

SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

MONDAY 8th MARCH, 2021

MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor Kyle (Chairperson);
Alderman Rodgers; and
Councillors M. Kelly, Lyons, Magennis, O'Hara and Verner.

External Members: Mrs. O. Barron, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;
Mr. J. Currie, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Mr. R. Cushnie, Good Relations, TEO;
Mr. J. Donnelly, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Miss. G. Duggan, Belfast City Centre Management;
Father. E. O'Neill, Faith Sector;
Mrs. J. Hawthorne, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;
Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council;
Mr. I. McLaughlin, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Superintendent G. Pollock, PSNI; and
Ms. A. M. White, British Red Cross.

In attendance: Ms. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager;
Ms. D. McKinney, Programme Manager; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Mrs. B. Arthurs and Mr. M. McBride.

Minutes

Following a query in relation to an extract from the Good Relations Action Plan 2021/22 minute, the Good Relations Manager clarified that, it was not specifically that the TEO had prioritised the TEO Summer Camps Programme over others, but that this programme had proven to be more popular and had therefore experienced a bigger uptake than the other programmes.

The minutes of the meeting of 8th February, 2021 were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations were reported.

Membership of Partnership

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. R. Cushnie, Good Relations, TEO to his first meeting and on behalf of the Partnership asked that its thanks be conveyed to Mr. M. McGinley for his contribution.

Noted.

Presentation on the Peace IV Transform for Change Project

(Ms. K. McIvor, PEACE IV-Project Manager, Building Positive Relations, attended in connection with this item).

The Partnership was informed that Ms. S. Bailie and Ms. H. McLaughlin, representing the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA), delivery partner for the Transformative Leadership Programme (TLP) element, were in attendance to present.

Together they provided the Partnership with an overview of the Transform for Change Project. They advised that the project was a collaborative approach delivered by the Council and NICVA, along with various community Partners and reported that 252 participants had completed training programmes to date. The training was delivered in interface areas across Belfast, it involved working with people to provide them with the skills to work with others to bring about positive change in local communities across Belfast, with the aim of enabling them to form connections and relationships to bring about positive change.

The representatives provided an overview of the current clusters and also the specific areas in which the programme was currently being delivered. They advised that the 10 modules delivered through the programme were as follows:

- **Core:** Introduction to the TLP;
- **Core:** Power and Systems – the Big Picture;
- A Vision for Transformation;
- Overcoming Barriers – Transforming Conflict ;
- **Core:** Collaboration for Transformation;
- **Core:** Transforming Relationships;
- **Core:** Social Innovation Introduction;
- **Core:** Social Innovation – a local issue;
- Leading and Motivating your Community; and
- Taking your Leadership Forward.

They reported that the delivery of training had been re-designed to enable on-line delivery as required by the current Covid-19 restrictions and highlighted that participant levels had been impacted.

The representatives concluded by providing an overview of some testimonials from people who had successfully completed the programme and also detailed the next steps, along with the proposed target and outputs. They thanked the Council for its continued support and for the opportunity to present and urged the Members to keep sharing the benefits of the Training Programme to their contacts to ensure a continued and sustained uptake from all sectors and a greater buy-in from the political sector.

The Chairperson of the Partnership thanked the representatives for their hard work and commitment in delivering the programme, particularly during the current difficult circumstances, following which they left the meeting.

Noted.

Peace IV Updates

Update on Secretariat

The PEACE IV Programme Manager provided the Members with an update in respect of the Secretariat activity associated with the implementation of the Peace IV Local Action Plan.

The officer reported that as the Members were already aware the ongoing government restrictions continued to have a severe impact on delivery.

Approvals from SEUPB on the Project Modifications for BPR3 and BPR5 remained outstanding and officers continued to press the SEUPB for a decision and they had also raised concerns in regard to the length of the process for modification approvals.

