

SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

MONDAY 9th MARCH, 2020

MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

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

External Members: Mr. S. Dallas, Education Authority;
Miss. G. Duggan, Belfast City Centre Management;
Mr. S. Hamilton, Chief Executive, of the Belfast Chamber of Trade
and Commerce;
Dr. Y. Hanore, NI Inter-Faith Forum;
Mr. M. O'Donnell, Department for Communities; and
Ms. Ann Marie White, British Red Cross.

In attendance: Ms. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager;
Ms. D. McKinney, Programme Manager;
Ms. A. Allen, Neighbourhood Services Manager;
Mr. S. Conlon, Area Cleansing Manager;
Ms. M. Higgins, Neighbourhood Integration Manager; and
Mr. G. Graham, Democratic Services Assistant.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Ms. B. Arthurs, Mrs. O. Barron, Ms. H. McClay, Mr A Cole and Mr. I. McLaughlin.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 10th February were taken as read and signed as correct, subject to the amendment that Ms. H. McClay had been in attendance at the meeting.

Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were reported.

Presentation – City Centre Connectivity Study

Ms C. Persic, Regeneration Project Officer attended in connection with this item and was welcomed by the Chairperson. The Partnership was provided with an overview on the links between a 'Bolder Vision for Belfast' and the priorities and objectives contained within the Belfast Agenda. In that regard, she referred to the provision of improved access for walkers and cyclists and the promotion of urban regeneration in a sustainable way. The Regeneration Project Officer provided an outline of the various stages of the vision including the data collection exercise and stakeholder participation, culminating in the publication of a draft vision for the city.

The Partnership was provided with an overview of the need for behavioural and policy change required, highlighting issues such as the climate emergency, traffic congestion and

accessibility. She provided an overview of the themes incorporated within the societal change required including, amongst other things, embracing the city's rivers, community focussed regeneration and a reduction on a reliance on cars as a means of transportation. The members of the Partnership were provided with a range of transformation ideas which included a fully pedestrianised city centre, free public transport and green shared spaces, The Partnership was provided also with an implementation timeline involving a move to phases two and three of the project, culminating in the commencement of intervention measures, as part of the vision, by 2023.

The Partnership stressed the importance of working closely with the Department for Communities and Infrastructure and for the requirement to secure ministerial approval to progress the scheme, culminating in a public consultation exercise. The Partnership recognised the aspirations contained within the scheme and of the need to improve connectivity within the city and identified the public health benefits associated with a successful intervention programme.

The Partnership thanked the Project Regeneration Officer for her informative presentation and she departed from the meeting.

Presentation – Belfast Mobility Project

Dr. B. Sturgeon and Professor D. Bryan attended in connection with this item and were welcomed by the Chairperson

The Partnership Members were provided with an update on the Belfast Mobility Project and of the methodology used to collect that data including GPS Tracking, Questionnaires and Walking Interviews. Dr. Sturgeon stated that the research undertaken had focussed on North Belfast and the city centre and had focussed on two distinct themes namely; a divided landscape and a shared landscape, The Partnership was provided with statistical analysis on the behavioural patterns of both communities in terms of their divided pathways and activity spaces and the time spent moving within or through different types of spaces.

The data presented highlighted that both communities spent the highest percentage of time in mixed spaces visiting large retail outlets including the city centre. The data showed also that the least amount of time shared in the north of the city was in parks, with a figure of 3.3%. Dr. Sturgeon presented the Members with variance between perceptions and the empirical data on where communities felt safe and their actual behavioural patterns. In regard to the city centre, the research suggested that individuals who had concerns about threats of violence or perceived threats about their community identity, were less likely to view the city centre as a shared or inclusive space. The data presented indicated also that, factors such as age, gender, community identity and socioeconomic status appeared to have little or no impact on perceptions of the city centre.

Professor Bryan stated that the data collected had been researched over a period of twelve months and indicated that shared events appeared to have a positive impact on how safe communities felt in mixed space areas. He stated that a baseline profile had now been completed, as a starting point, to address many of the mobility issues and mobility restrictions indicated by the research.

The Partnership requested that it wished to receive the final report in the matter, after the research programme had been completed and thanked both Dr. Sturgeon and Professor Bryan for their detailed and informative presentation and they departed from the meeting.

