are spaced spaces'.

The Senior Good Relations Officer then informed the Members that the United Nations' International Day of Peace was marked each year on 21st September. She advised that, in previous years, the Good Relations Partnership had supported external organisations to deliver events and activities to mark this important day in the calendar. She continued that, due to the volume of events happening during that week and on the 21st September, the Good Relations Unit was suggesting that the Council would instead mark the day by hosting a photo opportunity and press release, with the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Shared City Partnership, at the Room of Reflection in the new City Hall Exhibition Space.

Several of the Members stated that, whilst they appreciated there were many other events already planned for this day, they felt it was disappointing that the Council would not be assisting with the delivery of an event at the City Hall.

Discussion ensued, during which Mrs. Barron advised that the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust was launching its Good Relations Strategy on this date, at the Girdwood Community Hub, and she suggested that the Council could possibly link into this event.

The Partnership noted the events to mark Community Relations Week and agreed that officers would investigate the feasibility of the Council linking with the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust to host an event to mark the 2017 International Day of Peace.

Consultation on Linguistic Diversity

The Partnership considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members on the consultation on the Draft Belfast City Council Linguistic Diversity policy which was launched on Friday 26 May and closes on 18 July and which is available [here](#).

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Partnership is requested to note the contents of this report.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 The original Language Policy was adopted by Council in 2006. The Joint Diversity Group (of Party Group Leaders and the Historic Centenaries Working Group) agreed that it should be up-dated and refreshed in line with legal advice on the Council's compliance with all relevant legal obligations.

3.2 Denise Wheatley of Policy Arc consultants was commissioned in March 2013 to prepare a scoping paper. The opinion of Richard Gordon QC of Brick Court Chambers in London was sought since he had extensive experience in advising on human rights issues and his advice, including references to both local and international law, was submitted to the Joint Diversity Group at its meeting on 21 May 2013 along with a draft language policy.

3.3 Following discussion at the Joint Diversity Group, 18 October 2013, an enquiry was made to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (ECNI) regarding Newry & Mourne Council's Language Policy. ECNI responded:

'We have commented that Newry & Mourne has a clear policy in place to promote the Irish Language and the Commission has provided advice, when requested, in relation to the implementation of the policy. In general we consider the language rights issue to be more a human rights issue than an equality issue although there is an intersection with employment and good relations aspects'.

3.4 At that time no agreement was reached and the demands of Local Government Reform prioritised work streams in that area, consequently the 2006 Language Policy remained in place. In late 2016 a decision was made to revisit the 2006 Language Policy and following refreshed engagement with key stakeholders the draft *Policy on Linguistic Diversity* is presented.

3.5 The draft *Policy on Linguistic Diversity* includes the *proposed Language Framework* and drafts of the three policies within it:

- Irish Language Policy
- Ulster-Scots Language Policy
- Other Languages Policy

3.6 Both the documents are presented in draft as a period of public consultation is required before they are finalised. An outline plan of the consultation is as follows:

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- Two public meetings on the draft Policy on Linguistic Diversity – Tuesday 20 June, 10.30 – 12.30 City Hall and Thursday 29 June, 3.30 – 5.30 NICVA
 - Four targeted focus groups on each of the individual strands (i) Irish Language
 - Policy; (ii) Ulster-Scots Language Policy; (iii) Two separate events for the Other
 - Languages Policy a. New-comer communities; b. Deaf and partial hearing loss
 - community.
 - Questionnaire on Citizen Space, the council's online consultation platform
 - Internal engagement with HR, staff and Trade Unions
- 3.7 The consultation document will reference how any changes in compliance related to the Irish Language Act may impact on planned implementation and the scope of the draft policy. The consultation will close on 18 July and further reports will be brought back to the Strategic Policy & Resources committee at that stage.

3.8 Financial & Resource Implications

Consultation activity that is referenced in this report will be delivered through agreed budgets.

3.9 Good Relations Implications

A draft comprehensive screening of the policy has been undertaken and will form part of the public consultation. This screening report is in draft form which will enable us to engage more fully with key stakeholders, internal and external, during that process.”

The Partnership noted the update provided and agreed that a further report would be submitted to a future meeting, to enable the Partnership to consider this matter in greater detail.

