

## **SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP**

**MONDAY 13th JANUARY, 2020**

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

Members present: Councillor Smyth (Deputy Chairperson);  
Alderman Rodgers; and Councillors M. Kelly and  
Magennis.

External Members: Mrs. B. Arthurs, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Mrs. O. Barron, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;  
Mr. J. Currie, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Mrs. J. Hawthorne, Northern Ireland Housing Executive; and  
Superintendent K. McMillan, Police Service of Northern  
Ireland.

In attendance: Ms. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager;  
Mrs. M. Higgins, Senior Good Relations Officer;  
Ms. D. McKinney, Programme Manager, Peace IV; and  
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

#### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of the Chairperson, Councillor Kyle, and from Mr. S. Dallas, Mr. J. Donnelly, Ms. G. Duggan, Ms. H. McClay, Mr. S. Hamilton, M. Y. Hanore, Ms. J. Irwin, Mr. A. Cole, Mr. M. O'Donnell and Ms. A. M. White.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 2nd December were taken as read and signed as correct.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

Ms. B. Arthurs and Mr. J. Currie declared an interest in item 3d, namely Building Positive Relations, in that they worked on projects under the BPR theme of Peace IV. They did not take part in any decision making in relation to the item.

#### **Presentations**

##### **Peace IV - Building Positive Relations 4 – Belfast and the World – Corrymeela**

The Deputy Chairperson welcomed Mr. S. Pettis and Mr. H. Abernethy from Corrymeela to the meeting.

Together they provided the Partnership with an overview of their Programme “Belfast and the World, 1918 – 1921: Marking the Decade of Centenaries” which was operating until 2021. They explained that it was a community led programme and that their aim was to engage with 200 people for over 33 hours. In terms of the progress made so far, they explained that 66 people had already completed the compulsory hours.

They explained that the programme sought to promote greater understanding amongst participants, encourage critical thinking in terms of controversial issues, making

connections on a cross community basis and encouraging participants to visit other parts of the City.

The Members were advised that the participants had come from across the City but that the majority were from North and West Belfast.

During discussion, it was clarified that the groups were required to be cross community in nature, as it had been stipulated by SEUPB.

In response to Members' questions, they encouraged the Members to speak to them about the possibility of interested cross-community groups from the East and the Collin areas of the City to participate.

The Deputy Chairperson thanked them for their presentation and they retired from the meeting.

### **Peace IV - Children and Young People 3 – On the Right Track – Personal Change - Extern**

The Deputy Chairperson welcomed Ms. C. Clifford, Extern, to the meeting.

Ms. Clifford provided the Partnership with an overview of the "On the Right Track" Personal Change Programme which Extern ran. She explained that it was a three year programme which sought to engage 13 – 16 year olds who had been engaged with sectarian/interface issues and providing them with support in changing their behaviour. The Members were advised that the programme focused on one-to-one mentoring, non-traditional sports, the development of interpersonal skills and attitudes, residentials and group visits.

She explained that the programme aimed to improve self-awareness, understanding and tolerance of the participants by changing negative behaviour and encouragement to build positive relationships with those from a difference community background.

She explained that Extern had found some challenges initially from the agencies in referring people to the programme. However, she explained that it had been able to source its own referrals. The Members were also advised that the programme had been delayed in starting which had meant that they had to deliver it within seven months. However, they had taken account of the lessons learnt and applied this proactively in their second stage of recruitment.

After discussion, the Deputy Chairperson thanked Ms. Clifford for her presentation and she retired from the meeting.

### **Update on PEACE IV**

#### **PEACE IV Secretariat**

The Programme Manager provided the Partnership with the progress which had been made in respect of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan.

The Partnership was provided with the PEACE IV Programme Dashboard which illustrated project implementation to date. She explained that further information would be presented to members in February 2020.

She explained that the underspend proposals for the SSS and the BPR themes had been submitted to SEUPB for its consideration. The Members were advised that

preliminary points of clarification had been discussed and were to be submitted to SEUPB in advance of its Steering Committee in January 2020.