Update on PEACE IV

Update on Peace IV Secretariat

The PEACE IV Programme Manager provided the Members with an update on the Peace IV Local Action Plan. In regard to underspend proposals, it was reported that points of clarification had been submitted to SEUPB in relation to both the SSS and BPR proposals. In his regard the SEUP had indicated that the SSS proposal was being progressed for a decision by the Director whilst the BPR proposal in respect of St Comgalls was being considered by the Financial Control unit prior to approval. The Partnership was advised also that the SEUPB had stated that proposals to reallocate funding across themes would now be considered and that project spending and underspends were monitored on a quarterly basis.

In regard to the delivery timeframe, the Partnership was informed that discussions in respect of an extension request was being progressed with SEUPB and that the advice given was that, a formal request for extension should be delayed until such times as all projects were fully mobilised and that the members would be kept updated on the position in regard to any extension request. The Partnership was informed that SEUPB was undertaking a verification exercise in regard to outputs in respect of the CYP theme and that information in that regard had been submitted to that body

The Members were informed that a new Programme Support Assistant had been recruited within the Peace IV team and that all Peace IV costs were recoverable subject to eligibility criteria The Partnership were informed also that the Period 20 claim was being verified currently and that the claim in respect of Period 21, totalling £310,073, was being prepared for submission on 6th March, 2020.

Noted.

Update on Peace IV – Children and Young People

The Partnership was provided with an update on the progress to date in respect of the CYP theme, under the Peace IV Local Action Plan . The Members were advised that under CYP1- Tech connects, the secretariat was completing a verification of outputs and was awaiting a final report from the delivery partner, with the final proposal being submitted in March 2020 and contract award scheduled for April 2020.

To close the existing contract, members were requested and agreed to accept achievement of contact hours for the current provider as 80% of SEUPB's requirement of 26 hours contact, as opposed to the contracted level of engagement based on the difficulties with the project.

In respect of CYP 2- Playing our Part in the City, the Members were advised that the project was progressing and was actively recruiting participants. In regard to the CYP3 – on the Right Track- Sports element, the members were informed that a procurement exercise, in respect of residential activities, had been advertised with a potential contract award date of 30th April, 2020.

Under CYP 3 - On the right track- Personal Change element, the Partnership was informed that Extern was delivering Cohort 2 and that verification of Cohort 1 was being undertaken. With respect to CYP4- Young advocates, the Members were informed that due to timing restrictions, Cohort 2 of the project, which had run from January to June 2019, had been unsuccessful in the completion of their campaign and that the delivery partners had

experienced problems associated with the re-engagement of young people. To address this shortfall, it was reported that the delivery partner had proposed to deliver an additional cohort, comprising an intensive 2 week training programme, involving 20 young people, on a good relations and campaign programme, with no additional costs being incurred. Members agreed to this approach

The Members were advised that under CYP 5-NIHE Local Area network partner delivery, the full staffing compliment with NIHE would be in place from March 2020 and that the NIHE was re-engaging with previous groups, that had signed up to the project, during the periods 2018 and 2019.

Noted and Agreed.

Update on Peace IV - Shared Spaces and Services

The Programme Manager provided an update on the progress made to date in respect of the SSS theme, within the Peace IV Local Action Plan. She referred to a number of capital projects which were being undertaken as part of that initiative including, Springfield Dam, where the contactor had commenced development of the site. In regard to programming, the Partnership was informed that a sub-group had been established, with officers from Council departments engaged, to identify strategic alignment with other Council strategies. She referred to other projects undertaken including, Space and Streets resilience and outreach work undertaken as part of a pilot Youth Civic Engagement programme. Linkages with other groups and organisation were referred to including, the James Connolly Centre and the Glencairn Community Partnership. The Partnership were provided with a breakdown of the costs associated with the projects and were informed that the Peace IV costs were recoverable, subject to eligibility from SEUPB.

Noted.

Update on Peace IV - Building Positive Relations

The Partnership Members were provided with an update on the progress to date in respect of the Building Positive Relations (BPR) under the theme of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan. She referred specifically to a number of projects including

- BPR1-Cross Community Area networks
- BPR2- Creative Communities project
- BPR3- Transform for Change Project
- BPR4- Belfast and the World (BATW) and
- BPR5- Supporting Connected Communities

As part of BPR1, the Programme Manager stated that an implementation meeting had been held to confirm deliverables and that a NIHE Partner Delivery workshop had been arranged, in order to provide an overview of contractual obligations to the newly appointed NIHE PEACE IV team,

Under BPR2, it was reported that an external commissioning exercise for the Artist/heritage in residence would commence in the near future and that three cluster areas including Woodvale/Ardoyne/Colin/Broadway Village would require further project facilitated sessions, while the remaining two clusters East/South would be established on a thematic basis.