Update in Respect of Peace IV

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 To provide the Shared City Partnership (SCP) with a progress report with respect to the PEACE IV Action Plan.**

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2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources committee that they note the contents of this report and agree that members of the Shared City Partnership attend a half day planning session before the next meeting to consider the current format and membership of the SCP.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Background

3.2 Programme Update

As detailed in the last report to Shared City Partnership in March 2017; Council submitted a redrafted application form and revised business plan to the SEUPB in February 2017. Summary projects and requested budget as follows (from the February 2017 application):

| Children and Young People | Requested Budget* |
|--|--------------------------|
| CYP1: Tech for Good Project | £406,658 |
| CYP2: Playing Our Part in the City Project | £390,258 |
| CYP3: Multi-sport Project | £1,043,200 |
| CYP4: Young Advocates Project | £282,858 |
| CYP5: CYP Networks | £433,213 |
| Other | £137,500 |
| Sub Total | £2,693,687 |
| Shared Spaces and Services | |
| Programming | £1,484,352 |
| Capital | £3,067,000 |
| Sub Total | £4,551,352 |
| Building Positive Relations | |
| BPR1: Network Development | £2,121,450 |
| BPR2: Creative Legacies II | £411,370 |
| BPR3: Leadership | £1,528,371 |
| BPR4: Centenaries | £191,000 |
| BPR5: Supporting Communities | £770,107 |
| Other | £550,700 |
| Sub Total | £5,572,998 |
| Total Programming Budget | £12,818,037 |
| Direct Staff | £1,538,164 |
| Overheads | £230,725 |
| Total Funding (£) | £14,586,926 |
| Total Funding (€)¹ | €17,212,573 |

** As per application February 2017*

¹ Assumes exchange rate of £1:€1.18

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| Children and Young People | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| CYP1: Tech for Good | To implement a Tech for Good Programme (providing sustained and purposeful cross community contact through neighbourhood pairing, creation and exploration of shared virtual space developing skills and knowledge of other cultures and traditions, exploring issues of respect and co-operation with a global perspective) by August 2017 to engage with 288 children and young people per annum. |
| CYP2: Play | To implement a Play Programme (providing sustained and purposeful cross community contact through single and cross community engagement through play) by August 2017 to engage with 160 young people aged 11 to 13 and 80 parents from interface areas per annum |
| CYP3: Multi Sport | Delivery partners bring cross border opportunities and contacts with similar projects and events including opportunities. Project delivery targets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To implement a Multi-Sport Programme (providing sustained and purposeful cross community contact through cross community engagement through sport) by April 2017 to engage with 460 young people aged 14 to 16 per annum. |
| CYP4: Young Advocates | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To appoint a service provider to design and implement an accredited advocacy programme to 20 young people commencing Year One intake by August 2017; • To deliver accredited OCN training to 20 young people per annum, delivered through a two day residential and weekly training sessions; • To facilitate 20 young people per annum to convene four meetings with their peers in their areas (total of 16 per intake) to deliver good relations and advocacy training sessions; engaging with 200 aged 11 to 18 year olds per annum; • To deliver a minimum of one youth-led campaign per annum from Year Two. • To host two youth conference linking with youth platforms in the ROI by 2021 |
| CYP5: Networks | To establish and support a minimum of six networks involving approximately 150 CYP |

