

SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

Monday 6th February, 2023

MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor Kyle (Chairperson);
Councillors McCullough, McMullan and O'Hara.

External Members: Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council;
Ms. B. Arthurs, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Ms. A. Tohill, Good Relations, TEO; and
Superintendent Ford, PSNI;
Mr. A. Hannaway, NIHE;
Ms. O. Barron, Belfast Trust
Mr. M. McBride, Education Authority;
Ms. G. Duggan, Belfast City Centre Management;
Mr. P. Anderson, Department for Communities; and
Ms. A. M. White, British Red Cross.

In attendance: Ms. D. McKinney, PEACE IV Programme Manager;
Ms. N. Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager;
Mr. D. Robinson, Good Relations Officer;
Mr. S. Lavery, Programme Manager
Ms. T. Hogg, Blu Zebra;
Ms. M. Curran, Locus Management; and
Ms. V. Smyth, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were received on behalf of Ms. A. Roberts, Mr. S. Hamilton and Mr. J. Donnelly.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 9th January, 2023 were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

Ms. B. Arthurs declared an interest in item 3(d) Peace IV Updates – BPR 5 Roma Projects.

Mr. A. Hannaway declared an interest in items 3(a) CYP5 Networks and (3d) – BPR 1 Cross Community Area Networks (CCAN).

Ms. A. Tohill declared an interest in items 2 PeacePlus and 3 Peace IV Updates.

PEACEPLUS

The Programme Manager provided Members with an update on recent activity with regards to the development of the PEACE PLUS 1.1. Co-designed Local

Community Peace Action Plan for Belfast. He welcomed Blu Zebra and Locus Management to the meeting who updated the Members on the following:

- Stage 1 report;
- Key actions for Stage 2 Development of the Local Action Plan;

The Members were advised that a Stage 1 final draft report had been completed and the report was currently being edited by the Council's Corporate Communications.

Ms. M. Curran, Locus Management, presented an overview of key findings and high-level feedback in relation to the overall key issues and challenges Identified which included: -

- The negative impact of poverty and deprivation;
- Perceived class and cultural differences;
- Disengaged young people;
- Dealing with trauma related issues;
- Mental health and wellbeing;
- The ease of access to and the impact of drugs on local communities;
- Impact of racism and increase in racist hate crime; and
- Criminality and criminal gangs.

High-Level Geographical Based Prioritised Issues and Challenges

- Negative impact of poverty and deprivation;
- Lack of understanding of and respect for others of different cultural backgrounds, religious beliefs, political views or ethnic backgrounds; and
- Disengaged Youth.

High-Level Thematic Based Prioritised Issues and Challenges

- Negative impact of poverty and deprivation;
- Lack of hope, ambition, and personal aspiration within our community; and
- Social segregation

Emerging Concept Proposals for Peace Plus Investment

Stage 1 engagement had resulted in a long list of potential initiatives for consideration for PEACEPLUS 1.1 investment. A summary of high-level concept proposals which was presented in the report is outlined below

Theme 1: Community Regeneration and Transformation

- Small scale investment in communities, including those with low capacity / community infrastructure, areas not previously engaged in Peace - community gardens, greenspaces, alleyway schemes, walkways, environmental enhancements, buildings / facilities, dereliction, shared spaces. Potential to align with a community capacity building programme.

- Regeneration/Creation/Extension of Green Open Spaces including Parks, Greenways, and wider green spaces,
- Embrace the river - strengthening connections from the city centre its surrounding communities – enhancing connectivity across and around the River Lagan.
- Focus on creating a liveable city centre – green space, play areas, outdoor living, safe space, vibrant public shared and inclusive spaces.
- Reimagining of derelict sites / buildings;
- Capital investment at Interfaces / Peace Walls;
- Community Hubs;
- Alignment of projects with Peace & Reconciliation capital scheme; and
- Urban sports facilities

Theme 2: Thriving and Peaceful Communities

- Community capacity building and mentoring programme in areas of weak community infrastructure;
- Transformative Leadership Programme (build on Peace IV model) – extend wider than interface areas;
- Single identity work with communities who had not previously engaged / had limited engagement with peace and reconciliation;
- Community arts programme (build on Peace IV model and community good practice) – cross community and intercultural;
- Skills and employability programme to address gaps in provision with a focus on e.g., work placement, resilience, skills, enhanced support, economically inactive, disability employment support;
- Shared spaces animation programme;
- Health and wellbeing programme in disadvantaged areas with a focus on mental health, resilience and addressing issues relating to current economic climate;
- Older people’s initiatives addressing health and wellbeing, men’s activities, inclusion of LGBT and ethnic minorities, intergenerational activity
- Youth programme(s) building on Peace IV model and focusing on, for example, disengaged youth, leadership, resilience, ambition and aspiration, civic responsibility, mental health, skills, employability, holistic support, LGBTQ, family focused activities, young people with disabilities;
- Sports programme promoting active communities;
- Church led cross community leadership / supporting vulnerable communities’ programme; and
- Activities that build on / sustain cross community activity.

