

SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

MONDAY, 5th MARCH, 2018

MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

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

External Members: Mrs. A. Chada, Voluntary/Community Sector;
Mrs. G. Duggan, Belfast City Centre Management;
Mrs. J. Hawthorne, Northern Ireland Housing Executive; and
Mrs. M. Marken, Catholic Church.

In attendance: Mrs. R. Crozier, Assistant Director;
Mrs. M. Higgins, Senior Good Relations Officer;
Miss. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager;
Mrs. D. McKinney, Programme Manager; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillor Nicholl and Mrs. O. Barron, Mr. K. Gibson, Mr. P. Mackel, Mr. M. O'Donnell and Mr. P. Scott.

Minutes

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

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Presentation by IFI - on Research Conducted by Groups Involved in the Peace Walls Programme

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. M. Maguire to the meeting.

The representative commenced by providing the Partnership with a brief overview of the Peace Walls Programme (PWP). He explained that it was an initiative developed and funded by the International Fund for Ireland since 2011/2012 to assist communities impacted by peace walls and physical barriers. He advised that the peace walls were a legacy of the conflict and highlighted that each barrier was unique and had specific challenges.

The Partnership was advised that the PWP had undertaken a Community Attitudes to Peace Walls Survey during 2017. The representative reported that the purpose of the baseline attitudinal survey had been to provide each local Peace Walls Project with area-specific information and he proceeded to provide the Members with a detailed summary of the key finding and issues.

The representatives then provided an overview of the current challenges that had been highlighted through the findings, as follows:

- problems with funding from Agencies to follow through plans when community agreement reached;
- failure by the Department of Justice to agree an 'after-care' package;
- uncertainty regarding the roles and responsibilities of statutory representatives regarding 'protective work';
- disconnect between residents/local groups and statutory agencies;
- impact of external political events;
- lack of political will or leadership in some local areas;
- threats to Programme staff in some instances;
- sectarianism and 'gatekeeping/territorialism' in some areas; and
- lack of strategy for Peace Walls Removal to date, including a joined-up approach across statutory agencies and stakeholders, despite the TBUC 2013 commitment.

Mr Maguire concluded his presentation by advising that, whilst the findings provided clear challenges for the PWP, it was clear that change to the peace walls could only happen with community support and involvement and at a pace that would be dictated by the communities most affected.

Several of the Members welcomed the work that had been undertaken to date and requested that a letter of thanks be forwarded to the International Fund for Ireland for funding this programme of works.

A Member specifically referred to the success of the Girdwood Community Hub and noted the need for community involvement to help ensure the success of such an initiative.

Following discussion, it was agreed that a further letter would be forwarded, on behalf of the Shared City Partnership, to the Department for Justice Permanent Secretary, endorsing the Community Attitudes to Peace Walls Survey findings and requesting an update in respect of what provision had been made to support action plans which would assist the target of removing barriers by 2023.

The Chairperson thanked the representative for the update provided and he left the meeting.

Update on Peace IV

An apology was reported on behalf of the SEUPB representative.

The Working Group considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

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

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are requested to note the contents of the report and to recommend to the Strategic and Policy Resources Committee that delegated authority is assigned to the Director of Community & Neighbourhood Services in respect of PEACE IV contract awards.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Background

As detailed in previous reports three Letters of Offer of funding totalling £8.79m have been received. A key condition of the funding is the accelerated implementation and delivery of the Belfast PEACE IV Local Action Plan.

3.2 Programme Update

Implementation of the approved projects is ongoing in line with the delivery approaches outlined in the current PEACE IV plan

Procurement

As members are aware, Westminster Procurement Services was appointed to assist with PEACE IV procurement and the programme of tenders was approved through the Commercial Panel and the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. Tender opportunities for BPR4 Centenaries and CYP4 Young Advocates have now been advertised.

Currently awaiting SEUPB approval for the tender specifications for CYP1: TechConnects and CYP2: Playing Our Part in the City Project. Once approval is received the tender opportunities will be advertised.

The tender specifications for the different aspects of the BPR5: Supporting Communities project are being finalised and will be forwarded to SEUPB for the necessary approvals.

Assessment panels to evaluate the tender submissions are currently being convened. Timeframe for the first contract awards is end March 2018 with commencement of delivery in April 2018.

