

## **SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP**

**MONDAY 14th, JANUARY 2018**

### **MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP**

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

External Members: Mrs. O. Barron, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;  
Mr. A. Cole, Good Relations, TEO;  
Mr. J. Currie, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Mr. J. Donnelly, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Mrs. G. Duggan, Belfast City Centre Management;  
M Yousuf Hannore, Interfaith Partnership;  
Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council;  
Mr. I. McLaughlin, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Mr. P. Scott, Catholic Church; and  
Ms. A. M. White, British Red Cross.

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

#### **Apologies**

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillor Armitage and Ms. B. Arthurs, Mr. M. Baker, Mr. K. Gibson, Mrs. J. Hawthorne, Mr. P. Mackel and Mr. M. O'Donnell.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 10th December, 2018 were taken as read and signed as correct.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

Mr. J. Donnelly declared an interest in agenda item 4, viz Peace IV Update, as he was a Director of Programmes for the Active Communities Network which was delivering the Playing Our Part Project under Peace IV. Councillor Walsh declared an interest in the same agenda item as he was associated with Coiste mentioned in the Peace IV update.

Alderman Sandford declared an interest in agenda item 5, viz Good Relations Action Plan, as a board member of the East Belfast Community Development Association. Mr. J. Currie declared an interest in the same agenda item as an employee of the East Belfast Community Development Association.

All the Members remained in the room whilst the matters were under consideration.

#### **Expression of Sympathy**

The Chairperson referred to the death of Dr Ian Adamson OBE, who had been a former Lord Mayor of Belfast City Council, and extended condolences to his family.

### **New Member**

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. J. Donnelly to his first meeting of the Shared City Partnership.

### **Presentation on Integrated Education**

The Chairperson welcomed Ms. M. Bridgam and Ms. J. Caskey, representing the Integrated Education Fund, to the meeting.

Ms Bridgman commenced by providing the Partnership with a brief overview of the Integrated Education Fund (IEF). She explained that the fund was a charitable trust that was solely dependent upon donors and supporters. It had been established in 1992, and since then the number of integrated schools had grown from 18 to 65 and the number of pupils in integrated education had increased from 3,408 to just over 23,000.

She referred to the organisation's manifesto, published last spring, which explained that the IEF "share the vision held by the overwhelming majority of citizens, of a united community and a shared future. We see a reformed education system as an essential ingredient of this future...". She also referred to an extract from the Together: Building a United Community (TBUC) strategy which stated that "...our young people, can grow without substantive opportunities to meet someone from a different tradition, cultural background or political opinion...the segregated nature of our education provision means that the majority of our children and young people of school age continue to be educated within a single-identity setting".

The representative also alluded to the recently published "Peace Monitoring Report" from the Community Relations Council which described the current school system as one that was "still dominated by division".

The Partnership was advised that, in terms of moving forward, at its core, integrated education was about encouraging children and young people to recognise what they shared in common as well as understanding and respecting differences. She explained that integrated education helped to break down barriers, develop more positive social attitudes and nurture and improve community relations amongst young people. It was not about neutralizing culture or identity, rather it was about nurturing self-respect and, therefore, respect for other people and other cultures and encouraging young people to support each other in expressing their identity.

The representative referred to a map that detailed the options available to Belfast parents seeking a nearby integrated school for their children and which demonstrated that there was evidently demand for more integrated school places.

Ms Bridgman concluded the presentation by thanking the Shared City Partnership for permitting the IEF to present at its meeting and enabling it to promote the vital role that integrated education played in Northern Ireland. She stated that that the IEF felt that the advancement of integrated education in Belfast would play an integral part in developing the Belfast Agenda and progressing together towards a Shared City.

Following a query regarding changing the status of an existing school to integrated status, Ms Caskey, who was responsible for the fund's outreach and parent engagement campaign, advised that transformation was a process arising from a desire to provide an integrated school in an area. However, to ensure its success, it ideally required parents,

the community and the school to all work together as this approach would help ensure the best outcome for a school transformation.

A Member advised that an important consideration for parents in making post primary education choices was a schools past academic achievements, therefore, it was important that integrated schools achieved good academic results.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for the informative presentation and they left the meeting.

