

SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

MONDAY 6th DECEMBER, 2021

MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

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

External Members: Mrs. J. Hawthorne, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;
Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council;
Ms. K. Jardine, Faith Sector;
Ms. G. Mornhinweg, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;
Mr. M. McBride, Education Authority;
Miss. A. Roberts, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Ms. A. Tohill, Good Relations, TEO; and
Ms. Ann Marie White, British Red Cross.

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

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of the Chairperson, Councillor Kyle, and Councillor Kelly and Ms. B. Arthurs, Ms. G. Duggan, Mr. M. O'Donnell and Superintendent Pollock.

Minutes

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

The Partnership was advised that Superintendent Pollock had advised that, unfortunately due to resource pressures, annual leave and other conflicting appointments, he had been unable to attend the most recent meetings and sent his apologies.

The Peace IV Programme Manager reported that he had sought guidance on sending a nominated officer when he was unavailable, however, was advised that, currently, the Partnership's Terms of Reference did not allow for this.

Declarations of Interest

Ms. A. Roberts declared an interest in agenda item 4 – Update on Good Relations Action Plan in that the Action Plan referred to a project which she was involved in the delivery off through the East Belfast Community Development Association (EBCDA) and she took no part in the discussion.

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 Members were advised that, as outlined in the PEACE IV thematic reports, project implementation was continuing across all themes. She reported that final contract extensions for Morrow Communications, S3 Solutions and ACN Sports Training were being progressed.

The Members were asked to note that the SEUPB had conducted a verification of BPR outputs relating to BPR3 and BPR4 projects on 9th November and that no significant issues had been reported.

The officer then drew the Members' attention to Appendix I that provided an analysis of the equality data at a programme, thematic and project level. She reported that all projects were within a 20% tolerance for cross community participation, although responses to "neither" of the two main communities was actually increasing and currently represented 13% of participants who had completed equality forms.

The Members were reminded that the Shared Space Conference had taken place on 11th November in Crumlin Road Gaol, with over 50 in attendance and positive feedback recorded. Planning was currently underway for a further conference that would focus on Children and Young People, Future Peacebuilders, this was scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 18th January 2022 at 9.30 a.m. in the MAC Belfast.

The Members noted that, with two current staff vacancies, resource pressures within the PEACE IV team were an ongoing issue.

The Partnership was informed that the submission of Period 28 claim had been a priority during November. The total claims value was £434,268 and had been submitted to the SEUPB on 30th November 2021.

The financial position remained as previously reported, with total spend of the programme up to Period 27 (July 21) at £5,300,222. Discussions with the SEUPB had resulted in some outstanding claims being progressed, £57K of claims for Period 26 was expected to be received in the next few weeks and verification of the Period 27 claims had now commenced.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it note the report and the associated appendices.

Children and Young People (CYP)

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 Children and Young People's (CYP) theme of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan.

2.0 Recommendations

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

CYP3 Personal Change - a two-month extension to 28 February 2022 to enable project closure and wrap up.

3.0 Main report

Project Updates

3.1 CYP 1 – Tech Connects

GIGA Training (Afterschool's & Digital Arts Academies (Tech Camps)

Delivery of activity is progressing and verification of activity and participation levels at the Halloween camps is currently underway, it is estimated that 80 young people will have completed the project. Blogs of completed work are available to view on the GIGA training website. Delivery of weekly activity to youth groups has commenced. The delivery partner is continuing to explore potential delivery through school links.

<i>6-11 Year Olds:</i>	<i>250 from a target of 399</i>	<i>149 Remaining</i>
<i>12-16 Year Olds:</i>	<i>116 from a target of 460</i>	<i>344 Remaining</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>366 Total Recruited to date</i>	<i>493 Total Remaining</i>

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

Targeted marketing and engagement has proven to be more successful and the delivery agency is now engaging with more groups and schools. Ongoing engagement by project partner (Bytes) with the Education Authority youth groups including Glen Parent and Family Centre, Lagmore Youth, Rosario YC, St John Vianney YC, Clonard YC is ongoing. Exploratory discussions and a Q&A with Refugee and Asylum Seeker Forum (wide range of stakeholders including CVS, Education Authority, DfE etc) has taken place.