Under BPR3, it was reported that it was anticipated that 9 courses would be delivered between January – May 2020. The Good Relations Manager stated that the interface clusters had received the greatest uptake and that securing Council staff, including the statutory and political sectors, remained a key priority.

Under the Belfast and the World project, the Members were informed that both year 2 and Year 3 participant groups had commenced and that 37 participants had been selected to take part in the EU trip to Belgium, in March 2020.

As part of the Supporting Connected communities, it was reported that a recently recruited project Co-ordinator was now in post and that meetings had been held with the BPR Thematic Manager in regard to deliverables, timeframes. The Programme Manager stated that under that project, an under spend had been identified and that the inclusion of childcare, incorporated into the project, would be considered at the next meeting of the Thematic Steering group.

Under the BPR5, Traveller and Roma elements of the project, the members were informed that following public information sessions, held in January, both programmes had been scoped and had been submitted for approval by both Belfast City Council and SEUPB.

Members were informed that the planned EU study visit to Ypres, Belgium on 27 March 2020 be postponed due to the emerging Coronavirus issue and agreed it is rescheduled at a later date

Noted and Agreed.

Shared City Partnership Response To Resilience Strategy Consultation

The Good Relations Manager submitted the undernoted report in respect of to the draft Belfast Resilience Strategy.

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

Further to the presentation by the Commissioner of Resilience to the Partnership in December, the draft Resilience Strategy is currently out for consultation. Officers have prepared a draft response for consideration and approval by members.

2.0 Recommendations

The Partnership is requested to consider the response from the Shared City Partnership to the document Futureproofed: draft Belfast Resilience Strategy and to advise Officers of any further comments that should be included in the response.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 80 cities in the Resilient Cities Network have now published Resilient Strategies –documents aimed at future proofing cities from major strategic risks.

3.2 In developing its strategy, Belfast has followed an established methodology which involves:

- Workshops, focus groups and one-to-one conversations with over 1000 people
- Data analysis – including primary and secondary sources.
- Mapping of existing strategies within Belfast City Council and its partners- to understand work ongoing or planned in the near future

3.3 The strategy comprises:

- (1) an independent assessment of acute and chronic risks to the city -shocks and stresses- by the Commissioner for Resilience
- (2) Identification of areas of focus to act as 'levers', to mitigate, manage or resolve several of these risks at once. These are climate resilience, children and young people and connectedness.
- (3) Recommendations for programmes of work to take action
This will ultimately lead to the achievement of the strategy's goal, *'To transition to a low carbon, climate resilient city in a generation'*.

Governance

3.4 The strategy is a key document to ensure delivery of Belfast Agenda, by managing and mitigating city risks. Responsibility for the monitoring achievement of the strategy's goal and objectives will rest with the Community Planning Partnership Board, through its Resilience and Sustainability Board. The commitments made by Belfast City Council in the final document, will be delivered through the Council's normal governance framework. City partners will take responsibility for key aspects of the strategy, through their own governance structures.

Consultation

3.5 The public consultation opened on 10th January 2020 and will close on 10th April 2020. The associated documents can be accessed at <https://yoursay.belfastcity.gov.uk/chief-executives/rmclbelfast-resilience-strategy/> and this includes an executive summary.

Financial & Resource Implications

None for consideration by the Shared City Partnership

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

A core objective of urban resilience is to draw considerations of equality of opportunity into the policy making process, and to deliver outcomes that drive equity and inclusion. A draft equality-

screening document and rural impact assessment will be issued for public consultation alongside the draft Resilience Strategy. The result of any feedback will be used, if applicable, to update the screening and a view taken as to the best screening outcome decision. At this point, no significant adverse implications for specific equality categories have been identified, because of the high-level nature of the objectives being proposed.”

