

## SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

MONDAY 12th APRIL, 2021

### MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

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

External Members: Ms. B. Arthurs, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Mr. R. Cushnie, Good Relations, TEO;  
Miss. G. Duggan, Belfast City Centre Management;  
Mr. P. Mackel, Belfast and District Trades Union Council;  
Mr. I. McLaughlin, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Father. E. O'Neill, Faith 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;  
Mrs. K. McCrum, Democratic Services Officer; and  
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

#### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Councillor M. Kelly, Mr. J. Donnelly and Ms. J. Irwin.

#### **Minutes**

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

#### **Declarations of Interest**

Mrs. B. Arthurs declared an interest in item 3 (d), namely, Peace IV Updates – update on BPR Theme in that she is an employee of the Forward South Partnership, which acts as the delivery agent for two of the Peace IV projects, and she left the meeting whilst the agenda item was being considered.

#### **Membership of Partnership - Recruitment for Community and Voluntary Representative for East Belfast**

The Chairperson advised the Members that Mr. J. Currie, the representative for the Community and Voluntary Sector in the East of the City, had resigned his position from the Shared City Partnership as he had taken up new employment and he asked that the Partnership's thanks be conveyed to him for the valuable contribution that he had made.

The Members were reminded that as part of the review of the Shared City Partnership in 2018, Volunteer Now had assisted with the recruitment exercise of the four representatives

appointed from the community and voluntary sector (one from the North, South, East and West areas of the City). The call for applications had been publicly advertised and widely circulated through the Council and other known networks. The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and the Good Relations Manager had all been involved in the shortlisting and interview process with the support of Volunteer Now. Subsequently, the names of the appointed nominees had been endorsed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

The Members then considered the proposed recruitment process to fill the current vacant position and agreed that it would be advertised by the Council through various community networks within the East of the City, including but not limited to the EBCDA bulletin, Race Relations Network, Inner East Forum and the Short Strand Community Association. It was further agreed that the Council would also ask relevant statutory agencies to advertise the nomination process.

The Good Relations Manager advised that officers within the East Area Team would assist in publicising the recruitment exercise widely and confirmed that initial discussions had taken place with the Neighbourhood integration Manager for East.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that:

- it agrees the proposed recruitment process and that the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Good Relations Manager would conduct the shortlisting exercise and subsequent interviews;
- the nominee would be endorsed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, prior to appointment; and
- it notes the following indicative timetable and that interviews might have to be conducted virtually, subject to public health regulations at the time:

Opening of Recruitment – 5th May

Deadline for Applications – 26th May

Shortlisting – 27th May

Interviews – Thursday 3rd June 2021 – to enable the nomination to be brought to the June meeting of the Shared City Partnership.

## **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 Partnership was advised that the final approvals for modifications to activity had now been approved by the SEUPB and that no further significant modifications had, at present, been requested by any of the delivery partners. Discussions with SEUPB on the revised Letter of Offer for the SSS theme were continuing and formal extensions requests for the CYP and BPR themes would be progressed with the SEUPB in due course, which would enable extensions to activity as previously requested by the delivery partners.

The officer reiterated that the delivery of project activity continued to be hampered as compliance with the Health Protection restrictions was a priority, activity, where possible, had moved to an online platform. The PEACE IV Managers Forum had met with a representative from the SEUPB on 16th March to highlight concerns regarding delivery in the current context. At this meeting, the SEUPB advised that there had been no discussions with the EU

Commission regarding mitigations for the PEACE IV Programme and reported that the performance across the Local Authority Local Action Plans was generally good. The high targets associated with the BCC Action Plan was acknowledged. The SEUPB also confirmed that flexibilities in relation to delivery timescales and tolerances in contact hours could be considered to enable delivery and it was confirmed that no additional funding or reduction in participant targets could be considered.

The Partnership was advised that SOLACE representatives were due to meet with the SEUPB to discuss risks to Local Authorities in early April. In relation to specific Belfast City Council risks, the Chief Executive, City Solicitor and Director of Neighbourhood Services had met the SEUPB Chief Executive on Tuesday, 30th March. This had been a positive meeting, with the SEUPB having advised that it had no issues with the Council's extension request, however, a business case to outline the expected level of programme achievement was to be submitted, and the Programme Manager advised that officers were currently preparing this.

The Partnership then considered the plan for the recovery of PEACE IV projects and activity which was currently being progressed.