<i>Total</i>	<i>44 from a target of 160</i>	<i>116 remaining</i>
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3.2 CYP 2 - Playing our Part in the City

The project is now fully recruited with all young people and parents and participation levels have been acceptable for both year 3 and year 4. Covid 19 disruption resulted in year 3 and year 4 running consecutively. Programme delivery will complete at the end of

November 21, with a final closure event to be completed in December 21.

The experience through the programme has helped young people regain confidence, build friendships, and reduce their levels of anxiety.

Morrow Communications have attended sessions to capture participant journeys on the programme. Active Communities Network plan to showcase this footage from beginning to end of the programme at the closure event. Invites will be sent seeking attendance from SCP, SEUPB and match funding departments.

<i>Total</i>	<i>640 from a target of 640</i>	<i>0 remaining (Due to finish Dec 21)</i>
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3.3 CYP3 – On the Right Track – Sports and Personal Change elements

From the last report, 89 Young people have completed project activity achieving either an OCN or Sports Leaders Qualification.

The Lead Officer is progressing further recruitment and scheduling of group sessions. Members should note that an extension for project delivery has been agreed to 30 September 2022, as such there is a need to extend the contract with the programme partner Active Communities Network (ACN) also to 30 September 2022. ACN is responsible for delivery of the training will also require an addendum to extend delivery into this new period.

Members are also asked to note that a formal request for a potential reduction of targets of 260 participants for this programme is being progressed with SEUPB. The current target is 1800, the reduction, if approved, would bring the target within the acceptable levels for full achievement, in line with the Output Indicator Guidance.

<i>Total</i>	<i>647 from a target of 1800</i>	<i>1153 remaining</i>
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3.4 Personal Change

The final cohort has completed education visits, sporting elements and residential activities. Members should note the activity took place within Northern Ireland, due to Covid 19 impact and a pause on Cross Border travel.

All participants have achieved 200+ hours from a target of 265, the remaining hours will be completed by the 31 December 2021. Extern is reviewing all participants hours to date and will deliver additional mop up sessions for OCN if required.

Project closure guidance, monitoring forms and documentation has been issued to delivery agent to enable analysis of the impact of the project on closure.

Extern has confirmed the final closure event is to be held in January / February 2022. Given that Extern's current contract is to 31 December 2021, members are requested to agree an extension to the project to 28 February 2022 to enable final closure and wrap up of the project. All costs will be met by Extern within the existing contract allocation.

<i>Total</i>	<i>42 from a target of 42</i>	<i>0 remaining – due to finish Dec 21</i>
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3.5 CYP 4 – Cooperation Ireland (Young Advocates)

The delivery agent has successfully recruited the final cohort of 40 young people, with up to 10 participants from each of the four partners across the City. Participants have completed a residential with 39 young people completing an OCN in Discrimination & Prejudice.

Project activity will progress throughout December and January 2022, with a lobbying campaign focusing on Homelessness & Sexual Harassment in schools. Group are to contact Council community safety and progress dates for campaign delivery.

Planning for a Young People's Conference to be held in February / March 2022 is underway.

It is anticipated that the final cohort will complete the full 60 contact hours by 30 April 22 with a closure event.

<i>Total</i>	<i>88 from a target of 80</i>	<i>0 remaining - Due to finish April 22</i>
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3.6 CYP 5 – NIHE Local Area Network Partner Delivery

Members are asked to note the two new potential partners for the CYP5 West Belfast 1 network as Glor na Mona, an Irish-language youth club and Family Comfort NI, a charity supporting and providing community services to BAME women and children both based in West Belfast

NIHE is confident the new community partners will help support the achievement of targets in terms of both participants and contact hours in the West Belfast 1 network, whilst meeting SEUPB community background targets.