The Partnership noted the information which had been provided and the fact that it had taken into consideration the fact that Belfast was a divided city. The Partnership sought assurances that issues pertaining to young people and infrastructure were addressed within the strategy, with particular reference to the impact of segregation on young people. In addition, the Members asked if it might be possible to build in costs associated with the implementation of the strategy.

The Partnership agreed the draft response, subject to the above amendments.

Noted and Agreed

Bonfire and Cultural Expression 2020

The Senior Good Relations Officer submitted the undernoted report in respect of the Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme 2020.

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To provide detail on the proposed delivery of a 2020 Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme and seek approval for some minor amendments to the administration of the application process.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Partnership is requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources (SP&R) committee that they approve the SCP’s proposed model for a 2020 Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 2020 Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme

Council approved a draft District Council Good Relations Programme (DCGRP) Action Plan in February 2020. This included a Cultural Expression Programme under which engagement on the issue of bonfires could be delivered.

3.2 Officers are seeking feedback on the terms of delivery for the 2020 Bonfire & Cultural Expression programme. The following model, which is in line with the 2019 model agreed by council, is proposed:

3.3 Council will deliver a Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme which seeks to promote positive cultural expression through better bonfire management and cultural celebrations.

Constituted groups can access funding for community events and activities that promote engagement on issues of cultural expression and diversity. The programme will be open to groups generally. Groups who do not have traditional bonfires or beacons will be eligible to be part of the 2020 programme, where their event replaces a bonfire.

Those who are awarded funding will agree to take practical steps to ensure that sites which are linked to funded events will be managed in accordance with the following criteria:

1. No collection of materials before 1 June 2020.
2. Tyres or other hazardous materials should not be collected or burnt on the bonfire
3. Groups should not display paramilitary trappings flags or symbols on bonfires or at any funded activities.
4. Bonfires should be sited in a clear unenclosed space at a safe distance from buildings and overhead cables and should conform to a 1:5 ratio. Safety risks should be assessed and managed, and appropriate advice and guidance sought from the NIFRS and other relevant agencies.
5. Groups should not burn or display any items such as flags, emblems or election posters which are likely to cause offense or could be considered a hate crime.
6. Groups must comply with council health and safety and events management guidance, as well as meeting relevant licensing and insurance requirements.

Council will provide the following resource through the programme:

- Up to 16 bonfire beacons which will be allocated on agreed criteria
- Up to £1,750 for community events and activities that promote engagement on issues of cultural expression and diversity (£500 will be ringfenced for engagement activity following July events)

- 3.4 Those applications which score highest in relation to the agreed criteria will be awarded funding. This is in line with the approach in other grant programmes. Members may wish to note the change in criteria 3 which has been changed from 'supporting increased appreciation of diversity' to 'supporting increased involvement from individuals and groups from different backgrounds who would not traditionally take part in these events'. This is based on learning from 2018 and 19.

An incentivized approach for delivery of the programme should be adopted in line with the previous three years. This means that groups can access an initial £1,250 with a second award of £500 available following July activities for those groups who met the

framework outlined above. This additional £500 will be available for activities that promote engagement on issues of cultural expression and diversity.

- 3.5 In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of constituted groups who are making applications for a number of sites, in order to support smaller non constituted groups. Officers recommend that rather than having to complete an application for each individual site, groups can make applications and complete monitoring returns for multiple sites. If applications are being made for multiple sites, groups will be asked to explain the rationale for this.
- 3.6 As in previous years, the future participation of groups who do not meet the aims of the programme, will be considered by a review panel. It is proposed that the panel composition remains the same as in previous years; that is the Chair and Vice Chair of the Shared City Partnership, an independent member of the Shared City Partnership (in previous years NIHE) and an independent member. This panel will consider the information provided and will make recommendations to the Shared City Partnership on whether each group:
- Should receive the final 30% of the first stage payment for activity already undertaken subject to receipt of all relevant documentation.
 - Should be eligible to receive the additional £500 for activities that develop community engagement and awareness on issues of positive cultural expression
 - Should be eligible to take part in a 2021 programme
- 3.7 At the August 2019 meeting, members agreed that *‘Consideration be given to adopting a protocol in relation to the appointment of the individual assessor on the review panel’*.