Theme 3: Building Respect for All Cultural Identities

- Anti-sectarianism programme;
- Anti-racism programme(s);
- Ethnic minority support programme – language services, employability, entrepreneurship, adult education, school education, youth inclusion and integration with a school’s focus, leadership, social integration programme;

- Community festivals / events celebrating multi-cultural diversity;
- Parks - Animation Programme bringing communities together;
- Cultural heritage programme;
- Ex-prisoner programme (employment, family support, health and wellbeing, advocacy services); and
- Cross community confidence building programme / activities at interface areas.

The Members were advised that it was important to caveat that the parameters of PEACEPLUS 1.1 would not enable all issues reported during Stage 1 Engagement to be addressed. The Members were asked to note that:

- Not all issues would be eligible for support under 1.1;
- Some issues might be more appropriate for support under other PEACEPLUS measures and other funding opportunities;
- There was a finite budget which would require prioritisation of spend across 3 thematic areas;
- There was an indicative target of 17,437 participants engaged in PEACEPLUS activity, which would also necessitate prioritising projects that would meet this, and other selection criteria detailed in the SEUPB call document when it was issued; and
- Capital projects need to be realistic, sustainable deliverable, demonstrate value for money and aligned to PEACEPLUS objectives.

Stage 2 Development of the Local Action Plan

Ms. M. Curran informed the Members that work was underway to develop a detailed Stage 2 action plan and presented an update on key indicative milestones.

| Timeline | Key Milestone |
|------------------------|--|
| February 23 | Finalise Stage 2 methodology and draft criteria for prioritisation of projects |
| 27th February 23 | Public workshop to initiate Stage 2 prioritisation process |
| March - June 2023 | Facilitation of Thematic working groups to develop the action plan |
| June 23 | Public workshop to finalise detailed project concepts |
| July - August 23 | Develop Stage 3 formal plan submission |
| September / October 23 | Action Plan submission |
| February/March 24 | Letter of Offer received |
| Spring/Summer 24 | Delivery of local action plan commences |

Public Workshop 27th February, 2pm - 4pm, City Hall

The Members were advised that a public workshop would be held to kick start the Stage 2 process. At this workshop stakeholders would receive feedback on Stage 1 Engagement (and report) and the key steps to develop Stage 2 development of the Local Action plan.

The Members thanked Ms. M. Curran for the work that had been undertaken. Discussion followed and a range of matters were raised, including governance, the Green Agenda, multi-cultural inclusivity, building capacity and managing expectations. A Member raised time and resource challenges for delivery, and another Member spoke about shaping the collaborative process and the anticipated delivery outcomes of the plan. It was agreed that it would be important to include sectarianism as one of the key issues that could be addressed within the plan in the plan.

Members queried any potential conflict of interest if their organisation made an application to another PEACEPLUS investment area and their involvement in Stage 2 Co-design process. It was advised that this should not preclude any involvement in Stage 2 but this could be looked at as the work progresses. The Members were reminded that it was important that SCP members were involved in the Stage 2 co-design process.

The Members noted the contents of the report and:

- Noted the high-level feedback from Stage 1 Engagement and agreed to send the final report out to stakeholders in advance of a public meeting on 27th February at 2.00pm in City Hall;
- Noted the key milestones for Stage 2 development of the local action plan; and
- Noted the updated timelines for Stage 2 which included an updated position from SEUPB that applications for the programme will open in April 2023.

PEACE IV Updates

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. She advised that progressing closure of projects was the key focus, as well as supporting the delivery of activity for those projects that were continuing to March 2023.

The Members were assured that the closure process was robust and comprised of:

- The submission of a final report by the delivery partner;
- A review of deliverables and evidence of same by the Thematic Project Manager and Programme Manager;
- An On-the-Spot verification site visit (OSV); and
- An inventory checklist of monitoring data.

