

SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

Monday 10th March, 2025

MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP HELD REMOTELY AND IN THE CONOR ROOM

Members present: Councillor J. Duffy (Chairperson); and
Alderman S. Copeland; and
Councillors I. McLaughlin and Abernethy.

External Members: Ms. B. Arthurs, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Mr. M. Briggs, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Mr. L. Euler, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;
Mr. J. Donnelly, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Mr. L. Gunn, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;
Mr. M. McBride, Education Authority;
Mr. W. Naeem, Interfaith Forum; and
Mr. G. Walker, Community and Voluntary Sector.

In attendance: Mr. G. McCartney, Good Relations Manager;
Ms. D. McKinney, PEACE Programme Manager;
Mr. D. Robinson, Acting Senior Good Relations Officer;
MS. L. Dolan, Good Relations Officer; and
Mr. B. Flynn, Committee Services Officer.

Apologies

There were no apologies reported.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 10th February were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 21st February.

Declarations of Interest

In respect of the item 'PEACEPLUS - BCC Local Action Plan Update', declarations of interest were reported by the Chairperson (Councillor Duffy), Alderman Copeland and Councillor I. McLaughlin, as well as Independent Members Mr. M. Briggs, Mr. J Donnelly and Mr. W. Naeem. It was noted that they were associated with organisations which were in receipt of support under the terms of the Plan and they retired from the meeting whilst the matter was under discussion.

Segregation and Environment Report - Update

The Acting Senior Good Relations Officer reminded the Partnership that, in 2024, it had agreed to commission a report which explored the links between segregation within Belfast and

its impact on the environment and climate. He added that, since the launch of the report in September 2024, significant engagement work had been carried out as a result of the interest generated. That had included a meeting with the Minister from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), and several meetings with officials from the Climate Action Team within DAERA, who had noted that the paper had been the only Northern Ireland-specific research to have identified issues unique to the challenges faced in meeting net-zero by 2050. In addition, the Partnership was provided with an overview of the several meetings which had taken place with the Interfaces' Teams within the Department of Justice, who had committed to auditing land surrounding interfaces to assess the potential for restoring natural habitat and introducing biodiversity projects.

The Partnership noted the information which had been provided and commended officers for the work which had been undertaken in promoting the findings of the report.

Good Relations - Audit and Action Plan Update

The Acting Senior Good Relations Officer reminded the Partnership that, at its meeting on 13th January, it had agreed to make several budgetary reallocations to support the costs associated with a new Good Relations audit, strategy and three-year action plan to cover the period 2026/29. In addition, the reallocation of funds would support for the 'East meets West Community Centre Programme', and also to offset the costs which had been incurred during the Beacon Programme.

The Partnership noted that consultants had been appointed to oversee the audit, strategy and three year action plan and an initial meeting had taken place and that Members would be contacted in due course as part of the review process.

Peace IV - Secretariat Update

The PEACE Programme Manager reported that verification of Period 34 claims for the Children and Young People's theme, valued at £121,527, and the Building Positive Relation theme, valued at £215,968, had been progressed by SEUPB. It was added that any reimbursements should be received in due course, and, as such, it is anticipated that both themes would be closed. In addition, a final payment regarding the Shared Spaces and Services theme would be progressed once the Audit Authority audit had been completed.

The Partnership noted the information which had been provided and agreed that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee be requested to note the contents of the report.

PEACEPLUS - Belfast City Council Local Action Plan Update

(Councillor Abernethy in the Chair).

The Partnership considered the following report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Shared City Partnership members with an update on the mobilisation of PEACEPLUS 1.1. Co-designed Belfast Local Community Peace Action Plan (LCAP).

2.0 Recommendations

Members are requested to note the contents of the report and agree

- Option i data collection approach whereby Council retains Participant IDs only,
- the M&E Framework in principle subject to approval by SEUPB.

and also recommend that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the contents of the report and agree recommendations above.

3.0 Main report

SEUPB Approval / Letter of Offer (LoO)

Following submission of the LoO to SEUPB, the final steps to complete SEUPB's formal project commencement is progressing, with amendments to the Data Sharing Agreement submitted to SEUPB for agreement. Once accepted a request for the €100K development costs and 20% advance will be progressed.

3.2 Mobilisation

Mobilisation of projects within the Thriving and Peaceful Communities and Celebrating Culture and Diversity themes is progressing with contract awards made to successful bidders as follows:

- CCD5 – Multiculturalism to Interculturalism - Lot 3 to Feile An Phobail
- CCD5 – Multiculturalism to Interculturalism - Lot 4 to ArtsEkta
- TPC1 – Community Empowerment to NICVA
- TPC4 – Sport for Peace to Active Communities Network (ACN)
- TPC5 - Employability (Language Up) to DFPF Ltd (t/a People 1st)

Contract initiation meetings with the appointed delivery partners are progressing over the coming weeks, with project implementation to commence early March.

As previously reported all revenue projects have been opened for procurement, with each at different stages of assessment/ award, as detailed in Project Mobilisation Update.

3.3 The re-tender for Lot 2 of CCD5 Multi-culturalism to Interculturalism opened on 21 February 2025, and the re - tender for Lot 4 Youth Empowerment remains open.

