

SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

MONDAY, 11th SEPTEMBER, 2017

MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

Members present: Councillors Attwood, Deputy Chairperson (In the Chair)
Councillor Johnston and Walsh.

External Members: Mrs. O. Barron, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;
Mrs. A. Chada, Voluntary/Community Sector;
Mrs. G. Duggan, Belfast City Centre Management;
Mrs. J. Hawthorne, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;
Mr. P. Mackel, Belfast and District Trades Union Council;
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;
Miss. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager;
Mrs. D. McKinney, Peace IV Manager; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of the Chairperson (Councillor Kyle), Alderman Sandford and Mr. K. Gibson.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 7th August were taken as read and signed as correct. Following a query, the Good Relations Manager confirmed that an update report on the Decade of Centenaries would be submitted to the October meeting. The Good Relations Manager also advised the Members that a report on the Bonfire Programme would be brought to a future meeting of the Partnership following the outcome of the Investigation.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Update on Peace IV Programme

The Partnership considered the undernoted report.

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

1.1 To provide the Shared City Partnership with a progress report in respect of the PEACE IV Action Plan.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 The Partnership is requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it note this report.

3.0 Main Report

Background

- 3.1 As detailed in the reports to the Shared City Partnership in March and June, the Council submitted a redrafted application form and revised business plan to the SEUPB in February 2017. Over the last few months, there has been ongoing amendments, clarifications and negotiations with the SEUPB.

Programme Update

- 3.2 Council officers met recently with the SEUPB regarding the Council's submission and were advised that as part of the approval process the application and Business Plan has been assessed by the SEUPB and accountable departments (TEO and DPER). The PEACE IV Programme Steering Committee is to consider the Business Plan on 13th September, 2017.

It is anticipated that the Council will receive formal approval and a preliminary Letter of Offer (LoO) at the end of September, 2017. It is expected that a proportion of the application will be approved and that further clarification on some elements will be requested. It is likely that the LoO will stipulate a number of pre-commencement and programme implementation conditions, which will be required to be met by the end of December, 2017. This process and conditions have been replicated across all Local Authority Action Plans.

The SEUPB agreed to extend the Council's LoO timeframe to June 2022. It is envisaged that projects will be delivered until end of December 2021 and January – June 2022 will be the monitoring, evaluation and project closure period.

Summary projects and requested budget, following SEUPB VFM clarifications are as follows:

Children and Young People	VFM Amendment
CYP1: Tech for Good Project	£411,365
CYP2: Playing Our Part in the City Project	£389,965
CYP3: Multi-sport Project	£929,204
CYP4: Young Advocates Project	£281,965
CYP5: CYP Networks	£432,000
Other (within PM)	£137,500
CYP Sub Total	£2,582,000
Shared Spaces and Services	VFM Amendment
Programming	£1,483,181
Capital	£3,067,000

SS Sub Total	£4,550,181
Building Positive Relations	VFM Amendment
BPR1: Network Development	£2,212,172
BPR2: Creative Legacies II	£433,333
BPR3: Leadership	£1,626,692
BPR4: Centenaries	£191,000
BPR5: Supporting Communities	£835,665
Other (within PM)	£550,700
BPR Sub Total	£5,849,562
Total Programming Budget	£12,981,743
Direct Staff	£1,201,313
Overheads	£180,197
Programme Management Sub Total	£1,381,510
Total Funding (£)	£14,363,253
Total Funding (€)	€ 16,948,638

Programme Launch

- 3.3 Given the above timeframe, it is proposed that a formal launch the new PEACE IV programme will take place in early January 2018 subject to the Letter of Offer being received.
- 3.4 The launch will outline the content of the programme, opportunities for communities, organisations and individuals to get involved in peace building programmes and will also highlight the opportunities for external organisations / parties to deliver services across a range of projects within the programme.

Tender Approach

- 3.4 The design of the programme will provide opportunities for community / voluntary groups and external organisations to tender for the delivery of projects. Interested parties will be invited to tender for contracts during a procurement exercise which will commence in December 2017. All procurement must be conducted in line with the SEUPB regulations, as follows:

SEUPB Procurement Thresholds for Contracts:

£200 - £5,000	Minimum of 2 price checks must be obtained
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£5,001 - £25,000	Minimum of 3 written quotations from competent suppliers
£25,000 - EU Threshold (£164k)	Full Tender Action - Advertise on National Procurement websites (etendersNI ROI) and /or Regional press
EU Threshold & above	Official EU Journal

To assist community and voluntary organisations to prepare for and avail of opportunities through the programme, workshops will be delivered on Getting Ready for Contracts in October / November 2017.

3.5 As previously agreed by Members, a half day planning session to consider the current format and membership of the Partnership is currently being arranged with quotations being sought from competent facilitators. Members will be informed of details in due course.

4.0 Resource Implications

4.1 The Programme Manager for PEACE IV has been appointed and the process of recruitment for other posts, as approved in the PEACE IV Local Action Plan, has commenced.

