

SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

Monday 7th August, 2023

MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillors Duffy and I. McLaughlin.

External Members: Ms. B. Arthurs, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Mr. P. Anderson, Department for Communities;
Ms. O. Barron, Belfast Trust;
Superintendent Ford, PSNI;
Mr. M. McBride, Education Authority;
Ms. A. M. White, British Red Cross.

In attendance: Ms. D. McKinney, PEACE Programme Manager;
Mr. J. Girvan, Neighbourhood Services Manager;
Mr. G. McCartney, Good Relations Manager;
Mr. S. Lavery, Programme Manager;
Ms. L. Dolan, Good Relations Officer;
Mr. D. Robinson, Good Relations Officer; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

It was proposed by Mr. P. Anderson, seconded by Ms. B. Arthurs and agreed that Councillor Duffy be elected as the Chairperson and Councillor I. McLaughlin as the Deputy Chairperson to the Shared City Partnership from August, 2023 to June, 2024.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Councillor McMullan and Mr. J. Donnelly, Mr. A. Hannaway, Ms. J. Irwin, Mr. P. Mackel, Ms. A. Roberts and Ms. A. Tohill.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 12th June 2023 were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were received.

Peace Plus Update

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

The purpose of this report is to provide Shared City Partnership 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.

The areas for update and discussion at the meeting will include:

- Updated timeline for members re the local action plan submission.
- Current status with regards to the development of projects under Theme 2 - Thriving & Peaceful Communities and Theme 3 – Building Respect for All Cultural Identities.
- Update on the process for projects under Theme 1 – Community Regeneration & Transformation (Capital).
- The administration requirements for implementation of the local action plan.
- Update on work being undertaken to align the local action plan with other PEACEPLUS funding programmes and the Belfast Agenda action plan refresh.

2.0 Recommendations

That Members note the contents of this report, provide feedback and:

- Agree to the ongoing process for developing project concepts to be included in the local action plan submission to SEUPB (subject to further detail being considered by SCP).
- Agree that a more detailed report will be brought back on project concepts, governance, management and proposed implementation plan.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Background

SCP members are aware that the development of the £15.1 million Local PEACE Action Plan is being delivered in three stages:

Stage 1 Co-design needs & opportunities – Complete.
Stage 2 Co-design long list of priority projects
Stage 3 Action Plan submission

The plan will be delivered under the following 3 Thematic Areas.

1. Community Regeneration & Transformation (Capital Projects)
2. Thriving & Peaceful Communities
3. Building Respect for All Cultural Identities

Following on from the previous SCP meeting SEUPB have issued the call document for the Local Action Plan (see link below for further details) and have set a final deadline of Thursday 14th December for applications to be submitted for the Local Action Plan. Members will be aware that this is a very tight deadline, the table below outlines a high level updated indicative timeline for making the Belfast submission.

[Investment Area 1.1 - Co-designed Local PEACEPLUS Action Plans | SEUPB](#)

3.2 Timeline

The table below, outlines the current key milestones to develop the Local Action Plan.

| <u>Timeline</u> | <u>Key Milestone</u> |
|-----------------|---|
| 15 Jun 23 | SEUPB Open Call. |
| Jun 23 | Initial assessment of projects under Theme 1. |
| Jul 23 | Ongoing Concept Working group meetings for Theme 2 and 3. |
| 7 Aug 23 | SCP Consideration of initial draft project concepts |
| 11 Aug 23 | Final meeting of project concept working groups |
| 21 Aug 23 | Detailed project concepts finalised for Theme 2 and 3 |
| 25 Aug 23 | Working Groups consider final draft project concepts |
| 4 Sept 23 | Council approval of draft project concepts |
| 7 Sept 23 | Public workshop to present draft concepts |
| 11 Sept 23 | SCP consider final draft project concepts, budgets & Governance |

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 2 Oct 23 | Council consider final draft project concepts, budgets & Governance |
| Oct 23 | Initiate Stage 3 formal plan submission |
| Oct 23 | Pre submission review by SEUPB |
| Nov 23 | Action Plan submission to SEUPB |
| June – July 24 | Letter of Offer received |
| Autumn 24 | Delivery of local action plan commences |