The Shared City Partnership is asked to consider and agree that the role of the independent assessor should be to:

- Provide a challenge function and independent advice to the review panel in relation to the issues that groups face in trying to meet the aims of the programme
- Make observations on the decision making process to ensure that it is robust and takes a consistent, fair approach to all sites
- Not be involved in making a final decision on the recommendation for SCP

In previous years an independent panel member external to the membership of the Shared City Partnership was identified following consultation with participating groups on the programme. The same independent panel member has been involved for the last 3 years.

Members are asked whether they wish to consider the same member or whether they wish to seek a new member. Options for selecting a new independent member include:

1. Retain existing independent member if they are free to continue their participation
2. Seek a nomination from participating groups on the 2020 Bonfire & Cultural Expression (this would be for an individual who does not work for an organization in receipt of funding from the programme).
3. Seek nominations from relevant individuals from the Shared City Partnership (this would be for individuals who do not sit on the SCP as all other Review panel members sit on SCP).

3.8 The following dates for the timely administration of the programme are proposed:

Opening date	Monday 6 April
Information sessions	w/c 6 April
Closing date	Friday 24 April
Assessment	29 April – 1 May
Letters of Offer issued	by Friday 22 May 2020

Members should note that the closing date will be strictly applied and the programme will operate as other grant aid programmes.

3.9 Members are asked to recommend that the Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services be granted delegated authority to approve funding awards. The Director has approved awards to the programme through delegated authority in the previous three years. A full list of successful applicants will be brought to the June meeting of the Shared City Partnership.

3.10 Members may wish to note that 70% (£875) of the £1,250 award will be paid initially to groups. This will be followed by the subsequent payment based on provision of appropriate receipts and delivering activity in line with the framework.

3.11 Members should note that there are challenges in monitoring how participants have complied with the guidelines. For health and safety reasons, monitoring cannot be carried out during the lighting of the bonfires themselves. Members are asked to approve that, as in previous years, Council should seek to appoint an independent contractor to review sites. In 2018, officers sought to ensure that 2 staff from the appointed company carry out this work but the company advised that only one staff member was available. As members will appreciate this is very sensitive work and there are a limited number of companies willing to carry it out.

3.12 In 2019 35 different events were held as part of the programme and 16 bonfire beacons were provided. The table below shows figures for the last 5 years.

	Number of July groups	Number of beacons
2015	44	6
2016	32	10
2017	32	9
2018	28	11
2019	35	16

The independent evaluation report for the Programme reported that;

- the majority of sites on the programme were well maintained and met the aims of the framework
- the majority of sites on the programme were not fully constructed by 10 July
- prior to 8.30pm on 11 July no sites on the programme had any paramilitary displays
- prior to 8.30pm on 11 July no sites had tyres on the bonfire

3.13 Finance and Resource Implications

£50,000 has been included in the draft Good Relations Action plan for this programme, we are awaiting confirmation from TEO on this funding allocation. In previous years NIHE has contributed £35,000 towards delivery of the programme, officers will contact NIHE to seek confirmation of this. Officers will liaise with a range of partners to secure finances for this programme, in previous years Council has provided and additional funding to cover costs incurred, particularly in relation to the provision of beacons.

3.14 Equality or Good Relations Implications

The Bonfire Programme aims to promote the positive celebration of culture which will have a positive impact on good relations. The programme is delivered through the 20/21 District Council Good Relations Programme which is developed in line with the 2019 Good Relations Strategy which was Equality and Rural Needs screened.”

The Senior Good Relations Officer confirmed that the scheme had been operational for a number of years and that the same model, in terms of grant funding, was being used. She confirmed that there was an onus on groups to self-regulate in terms of compliance measures and, in general, this had been successful. The members were provided with an update on the operation of the beacon scheme and the criteria used as a means to assess if a site was suitable to be awarded a beacon. She confirmed that only constituted groups were permitted to apply for funding and that the operation of the process was overseen by a Bonfire Review panel, with the expertise of an independent assessor being used.

The Partnership agreed the recommendation to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources (SP&R) committee that they approve the SCP’s proposed model for a 2020 Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme.

In response to a request for the position of independent assessor going forward, the Partnership also agreed that it wished the current assessor to continue in the post, for a further

12 months, and thanked the senior Good Relations Officer for her work in ensuring the successful operation of the scheme.

Update on Inclusive Cities

The Good Relations Manager submitted the undernoted report in respect of the Inclusive Cities Project.