The Programme Manager advised that the PEACE IV project activity had been aligned with the NI Executive's Moving Forward Pathway to aid the planning of recovery of PEACE IV project to try and identify the pathway and earliest possible step that activity could take place and also to take into account mitigations. She highlighted that, as no timeframe has been provided, it was difficult to determine how activity could be restarted and the recovery of activity was likely to be gradual with continuing impacts from the direction that social distancing would remain a requirement for the longer term. The Partnership also noted that several delivery partners (currently 4 partners) had indicated they would not be willing to extend contractual arrangements, which would inevitably result in a shortfall in targets.

In terms of the current workplan, the officer reported that the first virtual cultural café celebrating the Indian community with a focus on the Holi Festival had taken place on Monday, 29th March. A virtual conference discussing the role of Sport in Peace Building was scheduled to take place via a Zoom Webinar on Wednesday, 14th April from 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm. Denise Watson (U105 presenter) would facilitate discussions with guest speakers including Rory Best (former Ulster and Ireland Rugby Captain) and Richard Maguire from East Belfast GAA on the importance of the role of sport in peace building. In addition, community partners from the PEACE IV On the Right Track project would share experiences of building positive relations at a grassroots level.

Following a query from a Member, the Programme Manger advised that the aforementioned conference discussing the role of Sport in Peace had been organised by ND Events with input from officers. It was confirmed that a wide range of participants and speakers from various grassroots sporting backgrounds, including participants from the PEACE IV On the Right Track project would be contributing to the event.

The Partnership were informed that all claimed expenditure up to and including October 2020, totaling £3,652,907 had been fully reimbursed to Council. The Period 25 (November 2020 - January 2021) claim, totaling £561,478, was currently being verified by the SEUPB.

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

## **Update on Children and Young People's (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**

#### **Project Updates**

#### **3.1 CYP 1 – Tech Connects**

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

Participant numbers of 113 registered for face-to-face sessions to be delivered during the Easter holidays has reduced to 20 due to a virtual delivery approach being adopted to ensure compliance with ongoing restrictions. Additional 1-1 guidance for the virtual sessions is required due to the age range (6-11 year olds) and course content. Tech camps comprising of DJ Skills & Productions for 20 participants within the 12-16 year old target group will also be delivered virtually on 6-9th April 2021.

It is anticipated that face-to-face delivery will resume when restrictions allow with equipment available for the young people to access.

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

Delivering of the Tech Connects Insights element for 17-24 year olds is continuing with virtual sessions taking place and the next intake is currently progressing.

Members are requested to note that a flexible approach to delivery, comprising of taster sessions, half/full days as necessary, has been agreed by the Programme Board. There is no impact to contact time hours/ budget in implementing this change of delivery approach.

Clarity from SEUPB regarding the eligibility of young people studying in Belfast is progressing, in order to increase participation of this hard to reach group.

### **3.2 CYP 2 - Playing our Part in the City**

Our delivery partner, Active Communities Network, has evidenced 280 participants having completed the programme, with an additional 129 young people currently recruited & participating within the year 3 group. In addition, 62 parents have completed the programme, with 18 parents currently recruited to participate in the group for year 3. Achievement towards targets is currently 409 young people from a target of 500 and 80 parents from a target of 85. Members should note that in line with delegated authority approvals an extension to complete Year 3 targets by end of July 2021 was agreed by the Programme board. This extended timeframe for Year 3 should enable Active Communities Network to recapture some of the time lost due to lockdown restrictions and deliver face to face via outdoor play sessions. The delivery partner has advised they will also be utilising the weekends in order to achieve the required contact hours required for both parents & young people.

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

Due to ongoing restrictions activity has been limited. Options to recommence activity following the recent government announcement permitting outdoor training for club members for up to 15 people from 12 April is under consideration. The viability of outdoor delivery ensuring adherence with the regulations is to be discussed further with the current participants and clubs. The use of local sports clubs to deliver the sports sessions and attend the OCN training will help ensure that the learning and upskilling that takes place throughout the project, will remain in the local community after Peace IV.

A recruitment exercise is progressing following the recent resignation of the Project Officer.

#### **Personal Change**

To date Extern has completed delivery to 27 young people each completing a minimum of 265 hours engagement. Delivery of activity with the final cohort of 19 young people is progressing. Initial activity is focusing on one to one mentoring to increase the confidence of the young people, this will progress to group work sessions and the OCN units on family relationships.

This final cohort will ensure that the project target of 42 young people is achieved by 31 December 2021.