Members are also asked to note that a formal request for a potential reduction of targets of 200 participants for this programme is being progressed with SEUPB.

<i>Total</i>	<i>108 from a target of 900</i>	<i>792 remaining</i>
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3.7 Financial and Resource Implications

The financial position for the CYP theme remains as previously reported, with all costs up to Period 26 for BCC project fully reimbursed by SEUPB. Claims for Period 26.2 for the NIHE CYP Project has been process and is to be paid imminently. Period 27 claim is continuing to be verified by SEUPB. The claim for Period 28 (Aug-Oct) valued at £90,359 is being prepared for submission on 30 November 2021.

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 Nov 2020.”

The Programme Manager advised that due to the recent increase in Covid 19 cases and recent advice, closure activities for CYP2 and CYP3 were being rescheduled. A three-month extension for each project was therefore required to facilitate activity into early 2022.

The Partnership recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the report and associated appendices and agree a three-month extension, to 31st March 2022, for the following two projects to enable project closure:

- the CYP3 Personal Change Project; and
- CYP2 Playing our Part in the City.

Shared Space and Services (SSS) Update

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 implementation of the Shared Space and Services theme was progressing and drew Members’ attention to a status update of the projects which had been attached as appendices.

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

Springfield Dam – The Director of Physical Programmes to provide further guidance and clarity on the process for the naming of the new bridge at Springfield Dam.

PEACE IV Network Scheme – Capital Works – As previously reported, works at Section 1 remained on course for completion mid-January 2022 and the treatment of invasive species at Section 2 was progressing.

As previously agreed, the Capital Project Board had reviewed the panel design under delegated authority from the SCP and further information on the robustness and materials for the design had been requested. The Members were asked to note that a lead in time associated with the manufacture of the panels and delays to approval would result in a delay to the delivery to site.

In relation to procurement of the public art (x5) the Members were asked to note that the PQQ (Stage 1 of the procurement process) had been published on the EsourcingNI on 19th November and would close on Monday 20th December.

Social Value Clause – No further update on the employment of a placement student and apprentice had been reported. Further meetings would be arranged with the Council and the contractor (McQuillans) to progress.

In regard to the other Programmes:

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

The Project Lead continued to engage and facilitate discussion groups through Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4 and had linked with GVRT to establish discussion with groups in the Village / Donegall Road / Roden Street areas in Section 5.

Having agreed the location of the 7 narratives for Section 1, an Equality Screening exercise was currently being conducted on the narratives. Following final approval, the Project Lead, Council officers from Physical Projects and PEACE IV and the designers would then agree the layout and design of the first 7 panels.

The officer advised the Members that a walkthrough of Section 3 (Springfield Road / Falls Park) and Section 2 (DfI / Springvale site) to agree narratives and locations had been held on 2nd December. A report on the proposed recommendations would be submitted for consideration in due course.

- **Shared Space Volunteer Training**

Group 1 of the Volunteer Cycle and Walk leads were nearing completion of their training with participants achieving the required level of engagement. Sustrans had advised that it felt that volunteers would benefit from further experience of organised cycles and walks with the volunteer group.

The Conservation Volunteers had undertaken some scoping work to familiarize themselves with the Forth Meadow Community Greenway, ahead of commencing recruitment and training at the beginning in January/February 2022.

Volunteer Now had firmed up the recruitment of 10 participant volunteers and was currently undertaking a further recruitment drive. The project planned to facilitate an information/induction session from the building in Springfield Dam Park and had provisionally penciled in 11th December 2021.

- **Dialogue and Engagement Project (young people, residents and BME groups)**

MDL had conducted a third site visit to Belfast during the week 8th – 13th November. It had held engagement meetings with Shankill Alternatives, Forthspring Inter Community Group, The Friendship Club (BAME Community focus) and Greater Village Regeneration Trust. MDL had also facilitated, on 13th November, an information session. This had enabled local residents and visitors to the Park to ask about the Forth Meadow Community Greenway, discuss how work along the routes was progressing and establish how they could make best use of the new Greenway.