The Members were reminded that the Partnership had previously agreed, as part of the Covid 19 Impacts and Modification report, to extend project activity as requested and necessary. The Members were advised that a formal request for an extension of the SSS theme to December 2022 had been submitted and approved by SEUPB. Administration relating to the extension period was being progressed with SEUPB and a revised Letter of Offer would be issued in due course.

Given the extended lockdown period, project modifications to realign activities and target completion dates continue to be submitted by delivery partners. To enable forward planning and prompt decisions, the Partnership was request to delegate authority to the PEACE IV Programme Board to consider requests for amended cohort completion timescales, subject to SEUPB approval.

The officer reiterated that the delivery of project activity continued to be hampered as compliance with the Health Protection restrictions was a priority.

She also updated that:

- In response to the PEACE IV Managers Forum correspondence – the SEUPB had advised that the Programme Manager would be in contact with each Local Authority to address individual concerns;
- SOLACE had met and agreed to contact the SEUPB to further discuss the PEACE IV risks to Local Authorities and try and progress the proposed next steps, an update would be provided in due course;
- Programme Workplan – A virtual event to mark International Women’s Day on the theme of Choose to Challenge for Peace was being delivered on Tuesday, 9th March 2021. A virtual cultural café celebrating the Indian community in Belfast was scheduled to take place on Monday, 29th March 2021. Invitations to the virtual events would be issued to the Members in due course;
- Verification and Audit – The AGRS internal audit report had been delayed until March 2021. Members would be updated when received.

The Partnership were informed that claims for all aspects of the Programme for Period 24 totaling £710,727 had been completed and a full reimbursement had been received by the Council. The Period 25 (Nov 20-Jan 21) claim, totaling £561,478, had been submitted for reimbursement to the SEUPB by the deadline of Friday, 26th February 2021.

She detailed that the breakdown across the themes was as follows:

- CYP: £104,574.16;
- BPR: £260,178.23; and
- SSS: £196,726.36

The Partnership recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it delegate authority to the Peace IV Programme Board to consider modifications to target delivery timescales for projects, subject to approval from the SEUPB.

Update on CYP Theme

The Working Group 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.

3.0 Main report

Significant challenges continue for delivery partners in recruiting participants and well as issues facing young people due to COVID 19. Close monitoring of the projects is ongoing as detailed in the Risk Tracker (Appendix I).

Project Updates

3.1 CYP 1 – Tech Connects

GIGA Training (Afterschool’s & Digital Arts Academies (Tech Camps) (6-16 Yr. Olds)

The next Digital Arts Academy, aimed at 6-11 year olds, is planned to take place over 4 days 6th - 9th April and will focus on digital creative workshops such as Animation, Music Production, Comic Book Design and Video Making. Age appropriate good relations is part of the programme content. Delivery is being planned on a face-to-face basis, with measures such as social distancing, staggered start & stop times and smaller group sizes to comply with Health Protection Regulations. The programme and scheduled dates will be kept under review in line with government restrictions.

Belfast Metropolitan College (Digital Insights Programme) (17-24 yr. olds)

The programme content is delivered virtually, with mentoring also delivered via the same learning platform. SEUPB approved the inclusion of 10 young people, who live outside of the Belfast boundary but work or study in the City, on an exceptional circumstances basis.

The delivery partner has reviewed the programme structure and submitted a draft schedule for the coming months, based on a revised delivery model, of 2 half day plus a full day training, followed by ongoing support and celebration events to meet the required 26 hours contact. The approach will be kept under review by the Thematic Manager and Programme Board.

3.2 CYP 2 - Playing our Part in the City

Active Communities Network revised delivery approach via a compressed method (i.e. weeklong programme or 5 full day Saturday sessions was approved) was due to commence in February, during mid-term break. However due to ongoing restrictions this is now delayed.

As such, a further modification to extend year 3 completion from end of March 2021 to end of July 2021 is being progressed.

3.3 CYP3 – On the Right Track – Sports and Personal Change elements

Sporting activity is not permitted under the current Health Protection Regulations. As such, project delivery has been extremely challenging. The Project Officer remains in close contact with participating groups, where possible. Delivery is focusing on the capacity-building element, the OCN training, as a high priority. Identification of new participant groups and planning for new activity is ongoing. However due to the voluntary nature, many committees are paused, as a result engagement is difficult.