The Peace IV Programme Manager reported that on completion of all aspects, final project closure was confirmed and payment released.

She advised that On-the-Spot verification visits (OSV) for CYP4 Young Advocates and BPR5 LINCS and ROMA had taken place during January 2023.

Final clarifications were being progressed with CYP3 Transform For Change to enable final closure. The review of the final report for CYP1 Tech Connects delivered by GIGA was also progressing.

Discussions with SEUPB and planning for the Post Project Evaluation stage were also being progressed.

The review of data and discussions to establish the level of achievement and next steps for CYP3 On the Right Track, CYP5 Networks and BPR1 Cross Community Area Networks project had also progressed. Further detail was outlined in the Thematic reports.

Following the submission of the Period 32 claim to SEUPB, over £2.3m was now outstanding from SEUPB dating back to Period 29 February 2022. Concerns regarding this backlog had been highlighted to SEUPB and an indicative timeframe of the end of February 2023 had been provided for the reimbursement of 4 claims. Preparation for the submission of the Period 33 claim was currently underway.

The Partnership agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that they note the contents of the report.

Children and Young People

The Partnership considered the undernoted report.

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

To provide the Shared City Partnership (SCP) with a progress report in respect of the Children and Young People’s (CYP) theme of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan.

2.0 Recommendations

The Partnership is requested to note the contents of the report and related appendices and recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to:

CYP1 Tech Connects – Afterschool’s and Tech Camps (Giga)

- **note project closure is being progressed based on achievement of 119% of Lot 1 and 90% of Lot 2.**

CYP5 NIHE

- **note the anticipated level of achievement, the additional mitigations proposed and the next steps of discussions with SEUPB.**

3.0 Main Report

Project Updates

3.1 CYP 1-TECH CONNECTS, GIGA Training (Afterschool's and Digital Arts Academies' Camps) (6-11, 12-16 yr. olds)

The final monitoring and evaluation data has been verified and the closure report has been reviewed by officers. The anticipated level of achievement is as below.

| Sessions | Original Target | Revised target Business Case | Completed | Variance | % Achieved |
|-------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Lot 1 - 6-11-Year-Olds | 494 | 400 | 475 | +75 | 119% |
| Lot 2 - 12-16-Year-Olds | 365 | 400 | 358 | -42 | 90% |
| Total | 869 | 800 | 833 | +33 | 104% |

The on-the-spot verification visit is being arranged to progress the project to final payment and closure.

CYP 1 – TECH CONNECTS, Belfast Metropolitan College (Digital Insights Programme) (17-24 yr. olds)

With the approved project extension to 31 March 2023, Belfast Metropolitan College has scheduled a new cohort to start on 6 February 2023 at Girdwood and is planning sessions to be delivered over w/c 13 February 2023. Additional sessions are also scheduled at Girdwood and E3-Springvale Campus, in March, with 10 registrations hoped for each.

Belfast Metropolitan College is in the process of uploading participant registration details, which once reviewed, will provide up-to-date data on registration, attendance and achievement of target.

| | | |
|--------------|--|--|
| Total | 104 from a target of 160 104 from a target of 110 | 56 remaining against original target of 160 6 remaining against target of 110 |
|--------------|--|--|

3.2 CYP 2 – Playing our Part in the City

Members to note the project is now formally closed.

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

As previously reported the achievement of targets within the remaining timeframe is highly unlikely and as such project closure is being explored.

To maximise the achievement of targets, sports clubs have been contacted regarding participation in Sports Leaders training which is being scheduled for delivery with Active Communities Network (ACN) in February 2023.

Outstanding evidence to confirm participation and ensure all participants are accounted has been identified and liaison with sports clubs on outstanding paperwork is progressing.

Preliminary monitoring data shows 812 registered participants with 581 completing the required 26 hours.

| | | |
|--------------|---------------------------|---|
| Total | 581 from a target of 1260 | 679 remaining to achieve target figure of 1260. 231 registered but have not achieved hrs of engagement |
|--------------|---------------------------|---|

3.4 Personal Change – Delivered by Extern

Project closure is progressing with the further On-the-Spot Verification Site Visit scheduled for 31 January 2023.

| | | |
|--------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Total | 42 from a target of 42 | 0 remaining – Progressing to Closure |
|--------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|

3.5 CYP 4 – Cooperation Ireland (Young Advocates)

Project closure is progressing, the On-the-Spot Verification Site Visit took place on 24 January 2023 and further points of clarity are progressing.