Given the requirement to accelerate implementation, it is requested that the SCP follow the normal Council approval process for contract awards (as determined by the Council's scheme of delegation) and assign delegated authority to the Director of Community & Neighbourhood Services in respect of PEACE IV contract awards. Approval of the contract awards must also be agreed by SEUPB.

3.4 Financial Management

Following acceptance of the Letter of Offer (LoO), SEUPB has advised that the electronic monitoring system (eMS) is now open for the submission of the first claims for reimbursement of PEACE IV expenditure.

Expenditure to 31 January 2018, is associated with secretariat staff costs, totalling £140,652 will be submitted to SEUPB by the deadline of 30 March 2018.

3.5 Governance

Following receipt of the LoO's and agreement of the revised TOR for the SCP, an updated Partnership Agreement and a Partner Delivery agreement with NIHE are currently being finalised and will be presented to members for approval and signature at the next SCP meeting.

3.5 Rebid

As previously agreed by members, rebid proposals for unapproved projects have now been submitted to SEUPB as follows:

CYP Theme (£1.39m) rebid focuses on addressing value for money concerns associated with

CYP3 - GameChangers (multi sport / marginalised youth project) £1.16m

CYP1 - TechConnects - increase existing budget for equipment by £68,000 which was removed by SEUPB.

SSS Theme (£81,963) rebid is to add value to existing scheme by including a resource allocation scheme of £6,000 per site for community led activities to encourage useage and create a sense of ownership at build positive relations between communities.

BPR Theme (£4.3m)- projects have been reframed to clearly outlined peace building outcomes for

BPR1 - Cross Community Networks - Partner Delivery by NIHE (£2.08m)

BPR3 - Leadership renamed as Transform for Change (£1.27m)

BPR4 - Centenaries - increase existing budget by £68,000 for EU study visits to consolidate learning, this element was previously removed by SEUPB.

The application process differed from the previous process in that an in-depth application for each theme had to be submitted. SEUPB has advised that the assessment

timeframe is approximately 22 weeks, on this basis we expect a decision on the rebid applications by the SEUPB Steering Committee by end June 2018. This timeframe would enable project delivery to commence in September 2018, however any delay in approvals will impact the delivery timescale and achievement of targets.

4.0 Resource Implications

4.1 The process of recruitment for PEACE IV secretariat and project staff, as approved in the PEACE IV Local Action Plan is ongoing.

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 Working Group agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that delegated authority be assigned to the Director of Community and Neighbourhood Services in respect of PEACE IV contract awards.

Review of Shared City Partnership

The Working Group considered the following report and appendix:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To update Members on progress with regard to the review of the Shared City Partnership to seek Members’ views on a number of actions.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to make the following recommendations to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee:

- That the Partnership notes that the recruitment exercise for the community/voluntary sector will commence in March 2018 and that a further report will be brought back on representation of the faith sector.
- That the Partnership agrees the draft code of conduct for the Partnership which will be signed annually
- To agree the optimum time to receive a submission of key issues from the Children and Young

People's Forum and the Children and Young People's Commissioner.

Key Issues

- 3.1 At the last meeting of the Partnership, members agreed the following actions:**

Representation

- That TEO be asked to sit on the Partnership alongside the existing representative from the Department for Communities (1 position);
 - The PSNI be approached for representation (potentially the new District
 - Commander or the most strategically focused representative
 - That a representative be sought from the Migrant Forum (1 position), the Community Relations Council (1 position), the Interfaith Forum (1 position); and 4 representatives from the Community/Voluntary Sector (from North, South East and West);
 - That the existing representative from Belfast City Centre Management would continue to sit on the Partnership as well as an additional representative to be sought from Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce (it was noted that a representative from the independent business sector would be particularly welcome).
 - officers would give consideration to the recruitment process for the Church representatives and table suggestions at the next meeting;
- 3.2 As a result, correspondence has been sent to the NIHE, Department For Communities, the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and Belfast City Centre Management to confirm their nominees.**
- 3.3 After the Council meeting on 1st March, letters will be sent to The Executive Office, PSNI, the Education Authority, Community Relations Council, Interfaith Forum and Migrant Forum seeking nominations to sit on the Partnership.**
- 3.4 In relation to the churches, Officers have sought to find an umbrella group from which a nomination can be sought. While there does not appear to be an overarching group, Officers have made contact with a number of people from within the sector to elicit their views and at the time of writing this report are waiting on a response.**
- 3.5 All correspondence has included the role and responsibilities of the Partnership as well as the responsibilities of individual members. In addition, the criteria which was agreed at the last meeting by the Partnership will be included in all**

correspondence when seeking nominations to ensure the membership of the Partnership is fit for purpose.