3.3 Stage 2 Thematic Working Groups Project Design Themes 2 and 3

As mentioned at the previous meeting, project ideas for Themes 2 and 3, process are being developed through the facilitation of Thematic Working Group sessions with internal / external stakeholders currently developing project ideas for the following 11 concept areas that may be included in the final submission to SEUPB.

| Theme 2 Thriving & Peaceful Communities | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|-------------------|----------|------------------|------|
| Capacity Building | Health and Wellbeing | Employability | Youth | Sport | Arts |
| Theme 3 Building Respect for All Cultural Identities | | | | | |
| Ethnic Minority | Ex-political prisoners | Cultural Heritage | LGBTQIA+ | Church and Faith | |

For each of the above, Concept Working Groups have been meeting over the past few months to develop project ideas. Appendix 1 provides an overview of the project ideas to date, further working group meetings will take place early August to refine project ideas with a date of 11 August set for any outstanding meetings to finalise emerging draft project ideas including indicative budgets and participant numbers. Please note, the projects are at different stages with regards to their development.

Following this co-design process in order to ensure that project ideas meet the detailed parameters and conditions as set by SEUPB, Council officers will further review initial draft project concept ideas and update the project detail for each of the 11 areas. Once the final detail of each project has been finalised, working groups will endorse before

these are brought via the Council's internal Governance process.

3.4 Theme 1 - Community Regeneration and Transformation (Capital)

The process is underway to identify a number of potential capital projects circa £500,000 per project – likely to be 4 to 6 schemes across the city.

Activity under theme 1 includes:

- Initial Scoping exercise complete - proposals have been identified, including those arising from PEACEPLUS consultation to date and other pipeline capital proposals known to the Council.
- As part of the co-design process in Stage 1 stakeholders had the opportunity to propose potential capital projects that could be considered for the local action plan submission.

This list is currently being assessed internally via the following parameters

- SEUPB criteria
- Principles that were agreed via Peaceplus engagement process for the development of the local action plan which includes: -
- Aligning to Stage 1 Engagement
- Value for Money
- Deliverability
- Building on PEACE IV
- Area based projects (circa £500,000)

Officers are continuing the assessment of potential projects using the parameters and principles agreed by the SCP and those required by SEUPB. An update on proposed projects will be brought to Committee in August. There will also be further engagement with stakeholders as part of the co-design process. The capital projects will be developed via project specific co-design processes once identified.

3.5 Budget Allocation

The total budget that Council is likely to receive is £15,170,431 (this is based on Euro to GBP rate and subject to change). We are now working with stakeholders to cost out the project concepts and proposed funding will be allocated to each of the 11 concept areas outlined earlier as well as the capital element of the plan. Further information will be brought back to the SCP partnership on this detail at a future SCP meeting.

3.6 Administration requirements

As discussed at the last meeting, ensuring relevant resources to manage the PEACEPLUS programme is critical. Learning from PEACE IV staffing highlighted the need to increase monitoring and finance staff resources and to ensure skilled, stable and long-term commitment to staff.

The PEACEPLUS call documents states that local authorities must have as a minimum staff for Monitoring and Evaluation, Administration and Finance, this is in addition to the Programme Manager and does not include additional back-office support that is required to deliver the Belfast plan. It should be noted these minimum requirements are also applicable to local authorities allocated less than £3m in comparison to the £15m funding allocated to Belfast for their local action plan.

Given the value of funding, significant risk to the Council, the participant targets, support required for project delivery agents and the transfer of the Finance Control function to Council, an appropriate staffing level is required to ensure the risk to the Council is mitigated and the following areas are sufficiently resourced:

1. Management of the overall plan, governance, compliance, financial claims and reporting
2. Project delivery and implementation
3. Support services such as Procurement, HR, Legal, Finance
4. Office and Administration Costs

Preliminary cost estimates, excluding overheads indicate that the administration requirements for each of the above areas will be in the region of;

1. Management costs will be approximately 9% of the funding allocation.
2. Project implementation staff is estimated at 8%.
3. Allocation of the overheads to other support services is to be agreed.
4. Office and Administration Costs at 15% of staff costs.