3.6 CYP 5 – NIHE Local Area Network Partner Delivery

Discussions with NIHE to confirm the anticipated level of achievement took place on 12 January 2023. A positional paper detailing the target hours attained per participant with suggested mitigations has been submitted by NIHE. The Thematic Manager has conducted a detailed review of the paper and compiled a summary position as outlined in Appendix II NIHE positional paper. This is summarised further below:

| CYP Summary of targets reported by NIHE 23.01.23 | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| | CYP5 Peer | CYP5-Core |
| Target Participant no: | 200 | 104 |
| No. noted (requires confirmed registered) | 310 | 101 |
| Target Hours | 30 | 100 |
| No. of participants completing achieved 70% or above of engagement hours | 101 | 3 |
| Level of achievement | 50% | 2.90% |

Members are requested to note that additional mitigations proposed by NIHE are to lower the tolerance for achievement of contact hours to 60%. This will result in increased outputs for Core Participants by 13 (7 associated with the participant

transfer and 6 with the reduction in tolerance) and also increase the number of Peer participants by 20, as summarised in the table below:

| Additional Mitigations Summary of targets - CYP | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| | CYP5 Peer | CYP5-Core |
| No. of participants completing with mitigations applied – 60% contact hours | 121 | 16 |
| Level of achievement | 61% | 15.40% |

Members previously agreed to delegate authority to the CYP and BPR Thematic Chairs and Programme Manager to review the achievement of target and progress discussions with SEUPB, which is currently underway.

3.7 Financial and Resource Implications

Following submission of the Period 32 claim in December 2022, claims totaling £2m have been submitted to SEUPB, with £1.665m reimbursed to date. As such £340K remains outstanding from SEUPB.

Preparation for the submission of Period 33 claims by 28 February 2023 is now progressing.

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 noted the contents of the report.

Shared Spaces and Services

The Peace IV Programme Manager provided the Shared City Partnership with a progress update in respect of the Shared Spaces and Services (SSS) theme of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan. She reported that both the capital and programming elements of the Shared Space and Services theme were continuing to be implemented. Risks associated with delivery were highlighted in RAG Report (Appendix I).

- **Springfield Dam**

The public vote for the naming of the Bridge at Springfield Dam opened via the Council’s website on Wednesday 18th January with the 4 short-listed names for consideration:

1. The Cotty Bridge
2. The Foundry Bridge

3. The Seven Cygnets Bridge
4. The Spring Bridge

Votes can be cast through the link below, until the closing date of 15th February 2023. <https://yoursay.belfastcity.gov.uk/springfield-dam-bridge>

On closure of voting, the naming panel would be advised of the outcome with a further report which would be presented to members in March 2023.

- **PEACE IV Network Scheme – Capital Works**

Works at Section 2 were ongoing and whilst the recent bad weather affected some aspects, completion remains on course for June 2023. Planning permission had been received for works in Section 5 (West Link).

- **Signage**

A Council decision on the language approach for signage was being followed up as a priority, to enable the signage to be produced and installed before June 2023. The Members would be updated on any progress or outcomes.

- **Public Art Pieces**

Preparation for the installation of the flagship art piece was nearing completion with foundation work having been carried out on 17th and 18th January 2023. The long-term lease of the land was progressing with Council's legal team, and it was anticipated that final installation would be in February 2023, with a public unveiling mid-March 2023.

- **Programming**

Implementation of the programming aspects were progressing.

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

| Deliverable targets | Targets achieved |
|--|--|
| 300 individuals | 257 recruited |
| 51 narratives (3 narratives x 17 panels) | 52 draft narratives |
| 12 contact hours per participant | 152 participants (68%) achieved over 10 hours 200 participants (89%) achieved 6 hours+. |
| Compilation document of all stories | A draft copy submitted for initial review. |

As works were in progress in Section 2 (Springvale) and due to commence in Section 5 (West Link), the proposed narratives for information panels in these sections were currently being reviewed.

A draft compendium of the narratives had been submitted by the delivery partner and reviewed by the PEACE IV team. Suggested amendments regarding content, layout and branding were agreed at a meeting on 20th January 2023. A further draft was to be submitted. Completion and submission of the compendium was a key element to progress project closure and to final payment.

- **Resource Allocation**

Single Tender Action requests with the FMCG Volunteer Leads, for the interim coordination of volunteering, had been approved by SEUPB and were now being progressed with the delivery partners.