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

To provide an update on the Council’s involvement in the Inclusive Cities project and to seek nominations from the Shared City Partnership of members that will sit on a task group to oversee the project and to develop actions for the City.2.0

Recommendations

To provide nominations from the Shared City Partnership who will sit on a task group to oversee the project and to develop actions for the City.

3.1 Members are asked to recommend to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee that they approve the attendance of the Strategic & Operational leads or their nominees at the Inclusive Cities conferences as required including the learning exchanges to cities in Europe throughout the life of the project, subject to travel and accommodation costs being covered by the Global Exchange on Migration and Diversity.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Members will recall that Council approved in November 2019 that Belfast agrees, in principle, to participate in the Oxford University ‘Inclusive Cities’ project.

3.2 The Inclusive Cities project is a knowledge exchange initiative supporting UK cities and their local partners to achieve a change in their approach towards the inclusion of newcomers in the city.

3.3 The programme aims to create a change in local authority practice and throughout the city. It does this through the:

- Development of a City wide action plan which will have delivered a new approach to newcomers and their relationships with other city residents including a range of mainstreamed and project based activities.**
- Development of a strong inclusive narrative on migrants in the city, reflecting its unique history and the contributions migrants have and continue to make, which will be voiced by elected representatives and staff across the city administration and their external partners.**

- A shared commitment across the public, private and voluntary sectors, reflected in the development of a task group to deliver the new approach.

3.4 The project will allow for peer learning and support between the participating cities. Support will also be provided to participating cities from the Global Exchange on Migration and Diversity which is the knowledge exchange arm of the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society at the University of Oxford.

There are three specific requirements to participate:

- That the city nominates two people who will engage in the project on behalf of the city: a senior official or elected representative that will head up the city's taskforce.
- An operational lead who has capacity to develop and deliver the action plan and manage the taskforce and is able to drive forward progress day-to-day.
- That the council convene a taskforce of local stakeholders who can advise and endorse the action plan, and drive forward delivery in their sectors.
- A formal written commitment to the three year lifespan of the project.

3.5 It was agreed that the Chair of the Shared City Partnership would be the strategic lead for the project and would chair a task group to oversee a Council action plan. It is anticipated that the task group would be made up of representatives from the Shared City Partnership and the Migrant forum. The strategic lead will be supported by an officer from the Good Relations Unit.

3.6 For the next stage of the project the Strategic and Operational lead have been invited to a two day conference in Peterborough where already participating cities will share their involvement in the Inclusive Cities project. Members are asked to approve their attendance at further conferences as required throughout the life of the project subject to travel and accommodation costs being covered.

3.7 The partnership are now being asked to nominate Members to sit on a task group to oversee the three year project and to support the development of an action plan for Belfast.

Financial & Resource Implications

No direct costs at present apart from staff time.

Travel and accommodation costs for the two city representatives for each meeting and the learning exchange to cities in Europe is covered by the Global Exchange on Migration and Diversity.

Some of the potential actions arising from the taskforce could be accommodated within the District Council's Good Relations Action Plan.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

Participation in this project is included in the Council's 2020 Good Relations action plan and all work will support the implantation of the Good Relations Strategy which has been screened for Equality, Good Relations and Rural Needs. All activity will add value to the work of the Good Relations Unit."

The Members noted the information which had been provided and agreed that it wished to participate in the 'inclusive Cities' project.

The Good Relations Manager stated that a task group to oversee the project would be set up between the Shared City Partnership and the Migrant Forum. It was agreed that she would contact Members of the Partnership, seeking nominees, to participate on the aforementioned task group.

The Partnership agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee that they approve the attendance of the Strategic & Operational leads or their nominees at Inclusive Cities conferences as required, including the learning exchanges to cities in Europe throughout the life of the project, subject to travel and accommodation costs being covered by the Global Exchange on Migration and Diversity.

Request for Plaque for Nurses in City Hall

The Members considered a report which had been prepared by the City Solicitor and Director of Legal Services in regard to the installation of a permanent plaque in City Hall main marble, to commemorate the role of the Nurses in WW1. She stated that the installation of the plaque was in line with the Council's Refresh Policy, which had been agreed in 2017. The Partnership was advised that a Quality Impact Assessment had been undertaken and the members were provided with a copy of the documentation in that regard.