### **3.4 CYP 4 – Cooperation Ireland (Young Advocates)**

Discussions to re-mobilise project activity is progressing with Cooperation Ireland and a request to extend the pause in delivery to June 2021 has been agreed by SEUPB, with a condition that

activities should recommence at the earliest possibility, subject to government restrictions.

Feedback from young people interested in the project has highlighted a reluctance to engage via online platforms with youth groups confirming that the 3rd lockdown is proving challenging.

The delivery partner is positive that the outstanding participant target of 32 young people will be recruited by June 2021 with condensed delivery via face to face sessions with all necessary precautions in place. Concern regarding engagement from youth groups representing PUL communities has been highlighted, due to the current political climate and tensions regarding the NI protocol. Some groups have indicated they will not be engaging in good relations activity which may impact the cross community outcomes for the project and this will be closely monitored.

### **3.5 CYP 5 – NIHE Local Area Network Partner Delivery**

NIHE has encountered delays with delivery & recruitment as many of the clubs remained closed due to COVID, the team will assess the delivery options as restrictions relax. A revised implementation plan extending activity to September 2022 has been submitted and is under consideration. The revised timeframe for delivery is dependent on budget availability and restrictions allowing face to face delivery.

The re-tender for the social justice element of the programme is currently live in order to secure a delivery agent. A quotation exercise for the remainder of provision of Good Relations engagement boxes to be delivered to participants is progressing. This will encourage and increase contact hours under this programme for current participants.

### **3.6 Financial and Resource Implications**

To date all PEACE IV costs for the CYP Theme, up to Period 24 totalling £1,044,790 have been fully eligible and reimbursed by SEUPB.

SEUPB is currently verifying the Period 25 claim totalling £104,574.

### **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.”

During discussion the Members discussed the ongoing difficulties in getting young people to engage remotely given the amount of online activity with remote learning. It was also acknowledged that the current political tensions were not helping with engagement.

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** - All sections of the community continued to enjoy the shared space at Springfield Dam. Snagging and operational issues were being progressed as and when they arose. Belfast City Council SNOs and the PSNI jointly patrolled the site along with Youth Outreach support through the Social Value Clause. Due to COVID restrictions Youth Outreach, through the Clonard Monastery Youth Centre, had been suspended during January and February, however, it had resumed in March and would continue until the end of April 2021.

Outreach support by Forthspring Inter Community completed at the end of February 2021. Following recent reports of an increase in antisocial behaviour and related incidents at the Invest NI site, Innovation Factory and Springfield Road interface, the Programme Board agreed that the contractor should explore continuing support for the outreach work. As a result of this, the contractor had agreed to extend the youth outreach provision by Forthspring until the end of April 2021.

Following discussion in regard to the ongoing incidents of antisocial behaviour, the Programme Manager undertook to liaise with the SEUPB to establish if additional resources and new initiatives could be facilitated for the area to try and help alleviate some of the problems.

The Members noted the overall success of the project and condemned the violence and antisocial behaviour that was taking place.

**PEACE IV Network Scheme – Capital Works** - The construction contract for the wider network had now been awarded to McQuillans. The scheduling of works and sectional commencement dates (some planning dependent) were currently being finalised. The Members and the wider public would be notified of the work schedule within the next few weeks. Engagement aligning with the capital works as each of the sections were developed was being prioritized, with the community receiving regular updates.

The official project launch would be planned once restrictions permitted. Letters of Offer had been received from both the DfI and DfC, providing financial contributions towards the capital works of £750,000 and £500,000 respectively. Agreement on the apportionment of costs across the funders was currently being finalised.

In regard to programming, the Partnership was informed that all aspects of programming were progressing where possible.

In regard to the other Programmes:

- **Shared History, Heritage and Identity Content / Narratives for Shared Space**

To date, the delivery partner had participated in approximately 40 individual conversations to try and capture both the history and heritage of the Greenway locations with preliminary draft narratives currently being prepared. There had been difficulty engaging larger groups through virtual means, the delivery partners were hopeful that face-to-face sessions would be possible with the easing of restrictions. Discussion with McAdam Design had taken place in regard to aligning the narratives content with the capital works and these discussions would be ongoing.