Personal Change

Cohort 2 participants completed the required activity including 9 OCN qualifications, sporting sessions, 15 educational visits and all of the mentoring hours, a minimum of 265 hours in total. The final residential was cancelled due to the extended lockdown, additional group work activity supplemented this. A recognition event to celebrate the participant's achievements will be planned once government restrictions allow.

Extern has recruited the final cohort of 19 young people and is progressing delivery, including one to one mentoring which will increase the confidence of participants to join and contribute in-group work sessions.

This final cohort will ensure that the full target for the project of 42 participants is achieved and delivered by end of December 2021.

3.4 CYP 4 – Cooperation Ireland (Young Advocates)

Cooperation Ireland has advised of the reluctance of young people to engage via online platforms. The youth groups involved agree that this 3rd lockdown is proving challenging to engage with young people.

SEUPB agreed to extend the pause in delivery to June 2021, with the condition activities should be recommenced at the earliest possibility, subject to government restrictions

As such, Co-Operation Ireland is planning to recruit the final cohort of 27 participants to commence delivery in June 2021 via a condensed delivery approach.

A reduction of contact hours from 75 to 60, within OIG tolerance, was approved because of these difficulties.

The delivery partner is also liaising with their partners on alternative approaches for 2021, risk assessing both travel and cross border travel.

3.5 CYP 5 – NIHE Local Area Network Partner Delivery

NIHE completed a virtual launch 11 February 2021, in collaboration with PEACE IV Building Positive Relations programme.

The launch generated significant interest in the project, with the Integrated Education Fund interested in joining the programme, along with a group representing children in foster care. Both groups will participate as peer members within the networks.

The delivery of the Digital Inclusion programme element has been awarded to Wheelworks. Due to ongoing digital fatigue, revised delivery combining both virtual sessions and via an Art cart vehicle has been considered. SEUPB has advised to proceed initially with the virtual element and delay face to face element, until restrictions allow.

The procurement for a facilitator for the Social Justice element closed 16 February 2021 with no submissions. The PEACE IV team is working with NIHE to review the exercise and requirements in order to secure a delivery agent.

NIHE is progressing procurement for the provision of Good relations engagement boxes to be delivered to participant, which will encourage and increase contact hours for current participants.

3.6 Financial and Resource Implications

To date all PEACE IV costs for the CYP Theme, up to Period 24 - Oct 20, have been fully eligible and reimbursed by SEUPB.

The Period 25 claim, totaling £104,574.16, was submitted for reimbursement to SEUPB on the 26 February 2021 deadline.

3.7 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 Equality Consultative Forum was further consulted on 18 November 2020.

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

Update on Shared Spaces and Services (SSS) Theme

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 advised that, as with the other projects, the ongoing government restrictions continued to impact the implementation of both the Shared Space and Services (SSS) capital and programming elements.

She referred to a number of capital projects which were being undertaken as part of the initiative, including:

- **Springfield Dam** – the project opened to the public in December 2020 and continued to be well used by all sections of the community. Snagging and operational issues were being progressed as and when they arose. The need for ongoing community youth outreach work to address anti-social behaviour was being explored.
- **PEACE IV Network Scheme – Capital Works** - The contract award for the wider network had been approved by the SEUPB. Sectional commencement dates (some planning dependent) would be confirmed to the Members and the wider public, following receipt of the contractors works programme. Engagement aligning with the capital works as each of the sections was developed would be prioritised with the community receiving regular updates. She reported that an official project launch would be arranged in due course and further details would be available once the start date had been confirmed.

The Programme Manager advised that Letters of Offer had been received from the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) making a financial contribution of £750,000 and also from the Department for Communities (DfC) making an offer of a financial contribution of £500k towards the costs.