The Partnership noted that Claims, Monitoring & Verification, totalling £396,864.18, and monitoring reports for Period 20 (August – October 2019) had been submitted to SEUPB for reimbursement. She advised that the breakdown of spend per theme was as follows: Children and Young People (CYP) (including NIHE) £142,180.30; Building Positive Relations (BPR) £174,352.15; and Shared Spaces and Services (SSS) £ 69,756.12.

The Members were advised that all expenditure submitted to SEUPB for all 3 themes, up to and including claim period 19 (May – July 2019), had been fully reimbursed with a total value of £1,279,062.97.

The Partnership also noted that it was anticipated that a PEACE IV Programme Support Assistant would take up post at the end of January 2020.

The Partnership recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee would note the contents of the report.

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

The Partnership considered the undernoted 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 Children and Young People’s (CYP) theme of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan.**

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

**The Partnership is requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee that they note the contents of the report and agree to:**

- 1. The next steps in relation to CYP1 Tech Connect; and**
- 2. Delegate authority to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to approve the re-scope the CYP1 Tech Connects, in consultation with the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson of the Partnership and the Special European Union Programmes Body**

#### **3.0 Main report**

##### **Key Issues**

**3.1 Implementation of projects within the Children and Young People theme is continuing and the new CYP Thematic Manager, took up her post in early December 2019.**

#### **3.2 CYP 1 – Tech Connects**

**As previously advised, there have been a number of issues affecting delivery of this project.**

Following agreement by SEUPB of the revised contact hours, a request for an updated budget breakdown to justify the 10% increase was made to the delivery agent. As part of this process, the delivery agent reconsidered their position and advised they are no longer able to continue with the contracted delivery of Tech Connects. This is due to

- (i) budgetary constraints, as with the 10% uplift in budget, there is a £24K shortfall
- (ii) the time lapse since the proposed changes has resulted in resources being allocated to other programmes
- (iii) staff recruitment has been challenging

3.3 All options to keep the project on track and the delivery agent on board have now been exhausted and therefore, the proposed next steps are to

- (i) terminate the contract with the current delivery agent in a satisfactory manner for all parties involved
- (ii) liaise with SEUPB to re-scope and reshape the project, retaining the original context of the project
- (iii) initiate procurement approvals and processes
- (iv) commence pre market engagement regarding this opportunity

3.4 The withdrawal of the delivery partner at this stage is disappointing as it presents a high risk to Council regarding the non achievement of targets. This may ultimately result in the de-commitment of funding by SEUPB. In addition, assets purchased for the delivery of this project will have to be returned to Council, although it is hoped these assets can be utilised in the re-scoped project.

The challenging targets associated with this project, (1,152 participants) have been continually highlighted to SEUPB since December 2017. However measures to reduce the targets have not been permitted to date. The delivery agent has reported achievement of 256 participants, which leaves a balance of 896 participants to be achieved by December 2021.

3.5 In re-scoping the project it is proposed the following key factors are considered and included:

- reduction in the duration and
- reduced contact hours of the project,
- potential of breaking project into 3 distinct lots for different project elements
- increased budget (utilising some of the CYP1 equipment budget and CYP underspend monies)

In addition, a reduction in targets will also be explored with SEUPB.

Pre market engagement with other potential delivery agents is scheduled for early January and will help shape the re-scoped project.

- 3.6 The proposed timeframe for the re-scoping of the CYP1 TechConnects project is as follows:

Re-scoped Project agreed and approved - end January 2020  
Invitation to Tender advertised - February 2020  
Award of contract - end of March 2020  
Start of contract / participation - April 2020

- 3.7 To accelerate these steps and progress future delivery of the project, it is requested that members agree to the steps outlined above and provide

- delegated authority to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to re-scope the project, in consultation with the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson of the Partnership and the Special European Union Programmes Body.