**Presentation by the Irish Language Officer and Language Officer  
on the Language Strategy and Action Plan**

(Mr. C. McGuigan, Irish Language Officer, and Mr. M. Johnston, Language Officer, attended in connection with this item)

The Chairman reminded the Partnership that it had agreed to provide the Partnership with an update in respect of the Council's Language Strategy and Action Plan.

The Good Relations Manager provided the Members with an overview in respect of the Language Strategy and Action Plan and the work to date. She advised that, as the Members would be aware, the Council had developed a draft Policy on Linguistic Diversity. This draft policy been subject to a formal consultation period that had ran from 23rd May to 18th July, 2017. Subsequent to this consultation, a number of recommendations had been approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee which had included the decision that the draft Linguistic Diversity Policy would be re-branded as a Language Strategy.

Further to the rebranding process, the Language Strategy 2018-2023 had been launched on 14th May, 2018 in the City Hall. She then drew the Members' attention to the strategic aims of the Strategy as follows:

- to address language and communication challenges and opportunities with the Belfast Agenda outcomes;
- to establish a transparent set of principles for promoting, protecting and enhancing the linguistic diversity of the city;
- to increase the profile of different languages along with awareness and understanding of associated cultures, heritage and traditions;
- to engage with language communities to address language barriers and promote equality of opportunity, through the development and integration of different languages into mainstream civic life;
- to enhance good relations within the City through the promotion of linguistic diversity and to celebrate the significance of language in the history and culture of the City;
- to address staff training and capacity building needs in relation to the role linguistic diversity has in the workplace and in the delivery of services; and
- to work in partnership to promote linguistic diversity across the City, to move toward our shared vision of inclusive growth, where no-one is left behind.

The Partnership noted that, since the launch of the Strategy, an action plan had been developed for its implementation and each of the objectives related to the above aims.

The Chairman detailed that, as the Partnership was aware, one of the initial actions towards the implementation of the Strategy had been the recruitment of an Irish Language Officer and a Language Officer and he welcomed the respective officers to the meeting to present on the Action Plan that had been recently approved by the Council at its meeting on 3rd December, 2018.

The Irish Language Officer commenced by reaffirming the Council's commitment to addressing the needs and aspirations of the following language communities:

- Irish Language;
- Ulster-Scots Language;
- Sign Language;
- New Communities' Languages; and
- Languages and communications for disabled people.

The Language Officer then outlined the following development areas to be progressed through the Language Strategy Action Plan (October 2018 – March 2020):

- audit of current 2006 Language Policy;
- Partnerships;
- Visibility; and
- Translation/interpretation protocols.

In response to a Member's question regarding the provision of English language classes for new residents to the City whose first language was not English, the Partnership noted that classes were provided on a weekly basis by the Belfast Metropolitan College (BMC). Several of the Members stated that it was very difficult to learn a language through one class a week and it was recognised that the onus was often placed on the community sector to bridge the gap.

Following discussion, it was agreed that officers would liaise with the TEO and the relevant Department to ascertain their findings in relation to the current provision of English language speaking classes and, if gaps in the provision of English language speaking classes existed or had been identified, what options were available to improve the provision.

The Chairperson thanked the officers for the update provided.

Noted.

### **Update on Peace IV**

The Partnership considered the following report:

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

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

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

**Members are requested to note the contents of the report and to recommend to the Strategic and Policy Resources Committee to:**

- Agree to a presentation (to the SCP) by Corrymeela Community on the implementation and progress of BPR4 Decade of Centenaries project
- Rescope elements of the Traveller project as required

### **3.0 Main report**

#### **Key Issues**

Implementation and delivery of the Belfast PEACE IV Local Action Plan is progressing.

#### **Children and Young People (CYP)**

As previously reported the Interim Targets to December 2018 remained a huge challenge. SEUPB were advised in December 2018 that 90% of the 916 interim target would be achieved. SEUPB acknowledged the difficulties in achieving the interim target and confirmed there will be no consequence of not achieving the full target.

SEUPB confirmed that any outstanding baseline surveys for 2018 participants should be finalised by mid January 2019.

CYP 1 TechConnects and CYP3 On the Right Track failed to meet the interim targets due to delays with the rebid approval and procurement difficulties. Project Plans are being revised with delivery partners to address any participation shortfall and ensure that 2019 contractual obligations including targets are achieved.