In regard to the other Programmes:

- **Dialogue and Engagement Project** - Recommendations from the MDL Dialogue and Engagement report were progressing with further engagement and facilitation prioritised with young people, residents, BME groups and people with disabilities. Procurement of the facilitator was underway. The procurement approach for the facilitation and development of a governance/management model for the Forth Meadow Community Greenway was progressing. A public tender would be issued in March with an allocated budget of £60k.
- **Shared History, Heritage and Identity Content / Narratives for Shared Space** - COVID restrictions continued to impact engagement with communities with the delivery partners still focusing on research. Discussions had taken place with BCC's Physical Programmes on aligning the research, public engagement and development of narratives with the capital work. A further discussion with the designers (McAdam Design) had been held at the beginning of March. The Delivery Partner continued to engage with key community contacts and subject to the easing of restrictions, the delivery partners were hopeful that they would commence sessions on-site, in Section 1 (Glencairn and Clarendon) in March/April 2021.
- **Shared Space Volunteer Training** - Promotion of the volunteer walk and cycle leaders' projects to attract volunteers had progressed, with six online engagement events taking place during February. Virtual training was due to commence March 2021, then moving to face-to-face sessions with small groups once government restrictions permitted. The tender call for the delivery of the remaining volunteer groups, the Shared Space Ambassadors, Heritage and Nature Guides, was currently open with a submission date of Friday, 19th March 2021.
- **Springfield Dam activities** – Projects and activities, at the Springfield Dam, were on hold due to the current Health Protection restrictions. As previously reported, project ideas continued to be developed and these included, urban orienteering, outdoor yoga, survival and campfire activities, fishing, cycling proficiency, schools projects, storytelling and men's shed. All activities would be delivered on a cross community basis and would aim to works towards promoting the Dam and modular buildings as shared spaces that would be accessible to all.
- **Modular Building** - In line with other council facilities, the building remained closed due to the Health Protection restrictions. Health and Safety, fire risk assessment, legislative checks (such as legionella, etc.) as well as COVID checks / compliance were being progressed before the building could be used. Interim management options for the facility were under consideration taking into account running costs and creative solutions such as digital access.

The Partnership were advised that, to date, all Peace IV costs for the SSS Theme, up to Period 24 - October 20, had been fully eligible and reimbursed by the SEUPB. The Period 25 claim, totaling £196,726.36, had submitted for reimbursement to the SEUPB by the deadline of 26th February 2021.

As reported, details of both the Dfl and DfC contributions were being prioritised.

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

Update on BPR Theme

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 Building Positive Relations (BPR) theme of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan.

2.0 Recommendations

The Shared City Partnership is requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee that they note the contents of the report and appendices.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

Delivery of project activity is continuing where possible, although government restrictions currently extended to April 2021 continue to pose challenges across all BPR projects. Appendix I provides detail on Risks as identified in the Risk tracker as at February '21.

3.1 BPR1 – Cross Community Area Networks

The project team continues to maintain contact and retain interest across the majority of the identified CCAN areas.

A joint virtual launch with the CYP Programme took place on the 11th February with positive feedback.

The contractor has been appointed for the Good Relations Programme and will be led by The Verbal Arts Centre in partnership with TIDES Training and Fearon Consulting. Following consultation with all CCAN cohorts, it is anticipated that the Good Relations programme will commence in late March/early April 2021.

Online workshops (Shared History and Mental Health & Wellbeing) will commence in March to engage participants prior to the commencement of the Good Relations Programme. Appointment

of the contractor for delivery is complete and with SEUPB for approval.

The ITT for the Place Visioning programme is under NIHE internal review and scheduled for the public procurement advertisement late March 2021.

3.2 BPR2 – Creative Communities Project

The Artist/Heritage residency programme continues to be interrupted due to extended COVID restrictions.

The Shankill/Clonard; Divis/Lower Shankill; St Malachy's/Albert Foundry FC and Carlisle Circus clusters continues to meet virtually.

The Woodvale/Ardoyne cluster remains paused, as participants have limited access to online technology.