- **Shared Space Volunteer Training** - The tender call for the delivery of the remaining volunteer training groups, the Shared Space Ambassadors, Heritage and Nature Guides had closed on 19th March but unfortunately no responses had been received.. Supplier feedback had been sought and a pre-market engagement session to discuss the tender opportunity had taken place on 29th March and the Members were advised that a further tender call would be made shortly. Sustrans had recruited 16 participants for the cycle and walking lead projects and virtual training sessions,, these would focus on course induction, monitoring and evaluation and mediation skills, and were planned for mid-April. It was anticipated that, subject to the relaxation of restrictions, face to face training would commence late April (walk leads) and May (cycle leads). The project had been promoted through a press release in local newspapers and an article in City Matters.
- **Dialogue & Engagement Project** – The officer report that a procurement exercise was underway for a facilitator to progress the dialogue and engagement works, specifically targeting young people, residents, BME groups and people with disabilities. It was anticipated that the contractor would be appointed by mid-April 2021, with engagement activity commencing late April. Tender documentation for the facilitation and development of a governance / management model for the Forth Meadow Community Greenway was currently with the SEUPB for approval to issue. The public tender call, valued at £60K, would open once approval had been granted
- **Springfield Dam activities** - Projects and activities, at the Springfield Dam, were on hold due to the current Health Protection restrictions.
- **Modular Building** - In line with other council facilities, the building remained closed due to the Health Protection restrictions. Compliance checks had commenced on 1st April and options for interim management arrangements for the facility were under consideration.

The Partnership were advised that, to date, all Peace IV costs for the SSS Theme, up to Period 24 totalling £1,392,444 had been fully eligible and reimbursed by the SEUPB, as the funding body, subject to eligibility expenditure. The SEUPB was currently verifying the Period 25 claim totalling £196,726.36.

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

## **Update on Building Positive Relations (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 Partnership is requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee that they note the contents of the report and related appendices.

### **3.0 Main report**

#### **Key Issues**

Project activity continues to be delivered where possible. However, the ongoing government restrictions continue to pose challenges across all BPR projects. Appendix I and II provides detail on RAG status and project progress as at March 2021.

### **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.

The appointed contractor is planning for delivery of the Good Relations Programme to commence in late April. Prior to the commencement of the Good Relations Programme, online workshops focusing on Shared History and Mental Health & Wellbeing are scheduled to commence mid- April.

The ITT for the Place Visioning programme remains under NIHE internal review and as such the advertising of the public tender opportunity is now mid-late April 2021.

### **3.2 BPR2 – Creative Communities Project**

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

The Shankill/Clonard Cluster continues to successfully deliver on line while Divis/Lower Shankill, St Malachy’s/Albert Foundry FC and Carlisle Circus Clusters continue to meet on line until they can reconvene group work sessions.

The Woodvale/Ardoyne youth cluster continues to be paused until after the Easter break as participants have limited access to online technology.

The Project team anticipates that 2/8 clusters (East Belfast Women's Network and LGBTQ+) will commence April 2021, with the School Thematic Cluster on hold until post primary school pupils return to school and following a settling in period.

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

**Transformative Leadership Programme:** Participants involved with the spring cohorts (Jan – Mar 2021) are completing the Leadership Training element w/c 29 March with an anticipated 90% participant completion rate. The cluster groups are progressing to develop and implement the next phase, which is the local community projects. With the assistance of the PEACE IV team, projects that are currently under development include Community Gardens, Art installation, Intergenerational events and Multi-Cultural festivals. Delivery of the projects will be in line with and / or subject to the Health Protection Regulations.

Participants from three clusters areas from North Belfast, Upper Springfield Road and Colin will commence the programme w/c 12 April. Programme delivery with participants from the South Belfast Cluster (Belvoir, Taughmonagh, Annadale and Ballynafeigh) is scheduled to commence 16 May 2021.

Due to current restrictions, the organisation of local community engagement events and cross border/UK study visits are currently on hold. However, a virtual city-wide 'networking' event is currently being planned for mid- June.

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

Engagement with two live cohorts from Ligoniel and Ballynafeigh is ongoing. In recognition of the challenges engaging the groups, the PEACE IV Programme Board agreed an extension for completion of the cohorts until June 2021.

In addition, the delivery of the Year 3 programme is continuing with participants engaging via online activities.

An open call for participants to engage with the programme via online delivery is to open in late April, with a further call in Autumn '21. This will enable the delivery partner to meet the contracted targets for the project.

Due to ongoing COVID related restrictions, two Civic led events will be held online. The first will be held in the evening of the 6 April with an Eamon Phoenix entitled 'Partitioning of Ireland and the creation of Northern Ireland'. The second anticipated to be held early Autumn, again marking 1921 through a Play focusing on Partition.

The delivery of the EU Study trips is currently on hold due to COVID restrictions. Consideration of alternative trips across NI and ROI is currently being explored.

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

Engagement with all Neighbourhood Participatory Forums continues albeit limited due to ongoing restrictions and limited access to online delivery.