The Members were asked to note that MDL had requested a contract extension to 31st January 2022 to enable input from remote youth workers. This input would form an important part of the final report.

- **Governance / Management Model**

Viatic had also been involved in the aforementioned site visit, having further meetings with umbrella groups, including the West Belfast Partnership Board, and the Greater Village Regeneration Trust.

The delivery partner had also further developed previous discussions around involvement in the development of the Forth Meadow Community Greenway. The contractor had advised of difficulties linking with the PUL community and was working to address these issues. The officer advised that an interim report on progress was due for submission soon.

- **Youth Engagement & Civic Education**

Following a tendering process Youthlink had been awarded the contract to deliver this element and a project initiation meeting had been arranged for early December.

- **Springfield Dam activities**

Discussion involving City and Neighbourhood Services officers from Outdoor Space and Active Living, Parks Outreach, Community Services and PEACE IV, had been held on 29th November, in the Girdwood Community Hub, a programme of activities had been agreed.

- **Modular Building**

The modular building continued to be opened through an agreed internal process to facilitate the Sustrans' Volunteer training project.

- **SSS Activities Co-ordinator**

A tender call for the provision of animation activities and showcase events along the Greenway had closed on 12th November with two responses received. The assessment process was ongoing.

The Partnership was advised that the financial position remained as previously reported with reimbursement of claims up to Period 25 totalling £1,589,170. Payment of claims for Period 26 (£50,171) and Period 27 (£85,411) remained outstanding, although the SEUPB had advised that verification was progressing. Submission of Claim 28, valued at £97,387 would be submitted on 30th November 2021.

Following a query, the Peace IV Programme Manager confirmed that staff resources continued to be an issue. She advised that she was working in close partnership with the SEUPB and both parties were hopeful that a December 2022 timeframe would still be achievable.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it note the contents of the report and agree the extension of the MDL contract to 31 January 2022.

Building Positive Relations (BPR)

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 agree the following proposals and note the contents of the report and related appendices:

BPR1-NIHE

- (i) re-profile £25,000 within the NIHE budget to support residential trips and proposal for a 2-night cross-border residential trip for West Belfast 1 participants
 - (ii) to approve the use of SLAs with community groups participating in BPR1. Members should note that previous requests for this approach is still awaiting SEUPB approval
 - (iii) to delivery 8 hours capacity building on an individual group basis for participants within West Belfast 2 network
- BPR5 LINCS - to extend the delivery timeframe to 30 September 2022, to increase the capacity building and further develop the Inclusion Forum.
- BPR5/Traveller - to delegate authority to the PEACE IV Programme Board to agree the rescope of the Traveller Support Hub to a Capacity Building programme, subject to SEUPB approval.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

Project activity is continuing to increase with all delivery partners having re-established activity, although Covid 19 impacts continues to affect participation.

3.1 BPR1 – Cross Community Area Networks (CCAN)

Community engagement and participation in the project is continuing, with the number of registered participants increasing from 39 (Period 27) to 78 (Period 28) and contact hours for participants has also increased. Progress has been made in establishing all 6 CCANs,

Members are requested to note and agree the modification requests for the project that were considered and approved by the PEACE IV Programme Board to:

- (i) re-profile £25,000 within the NIHE budget to support residential trips and proposal for a 2-night cross-border residential trip for West Belfast 1 participants
- (ii) to approve the use of SLAs with community groups participating in BPR1. Members should note that previous requests for this approach is still awaiting SEUPB approval
- (iii) to delivery 8 hours capacity building on an individual group basis for participants within West Belfast 2 network

3.2 BPR2 – Creative Communities Project

Project delivery is progressing with established clusters. The young people in the Woodvale/Ardoyne cluster continue to participate in interactive project workshops. The project has reached the mid-point and an evaluation of the project is being reviewed.