The Project team anticipates that 2 of the 8 clusters will commence Spring 2021, with the School Thematic Cluster on hold until further clarity on the re-opening of schools.

3.3 BPR3 – Transform for Change Project

Transformative Leadership Programme: Spring cohorts (Jan – Mar 2021) are progressing with 100 confirmed learners registered.

Promotion is underway for the next participant intake (Apr – Jun 2021) in the following Cluster areas: Inner East/Short Strand; Village/Westlink; Colin Neighbourhood; Belvoir/Finaghy/Dunmurry and North Belfast.

Local community engagement events and cross border/UK study visits are currently on hold. BCC is planning an online city wide 'networking' event for late May/early June.

The PEACE IV team continues to assist Cluster groups in developing and implementing their local project. Examples include Community Gardens and Multi-Cultural festivals as well as the 'Kids Shed' already in place.

3.4 BPR4 – Belfast and the World (BATW)

Corrymeela continues to work with two live cohorts in Ligoniel and Ballynafeigh. Members previously agreed to extend the completion date for these cohorts, however because of ongoing restrictions; a further suitable extension period is required. Given the operational nature of this request, members should note the Programme Board will consider the request.

The final Year 3 BATW course has commenced online with 12 participants registered. Further open calls for participants, via online delivery, will be made in Spring and Autumn 2021 to meet year 4 deliverables.

Further planning for the online Civic led events is progressing. Officers are liaising with the Delivery Agent to ensure complementarity with the Council's Centenary events.

EU Study trips are currently on hold due to COVID restrictions.

3.5 BPR 5 – Supporting Connected Communities

3.5.1 BPR5 –LINCS Projects

Government restrictions continues to hamper project delivery.

The modification request approved by Members in November 2020 is currently with SEUPB and the Accountable Departments for consideration.

Despite these challenges, the Delivery Agent has commenced a 10 week Arts & Cultural programme in partnership with Artseka across the Neighbourhood Participative Forums. A schedule of online events, including Intercultural Family events over the summer period, is currently being finalised (COVID restrictions permissible).

3.5.2 BPR5 – Traveller Support Programme

The Traveller Support Officer is now in post and project mobilisation is progressing. Following a virtual induction programme, the action planning and project implementation phases will progress.

3.5.3 BPR5 – Roma Support Programme

Forward South Partnership is concentrating efforts to establish the Roma Support Hub with the recently appointed Support Hub Coordinator, aiming to transition seamlessly from the Roma Helpline which is due to cease at the end of March 2021.

Further recruitment exercises are required to appoint the Advice worker and Capacity Officer. A modification proposal to realign budgets and condense activity of some element is under consideration.

3.6 BPR6 – St Comgall's Outreach Programme and Exhibition

The contract has been awarded to the 'SCOPE consortium' lead by Copius Consulting in partnership with Falls Community Council and Redhead.

The project aims to create a cross-community exhibition on the history of the St Comgall's site in the Lower Falls area and incorporates a series of workshops, seminars and site visits for residents in the Falls, Divis and Shankill areas. Project delivery will be in parallel with a major regeneration of the former school site into a community hub and visitor centre.

Project initiation has commenced, with early stages of mobilisation focusing on engagement and recruitment of participants.

3.7 Financial and Resource Implications

All BPR project delivery partners are regularly reviewing delivery methods and contractual deliverables that will determine the level and impact of COVID 19 crisis.

To date all costs for the BPR Theme, up to Period 24 - Oct 20, have been fully eligible and reimbursed by SEUPB.

The Period 25 (Nov 20-Jan 21) claim, totaling £260,178.23, was submitted for reimbursement to SEUPB on the 26 February 2021 deadline.

3.8 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 Equality Consultative Forum was further consulted on 18 November 2020."

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

Update on Notice of Motion – Addressing Hate and Intolerance

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 Members will recall that the following Notice of Motion, which had been proposed by Councillor O'Hara and seconded by Councillor Groogan at the Council meeting on 1st September 2020, had been discussed at the Shared City Partnership at its October 2020 meeting.