- 3.8 CYP 5 – NIHE Local Area Network Partner Delivery

A revised implementation plan outlining increased delivery has been submitted and is being closely monitored. New project staff are to commence in February 2020.

- 3.9 CYP 2, 3 and 4

CYP2 Playing our Part, CYP3 – On the Right Track – Sports and Personal Change elements and CYP4 are proceeding as previously reported, with no current issues.

As a reminder to members, all delivery agents are reimbursed on the achievement of targets and where appropriate, addendums to contracts and payment schedules reflecting any revisions to implementation plans as agreed by the SCP will be issued to delivery agents.

- 3.10 Financial and Resource Implications

PEACE IV costs are recoverable from SEUPB, as the funding body, subject to eligibility of expenditure.

All costs submitted for the CYP theme to date, totalling £460,723.43 have been fully reimbursed to Council.

Expenditure for CYP Claim 20 (Aug-Oct 19) totalling £142,180.30 has been submitted and is currently being verified by SEUPB.

- 3.11 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.

### **PEACE IV Shared Spaces and Services (SSS)**

The Programme Manager provided the Partnership with an update on the implementation of both the Shared Space and Services (SSS) capital and programming elements, which she explained were continuing on a phased basis. The current focus was on Sections 2 and 3 located at Springfield Dam, Springfield Park, Paisley Park and INI sites.

She explained that the feedback from the Partnership had been discussed with the branding consultants, and that it had been acknowledged and accepted. The Members were advised that a new creative team would be assigned to the project to further develop the branding concept to date, with a view to provision of new brand names.

The Partnership noted the proposed timeframe was as follows:

- Early January 2020 – meetings with local Historical Groups and Heritage officers;
- Early February 2020 – some focus groups with local community representatives/groups to test options;
- Early February 2020 – feedback to BCC Officers; and
- 10 February 2020 – presentation of options to Shared City Partnership

The Programme Manager advised that the contractor for works at Springfield Dam would likely be on site in early February 2020.

She explained that discussions with third party land owners had been largely positive, with issues regarding maintenance and liability to be agreed and finalised. She added that procurement of the main contractor for PEACE IV elements was being progressed.

The Partnership was advised that the Youth Civic Engagement project, having engaged 27 young people on a cross community basis, would be drawing to a close at the end of January. The Programme Manager explained that the challenges and lessons learnt from the pilot project would aid the development of the larger project. She provided the Members with an overview of some programming ideas which had gained some momentum.

The Partnership noted that all costs associated with the theme to date, £409,202.87, had been fully reimbursed, while the total expenditure for SSS Claim period 20, totalling £69,756.12, was currently being verified by SEUPB.

The Partnership recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee would note the contents of the report.

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

The Partnership considered the undernoted 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 Building Positive Relations (BPR) theme of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan.**

## **2.0 Recommendations**

The Partnership is requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy & Resources committee to note the contents of the report and agree to

- (i) BPR2 - Extend the Colin / Dumurry cluster to include Suffolk and incorporate thematic groups where appropriate
- (ii) BPR4 – Meet Year 2 (2019) participant shortfall (20 ppl) in Year 3 (2020)
- (iii) BPR5 – LINCS – delegate authority for any proposed amendment to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services, in consultation with the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson of the Partnership and the Special European Union Programmes Body

## **3.0 Main report**

### **Key Issues**

3.1 Implementation of projects within the Building Positive Relations theme is continuing with 4 key projects now mobilised.

### **3.2 BPR1 – Cross Community Area Networks**

An implementation meeting is being arranged to confirm deliverables, timeframes and progress reporting on the project.

### **3.3 BPR2 – Creative Communities Project**

The project has been engaging widely with groups in the target area although securing participation has been gradual. Interest in participating in the project has been expressed by groups in Suffolk and also from groups interested in participating on a thematic, cross community basis.

As such, the SCP is requested to approve extending the cluster Colin / Dunmurry to include Suffolk and also agree that, where appropriate, thematic groups can be established in consultation and agreement with the PEACE IV Secretariat and chair of the BPR Thematic Steering Group.