The quotation for a coordinated programme of activities / events had been issued to 4 competent providers, with a response date of 6th February 2023 and assessment planned for 10th February 2023.

The revised resource allocation support documentation was being reviewed and a call for applications would open for community groups / organisations along the Forth Meadow Community Greenway.

- **Shared Space Volunteer Training**

| Deliverable targets | Targets achieved |
|--|------------------------------|
| Sustrans | |
| 30 volunteers (15 Walk & 15 Cycle Leads) | 27 recruited across 3 groups |
| Volunteer Now Enterprise | |
| 15 volunteers (Local Ambassadors) | 13 recruited |
| The Conservation Volunteers | |
| 15 volunteers (Nature Guides) | 12 recruited |

Following approval of the STAs by SEUPB, the contracts for the interim coordination of volunteering were progressing with the above delivery partners.

Following the site-visit to Oxford Island / Lough Neagh Discovery Centre, with the FMCG Volunteers in November 2022, Shared Space and Services was linking with Sustrans, Volunteer Now and The Conservation Volunteers to plan a second visit to Cloughmills Community Action Team in February 2023.

- **Governance / Management Model**

Following the initial workshops and engagement sessions on the implementation of a suitable management and governance model during the week of 6th to 8th December 2022, the delivery partners visited the site and undertook engagement activities during the week 30th January to 3rd February 2023.

An initial steering group workshop with community stakeholders took place on 31st January 2023 and was followed by further discussions with CNS Senior Managers and Council Officers regarding the resourcing and coordination of activities and services. The Members would be updated on progress of the governance model implementation.

- **Youth Engagement and Civic Education**

| Deliverable targets | Targets achieved |
|---------------------|---|
| 400 young people | 271 young people registered from Nubia, Blackmountain, Glencairn, Forthspring, St Peters, Ballysillan, Clonard, Corpus Christi, |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| | GVRT, Holy Trinity, Malone College, St Genevieve's and Belfast Boys Model. |
| 60 contact hours per participants | 54 young participants have achieved 60+ contact hours. |

The Members were requested to note that the Programme Board had approved a project extension to 28th February 2023 for the Youth Link contract, with a 10% budget uplift, which would bring the project budget to £176,000. This was to enable Youth Link to achieve the deliverable targets,

The project had 271 registered young people who had participated or were participating on the project, with registration documentation of approximately 50 additional young people to be uploaded, bringing the total target number to over 300 young people.

A celebration event with approximately 100 participants (schools and the older age groups) was scheduled for 9 February 2023 in Crumlin Road Gaol.

- **SSS Activities and Animation Programme**

As all the project supported activity had been completed, the project closure process was progressing with a review of the end of project report prior to processing final payment.

- **Financial and Resource Implications**

Following submission of the Period 32 claim in December 2022, claims for the SSS totalling £2.9m had been submitted to SEUPB, with £1.9m reimbursed to date. As such, just over £1m remained outstanding from SEUPB.

Preparation for the submission of Period 33 claims by 28 February 2023 was now progressing.

The Partnership noted the contents of the report and related appendices and recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to:

- Note the approved project extension to 28th February 2023 with a 10% budget uplift for the Youth Civic Education contract with Youth Link.

Building Positive Relationships

The Partnership considered the undernoted report.

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

To provide the Shared City Partnership with an update on 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 note the contents of the report and related appendices and recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to:

BPR 1 -NIHE- Cross Community Area Networks

- note the level of achievement as outlined in the positional paper (Appendix III) and the mitigations proposed to address under delivery.

BPR6 St Comgall’s

- note that following further cross-community consultation, the amended Education Resources have been submitted. The resources will be considered by the Programme Board via previously agreed delegated authority.

3.0 Main report

Key issues

As members are aware, projects are at various stages of delivery; some projects are completing, whilst activity is continuing with other projects. The status and progress of projects are outlined in Appendix I BPR RAG report.