1.2 Addressing hate and intolerance across all our communities

'The Belfast Agenda has an ambition to be a welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive City for all. While we have made significant progress there are opportunities for enhancing this work. This council recognises the work that has been undertaken particularly by many in the community and voluntary sector to improve relations

and realise the Belfast Agenda. However, gaps remain, including through the allocation of funding.

This Council recognises the scourge of Hate Crime and Incidents in the City. In 2019/2020 there were 694 Hate Crimes and 758 Hate Incidents reported to Police in the Belfast District Area on the basis of sexual orientation, race and religion. We appreciate that there is a significant underreporting of hate crimes and incidents. There were 98 hate crimes and incidents on the basis of transgender status and 171 crimes and incidents on the basis of disability status across all of Northern Ireland.

This Council recognises that it has a statutory duty to address Good Relations but also recognises that this is on the limited basis of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion and racial group. This only covers some of the hate crime categories yet we understand that to tackle hate and intolerance we must promote good relations between those groups who experience hate but are not covered by the Good Relations duty.

This Council therefore commits to:

- Supporting the extension of the Good Relations duty to the hate crime categories
- Write to the Executive Office requesting flexibility in its Good Relations funding and request that the Executive Office consider extension of its Good Relations duties to the hate crime categories
- Council officers scope internal mechanisms re good relations and equality and diversity funding to fund more proactive work in addressing hate crime and fulfilling the ambition of the Belfast Agenda.'

2.0 Recommendations

- That Members consider the contents of the correspondence from The Executive Office

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 At the October meeting of the Partnership, a report had been given to Members detailing the current legislative context which outlined below for ease of reference.

3.2 Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 provides that:

- (1) A public authority shall in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity-

- (a) between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
 - (b) between men and women generally;
 - (c) between persons with a disability and persons without; and
 - (d) between persons with dependants and persons without
- (2) Without prejudice to its obligations under subsection (1), a public authority shall in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.
- 3.3 The good relations duty for Council and all public bodies is governed under Part 2 of the above legislation and only includes the three categories of religious belief, political opinion or racial group.
- 3.4 Members were also referred to the Good Relations Strategy and the work of the Equality Unit within Council.

Correspondence from The Executive Office

- 3.5 As part of the response to the Notice of Motion, the Partnership had agreed to write to the Executive Office requesting flexibility in its Good Relations funding and request that the Executive Office consider extension of its Good Relations duties to the hate crime categories.
- 3.6 The response from Dr Mark Browne, Director of the Strategic Policy, Equality and Good Relations Directorate is included at Appendix 1.
- 3.7 In the correspondence, Dr Browne detailed the range of policies which make provision for the rights of various groups and seek to promote harmonious relations. He advised that all projects to be funded through the District Council Good Relations Programme (DCGRP) must deliver against one of the 4 T:BUC priorities.
- 3.8 There is nothing to prevent groups such as LGBGTQ+, Disability Groups, Women's Groups etc. applying to the DCGRP for funding to take forward Good Relations work as long as they meet one of the four key priorities as referred to above.
- 3.9 TEO appreciated that funding will not be available for every activity undertaken by these groups. However, they may be able to access other funding provided by other Departments under their respective strategies for activities that do not meet the specific T:BUC priorities
- 3.10 In relation to consideration of the extension of the good relations duties to include the hate crime categories, he advised that Section

75 is a matter reserved to Westminster and there is currently no active consideration or review of the provision that they are aware of.