It should be noted the above is to be further defined and may be subject to change depending on the resource requirements for each concept. Officers are working this up and will bring back to the SCP at a future meeting.

Members should also note that the quality of the secretariat and project teams, partnership, and implementation

arrangements is an assessment criteria that will be used by SEUPB in assessing the local action plan submission.

3.7 Financial Controller

As referenced above, there is a new approach to the Financial Control checks previously undertaken by SEUPB. This Controller responsibility now sits with the Local Authority and will be a cost to the Council that can be taken from any LOO.

SEUPB has specified that:

- Each local authority plan is required to appoint a Controller that sits separately from the PEACEPLUS team
- Role of the controller is to (independently) verify that the expenditure reported meets SEUPB requirements / compliance with regulations (in effect Finance Control)
- Options to appoint a Controller are:
 1. Decentralised control through external controllers selected from an SEUPB central shortlist
 2. Decentralised control through an internal Controller selected by Council and approved by SEUPB
 3. Decentralised control through an external Controller selected by Council and approved by SEUPB

It is anticipated there will be increased audit and level of scrutiny from SEUPB/NIAO, given this additional requirement for Council to appoint an internal / external Financial Controller. In line with governance requirements, consideration of the best approach is currently ongoing.

3.8 Internal Resource Requirements

Members should also note that CNS officers have been engaging with colleagues internally to start to scope other internal support is required to support the development and implementation of the Local PEACE Action Plan. It should be noted there are existing pressures on our resources

Some of the key areas of support required include.

- Ongoing help to develop projects ideas (as mentioned above)
 - AGRS – Risk Management, Audit and potentially new requirement of Finance Controller

- Finance – costing and forecasting of projects / staffing
- HR – recruitment strategy / plan
- Procurement – advice / guidance, capacity building, procurement strategy
- Legal – advise on programme regulations, partner agreements, contracts
- Digital Services and Information Governance (Monitoring & Evaluation system)
- Community provision colleagues

3.9 Alignment with City Strategies and other Funding opportunities

It is important that the Local Action Plan submission outlines alignment with other strategies and funding programmes, including the updated refreshed Belfast Agenda Action Plan.

Officers are undertaking the following;

- Having ongoing formal engagement with the Living Here Board and VCSE;
- Cross referencing the emerging project concepts in the local action plan with the Belfast Agenda refreshed action plan – for example some of the key workstreams included in the Belfast Agenda Action Plans aligned to the PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan include making life better for our residents, connecting people, places, and services through partnership, delivery and supporting strong and empowered communities and citizens.
- Engaging with partners who are applying for funding across other PEACEPLUS investment areas

3.10 Financial & Resource Implications

Within existing budget to be claimed retrospectively from SEUPB.

3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

The Plan, once produced, will need to be screened for equality and good relations implications along with completion of a rural needs assessment.”

During discussion the Members noted the proposed secretariat/administration expenses for the delivery of the PEACEPLUS Programme. Whilst it was noted that these staffing resources were essential for the successful delivery of the programme, it was felt that expectations needed to be managed to reflect the available funding for Programme activity given the proposed costs, which also needed simplified.

It was also noted that a meeting of the Members of the Shared City Partnership (SCP) might be required prior to the next meeting to further consider the project concepts being developed for Theme 1 Community Regeneration and Transformation (Capital Projects) to ensure they were ready for consideration at the September meeting of the SCP.

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

- agree the ongoing process for developing project concepts to be included in the local action plan submission to SEUPB (subject to further detail being considered by SCP); and
- agree that a more detailed report would be submitted to a future meeting on project concepts, governance, management and the proposed implementation plan.
- agree that a further meeting is convened, if necessary, to discuss potential priority projects to be included under Theme 1 of the Local Action Plan – Community Regeneration and Transformation (Capital Projects).

Peace IV Updates

Secretariat

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

The Peace IV Programme Manager advised that closure reviews and impact analysis for SSS programming elements had been progressed, this would enable the closure of the projects and final payments to be made.