The Divis / Lower Shankill participants who are progressing with a gardening project participated in a site visit to a community Garden in Ballynahinch.

The artist in residence for the East Belfast cluster has been completed and workshops engaging participants have commenced. Participants within the Carlisle Cluster have submitted ideas and are to be progressed with the Project Officer when back from leave.

Members should note that whilst the project is progressing, delivery is slower and participation lower than anticipated. The participant clusters, artists in residence and Steering Groups have raised concerns regarding the required number of contact hours. A modification to potentially reduce contact hours is to be progress on the Project Officer's return.

3.3 BPR3 – Transform for Change Project

Transformative Leadership Programme:

Six cluster across the city are actively participating in the Leadership Training, with two clusters of approximately 40 participants completing the training element during November.

The PEACE IV team continue to be involved in welcome and project development workshops which are now scheduled as part of the leadership programme. A community project for a Springfield Road/Falls Road Garden of Reflection has been approved and the project is now underway. Delivery partners are progressing further project development with the group.

Clarification regarding the Resource Allocation Agreement has been provided to NICVA and partners and welcome responses voiced by the partners.

Discussions on the external evaluation of the programme with S3 Solutions have progressed and an agreed schedule of activity and revised payment schedule to match delivery stages is now in place.

A full schedule of engagement from NICVA, partners, S3 and BCC staff will be implemented to achieve a fully coordinated approach and breakdown of timelines for outcomes and all elements of the Transform for Change progress/activity evidenced.

Planning for the community engagement events and local study visits to take place in early 2022 is progressing.

3.4 BPR4 – Belfast and the World (BATW)

The delivery partner has identified three new cohorts to participate in the project, with one group now actively participating in project activity. Initial discussions are taking place with a further group of 25 participants from across Belfast and bordering districts and an information session took place in November 21.

The delivery agent is to submit a revised implementation plan and been requested.

Options for the delivery of targets associated with the EU Study trips and alternative trips across NI and ROI are under discussion with the delivery partner. Cohorts remain keen to partake in this element of the project.

3.5 BPR5 – Supporting Connected Communities - LINCS Project

The Neighbourhood Participatory Forums are embedded in all areas and currently 96 core participants are actively involved in activity. Each area has developed a suitable strategy for engagement in line with participant needs, and capacity. A summary of project progress to date is outlined below.

- South Belfast groups engaged in a total 18 sessions / events / workshops with a combined total of 67 contact hours.
- East Belfast groups engaged in a total 23 sessions / events / workshops with a combined total of 94 contact hours.
- North Belfast participants have engaged in 10 sessions / events with 32 contact hours.
- West Belfast participants have engaged in 21 sessions / events with 71 contact hours.

A further 28 attendees link in with activity on an ad hoc basis. The Inclusion Forum along with a symposium is scheduled for 10 December 2021.

Following approval of the extended delivery timeframe and activity, the delivery partner is progressing staff contract extensions.

3.6 BPR5 – Traveller Project - Supporting Connected Communities

Delivery of the Genealogy programme of workshops and exhibition is progressing with 11 regular participants.

Discussions regarding other engagement opportunities are continuing although it is challenging making direct contact with other potential Traveller participants.

The rescope of the Traveller Support Hub is being finalised and is to be submitted to SEUPB in due course. Members are requested to note that the capacity building programme will comprise of two half day weekly activity sessions with drop in provision, development of two volunteers and a study visit to Auschwitz.

3.7 BPR5 – Roma Project - Supporting Connected Communities

A significant increase in the use of the Roma Support Hub is evident with 212 referrals during the last quarter. Increasingly the Hub is being utilised by other Agencies, such as Food Standard Agency to address issues.

Capacity Building Sessions are progressing and are structured around a weekly Women's Group. Recent activities have included a visit and discussion with the Educational Authority; planting window boxes and potting houseplants and craft making.