- 3.11 The Department For Communities leads on policy regarding sexual orientation and disability, has also begun work in the development of a number of new social inclusion strategies including a Disability Strategy, a Gender Strategy and Sexual Orientation Strategy. Members of the Partnership may wish to consider conferring with the current community planning structures to ask how the above strategies will align with plans for the City and the Inclusive Growth Agenda.
- 3.12 Dr Browne also provided contacts within the Department of Justice which commissioned the Independent Review of Hate Crime Legislation last year. The review has recently reported and is under consideration by colleagues in DOJ. A copy of the findings can be accessed at <https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/publications/hate-crime-legislation-independent-review>
- 3.13 Members will be aware that at the January meeting of the Partnership, a list of high-level actions to address inclusion and racism were agreed and a more detailed action plan to frame delivery will be developed and brought forward to the Partnership in due course. This piece of work will also scope the internal mechanisms regarding proactive work on hate crime.
- 3.14 Members may also wish to note the current campaign being supported through the Policing and Community Safety Partnership – Belfast – No Place for hate which encourages people if they have been victims of, or witness to, a disability, sexual orientation, religious or cultural hate crime, to report it to the PSNI.
- 3.15 **Financial and Resource Implications**
- None
- 3.16 **Equality or Good Relations Implications/
Rural Needs Assessment**

All Council Strategies and policies are screened to look at the impact of such a policy or Strategy on groups listed under Section 75. The District Council Good Relations Programme and the PEACE IV Programme have been screened previously.”

After a request from a Member, the Partnership agreed that a further report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Partnership which would outline the current structures within the Council. It would also give consideration to the possible inclusion of representatives from the following ‘Hate Crime Categories’ - disability, transgender identity and sexual orientation and look at how such representation would relate to the work of the Shared City Partnership.

Update on Decade of Centenaries Programme

The Good Relations Manager provided the Members with an overview in regard to the remainder of the Decade of Centenaries Programme, as agreed at the February meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

She advised that work was progressing in regard to a series of talks on the topic of “Violence, Conflict, Militarisation and Displacement; Belfast in 1920”, this had been launched via a press release from the Lord Mayor on 17th February. The material had originally been due to be delivered via a large conference in April 2020, but unfortunately due to current restriction this had to be cancelled. She advised that all of this material, running to around 4 hours, was available on the Council’s website at: www.belfastcity.gov.uk/decadesofcentenaries

In addition, a panel discussion had been organised for 26th March, from 12 noon – 2.00 p.m. on the topic: “100 Years of Northern Ireland; How Has It Gone?” The event was being run by ND Events and Ms. Tara Mills from the BBC would be the moderator. She provided an overview of the panel members and advised that each member had been as asked to focus on the topic from a particular angle.

The Members were advised that they could register for the event via the following link: <https://ndevents.co.uk/bcccentenariesprogramme/>

The officer reported that funding for five significant elements of the overall agreed programme, totalling £87,700, had been sought from the Shared History Fund which was being distributed by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. If successful, the funding would be specifically used for the delivery of the following agreed projects:

- **Drama and animation programme in for the Kings Speech event on 22nd June, 2021 with further related activity in the autumn, if COVID restrictions permit;**
- **The restoration of the chairs in the Council Chamber, used by the King and Queen on the occasion of the inauguration of the NI Parliament in 1921;**
- **A digitised artefacts and stories project related to 1921;**
- **A time capsule project, with the Lord Mayor and Young people; and**
- **An end of Decade of Centenaries Conference in March 2022.**

The five projects would progress, subject to a successful outcome from the application to the Shared History Fund. Decisions were being announced within the next couple of weeks and Members would be updated in due course.

In regard to ‘Engagement with the two Governments’, the Good Relations Manager reported that the Northern Ireland Office had launched their “Our Story in the Making: NI Beyond 100” programme in December, advising that there would be a programme of events that would seek to showcase Northern Ireland on the world stage. A commitment of £3m had been made from the NIO for this purpose though further details were still be made public. She advised that further information could be found at <https://ourstoryinthemaking.com/>

Officers had also met with officers from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to discuss the respective plans and opportunities for collaboration.

The Partnership was advised that, as reported above, £87,700 had been sought from the Shared History Fund for the five elements outlined above. The other elements of the programme were being funded through existing budgets including £40,500 from the Good Relations Action Plan budget, 75% of which was funded through The Executive Office.

The Partnership noted the update provided.

Chairperson