3.1 BPR1 – Cross Community Area Networks (CCAN)

A meeting was held with NIHE on 12 January 2023 to discuss both BPR and CYP contract deliverables and confirm the final achievement for both projects. Subsequently NIHE has submitted the proposed finishing position for both BPR and CYP elements, as outlined in Appendix II NIHE positional paper. On review of the information provided by the Thematic Manager, a summary position for BPR is outlined below

| BPR Summary of targets reported by NIHE 23.01.23 | | |
|--|-------------------|------------------|
| | BPR 1 Core | BPR1 Peer |
| Target Participant no: | 100 | 485 |
| No. noted (requires confirmed registered) | 173 | 291 |
| Target Hours | 120 | 26 |
| No. of participants completing achieved 70% or above of engagement hours | 26 | 159 |
| Level of achievement | 26% | 32.70% |

Members are requested to note that additional mitigations proposed by NIHE are

- (i) 70% tolerance on contact hours
- (ii) to transfer participants from core group to peer
- (iii) merging hours for those that attended both core and peer sessions

This will result in 55 participants being moved to the peer group, with no impact to the achievement of core participants, although it will negatively impact the number of networks established. Applying the mitigations, the BPR position will be revised as summarised in the table below:

| Additional Mitigations Summary of targets - BPR | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| | BPR1 Peer | BPR1-Core |
| No. of participants completing with mitigations applied – 70% contact hours | 26 | 214 |
| Level of achievement | 26% | 44.00% |

Members previously agreed to delegate authority to BPR Thematic Chairs and Programme Manager to review the achievement of target and progress discussions with SEUPB, which is currently underway. *As such members are requested to note the positional paper (Appendix III) and the expected level of achievement. The next steps are to discuss with SEUPB the next steps and viability of suggested mitigations.*

Members should also note that the request to extend West Belfast2 CCAN to complete the place shaping concepts was approved in principle, the details submitted by NIHE indicate there is no impact on contractual requirements for the consultants to extend. However, NIHE has advised they cannot commit to the number of participants that will attend these final elements.

3.2 BPR2 – Creative Communities Project

Project progress has been limited due to an unexpected resourcing issue. The position remains as previously cited, that 73 participants have completed 42 hours engagement, with an additional 27 participants due to complete by December 2022, although an update is pending. This will result in 100 participants completing from a reduced target figure of 144.

The new cohorts are agreed and comprise of the Short Strand Women’s Group/Walkway Community Association and include participation from the Short Strand After School Club/Bloomfield Community Association, this will see in excess of 60 participants engage in an artistic output for these communities

The quotation for artist facilitator for the Short Strand cohorts has been progressed to SEUPB and Procurement concurrently for approval and pending approval will be released imminently. Members are requested to note that due to the tight timeframe for implementation, the delivery approach will be condensed

to maximise achievement of outputs by March 2023 and includes an overnight residential and 2-day trips.

The draft publications for 4 of the 5 creative clusters have presented by McCadden and are currently being reviewed.

3.3 BPR3 – Transform for Change Project

The project is in the final stages of closure. Data requested from NICVA was submitted on 19 December 2022, comprising of a final end report, partner meeting notes and ILM registrations for 92 participants. Confirmation of participants registered and achieving ILM accreditation is outstanding. NICVA is currently compiling the details, which will expedite the final payment and allow project closure.

S3 Solutions, the external evaluators for the Transform for Change project, submitted their first draft and this has been reviewed by the Thematic Manager. As such a further review meeting was held with S3 on 13th of January to discuss and agree the final version. This is expected by month end.

| Target | Status |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 45 cluster reports | 48 submitted |
| 15 case studies | 13 submitted |
| 45 TLP courses | 42 achieved |
| 634 participants | 592 completed |

3.4 BPR5 – Supporting Connected Communities, Lincs Traveller and Roma

A celebration event for the three Supporting Connected Communities projects was held in City Hall on Monday 16th January with significant attendances and representation from the projects involved. The exhibition and demonstration of craft works completed was well received along with the speeches and feedback form the project leads. Further details are available via the link detailed below as Appendix III – Supporting Communities links.

3.5 BPR5 - LINCS Project

The LINCS on the spot verification (OSV) visit took place on 17 January 2023. Whilst most elements of the OSV were completed, an additional visit is required to review information and documents stored in a different location. The further OSV meeting is to be scheduled on submission of the final project report, which forms part of the closure process. The closure review of all project evidence by the Peace team is progressing

| Target | Status |
|---|---|
| 96 participants – to engage in 68 hrs of engagement | 96 participants completed 68 hrs and over |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| 1 Shared learning event per annum | 3 achieved |
| 2 Intercultural events per annum | 14 achieved |

3.6 BPR5 – Traveller Project - Supporting Connected Communities

Project activity has completed, and the project is progressing to final closure. An initial closure review has been drafted by the Project Manager and will be finalised along with final project report.

| Target | Status |
|---|---|
| 40 participants – Traveller and Settled Communities | 32 completed 26 hrs or more 3 completed between 23-25hrs |
| 200 attendees at community events | 135 people attended 3 community events and 1 festival. |

3.7 BPR5 – Roma Project - Supporting Connected Communities

The Roma project on the spot verification took place on 25 January 2023. The initial draft end report has been reviewed and returned with comments for update by the delivery partner. Resubmission will enable the final closure stages to progress. The closure review by the PEACE IV team is compiled, and all data is being verified to support closure and progression of final payment.