The SEUPB had provided further guidance on the post project evaluation requirements, these were now progressing for both the CYP and BPR themes and the Partnership would be updated accordingly.

The officer reported that preparation for the submission of the final claim for the SSS theme, due with SEUPB by 11th August 2023, was progressing. The Partnership was advised that the Physical Programmes unit had agreed to submit any further claims for the SSS theme to the SEUPB and that an update would be provided in due course.

The Partnership was also asked to note that the verification of claims by the SEUPB was ongoing. During May/June £612K reimbursement had been received for P30 SSS and P30 and 31 NIHE BPR claims. Clarifications for the verification of a further £624K of claims for P31 BPR and P32 NIHE BPR were also being progressed.

The Partnership noted that the value of outstanding claims (currently £3.5m) had recently been highlighted to the SEUPB, along with a request for further mitigations of a 50% advance of outstanding claims.

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

SSS

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.

The Members were informed that the capital and programming elements of the Shared Space and Services theme were now complete with closure continuing to be progressed.

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

Works at Section 2 (Springvale lands) had completed on 30th June 2023 with a handover to the Council on 7th July 2023. Arrangements regarding key holding had been agreed with Council's Outdoor Space & Services (OSS).

- **Signage**

A final decision regarding the language approach for the signage and branding was being progressed. As previously reported, installation of greenway signage by 30th September 2023 was highly unlikely, however, the contractor was progressing the installation of bases for the signage throughout the Greenway.

The Chief Executive and Director of Physical Programmes had written to the SEUPB requesting a further extension to 31st December 2023 to enable the installation of signage once a decision had been confirmed.

- **Public Art Pieces**

Delays had occurred on the installation of the art sculpture to early August 2023, with an unveiling and photo call to take place mid-August 2023. The Artist Sara Cunningham-Bell, Lord Mayor and the SEUPB would be invited.

The SEUPB had previously approved an extension for the installation works to 31st July 2023.

- **Programming**

Implementation of the programming aspects were now complete with closure 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 | Draft being finalised and progressed for printing. |

Following receipt of the final draft of the compendium of narratives from the delivery partner, PEACE IV had contracted a copywriter to review and finalise the wording / content. The compendium was progressing to design and print. Although, as highlighted earlier, the installation of narratives on the signage/information panels was delayed.

- **Resource Allocation – Animation Activity**

Artsekta had submitted a closure report, along with supporting information following completion of all the planned activities. This was currently being reviewed by PEACE IV ahead of final payment being made.

- **Resource Allocation – Community Led Activity**

Payments were processed, in relation to Forthspring Inter Community Groups' short programme, although the set-up of new vendors had caused some delay in progressing final payments.

- **Shared Space Volunteer Training**

| Deliverable targets | Targets achieved |
|--|------------------------------|
| Sustrans | |
| 25 volunteers (12.5 Walk & 12.5 Cycle Leads) | 20 completed across 3 groups |
| Volunteer Now Enterprise | |
| 12.5 volunteers (Local Ambassadors) | 4 completed |
| The Conservation Volunteers | |
| 12.5 volunteers (Nature Guides) | 10 completed |

Project closure reports had been reviewed by PEACE IV and the Thematic Closure Review and Impact Analysis progressed, enabling final payments and project closure in July 2023. Final reports on the additional activity had been completed by the project leads, Sustrans, Volunteer Now Enterprise Limited and The Conservation Volunteers, reviewed by PEACE IV and payments made.

The Members were asked to note the level of achievement of 4 completed Shared Space Ambassadors, as part of the Volunteer Now contract. This represented 32% of the revised target, therefore, the payments should have reflected this level of achievement. However, payment had been progressed in line with the phased payments outlined in the project ITT, as such £2,182.12, over the level of achievement had been paid. The officer reported that Volunteer Now had recruited the required

level of volunteers and the reduced achievement had been a consequence of the drop out of participants. The Programme Board had considered this overpayment in line with the circumstances and Council policy and agreed that no further action was required.

- **Governance / Management Model Implementation**

MDL completed its contract on 14 June 2023, submitting a Final Report (Appendix III) for review. The Programme Board reviewed and approved these in July, releasing the final payment.