3.6 Recruitment and Selection

This criteria will also form part of the selection process for the representatives of the community/voluntary sector. Members will recall that it had been agreed to appoint an external independent organisation through a quotation exercise to undertake this recruitment exercise.

3.7 A brief for the recruitment exercise has been drawn up and has been sent out for quotation. It is anticipated that this work can begin in early March and will complete by the end of May. As the Partnership will not meet until 9th April, details of when the advertisement process will commence will be sent to members in the meantime for information.

3.8 Code of Conduct

The new Terms of Reference have been amended to reflect that a code of conduct will be signed annually by all Members of the Shared City Partnership and Officers had undertook to bring a draft wording to a future meeting. This draft is attached

3.9 Skills Audit

Members agreed at the last meeting that a skills audit of the current Partnership would be undertaken and to this end a document will be made available at the March meeting for members to complete and return. The reason for undertaking the audit is to be able to quantify the skills around the table to address any gaps, if identified, which would be required to conduct Partnership business.

3.10 Children and Young People's issues.

The Partnership had also agreed that an annual submission of key issues would be received annually from the Children's Young People Fora and the Children and Young People's Commissioner. Members are asked to advise what the most appropriate time for this would be so that it can be scheduled in the relevant diaries.

3.12 Induction Programme

While it had been anticipated that a programme could be undertaken by the end of March, given that new representatives will not be nominated and endorsed through the Partnership and Council by then, Officers would recommend that a lighter touch induction be offered to existing members who wish to avail of this with a full programme to follow once all members are in place.

Finance and Resource Implications

Costs for recruitment exercise could be claimed from existing budgets.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

The aim of the review of the membership of the Partnership is to ensure that the appropriate partners are involved in decision-making, paying particular attention to the involvement of those groups detailed under Section 75. This should ensure there is a positive impact on good relations within the City. Officers will liaise with the Equality and Diversity Officer to ensure the process does not adversely impact any Section 75 groups.”

Appendix 1

Proposed Code of Conduct for Shared City Partnership **February 2018**

Introduction:

Board members are expected to exercise the duties and responsibilities of their positions with integrity, collegiality, and care. The code of conduct below outlines what Partnership Members are required to adhere to.

Compliance with the Policies of the Organization

Partnership members will comply with the policies of the Council, as they relate to their position. This includes conflict of interest and information management policies.

Conflict of Interest

Partnership members must act in the best interests of the Partnership and avoid situations where their personal interests or relationships interfere with acting in good faith on behalf of the Partnership.

Partnership members must declare any potential conflicts of interest at the beginning of the Meeting and refrain from discussion and voting when applicable.

Gifts or honoraria

It is not permissible to offer or accept gifts or personal rewards intended to influence the Partnership’s decisions or activities.

Confidentiality

Partnership members must maintain the highest standards of confidentiality regarding information obtained directly or indirectly through their involvement with the Partnership.

Communication

Partnership members should not speak on behalf of the association unless designated by the Chair or the Partnership as a whole.

Members should observe the established lines of communication and direct requests for information or assistance to the appropriate Officer.

Partnership members should represent the Partnership in a positive and supportive manner at all times.

Active Participation

Members should making attendance at all meetings of the Partnership a high priority.

Members should be prepared to discuss the issues and business on the agenda, and having read all background material relevant to the topics at hand.

Members should show respect and courteous conduct in all board and committee meetings.

Failure to abide by the Code of Conduct may result in removal from the Partnership.

I have read this Code of Conduct and agree to follow it during my tenure as a Partnership member.

Signature

Date

Following discussion regarding representation from the faith sector, a Member suggested that the four main Churches (Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Church of Ireland and Methodist) should be requested to nominate one representative to the Shared City Partnership on a yearly rotational basis.