The first Intercultural Community Programme is underway in collaboration with the BPR women's group and the Holyland Capacity Worker.

Members should note that the accreditation of the English language element is under review with a suggested non accredited 'conversational English' element as an alternative. SEUPB has requested additional information and recommended the delivery partner considers an entry level accredited course.

The extension to widen the participant group for the Advocacy and Advice Skills training has been approved and the delivery partner has advised that training is to commence.

Members should also note that a request for inclusion of the Roma Community Festival within a wider Holyland Cultural Festival is being progressed with SEUPB>

3.8 BPR6 – St. Comgalls

The delivery of both Adult and Youth workshop is now progressing. Condense delivery of the adult workshops is being prioritised with 4 workshops focusing on reconciliation theory and practice, Oral history and a mural tour has now been delivered

Extensive research has been undertaken to inform the development of the educational resources. Planning of the study visit to a similar facility is also progressing. However members should note the location of the study visit may be amended from Wolverhampton to NI or ROI, due to Covid 19 impacts :

3.9 Cinematography Project

Filming of PEACE IV activity is progressing. During November filming of St Comgalls and the Traveller project and the Shared Space Conference and

Further filming of activity is scheduled in December 2021 to include CYP1, CYP2 and CYP3 Sports element.

Following SCP and Programme Board approval, the request to extend the contract with Morrow Communications to October 2022 to enable all filming, editing and production of the films to be completed is currently with SEUPB for approval.

3.11 Financial & Resource Implications

The financial position for the BPR theme remains as previously reported with £1,792,882 reimbursed by SEUPB for some claims up to Period 26.

SEUPB has advised that reimbursement of Period 26 for NIHE and St. Comgalls (£54,641) is imminent. The verification for Period 27 (£326,709) has progressed slightly. The Period 28 claim valued at £246,521.73 is to be submitted on 30 November 2021.

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.”

Following a query in regard to the ongoing time delays with the SEUPB, the Peace IV Programme Manager confirmed that she had been in regular contact with the SEUPB and it had cited ongoing staffing resource issues. In addition to this, the Council's case officer had recently changed. She confirmed that she was scheduled to meet with the SEUPB again next week to discuss the Service Level Agreement and would raise the ongoing delays at this meeting.

The representative from TEO also undertook to raise the delays internally with the SEUPB.

The Partnership recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee adopt the recommendations as outlined in 2.0 of the report.

St. Patrick's Day Events 2022

The Good Relations Manager reminded the Members that the Good Relations Unit currently had an allocation of £30,000 in its Action Plan for the delivery of a grants programme to support community events in and around St. Patrick's Day. She reported that the maximum grant available was up to £1,000 but officers were seeking approval to reprofile this funding into a wider Civic Programme of activities that could be delivered over the week of St. Patrick's Day.

No events had been able to be held during 2020 and 2021 due to restrictions emanating from the COVID-19 pandemic and the funding for these grants had been incorporated into the generic Micro Grant scheme.

Officers had been hopeful that community activities under the St. Patrick's Day grants might have been able to take place in 2022, but at this stage it was unlikely. Officers were of the view that reprofiling was required at this stage due to the following two key factors:

- ongoing COVID-19 restrictions meaning that activities might not happen; and
- An open call would need to have already been undertaken for applications to be processed, assessed and approved in time for delivery in March.

The Good Relations Manager explained that the Tourism, Culture, Heritage and Arts Unit had recently approved the delivery of the following four large scale projects, scheduled to be held over St. Patrick's week:

- A carnival at a number of locations in the City Centre;
- A Going Global Project, linking Belfast with other global Cities for a series of events;
- A local parade and community festival programme; and
- A concert in the City Centre.