- **Youth Engagement and Civic Education**

| Deliverable targets | Targets achieved |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 280 young people | 360 young people registered from Nubia, Blackmountain, Glencairn, Forthspring, St Peters, Ballysillan, Clonard, Corpus Christi, GVRT, Holy Trinity, Malone College, St Genevieve's, Belfast Boys Model and Youth Initiatives |
| 26 contact hours per participants | 360 young participants achieved 26 contact hours target or more. |

An "On-the-spot" visit had been carried out and the project closure report reviewed. The final payment had been processed and the project closed off.

- **Financial and Resource Implications**

Claims for the SSS theme up to Period 34 totalling £4.4m had been submitted to SEUPB, with £2.25m reimbursed to date. Clarifications relating to SEUPB verification of outstanding claims had been progressed. The current value of outstanding claims was approximately £2.1m.

The Partnership noted the contents of the report and related appendix and recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it note:

- the extension request to 31st December 2023 sent to the SEUPB to enable the installation of the signage;
- the FMCG Governance report; and
- the approach regarding Volunteer Now payments, having achieved 32% delivery on the Local Ambassadors project.

Good Relations - Updated funding position and Quarter 1 report on the delivery of the Council's Good Relations Action Plan

The Partnership considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

To update Members on the delivery of the Good Relations Action Plan during Quarter 1, which covers the period April – June 2023.

2.0 Recommendations

That Members recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that they note the contents of this report, including:

- The updated position regarding funding for the Good Relations Action Plan
- The revised budget for the Action Plan, as a result of the reduced funding, following receipt of a letter of offer from The Executive Office,
- Quarter 1 update and in particular the allocation of £154,644 to grants through the Good Relations Small Grant Scheme to those groups listed in appendix 2

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

Members will be aware that the Council receives funding from The Executive Office (TEO) for the delivery of its annual Good Relations Action Plan.

3.2 The current Action Plan was agreed by the Partnership in February 2023 and submitted to TEO. Subsequently, as reported to the Partnership in June, TEO indicated that funding to a number of T:BUC programmes, including the District Council's Good Relations Programme (DCGRP), would be cut as a result of reduced budgets.

3.3 The original Action Plan was costed at £767,584.36, with £575,688.27 being sought from TEO towards programming and salaries within this plan, as per their 75% contribution.

3.4 In May 2023, an EQIA was initiated by TEO regarding the proposed areas to be cut, but in any case, TEO wrote to Council's indicating that the DCGRP would receive 53% of funding from the original bid. In the case of Belfast, this equates to £301,537.28, rather than the £575,688.27 originally sought.

3.5 A letter of offer for this amount has now been received. Within the contribution from TEO of £301,537.28, £294,644 will be allocated towards programme costs and £6,893.28 will be allocated towards salaries and administration costs.

3.6 For 2023/24, the Council contribution of 25% towards the action plan will therefore be £256,691.08. This gives an overall budget for the Good Relations Action Plan of £558,228.36.

- 3.7 The Council contribution towards the Action Plan will be used towards the costs for staffing and administration.**
- 3.8 Members should note that the Council also supports initiatives that are not directly within the Action Plan, or where the Council adds additional resources towards Action Plan projects.**
- 3.9 In 2022/23, the Council contributed £413,320.10 towards Good Relations initiatives, which included its 25% contribution to the delivery of the Good Relations Action Plan. For 2023/24, this Council figure will remain the same. This contribution, over and above the commitments within the Action Plan includes, for instance, additional funding to the BCC3 Programme on Positive Cultural Expression to support the full costs associated with the allocation of 11 bonfire beacons in July.**
- 3.10 With the reduced budget from The Executive Office, the total Good Relations budget for programme, staffing and administration will in fact be £714,857.38. In essence this means Council is in fact funding the programme, to almost 58% with the TEO Contribution now closer to 42%.**
- 3.11 With reduced funding, the Council has had to revise its Good Relations Action Plan. This was reported to the Partnership in June.**
- 3.12 The Action Plan contains 9 distinct programmes, BCC1 – BCC9. Each programme contains a number of different projects under one of the 4 T:BUC Priorities, which are:**
- Improving attitudes of Children and Young People towards others**
 - Developing Shared Space**
 - Creating Safe Space**
 - Promoting Positive Cultural Expression**
- 3.13 Officers have been mobilising and delivering projects within a number of the programmes in the Action Plan over the first quarter. This has been done despite the challenges posed by the funding environment and the uncertainty that this has caused.**
- 3.14 The following is a high-level overview of the progress that has been made in each programme within the Action Plan. Further details on groups awarded funding, and the amounts, is contained in a more detailed table and is attached as appendix 1.**