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| | participants in each network i.e. 600 young people that will be supported from April 2018 to March 2021. |
| Shared Spaces and Services | |
| <p>The proposed approach is to undertake 12 shared space projects (one overarching and 11 smaller interface projects) in the funding period. These projects will consist of both programming and capital spend, with the capital elements considered as the outworking of the process and not the end in itself. Council recognises the importance of the process of identification, planning and implementation of transformation, which is in self integral to the approach and reflects the objectives of the PEACE IV Programme. There will be one overarching project with a budget of £1.8m and 11 smaller interface projects with a budget of circa £120,000.</p> <p>*** Clarifications provided further detail as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Overarching project</u>: proposal for the Springfield Road which incorporated Springfield Dam, Paisley Park and the Invest NI site; and• <u>11 smaller interface projects</u>: indicatively identified as part of a necklace of shared spaces that will be continuously branded, providing a seamless physical presence along the corridor through lighting, public art, use of colour / common materials in paving and consistent orientation and interpretation signage. <p>Through engagement with residents (diversity awareness facilitated engagement, visioning, training, events, etc.), using community groups in the area (includes Farset International, Shankill Women’s Centre, Blackmountain Shared Space Project) perceptions of safety and ownership of sites will be addressed; supported by the programme of capital works. Recognising that there are a number of nearby sites that hold potential for economic regeneration it is expected that the improved pedestrian and cycle links will bring further inward investment/social enterprise in the area, as well as connect isolated communities to the city centre, including the Regional Transport Hub. Indicative sites as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Glencairn Park2. Forthriver Linear Park/Clarendon Playing Fields3. Woodvale Park/Paisley Park4. Springfield Dam5. Springhill Millennium Park6. Highfield/Springmartin7. Innovation Factory/Invest NI site8. Blackmountain (Ballygomartin South)9. Whiterock/Falls Park/City Cemetery | |

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| 10. Milltown Cemetery/Bog Meadows 11. Blythefield Park | |
| Building Positive Relations | |
| BPR1: Networks | To establish and support a minimum of six networks involving approximately 150 participants in each network that will be supported from April 2018 to March 2021. |
| BPR2: Creative Legacies II | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To prepare a cultural map of the city by May 2017; • To identify eight target areas and convene a Local Creative Forum in each by July 2017 • To appoint eight artists in residence by Jan 2018 for a period of 18 months; • To engage 3,600 participants in the planning and showcase stage of the programme; • To engage 400 participants in the delivery phase of the programme (50 per residency) with an average of 15 hours of sustained meaningful engagement per week, per residency • To deliver capacity building training to the Creative Legacies Forum and wider community within each of the 8 areas by September 2019; and • To deliver a professional development programme to 8 artists by December 2017. |
| BPR3: Leadership for Change | To procure a delivery agent for the Leadership for Change Programme by August 2017, to deliver 32 programmes to a total of 960 participants across all elements (active citizenship, leadership skills and Outcomes Based Accountability (based on 30 participants per intake). |
| BPR4: Centenaries | Specifically the programming will seek to achieve the following outcomes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A diverse and inclusive participant base, through the establishment of an expert steering group to advise and drive the programme forward 2. Increased mobility and connectivity across the City and the island of Ireland through exploration of the shared history of the City of Belfast and the island as a whole 3. Reduction in fear of the 'other', through an inclusive and challenging programme 4. Increased awareness and pride in one's own culture, history and identity 5. Increased understanding of our shared |

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| | <p>history on a City, island and EU level</p> <p>6. Greater collaboration between communities on challenging issues</p> <p>Greater sharing of resources between communities in tackling challenging issues</p> |
| <p>BPR5: Supporting Communities</p> | <p><u>Integrated Communities</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To establish a Strategic Advisory Forum with 20 participants by August 2017. The proposed Strategic Advisory Forum will be convened with representation of key stakeholders, which is expected to include NI Housing Executive, BCC Race Equality Unit, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and PSNI. This forum will meet on a [quarterly basis] throughout the delivery period. 2. To establish four localised neighbourhood involvement forums and action plans with 80 participants by December 2017 3. Delivery of 24 City-wide Intercultural competence programs engaging 600 people by September 2021 4. Delivery of four shared learning seminars engaging 400 people by September 2021 <p><u>Traveller and Roma Project</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To establish a strategic advisory forum by August 2017. 2. To establish two local area partnerships by August 2017 who will be facilitated to co-design and deliver the My Space, Reaching Out and Cultural Network Programmes to at least 150 participants per annum over four years i.e. 600 participants. |

In furtherance to this, a number of business plan assessment queries were issued by the SEUPB and Council staff responded to these during March and April 2017.

Recent feedback received from the SEUPB has been generally positive insofar as the SEUPB has concluded its assessment and passed its comments and recommendations to the TEO. Whilst it is not clear if all projects (and the associated funding) has been approved, it is expected that a letter of offer for a substantial proportion of the bid will be received in July 2017.

3.3 Staffing Update

Internal recruitment efforts to appoint a replacement PEACE IV Programme Manager were unsuccessful. Council has subsequently publically advertised the post and interviews took place on Friday 2 June.