### **3.4 BPR3 – Transform for Change Project**

The 2019 clusters, comprising of 97 participants, have completed the formal training aspect and are progressing to developing local action plans and joint community projects.

There has been significant interest in participating in the project with 100 Expressions of Interest received for courses in 2020. It is anticipated that 9 courses will be delivered between Jan- May 2020. Securing participation from Council staff, statutory and political sectors is a key focus.

### **3.5 BPR4 – Belfast and the World (BATW)**

As one group delayed participation in the project until January 2020, the project has reported challenges in achieving Year 2 (2019) targets, achieving 30 / 50 participants. As such approval is sought to address the Year 2 participant shortfall in 2020 (Year 3).

Following approval by the SCP in December, recruitment and selection of participants for the EU Study visits has commenced, with 50 EOIs received. Subsequent assessment has taken place with 40 applications issued to eligible participants.

### **3.6 BPR5 – Supporting Connected Communities - LINCS Projects**

*The Project Co-Ordinator employed by Alternatives has left the post and the organisation has put interim staffing arrangements in place. The project has submitted an amendment of engagement for the project and further discussions are ongoing with the delivery agent.*

In line with the PEACE IV Governance structure, any amendments will be considered by the BPR Thematic Steering Group and the PEACE IV Programme Board. Approval is also required by SEUPB and SCP and to accelerate amendments, it is requested that members provide delegated authority to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to amend the project, in consultation with the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson of the Partnership and the Special European Union Programmes Body.

### **3.7 BPR5 – Traveller and Roma elements of Supporting Connected Communities**

*As members are aware, rescope proposals, focussing on a direct delivery model by Council, with elements assigned via a Service Level Agreement, are being finalised for submission to SEUPB.*

*To ensure community involvement and buy in, engagement sessions on the rescope proposals will take place later this month*

### **3.8 Financial and Resource Implications**

PEACE IV costs are recoverable from SEUPB, as the funding body, subject to eligibility of expenditure. All costs associated with BPR spend to date, totalling £409,136.67 have been fully reimbursed to Council.

Expenditure for BPR Claim 20 totalling £174,352.15 has been submitted to SEUPB and is currently being verified.

### **3.9 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.

### **Update on PEACEPLUS**

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

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

**To advise the Shared City Partnership (SCP) on the upcoming consultation on the new PEACE Plus programme 2021-2027.**

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

**The Partnership is requested to note the contents of the report.**

#### **3.0 Main report**

##### **3.1 Stakeholder engagement**

**SEUPB has commenced formal stakeholder engagement on the new PEACE PLUS programme, with a range of events taking place as detailed in Appendix I.**

**3.2 The new PEACE PLUS Programme, will cover the 2021-2027 programming period and will include both PEACE and INTERREG activities, with an anticipated value of €553, based on the combined value of the current two programmes (€270 and €283 respectively)**

**3.3 The Programme will build on the work of the current PEACE and INTERREG Programmes by contributing to social, economic and regional stability in the regions concerned; in particular through actions to promote cohesion between communities.**

**Project initiatives will need to align with the draft EU policy objectives, as follows:**

- 1. A smarter Europe, through innovation, digitisation, economic transformation and support to small a medium size businesses;**
- 2. A greener, carbon free Europe, implementing the Paris Agreement and investing in energy transition, renewables and the fight against climate change;**
- 3. A more connected Europe, with strategic transport and digital networks;**
- 4. A more social Europe, delivering on the European Pillar of Social Rights and supporting quality employment, education, skills, social inclusion and equal access to healthcare;**
- 5. A Europe closer to citizens, by supporting locally-led development strategies and sustainable urban development across the EU.**

- 3.4 It is anticipated that good relations activity will sit within policy objective 4. Relevant information on PEACE PLUS is outlined in Appendix II, Stakeholder Engagement Information
- 3.5 The PEACE Plus programme presents an opportunity for the Council to deliver on some of the high level actions outlined in Council strategies such as