Members should note that based on market feedback a minor wording amendment has been incorporated into the Lot 2 CCD5 tender, relating to the type of cultural spaces to include 'centres where these cultures are supported or celebrated regularly' and the steering group to begin with a minimum of 6 cultural spaces, with a further 6 to be incorporated into the project by the end of Year 1 of delivery, in agreement with Council.

The wording amendment does not alter the objective, target, output or results indicator in the project, and is in line with original context of the project. As such, Members are requested to note the wording amendment.

- 3.4 As implementation progresses, further governance will be established, with the commencement of Thematic Steering Groups (TSGs). It is anticipated that the TSG will be in place by May 2025.

3.5 **Community Regeneration and Transformation**

As previously reported a workshop to develop and agree a timeline for the capital works, aligned to the animation activity has taken place.

Members are requested to note the indicative timeline for the capital works as outlined in PEACEPLUS Capital Programme.

A meeting with CPD to agree their involvement and the procurement strategy is scheduled for 7 March 2025. It is anticipated that procurement for the capital elements will commence shortly afterwards.

Members should note that the Capital Programme timeline is being considered in line with animation activity, and given that construction is to continue until June 2027, it is highly likely that an extension to the Letter of Offer of at least six months will be required. A further report on alignment of both capital and animation activity, highlighting extension options, will be presented at the next meeting.

3.6 **Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework**

Development of the PEACEPLUS M&E framework is ongoing. The framework will capture participant and attendance records, collate equality data and evaluate the impact of the project activity, which are essential to meet SEUPB requirements.

The legal and lawful basis for collection and sharing of data has been agreed, and a schedule of processing will be provided to delivery partners as part of their contractual obligations to Council.

The Framework comprises of a suite of participant surveys, spreadsheets and databases for delivery partners to utilise in collating, recording and sharing data with Council.

The use of standardised equality and attitudinal surveys will ensure consistency of information across all delivery partners.

- 3.7 A key consideration in the collation of data is whether Council retains participant contact details or utilises ID numbers. These options have been considered in line with compliance requirements, SEUPB advice, guidance from IGU and Equality teams, as well as the PEACEPLUS Programme Board.

Members are referred to PEACEPLUS Monitoring & Evaluation Framework for further detail on the content, compliance and options for the collation of data

On considering the data collection options, the PEACEPLUS Programme Board, recommends that the SCP agree

- Option i data collection approach whereby Council retains Participant IDs only
- the M&E Framework, in principle, subject to approval by SEUPB.

Members should note that SEUPB advised that duplicate checks are to ensure no duplicate participants per activity. Monthly contract management meetings will enable the review of participation registration at this stage. In addition, a robust On the Spot Verification process will be established and conducted by the PEACEPLUS team to meet this requirement.

3.8 Staff Recruitment

Recruitment for the Data / Claims Support Officer is ongoing with interviews in March 2025.

3.9 PEACEPLUS 1.4 Project - Waterworks / Alexandra Park

Design Information Sessions took place in late February / early March 2025, and procurement for the Integrated Design Team commenced on 21 February 2025. Discussions with SEUPB to agree the animation timeframe are progressing.

3.10 Financial and Resource Implications

All expenditure associated with the PEACEPLUS LCAP is eligible from 1 January 2024 and preparation for the submission of claims on JeMS is progressing. Expenditure from 1 Jan – 31 Dec 24:

Table 1 PEACEPLUS Expenditure Claims Jan-Dec 2024

Claim Period / SEUPB Budget Line	Expenditure Claims 1-4 Total
Salaries	£260,268.58
Office & Admin	£ 39,040.29
TOTAL	£299,308.87

3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

Plan has been submitted for equality and good relations screening as well as rural needs assessment.”

The Committee noted the contents of the report and agreed to adopt Option i as set out, i.e., the data collection approach whereby the Council would retain participants’ identification only. In addition, the Partnership adopted the M and E Framework, as outlined, in principle, subject to the approval of SEUPB.

The Partnership agreed also to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that its note the contents of the report and endorse the course of action adopted by the Partnership.

Update from Partnership Members

The Partnership noted the comments made by Independent Member, Mr. J. Donnelly, regarding a piece he had written entitled, ‘The Trauma of Inequality’. Mr. Donnelly suggested that, as part of any review as to how Good Relations were promoted and delivered, a fundamental and radical change was required to address the symptoms of division. He added that new thinking was required to find solutions to age-old problems. He suggested that in attempting to heal the trauma of inequality, individuals must first acknowledge that trauma continues to exist and to seek to identify the symptom, not the problem.

The Partnership noted comments which had been made by Mr. W. Naeem of the Belfast Islamic Centre’s regarding the Belfast Multicultural Association and Ramadan Tent Project in respect of which an invite would be extended to Partnership members to attend an Open Iftar event on 23rd March.

Any Other Business

The Committee noted that an invitation to the guided walk along the Forth River Greenway on Thursday, 27th March at 13.30. It was agreed also that a small donation would be made on behalf of the Partnership to St. John’s Parish Hall, Falls Road, who would be providing small scale hospitality for participants at the end of the walk.

Chairperson