3.4 Governance

Members will be aware that oversight for delivery of the Peace IV plan sits with the Good Relations Unit and that the Shared City Partnership will act as the strategic governance body for the Peace IV plan.

Officers are developing governance models for the delivery of the Plan and it is intended that these will reflect a more active role for members of the Shared City Partnership as outlined in the 2015/16 Review of the Good Relations Partnership. Officers will provide details of the proposed governance structure at the August SCP meeting.

In preparation for this exercise it is recommended that members of the Shared Partnership attend a half day planning session before the August meeting to consider the current format and membership of the Partnership and identify any potential to augment the existing membership with representatives who would bring relevant expertise to the Shared City Partnership.

Members are asked to consider these recommendations and make a recommendation in relation to a planning workshop to Strategic Policy & Resources committee.

3.5 Key Issues

3.6 Programme Approval

Whilst the feedback is generally positive, there is a risk that not all aspects of the bid will be approved. Of note, funding for the Belfast Plan is ring-fenced, so if the full allocation is not approved in the first LOO (as is the case in a number of other Action Plans due to, for example, ineligibility of costs), then there is expected to be one further opportunity to bid (timing not disclosed).

3.7 Programme Implementation

Each project has varying levels of detail with respect to implementation timetables and activities as follows:

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| Stage | Focus | Timescale | Duration |
|--------------|--|--|-----------------|
| 1 | Engagement – communities /stakeholders | From 01 Apr 2017 (assuming agreement of funding) | 3 months |
| 2 | Delivery | 01 July 2017 to 30 Sept 2018 | 15 months |
| 3 | Closure of Phase 1 | 01 October 2018 to 31 December 2018 | 3 months |
| 4 | Delivery of Phase 2 | January 2019 to 31 March 2021 | 27 months |
| 5 | Closure of Phase 2 | 01 April 2021 to 31 December 2021 | 9 months |

- The clarifications, in some instances, have resulted in changes/refinement to the project design that need to be fully understood and accounted for in project mobilisation.
- Some projects may be rejected – necessitating a rework or refinement of the project and a subsequent re-application (through referred close call).

In order to ensure the Council is fully prepared and capable of commencing projects as soon as possible (following LOO) there is a need to mobilise all projects (which includes refinement of those with lesser detail).

4.0 Resource Implications

- 4.1** Staff time is required to mobilise the programme (including refinement of those projects that may possibly be partly rejected). An interim solution has seen the retention of the consultant involved in preparing the business plan to act as a ‘critical friend’ to the Council until the programme team are in place.

5.0 Equality and Good Relations Implications

- 5.1 The draft plan has been equality screened and discussed at the Equality Consultative Forum on 13 May 2015. The development of the local action plan has been screened out with anticipated positive impacts across section 75 categories regarding equality of opportunity and promotion of good relations. Council officers undertook a robust consultation exercise in formulating the proposed projects and format of the forthcoming Peace IV programming period. In line with feedback from this exercise external recruitment will be fully utilised to maximise community interest in advertised vacancies.”**

The Partnership agreed to the recommendations as set out within the report.

Féile an Phobail and Belfast South Community Resources – Request for Support (verbal update)

The Assistant Director advised the Partnership that, at the recent meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee held on 19th May, it had considered a report in relation to a joint request for funding from Féile an Phobail and Belfast South Community Resources (BSCR) in relation to a pilot diversionary programme in the south and west of the city. The total request for funding was £100,000 and currently there was no budget. The Committee had agreed that it would ascertain the views of the Partnership before taking a decision in respect of the request.

After discussion the Partnership agreed that, as it was not in receipt of a report or adequate information, it was not in a position to make an informed decision and therefore felt this request was a matter for the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

Belfast Health Trust - Good Relations Strategy

Mrs. O. Barron advised the Partnership that the Belfast Trust was currently consulting on its draft Good Relations Strategy for 2017 – 2022, entitled ‘Healthy Relations for a Healthy Future 2’.

The Partnership was advised that the draft strategy had opened for consultation on Friday, 9th June and would close on Friday, 8th September and she encouraged the Members to complete the online survey which was available on the internet [here](#).

Noted.

Chairperson