The modification to project delivery has now been approved by SEUPB and includes:

1. Reduction of contact hours from 105 to minimum of 68 hours for the 96 participants currently engaged in the LINCS project;
2. Reduction from 8 Intercultural Family Programmes per annum (200 attendees) to 2 Intercultural Family Programmes per annum;
3. Reduction from 4 Shared learning Seminar's per year (133 attendees) to 1 Shared Learning Seminar per annum;
4. Amendment of the Strategic Advisory Forum element to a Belfast wide Inclusion Forum. Exploratory discussions underway.

The Delivery Partner continues to engage participants and is finalising the delivery of online workshops which will explore Language, Identity and Culture and Racism & Discrimination.

#### **3.5.1 BPR5 – Traveller Project - Supporting Connected Communities**

Mobilisation of the project is continuing with links established with organisation currently providing support to the Traveller community. Procurement for the delivery of the Traveller Support Hub is currently being progressed with an anticipated contractor appointed in June 2021.

It is anticipated that an Intercultural event will be held over the summer period with Culture and Heritage workshops commencing in early Autumn.

#### **3.5.2 BPR5 – Roma Project - Supporting Connected Communities**

This city wide Roma Support Programme is now mobilised. The Roma Support Hub is currently being established and the delivery partner has provided an assurance of a seamless transition from the Roma Helpline, which has now ceased.

Recruitment for the Advice worker and Capacity Officer is progressing with interviews scheduled to commence w/b 29 March 2021.

### **3.6 BPR6 – St. Comgalls**

The Delivery Partner, Copius Consulting is finalising SLAs with their community partners.

All community organisations who had previously given support for the project have been contacted and the recruitment of participants is now underway.

It is anticipated that online workshops delivery will commence in April 2021.

### **3.7 Financial & Resource Implications**

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

To date all PEACE IV costs for the BPR Theme, up to Period 24 totalling £1,215,673 have been fully eligible and reimbursed by SEUPB.

SEUPB is currently verifying the Period 25 claim totalling £260,178.

### **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.

#### **Restricted Item - Update on Bonfire Approach 2021**

The Partnership considered a report which provided an update on the Council's governance approach to deal with issues at bonfires along with an overview of key work regarding the 2021 approach.

The Good Relations Manager advised that, at the March meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, it had agreed the following:

- that those groups which had, in 2019, availed of the opportunity to replace a traditional bonfire with a beacon be requested to confirm if they wished to do so again this year and noted that the provision of beacons would be subject to any Covid-19 restrictions in place in July; and
- to align funding which had been delivered previously through the Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme with the specific micro grant and cultural leadership programme being delivered through the City Imagining Strategy, as outlined within the report.

The Members considered in detail the approach being adopted along with the current governance arrangement which the Council currently had in place. The Members noted the current multi agency approach and stated that they felt there was a need to ensure that the correct message was being communicated to those on the ground. They discussed the issues with social media and the problems associated with incorrect messages being circulated and the speed at which they were shared through various platforms, noting that this often created immediate problems on the ground.

Following discussion, the Partnership noted the update provided and asked the Good Relations Manager to relay to the Corporate Management Team that, whilst taking cognizance of the current multiagency approach and the current governance arrangements, the Partnership Members felt strongly that young people in the bonfire building communities needed to be communicated with from an early stage in order to ensure that they were kept correctly informed and engaged in the process and to try and progress a more coordinated and targeted approach.

### **Recent Civil unrest in the City**

The Chairperson referred to the recent violence and civil unrest in the City and stated that he felt that it was important that the Shared City Partnership had an opportunity to discuss the matter.

Detailed discussion ensued, during which the Members discussed their concerns in regard to sectarianism, how to tackle it and their fears for the future of the many young people that had been involved in the violence and the problems that this could have for their future prospects.

As with the bonfires, the Members discussed the problems that social media had created through the spreading of often incorrect information and rumours and its ability to spread information so quickly which made community workers 'work on the ground' even more challenging.

The Members discussed civic and transformative leadership and considered how as a civic society the Council and indeed the people of Northern Ireland could better respond to sectarianism.

The Members acknowledged that further discussion was required within the context of community planning and also highlighted that this matter needed to be considered within the context of the recovery programme from the Covid 19 Pandemic, which had highlighted many areas with weak community infrastructures.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the May meeting of the Partnership would be a facilitated discussion on how to address sectarianism in the City and that other agenda items would be kept to a minimum, with an external facilitator being invited to facilitate.

Chairperson