These projects had been approved following an expression of interest exercise and had already been agreed by the Members. In discussions with TCAH Managers, Good Relations officers were of the view that an additional resource of £10,000 for each of these four projects could serve the following three purposes:

1. The additional resource could enhance the programme offering within the 4 projects;
2. The inclusion of Good Relations Funding would support the delivery of Good Relations Outcomes within each of the 4 projects;
3. The funding within the Good Relations Action Plan would continue to be used for activity around St. Patrick's Day, thus contributing to the achievement of Good Relations Outcomes within the overall Action Plan.

She continued that, if the Members agreed this proposal, the evaluation criteria would accompany any additional resource that might be provided to the TCHA Unit for the projects. In the current Action Plan, the Cultural Expression Outcome (Outcome 4.2) was currently

being evaluated for the St. Patrick's Day grants. There was the opportunity to evaluate other outcomes through these projects, as these events would be taking place in the public realm. As such, participants on the projects would be asked to contribute to the assessment of the outcomes on Cultural Expression and Shared Space. This would be undertaken by surveying participants using a questionnaire.

The Partnership was reminded that the cost associated with this proposal was already covered within the annual Good Relations Action Plan, 75% of which would be recouped by the Executive Office under the District Council's Good Relations Programme.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that, subject to TEO approval, it agrees:

- £10,000 of unspent funding from Micro Grants budget be directed into the St. Patrick's Day fund; and
- the funding allocated to the St. Patrick's Day Grants programme, along with the £10,000 from Micro Grants underspend (as above) be reallocated to the Civic Programme being led by the Tourism, Culture, Arts and Heritage Team to assist with the delivery of the four large scale events scheduled to be held in Belfast over the week of St. Patrick's Day.

Update on DCGRP Action Plan

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

To update the SCP on delivery of the District Council Good Relations Plan (DCGRP) 2021/22.

2.0 Recommendations

Members are asked to agree the following proposals as part of the ongoing delivery of the Good Relations Action Plan:

- **Funding support of £15,000 towards 4 separate good relations related projects, proposed by the City and Neighbourhood Services East Belfast Team, delivered by East Belfast Alternatives, East Belfast Sure Start, East Belfast Community Development Association and Youth Initiatives. These proposals relate to BCC 10 Strategic Intervention Programme - East £15,000**
- **Funding Support of £8,000 towards the delivery of a number of good relations related activities to coincide with the African Nations Cup, delivered by NI Community of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in partnership with other organisations. These proposals relate to BCC10 Strategic Intervention Programme - South**

3.0 Main report

Delivery of the DCGRP Action Plan 21/22 is continuing.

- 3.1 As members are aware, the DCGRP Action Plan 21/22 includes the BCC10 Strategic Intervention Programme which provides £15K of funds to be distributed on an area basis. This is to ensure a targeted, strategic and proactive approach and interventions requiring support must address good relations issues and one of the T:BUC priorities.

3.2 **East Belfast**

Members are asked to agree to provide a total of £15,000 funding support, under the theme of the DCGRP BCC 10 to support the following 4 proposals in East Belfast

Proposal 1: Enhancing Community Connections through Informal Community Conversations and English language practicing.

Delivered by East Belfast Alternatives

This proposal aims to enhance contact between communities and support integration by providing buddying up conversation opportunities. The project will provide localised opportunities for new and host communities to meet, it will build the confidence of new communities in communicating in English and enhance opportunities for host communities to meet and learn from their new neighbours.

The proposal supports the concept of integration as a two-way process and will support efforts to promote localised integration and contact between communities.

10 Week programme, providing opportunities twice a week.

Total £3,500

Proposal 2: Exploring heritage and culture through cooking and conversation.

Delivered by East Belfast Sure Start

This proposal is to run a programme to link women from different cultures and communities by providing a programme based around cooking and culture. Due to covid it is proposed that the programme will operate virtually. Participants will receive ingredients and equipment weekly, the ingredients received will relate to common food that new communities, now residing in Belfast, would traditionally eat. The programme will use cooking to engage participants in conversations exploring the culture, history and experiences of different communities living in Belfast. The programme will conclude with participants putting together a collection of their favourite recipes.