3.8 BPR6 – St. Comgall’s

Members are reminded that potential equality issues associated with the educational materials were highlighted and discussed with the delivery partner. The delivery partner has reviewed and amended the materials and engaged in further cross-community consultation to address the issue. Outline content/ screengrabs of the exhibition material, which will be available online/ on tablet onsite, have also been submitted.

The revised materials have been submitted and are currently being reviewed. As agreed by the Partnership in March 2022 the material will be reviewed and approved by the Programme Board/SEUPB with a further report to members in March 2023.

The project is now progressing to closure with a final celebration event scheduled for 31 January 2023, 12pm, at the St Comgall’s building.

| Target | Status |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 20 core young people participants | 27 completed target of 33 hrs |
| 20 core adult participants | 14 completed reduced target of 32 hrs |

3.9 Cinematography Project

Filming of suitable opportunities to capture the Belfast Peace Journey is continuing. Filming was completed for the SSS Sculpture Artist in January and clips are being finalised for CYP3 OTRT short story, CYP5 Peer Mentoring and BPR and SSS Thematic Films.

3.10 Financial and Resource Implications

Following submission of the Period 32 claim in December 2022, claims for the BPR totalling £3.3m have been submitted to SEUPB, with £2.4m reimbursed to date. As such £965K remains outstanding from SEUPB.

Preparation for the submission of Period 33 claims by 28 February 2023 is now progressing.

3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

The draft plan has been equality screened and discussed at the Equality Consultative Forum on 13 May 2015. The Equality Consultative Forum was further consulted on 18 November 2020.”

The Peace IV Programme Manager agreed to follow up SEUPB claim reimbursements to the NIHE.

The Partnership adopted the recommendations.

Good Relations Update

Segregation and the Environment Research

The Good Relations Officer updated the Members on the research that was undertaken as part of the Good Relations Action Plan on the links between segregation and its impact on the environment and climate change.

The Members were reminded that as part of the Good Relations Action Plan for 2022/23, provision was made for the development of a piece of research to identify the links between segregation within the City and its subsequent impact on the environment and the climate.

In 2020, the Council had published its Resilience Strategy. In it, the Council sought to address the impact of segregation on the City's resilience capability. The full document can be found at: <https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/Documents/Resilience-Assessment>

The relevant points in the Resilience Strategy to the issue of segregation included:

- The legacy of conflict had manifested in division which continued to directly impact on the city and to undermine its urban resilience;
- There are low levels of trust and elevated levels of residential, educational, physical, and social segregation; and

- Belfast contained the highest number of interface areas in the region with around 97 security barriers and forms of defensive architecture across residential areas in the city.

These points within the Resilience Strategy linked directly with the Good Relations Strategy, agreed by the Partnership in 2019, which highlighted that:

- Many people within our society still think of Belfast in binary terms - of a society made up of 2 communities – which influenced public service decision-making and had accentuated division in our society by duplicating services and hampering the connectivity between people and communities.
- Physical and psychological barriers between communities make travel around parts of the city difficult.

The Resilience Strategy highlighted that Belfast's resilience was weakened because, unlike other cities, it was not a socially cohesive unit. Yet cohesion and integration were critical in a crisis. Furthermore, separation reduced efficiency and wasted resources.

The Good Relations Officer explained that it was not a coincidence that Belfast's Resilience Strategy and its Good Relations Strategy had both prioritised 'connectedness' as a major problem to be solved. If Belfast was to thrive in the face of major challenges now and beyond it must be as a united, socially cohesive city. He added that the draft research report attempted to understand and demonstrate how segregation affects the city. It sought to explore some ideas for reducing segregation or mitigating its effect which in turn would have a positive impact on other policy areas, in this case, the environment, climate targets and improving Good Relations.