<b>Belfast Agenda</b>	<b>Cultural Strategy</b>
<b>Inclusive Growth</b>	<b>Local Development Plan</b>
<b>Open Spaces Strategy</b>	<b>Good Relations Strategy</b>
<b>Resilience Strategy</b>	<b>Leisure Transformation Programme</b>

- 3.7 In addition, this may be an opportunity to align with and support Council work on the regeneration of neighbourhoods. The focus of any activities incorporated into the PEACE Plus programme must promote community cohesion (on a cross community basis) and should build on the current Peace IV programme.
- 3.8 The Council is hosting an event in conjunction with SEUPB on Wednesday 5 February 2020 in City Hall. Due to high demand two sessions will take place 2-4pm and 6-8pm. Members are encouraged to attend a stakeholder engagement event to find out more about the programme.

Members can also make a formal response to the consultation through the SEUPB survey available at:

[www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PEACEPLUS](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PEACEPLUS)

Further information relating to PEACE Plus is available on the SEUPB website at [www.seupb.eu/peaceplus](http://www.seupb.eu/peaceplus)

3.9 **Financial and Resource Implications**

All PEACE IV costs are recoverable from SEUPB. Currently there is no cost or resources associated with the development of PEACE Plus.”

The Partnership noted the contents of the report.

**Update on Audit and Action Plan 2020/2021 and 2021/2022**

The Senior Good Relations Officer advised the Partnership of the timescales for the submission of the 2020/2021 District Council Good Relations Action Plan, by 14th February, 2020, and of the Action Plan Summary for 2021/2022, by 13th March, 2020. She explained that the 2020/2021 Action Plan was to include a section for each funded programme assessing the potential for the project to develop over the next funding cycle.

The Partnership was reminded that that annual action plans were informed by a Good Relations Audit which was carried out every 3 years. The Senior Good Relations Officer explained that, in order to ensure that the Action Plan was based on the most recent audit of good relations need in the city, officers would base the 2020/2021 Action Plan on the emerging audit.

The Partnership was advised that completion of the audit had been affected by delays in meeting all relevant stakeholders and, in order to meet the timescales communicated by The Executive Office (TEO), officers would bring the draft Good Relations Audit and draft 2020/2021 Action Plan to the February meeting of the Shared City Partnership for its consideration.

She highlighted to the Members that initial feedback from the audit had highlighted that the Shared City Partnership could play a greater role in developing strategic responses to Good Relations issues in the city and that an element of the DCGRP should support that work. She suggested that, in order to facilitate input from members, it was suggested that a Workshop for SCP members be held in early February to consider how the DCGRP could support strategic responses to Good Relations issues and to provide an opportunity for SCP Members to input into the Action Plan.

In addition, she advised that the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services was facilitating a strategic interagency interface workshop in February, including senior officers from DfC, DoJ, DfI, NIHE and TEO. She explained that it aimed to identify shared strategic priorities and key pieces of work which the Council could deliver at interface sites through the DCGRP and other programmes. The Partnership was advised that the detail emerging from that workshop would inform the Action Plan and the Good Relations Strategy.

The Partnership noted that the Plan would be submitted with the caveat that the Council's contribution for both financial years would be subject to the Council's annual budget setting exercise.

The Partnership:

- noted the update which had been provided; and
- agreed to hold a Workshop in early February to consider how the District Council Good Relations Programme could support strategic responses to Good Relations issues and to provide an opportunity for SCP Members to input into the Action Plan.

### **Forthcoming Events**

The Good Relations Manager reminded the Partnership that the Unit delivered a large number of events and outlined the details of the following four events which they were welcome to attend:

- **Visit to the Belfast Jewish Synagogue** – 10am – 12, 23rd January;
- **Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration, City Hall** – 7.00-9.30pm, 27th January;
- **Visit to Ballynafeigh Orange Hall** – 10am – 12. 13th February; and
- **Event involving Srebrenica representatives** – the morning of Tuesday, 3rd March.

Chairperson