

SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

MONDAY 11th NOVEMBER, 2019

MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

Members present: Councillor Kyle (Chairperson); and
Councillor Magennis.

External Members: Mrs. B. Arthurs, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Mrs. O. Barron, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;
Mr. A. Cole, Good Relations, The Executive Office;
Mr. J. Currie, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Mr. S. Dallas, Education Authority;
Dr. Y. Hanore, NI Inter-Faith Forum;
Mrs. J. Hawthorne, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;
Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council;
Mr. P. Mackel, Belfast and District Trades Union Council;
Mr. I. McLaughlin, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Superintendent K. McMillan, Police Service of Northern Ireland;
Ms. H. McClay, Faith Sector;
Mr. M. O'Donnell, Department for Communities; and
Ms. A. M. White, British Red Cross.

In attendance: Ms. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager;
Ms. D. McKinney, Programme Manager;
Mrs. M. Higgins, Senior Good Relations Officer;
Ms. A. Allen, Neighbourhood Services Manager; and
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Councillors M. Kelly, Lyons, Smyth and Verner and Mr. J. Donnelly, Ms. G. Duggan, Mr. M. McGrath and Mr. S. Hamilton.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 7th October were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

Mr. McLaughlin declared an interest in relation to item 3c – Update on PEACE IV Shared Spaces and Services, in that he was employed in one of the groups involved in the initiative.

Ms. Arthurs declared an interest in respect of item 3d – Update on PEACE IV Building Positive Relations, in that she was involved in the delivery of the Transformative Leadership Programme which was funded under PEACE IV.

Schedule of Meetings

The Partnership approved the following schedule of meetings for 2020 and agreed that it should continue to meet at 1.30 p.m.:

- Monday, 13th January;
- Monday, 10th February;
- Monday, 9th March;
- Monday, 6th April;
- Monday, 11th May;
- Monday, 8th June;
- Monday, 10th August;
- Monday, 7th September;
- Monday, 5th October;
- Monday, 9th November; and
- Monday, 7th December.

Presentation – PEACE IV Shared Spaces Project

The Partnership was informed that Ms. K. Mullen, Project Sponsor, and Mr. M. Doherty, Project Manager, were in attendance in order to provide an update on the PEACE IV Reconnecting Open Spaces Project and they were welcomed to the meeting.

The Project Manager reminded the Partnership that one of the aims of the PEACE IV Programme was to create a more cohesive society through an increase in the provision of shared spaces. With that in mind, he drew its attention to the Shared Spaces project being delivered currently, which, in linking a number of identified open spaces in north and west Belfast with the new transport hub, sought to promote reconciliation and interaction between divided communities and contribute to local neighbourhood regeneration. He outlined the proposals and indicative dates associated with each of the five sections of the project, which was due to be completed overall by mid-2021, and, in terms of challenges/risks, referred to planning, budgetary constraints, managing expectations, community buy-in and community engagement. He added that feedback on the project had to date had been generally positive and pointed to its wider tourism potential.

After discussion, during which the need for more innovative engagement around the project was particularly highlighted, the Partnership noted the information which had been provided.

Update on PEACE IV

Peace IV Secretariat

The Partnership considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

To provide the Shared City Partnership with a progress report in respect of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan.

2.0 Recommendations

The Partnership is requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it note the contents of the report.

3.0 Main Report

Key Issues

3.1 Implementation of the programme and support to projects is continuing. The PEACE IV Programme Dashboard, which has been circulated, provides an overview of project implementation.

3.2 Underspend Proposals

The underspend proposals are being finalised for submission to SEUPB.

3.3 Monitoring and Evaluation

The revised monitoring and evaluation framework has been issued to 9 of the 12 mobilised projects and support to implement the framework is ongoing. The revised documentation will be issued to the remaining 3 projects by end of November, 2019.

3.4 Secretariat Staffing

The recently appointed PEACE IV Programme Support Assistant has accepted a promotion within another department. Therefore, an external recruitment exercise is due to commence.

3.5 Financial and Resource Implications

Financial checks by SEUPB are ongoing for claim period 18 (1 February – 30 April 2019) for Shared Space and Services theme valued at £92,311.57 and claim period 19, (1 May – 31 July 2019) across all 3 themes totalling £371,785.99.