Following a robust assessment process, the contract for the Personal Change element of On the Right Track! project has been awarded to Extern Northern Ireland. Contractual details are being finalised with delivery expected to commence by end January 2019.

Tender submissions for the delivery of On the Right Track! training element are currently being assessed and should be awarded by end January 2019.

#### **Building Positive Relations (BPR)**

No submissions were received for the tender opportunity for the Research and Capacity building aspect of the Traveller programme. Market feedback is currently being sought. The PEACE IV Manager also advised that no submissions were received for other aspects of the Traveller Project including the Traveller Support Hub

Subject to feedback it may be necessary to re-scope various elements the project as such members are requested to approve any required re-scope in line with approved activity

and approval from SEUPB. The rescope will also consider the method of delivery.

BPR4 Belfast and the World project delivered by Corrymeela Community has been delivering the project since September 2018 and it is requested that members agreed to a presentation on the project implementation, including the successes and challenges at the February meeting of the SCP.

### **Shared Space and Services (SSS)**

The planning application for Springfield Dam and Park was submitted in December 2018, following a 3 month community consultation.

Engagement has commenced with key partnerships across the West Belfast area to raise awareness and begin sharing information on the capital project proposals.

A community engagement workshop event is being organised in City Hall at end of January, invited groups from the target area, (focus being on linking Springfield Road/Dam northwards towards Woodvale Park; Paisley Park and Glencairn) can input into to seek views on

- (i) the capital project proposals emerging from the technical feasibility study, which the SCP received a briefing on in September
- (ii) a programming angle regarding the nature of community activities/projects that should be supported by the programme. .

Shared City Partnership members will receive an invitation with details on this event, and are encouraged to attend.

### **Impact Evaluation**

The Shared Space & Services project has been selected by SEUPB as a case study for impact evaluation, this involves a detailed review into the effectiveness and impact of the funding, over the funding period. RSM UK Consulting is conducting the evaluation (on behalf of SEUPB). A meeting with RSM is scheduled for 16 January 2019. Members will be kept informed of the process and progress of the Impact Evaluation.

### **Rebid**

The rebid modification on the electronic monitoring system (eMS) has been opened by SEUPB and the required information is currently being submitted. SEUPB will then update the financial element of the system. Therefore it is anticipated that a Letter of Offer will be issued by end January 2019. A formal launch of the additional funding is currently being arranged and details will be forwarded to members when finalised.

## **Audit**

**During January, Audit, Governance and Risk (AGRS) is undertaking an audit of the PEACE IV programme. This will provide an objective assurance to senior management and Members regarding the adequacy and effectiveness of the governance, risk management and control processes operating in relation to the delivery of the Peace IV Programme. The audit will also identify any areas for improvement arising from the review. The finding and recommendations of the audit will be reported to members when available.**

## **Financial & Resource Implications**

**To date the value of claims (Period 1 January 2015 – Period 15 July 2018) submitted to the SEUPB for reimbursement totals £315,399.75. This full amount has now been verified as eligible and all claims reimbursed by SEUPB. Of this £303,137.08 relates to Council expenditure and £12,262.67 relates to the NIHE's partner delivery expenditure under the Children and Young People Networks project.**

**Once the modification process has been completed, claims for Period 16, 1st August 2018 – 31st October 2018, will be then submitted onto eMS for formal vouching and verification.**

## **Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**

**The draft plan has been equality screened and discussed at the Equality Consultative Forum on 13 May 2015.”**

The Partnership adopted the recommendations.

## **Good Relations Action Plan 2019/20**

The Good Relations Manager reminded the Members that, each year, the Council submitted an annual Action Plan to The Executive Office (TEO) based on the good relations audit in order to draw down funding for the Good Relations work of the Council. The Action Plan would be 75% funded by TEO, while the remaining 25% had been included in the Council's 2019/20 budget. She explained that correspondence had been received advising that the Action Plan must be submitted by 15th February in order to be scored and assessed.

The officer advised that the Action Plan had to demonstrate complementarity with the Peace IV Action Plan and the work of the Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP). Officers had therefore liaised with the relevant units in the development of the plan to ensure that the work delivered by each of the sections had been aligned. The format of the action plan submissions contained a focus on the achievement of the T;BUC outcomes. The District Council's Good Relations Programme (DCGRP) used an Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) approach which allowed for complementarity with the Belfast Agenda.