| Code | Project Summary | Budget | Progress in Quarter 1 | Total allocated |
|-------------|--|-----------------|---|--|
| BCC1 | Good Relations Small Grants Programme. | £154,644 | 45 projects were awarded letters of offer following an open application process. | £154,644 allocated through an open call |
| BCC2 | St Patrick's Day Civic Events programme | £10,000 | No activity in Quarter 1. | £0 |
| BCC3 | Positive Cultural Expression Programme | £20,000 | Beacon Programme underway. Assessment of sites and repairs to Beacons complete. 11 groups supported to deploy a beacon on the 11th July. | £20,000 |
| BCC4 | Civic Engagement and Learning Programme | £10,000 | Events for Refugee Week delivered. Annual Day of Reflection Delivered. | £10,000 |
| BCC5 | Minority Ethnic Inclusion Programme | £30,000 | June meeting of migrant forum took place. | £0 |
| BCC6 | Civic Engagement and Strategic Priorities | £20,000 | Environmental project can proceed following receipt of letter of offer from TEO. | £0 |
| BCC7 | Interface Engagement and tackling sectarianism and racism | £40,000 | Delivery can now commence following receipt of letter of offer from TEO. | £0 |
| BCC8 | Shared Education Schools Programme | £10,000 | Project can now proceed but with reduced funding. | £0 |

| | | | | |
|-------|----------------------------------|-----------------|---|---|
| BCC 9 | Strategic Intervention Programme | £0 | Two projects have been developed and approved for delivery. | £0 (amount of £23,000 was reprofiled into small grants) |
| | TOTAL | £294,644 | | £184,644 |

3.11 Financial & Resource Implications

The costs are covered within the annual Good Relations Action Plan, which is funded by the Council and The Executive Office under the District Council's Good Relations Programme.

3.12 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

All events are aligned with one of the four Good Relations Outcomes within the Action Plan, which has been screened for equality, good relations and rural needs, and screened out."

The Partnership adopted the recommendations as outlined at 2.0 of the report.

Update on the Membership of Shared City Partnership

The Partnership noted that there were currently vacancies on the:

- Belfast City Centre Management;
- Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce; and
- Community/Voluntary Sector North Belfast Representative;

The Good Relations Manager advised that the vacant Community Representative position for North Belfast had not yet been advertised but he undertook to progress shortlisting and appointment as soon as possible and to provide an update at the next Shared City Partnership Meeting on the 11th September.

Belfast City Centre Management had advised that it would not be able to nominate anyone due to a cessation of funding. Officers had reviewed a number of options to redress this through regional or local business support networks, however, it was felt that the focus for the Shared City Partnership needed to be on Belfast City as a whole. The Members were advised that officers had concluded that, for the next 12 months, 2 representatives for the SCP should be invited from the Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce. This would be reviewed during the year and, in parallel, officers would engage with Belfast City Centre Management to establish if it was interested on returning to the Partnership in August 2024. If Belfast City Centre Management agreed to this, Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce would revert to one Member.

The Members noted that correspondence had also been forwarded to the Church of Ireland seeking a nominee to sit on the Partnership for the next year, commencing in August 2023.

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

- the recruitment process for the Community Representative for North Belfast was ongoing; and
- that correspondence would be forwarded to the Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce seeking two representatives for 12 months, subject to review and reengagement with Belfast City Centre Management, to establish if it would be interested in having a representative on the Shared City Partnership from August 2024.

Chairperson