The Working Group agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee:

- that the recruitment exercise for the community/voluntary sector would commence in March 2018;
- that it agrees that one representative from the faith sector which would be decided, on a rotational basis, by the four main Churches;
- that it approves the draft Code of Conduct, which would be signed off annually by all the Members of the Shared City Partnership;
- that both the Children and Young People's Forum and the Children and Young People's Commissioner be asked to submit its key findings annually, before the 31st March; and
- to note that a skills audit would be circulated, via e-mail, to all the Members of the Shared City Partnership to enable officers to quantify the skills of the existing Members to ensure that any gap in skills, if identified, would be addressed; and
- to note that an induction programme would be offered to existing Members of the Shared City Partnership with a full induction/training session to be held once the new representatives had all been appointed.

Inspire Peace Request

The Shared City Partnership was advised that, in December 2017, the Council had been invited, along with the Community Relations Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund, to participate in a conversation regarding a proposal by the Corrymeela Community to deliver a large youth event called 'Inspire Peace'.

The Good Relations Manager explained that it was proposed that the Corrymeela Community would hold an 'Inspire Peace' event in the City Hall on Friday, 9th November to mark the centenary of the end of the 'Great War'. This event would be aimed at children and young people and would be one of a wider series high profile, simultaneous events that would take place in Cathedrals and other public venues throughout Great Britain.

The officer advised that the proposed events had been specifically designed to inspire a new generation of young people to take positive action to work for peace and conflict resolution, not only across the world but also in their local communities and personal relationships. The theme of all the events would be to focus specifically on the growing issue of isolation, bullying, gang culture, racism and extremism.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that approval be granted for the provision of up to £1,500 to the Corrymeela Community to support its 'Inspire Peace' at the City Hall on Friday, 9th November.

Request for Assistance for Abandoned Not Forgotten Exhibition

The Partnership was advised that a local artist, Lise McGreevy, had developed a photographic exhibition that depicted Irish and Ulster Scots language culture and heritage under the banner of 'Abandoned, Not Forgotten'.

The Good Relations Manager reported that the exhibition was being toured to mark the 20th Anniversary of the signing of the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement and advised that it would be on display in the City Hall on Friday, 13th April.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the Council provide up to £100 towards the cost of hospitality for up to 40 people at an event in the Reception Hall on the day of the 'Abandoned, Not Forgotten' exhibition.

Procurement of Bonfire Beacons

The Senior Good Relations Officer reminded the Partnership that the investigation and full review regarding the bonfire programme was still ongoing and, as a result, no decision had been taken regarding the 2018 approach.

The Partnership was also reminded that, at its meeting on 8th January, it had recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it approve the draft Good Relations Action Plan 2018/2019 for submission to TEO. She explained that this Plan had included a Cultural Expression Programme and it was through this that engagement on the issue of bonfires could be delivered, if there was subsequent political agreement to do so.

The officer advised that, over the last number of years, the Bonfire Programme had provided 10 bonfire beacons for use by communities instead of traditional bonfires.

She explained that if beacons were to again be provided in 2018, then officers needed to commence the procurement exercise by April 2018.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that approval be granted for officers to commence the procurement exercise for the provision of beacons for use in 2018, at an approximate cost of £50,000 - £60,000 and further agreed that this exercise could be halted should a subsequent decision be taken not to deliver any beacons in 2018.

Inner North West Masterplan – (Verbal Update)

The Partnership was informed that a twelve-week consultation exercise on the Inner North West Masterplan had commenced on 13th February and would close for responses on 8th May.

The officer explained that the Inner North West Masterplan had been prepared to guide the future development of the area and aimed to encourage, inform, influence and direct future proposals in the area. It would be key to delivering the priorities and wider ambitions of the City as set out in the Belfast Agenda (2017) and the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy (2015). The Partnership was advised that the masterplan looked at the assets, challenges and opportunities within the Inner North West and set out a vision and objectives, design principles and character of area which might help improve this part of the city. Given that the masterplan aimed to promote debate on strategic issues which would influence and shape future development in Belfast, the Partnership Members were encouraged to participate in the consultation exercise, and they were also asked to promote awareness of it.

The Partnership was advised that more information in respect of the Consultation was available [here](#).

The Partnership noted the update provided and that further details regarding the Consultation would be e-mailed to all Members of the Partnership.

The Partnership also agreed that the relevant officers would be invited to present further information in respect of the Masterplan at the next meeting of the Partnership.

Chairperson