She advised the Partnership that the 2017 good relations audit had highlighted a need to target engagement across interface and deprived communities, to develop shared

spaces in local areas and to continue to support new communities. The Partnership was asked to note that the development of meaningful, sustained and purposeful cross community activities and the provision of opportunities for people to come together and learn about diversity in the City had been reflected in the projects that would be delivered through the action plan.

The Partnership was advised that, previously, DCGRP funding had been allocated for one year and the Action Plans had been submitted on that basis. She reported that feedback had consistently indicated that a longer term funding framework would lead to more positive good relations outcomes from the Programme. The officer reported that TEO had considered this feedback and as a result it had agreed that the DCGRP would operate over a three year indicative funding cycle. Therefore, the Action Plan 2019/20 also included a section for each funded programme assessing the potential for the project to develop over the next two funding cycles.

The officer reported that, in addition, two Action Plan summaries relating to 2020/21 and 2021/22 were also required to be submitted by 15th March. These documents would form the Council's three year DCGRP Action Plan. The three year plan would be assessed, revised where appropriate and an allocation agreed with the Council for year one, subject to a satisfactory assessment and availability of budget. In years two and three, following a positive evaluation and the availability of budget, allocations would then be agreed for each programme. At the end of the three years, an overall report would be submitted to TEO which would cover the delivery across the three year action plan and an in depth assessment of the good relations outcome of the Programme would then be conducted.

The Partnership was informed that TEO had advised that its opening budget position for 2019/20 had yet to be confirmed, however, it was expected to be on a similar scale to the 2018/19 allocation.

The Good Relations Manager encouraged the Members to review and comment on the content of the draft plan. For ease of reference she detailed that the draft programme contained a total of nine recommended programmes which she proceeded to break down by theme.

She advised that the Programme bid to TEO totalled £734,500, with £550,500 being requested from TEO. The bid was in accordance with the budget to be considered by the Council as part of the current rate setting exercise which was awaiting Council approval in February 2019.

Following a request, the Good Relations Manager undertook to include a specific reference to Good Relations Week under the relevant code.

A Member asked if integrated schools could be considered under code BCC5. The Good Relations Manager advised that integrated schools could benefit from the project as long as they were considered to be in the greatest need of the intervention outlined in the plan.

It was further suggested that officers would engage with the organisers of Orangefest to explore how the project would contribute to good relations outcomes for the City.

The Partnership agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it:

- approve the draft Good Relations Action Plan 2019/2020 for submission to TEO, subject to the addition of a reference to Good Relations Week under the relevant code;



- note that the Action Plan submission would be subject to agreement by the Council in relation to the current estimate setting process and also amendment during the assessing and scoring process which would be undertaken by TEO and that the Partnership would be notified of any changes to the final approved Action Plan at a later date; and
- note the new arrangements in relation to the three year funding cycle.

### **Update on Good Relations Strategy**

The Good Relations Manager provided the Partnership with an update in respect of the draft Good Relations Strategy. She reported that the Council had granted approval for it to be issued for public consultation. This would commence on 17th January and would remain open until 11th April, 2019.

The officer advised that the public consultation would be officially launched on 17th January from 1.00 – 2.00 p.m. in the Crumlin Road Gaol and she encouraged the Members of the Partnership to attend.

Engagement events had been scheduled as follows:

- Thursday, 21st February 12.00 p.m. – 2.00 p.m. at the Girdwood Community Hub;
- Tuesday, 26th February, 7.00 p.m. – 9.00 p.m. at the Crescent Arts Centre;
- Monday, 4th March, 1.00 p.m. – 3.00 p.m. at the East Belfast Networking Centre; and
- Thursday, 7th March, 12.00 p.m. – 2.00 p.m. at the Colin Allotments.

The Partnership noted further that a confidential online survey could be accessed via the Council's [consultation hub](#)

### **Peace Monitoring Report 2018**

The Good Relations Manager advised that the above report had recently been published with findings which would have a significant impact on the development of good relations work within the City.

The Partnership agreed that the authors of the report be invited to present on the findings to a future meeting.

### **Shared City Partnership Planning Session**

The Members were asked to note that a planning session for the Partnership had been arranged for Friday, 1st February 2019 from 10.15 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. Further details would be issued in due course.

Noted.

Chairperson