Total £2,500

Proposal 3: Supporting the development and future priorities of the East Belfast Race Relations Network.

Delivered by East Belfast Community Development Association

The East Belfast Race Relations Network are working to develop a more effective race relations network, that enables enhanced collaboration between members. The network has been operating for over a decade and has a committed pool of active members. This proposal aims to engage an independent facilitator to support the Network to review and develop its future priorities and to support members to develop an work plan for the forum that improves outcomes for new and host communities.

Total £4,000

Proposal 4: Youth Initiatives, Diverse Youth Project

Delivered by Youth Initiatives – Cross Links.

This proposal, aims to provide opportunities for 35 young people from CNR, PUL & BAME communities to develop relations and participate in joint youth programmes. Part of the project will involve participating in sporting and team activities as well as innovative programmes to enable young people to explore diversity in a fun and safe environment. The project will culminate in a residential.

Total £5,000

South Belfast

- 3.3 Members are asked to agree to provide a total of £8,000 funding support, under the theme of the DCGRP BCC 10 to support the following proposals in South Belfast

In January individuals from Belfast's African Communities will celebrate the African Nations Cup.

This is an important occasion for the many different African Communities and people of African Heritage that now call Belfast their home.

This proposal aims to use the opportunity afforded by the African Nations Cup, to bring communities together to celebrate African culture and to promote awareness of the many African communities living here. It will also provide valuable opportunities to promote contact between African and Non-African communities in Belfast, in a fun and safe environment.

City Council support for this project will be critical in furthering our contact and relations with the many African Communities in Belfast and encourage their sense of inclusion and participation in the City. It will also support the narrative of an inclusive city that celebrate all communities and cultures.

Delivered by NI Community for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

The proposal will involve workshops, sporting activities and cultural events, linking in with the IFA and GAA.

Total £8,000

Financial & Resource Implications

All costs are covered through the District Council Good Relations Action Plan budget 21/22 as agreed by Members in March 2021.

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

All the projects/programmes have been approved in the DCGRP 2021/22.”

The Good Relations Manager advised the Members that a late request had been received from The Four Corner Festival seeking £5000.00 in funding. She advised that The 4 Corners Festival sought to inspire people from across Belfast to transform it for the peace and prosperity of all. It featured innovative events designed to entice people out of their own corners of the city and into new places where they would encounter new perspectives, ideas and friends and confirmed that the Council had previously awarded it funding.

Following a query from a Member regarding the monitoring and evaluation of Good Relations Funds previously allocated, the Good Relations Manager confirmed that there was a robust monitoring and evaluation process undertaken for each application for funding, adding that this was a requirement of TEO.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it agree the following proposals as part of the ongoing delivery of the Good Relations Action Plan:

- Funding support of £15,000 towards 4 separate good relations related projects, proposed by the City and Neighbourhood Services East Belfast Team, delivered by East Belfast Alternatives, East Belfast Sure Start, East Belfast Community Development Association and Youth Initiatives. These proposals relate to BCC 10 Strategic Intervention Programme - East £15,000;
- Funding Support of £8,000 towards the delivery of a number of good relations related activities to coincide with the African Nations Cup, delivered by NI Community of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in partnership with other organisations. These proposals relate to BCC10 Strategic Intervention Programme – South; and

- Agree in principle, funding support of £5000 to support The Four Corners Festival and to grant delegated authority to the Good Relations Manager to liaise with the group and award the funding if appropriate.

Upcoming Events

The Good Relations Manager advised the Members of the following event which they were welcome to attend.

- 'Trapped by the Border': Northern Nationalists, Southern Unionists and the Impact of Partition 1920-2025'.
- 23rd February, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.;
- Webinar talk and question and answer with Dr. Éamon Phoenix
- Contact Officer – Mr. David Robinson.

The Members were advised to contact the officer/organisation responsible for the event should they require any additional information and to note that details and invites would be issued in due course.

Noted.

Chairperson