The Partnership agreed that the request be granted, subject to the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

Request to Support TREK Initiative

The Good Relations Manager submitted the undernoted report in respect of a request to support of the TREK initiative,

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

To provide the Shared City Partnership (SCP) with information regarding the TREK programme which involves 25 schools in North Belfast and to ask for approval to provide small scale hospitality for their celebration event in April/May in City Hall.

2.0 Recommendations

- The Partnership is requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy & Resources committee that small scale hospitality is provided at City Hall for the children participating in the tour of City Hall at a maximum cost of £1000;
- That the Partnership contacts the Department of Education and the Education Authority to ascertain if support could be provided for the project to enable it to be extended across other areas in Belfast and beyond;
- That the Partnership contacts The Executive Office to consider if the project could be highlighted at an appropriate forum to allow other Council areas to be made aware of the project.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

- 3.1 The 'Celebrating Difference Together TREK' initiative has involved 25 schools in North Belfast with their communities (over the past 7 years) through an educational programme to explore in a fun and engaging way how all families are different. Children have been encouraged to see difference as a good thing and embrace the share values of Truth, Respect, Empathy and Kindness.
- 3.2 Parents and community representatives are invited into school over the duration of the programme and material is used in a fun and engaging way to explore the issue of personal, family and community identity. The programme culminates in an event when all participating Primary 7 children (approximately 600) join together for a celebration. In past years these events have taken place in a number of locations such as Stormont Long Gallery, and the Boys' and Girls' Model Schools in Belfast.
- 3.3 The 3 fold proposed aim of the programme is to:
- Through a programme of early intervention educate children to value and respect difference, and actively celebrate diversity.
 - Promote and develop a positive understanding of identity within young children (4 – 11) in relation to 'themselves', 'their families' and 'their communities'.
 - Actively and visibly demonstrate our resolve to unite as communities of difference under a banner of shared values
- 3.4 The TREK programme seeks to build resilience in children in regard to self, family and community, a concept which many academic commentators have postulated is crucial to ensuring children develop a secure identity and become emotionally literate.
- 3.5 Tony Newman and Sarah Blackburn (Barnardo's Policy, Research and Influencing Unit) concluded in relation to children's resilience and their capacity to cope with adversities that these

fundamentally operate in 3 dimensions: the individual, the family and the external environment. The TREK initiative brings these 3 dimensions together PDMU(Personal Development and Mutual Understanding) programme which encourages children to feel affirmed and secure in regards to their own identity, understand and celebrate difference while also explore the values that unite rather than divide(TREK VALUES).

- 3.6 The culmination of the programme at the celebration event involves primary 7 children in participating schools joining together wearing TREK T-shirts as a powerful image of the shared (TREK) values that unite us. This event in North Belfast has become a visible and unifying 'rite of passage' for our children and has given positive affirmation and hope to a new shared future.
- 3.7 They have asked that this year if the Council could provide a tour of the City Hall for the participating children over a period in April/May which is being discussed with City Hall Facilities Management. In the case, that such visits are feasible, members are asked to approve that small-scale hospitality is provided for the children at a maximum cost of £1,000.
- 3.8 It should be noted that this is an initiative which is organised through the schools which has been devised by the Principal of Lowwood Primary School who manages the overall logistics of the programme.
- 3.9 Past funders have been Housing Executive, DENI and Community Relations Council and we have been grateful for their support in raising awareness of the need to display tolerance and embrace shared values in our schools and wider community.
- 3.10 Mr Patterson, the Principal of Lowwood Primary School would be keen that the model be replicated in other parts of Belfast but also in other Council areas. Therefore, Members may wish to recommend that the project be considered strategically by the Department of Education and Education Authority which have the remit for programmes in schools and by The Executive Office which would have the reach into other Council areas through the DCGRP. They may wish to consider the project as one which could be highlighted at an appropriate forum.

Financial and Resource Implications

The tours will be provided through City Hall staff. The only cost will be that towards hospitality which can be covered through existing budgets.

Equality, Good Relations and Rural Needs Assessment Implications

The project is about promoting good relations and equality and by extending the programme, this will have a positive impact on the participants and their communities.”

The Partnership considered the aforementioned report and agreed to the recommendations contained therein, subject to the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

Message of Support

The Partnership agreed that its best wishes for a speedy recovery be conveyed to its fellow Partnership member, Mr. Ian McLaughlin.

Chairperson