5.0 Equality and Good Relations Implications

5.1 The draft plan has been equality screened and discussed at the Equality Consultative Forum on 13th 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 noted the update provided.

Update on Interface Working

The Good Relations Manager advised that an initial meeting of the new Internal Interface officer group had taken place on 10th August, with officers from City and Neighbourhood Services, Property and Projects, Planning and Place and the Chief Executive’s Department in attendance. She advised that this group would meet on a monthly basis and would bring options to the Shared City Partnership and other relevant committees in relation to the recommended governance for the range of work that would be delivered through the Interfaces Programme.

The Partnership was asked to note that it had been recommended that the group would focus on the following key areas of work:

- to promote holistic, integrated physical and social regeneration around interfaces and seek to maximise the collective Council contribution to support this;
- to maximise the collective Council contribution to promote resilience and wellbeing at an individual, family and community level around interfaces;
- to ensure co-ordination of individual departmental initiatives in and around interfaces and to enhance the positive outcomes in relation to the transformation of these areas;
- to develop a coordinated position for contribution to the Department of Justice (DoJ) led Interfaces Programme Board and Interface Inter-Agency Group; and
- to develop a Belfast Interfaces Programme in partnership with relevant stakeholders such as The Executive Office (TEO), the DoJ, the International Fund for Ireland (IFI) and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE).

The Good Relations Manager reported that Council officers had also met with the IFI to seek an enhanced alignment of resources. The IFI had advised that, all of the groups who were funded through the IFI Peacewalls Programme (PWP), had completed the surveys and there had been a good response rate. The officer detailed that the aim of the survey had been to gather community attitudes towards the peace walls and to concentrate on the views of those most affected by change to the barriers, the people who lived closest to them and those who would be taking the biggest risk. This data would be used to shape the Group's action plans for 2018.

The officer advised that the findings would be launched at a PWP Seminar and Exhibition on Tuesday, 24th October. She stated that it was hoped that political representatives at all levels would attend, alongside statutory agencies, community and other stakeholders. The officer advised that, once the venue had been confirmed, invitations would be issued to the Members of the Partnership and they were encouraged to attend.

In conclusion, the Good Relations Manager also updated the Partnership that the Unit would be seeking submissions this month for projects that would be delivered in interface communities to promote good relations and shared space. This approach is outlined in the approved Good Relations Action Plan and will provide up to £10,000 for individual projects, with a total of £50,000 available to support initiatives that would be delivered by March 2018.

The Partnership noted the update provided.

Update on the Belfast Agenda

The Partnership was reminded that the public consultation on the Belfast Agenda, Belfast's Community Plan, had recently been undertaken over an eighteen week period, up to 20th April. The Good Relations Manager advised that during the consultation period, a range of engagement activities had been undertaken which included briefings, stakeholder workshops and meetings, online questionnaires and social media activity. A workshop had also been held with the Shared City Partnership on 6th March.

The officer advised that almost 300 responses had been received, from a broad range of individuals, organisations and stakeholders. The Partnership noted that analysis of the feedback had been ongoing over recent months in order to produce an updated version of the Belfast Agenda documents, along with a consultation feedback summary report. She advised that the overall response to the consultation had indicated a broad level of endorsement for the Belfast Agenda, there was support for the long term vision, outcomes and ambitions, and for the four year (to 2021) priorities of the Growing the Economy, Living Here City Development and Working and Learning. The officer advised that main elements of the Belfast Agenda and

structure of the document had not changed significantly and she proceeded to highlight the revisions that had been made to strengthen the good relations emphasis in the plan as follows:

- The Belfast Opportunity (introduction) – now included a reference to the importance of addressing barriers including improving good relations in the City to realise the City's opportunities;
- The vision - now referred to 'a City shared and loved by all its citizens, free from the legacy of conflict';
- Outcomes – included more information explaining what people had said about the second City outcome (Belfast is a welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive City for all), highlighting the importance of the shared city; and
- Living Here – amended stretch goals which included promoting the development of shared sites and facilities.

The Good Relations Manager advised that it was anticipated that a final version of the Belfast Agenda document would be presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in September, in advance of an autumn launch. In order to progress and move forward with partners, a series of workshops were being planned for the autumn, convening initially around each of the four Belfast Agenda priorities, to consider how collaboration in action planning and delivery could best be progressed across a range of City partners. The officer advised that details of the proposed workshops were still to be confirmed but these would provide an opportunity for wider engagement and the Shared City Partnership would also be asked to engage in this work.

A Member welcomed the fact that the suggested input from the Shared City Partnership had been included within the revised document.

Following a query, the Good Relations Manager undertook to clarify for the next meeting the context of the statement 'free from the legacy of conflict' within the vision.

Following discussion, it was noted that it might be useful if the Council's Directors were to attend a future meeting to provide an overview as to how the Belfast Agenda might influence their Departmental work stream.

The Partnership noted the update provided.

Community Relations and Cultural Awareness Week

The Deputy Chairperson reminded the Partnership that Community Relations and Cultural Awareness Week was from 18th – 24th September.

Noted.

Chairperson