Key areas of context identified in the draft report:

- Segregation was loosely defined as those institutions, structures and behaviours, policies and decisions, that divide local communities or that perpetuate division.
- Many areas where people live in Belfast are mainly Protestant or Catholic. Many institutions such as schools were developed in a binary fashion where largely separate school systems separately serviced each of the main religions. Services were often developed in the same way. This process was made worse during the conflict;
- Some of these policy decisions were clear and provide striking examples of reinforcing segregation such as the erection of peace barriers across Belfast especially in the north and west of the city. These were constructed both after the start of The Troubles from the early 1970s and after the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement in 1998;
- Some of these barriers relate to less obvious aspects of public policy and provision that facilitate segregation such as where bus services are provided, housing or the impact of the construction of a major road such as the Westlink;
- This was a process not unique to Belfast or Northern Ireland. Roads and buildings were often regarded elsewhere in the world as a mechanism for separating communities, sometimes on race grounds and at other times socio-economic status;
- In these areas, air and noise pollution were amongst the highest in the city, and areas were vulnerable to climate risk such as flood risk, extreme heat, or lack of green space. A car dominance exists in these

areas despite up to 75% of households in some wards not having access to a car which in itself may represent a climate equity issue; and

- There was a correlation between the location of peace barriers and maps suggesting a relative or proportionate lack of green space. Areas with peace barriers were also the most heavily populated and the most disadvantaged parts of Belfast areas that were most affected by violence during the conflict.

The Good Relations Officer expanded on the following key points of note within the above context as detailed in the report.

1. The Impact of Physical Barriers
2. Housing and Education
3. Mobility
4. Belfast Climate Commission

The draft research identified 6 summary points:

- Policy implementation required agreement from all main political parties, and current political instability inhibits this;
- Duplication was a consequence of a binary approach to provision of services and ongoing tension (or fears) within and between communities results in more public buildings and a distortion of services including bus routes and other service provision;
- The most immediate manifestation of segregation occurred within the most disadvantaged communities in Belfast especially through the location of peace barriers but also in the physical appearance of those parts of the city;
- Environmental justice issues were relevant and contributed to the discussion over segregation. This included access to green space in inner city areas, the impact of roads such as the Westlink, and the engagement of minority communities including people from a minority ethnic background in decision-making on these issues;
- While resilience had been increased and the response to Covid had demonstrated the success of Good Relations initiatives, relationships between communities was still fragile and affected by ongoing political and cultural disputes; and
- The environment may well be an issue of common concern across and within communities, and therefore had the potential to be a focus for good relations projects that span the peace barriers.

The Good Relations Officer informed the Members of the 4 strategic themes emerged from the draft research:

- Recognise and reduce the **Segregation Impediment** caused by duplication, by reducing the carbon footprint of the city, adapting the effects of climate change, and increasing biodiversity;
- Identify where the **Security Architecture** still reflects the grimmest days of conflict, and work to remove or re-wild those locations;
- Identify issues of injustice in communities where the most disadvantaged across all backgrounds have less access to or engagement with the environment; identify where there are communities more vulnerable to

the effects of climate change and seek **Environmental Justice** remedies; and

- Acknowledge the role good relations plays in reducing division, encouraging an end to segregation, and an increase in cohesion and resilience in the city, with impactful **Good Relations** projects on a theme of the environment, climate change, and biodiversity.

This research had already influenced the forthcoming Good Relations Action Plan, with the development of programme BCC6, involving Young People in Civic Engagement and Strategic Priorities. This proposal would see the delivery initiatives that could improve the environment while also contributing to reducing segregation and improving Good Relations. In addition to this, the Good Relations team had been working with the Council's Climate Team to develop plans for other more strategic recommendations. Coupled with this, the joint Chair of the Climate Commission had established a working group under the auspices of Queen's University to look at how to embed Good Relations outcomes into Climate and Environmental action. This group brings together academics, representatives from The Executive Office, the Council and other actors to progress this area.

The Members thanked the Good Relations Officer for his comprehensive summary of the research report which highlighted the links between segregation, Good Relations and the environment.

The Members recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to note the contents of this report and the actions being taken to implement the recommendations, including provision already made within the previously agreed Good Relations Action Plan as well as further internal and external engagement. In addition, Members recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources to publish and disseminate the report after further internal and external engagement had taken place.

The Shared City Partnership were advised that the newly appointed Good Relations Manager, Mr. G. McCartney would be taking up post on 1st March 2023 and would be in attendance at the next meeting.

Chairperson