Claims for Period 20, 1 August – 31st October 2019 are progressing and are to be submitted to SEUPB by 25 November 2019.

3.6 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 Partnership agreed that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee be recommended to note the information contained within the report.

Update on Peace IV - Children and Young People

The Partnership considered a report which provided information on the Children and Young People's theme of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan.

The Programme Manager provided an update on the Special European Union Programmes Body's position regarding the options for the delivery of the Tech Connects project and confirmed that a legal opinion was being sought by the Council. She outlined the impact which any further delay would have upon the project and recommended, given the time and other constraints, that authority be delegated to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services, in consultation with the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson of the Partnership and with input from the Special European Union Programmes Body, to proceed with the most appropriate option to facilitate its delivery.

After discussion, the Partnership adopted the recommendation and agreed that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee be recommended to note the contents of the report.

Update on Peace IV - Shared Spaces and Services

The Partnership considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

To provide the Shared City Partnership with a progress report in respect of the Shared Spaces and Services theme of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan.

2.0 Recommendation

The Partnership is requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it note the contents of the report.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Key Issues

Implementation of both the Shared Space and Services capital and programming element is continuing on a phased basis. The current focus is on Sections 2 and 3 located at Springfield Dam, Springfield Park, Paisley Park and INI sites and then progression on to Section 4 at Bog Meadows.

3.2 Capital Works

The procurement process for the appointment of a contractor for Springfield Dam is being finalised.

Construction at Springfield Dam will not commence until January 2020, due to further bio diversity conditions and surveys necessary for the Construction Environmental Management Plan as specified by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

Given the extensive environmental works required at Springfield Dam, the Department for Communities has agreed to provide additional funding.

The capital costs for Springfield Dam are currently over budget and value engineering will be conducted on a section by section basis, with options for reduction / removal considered.

3.3 Engagement

Consultation/Publication Information Sessions

Two public engagement events for Section 4 Bog Meadows are taking place on:

- 6th November at St John’s Parish Hall – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.; and
- 7th November at Park Centre - 10 a. m. to 2 p. m. and 4 p. m. to 8 p. m.

Further engagement and consultation opportunities are identified on an ongoing basis. Discussions with Ulster Wildlife Trust are scheduled for November 2019.

3.4 Official Launch

The official launch / sod cutting of the PEACE IV Reconnecting Open Spaces Project will take place between 10 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. on Wednesday 27th November 2019. Formal invitations will be issued in due course.

3.5 Branding

A presentation on the three branding options identified will have been presented to the Partnership by NRG (t/a McCadden) earlier in this meeting.

3.6 Programming

Engagement with the community on suitable programmes to animate and use the connected spaces is ongoing.

Clonard Monastery Youth Centre and the Forthspring Inter Community Youth are continuing to deliver the Youth Civic Engagement pilot project with a residential scheduled for the end of November 2019.

Creative approaches to programme activities to promote the capital project, encourage cross community engagement and usage of the shared space network are currently being progressed and have been circulated to the Partnership.

Members are requested to note the initial programming elements

3.7 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

The draft plan has been equality screened and discussed at the Equality Consultative Forum on 13 May 2015.”

After discussion, during which the Programme Manager pointed out that the official launch of the project had been postponed until after the forthcoming General Election and that the presentation on the branding options would be delivered at the next meeting, the Partnership agreed that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee be recommended to note the contents of the report.

Update on Peace IV - Building Positive Relations

The Shared City Partnership considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

To provide the Shared City Partnership with an update the Building Positive Relations theme of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan.

2.0 Recommendation

The Partnership is requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it note the contents of the report.

3.0 Main Report

Key Issues

3.1 Implementation of projects within the Building Positive Relations theme is continuing with four of the key projects. The PEACE IV team continues to work closely with all delivery agents to monitor progress and address challenges as they arise.

3.2 BPR 1 – Cross Community Area Networks – Partner Delivery with NIHE

NIHE has signed a Partner Agreement for the delivery of the project, The Agreement has been forwarded for sealing by the Council. NIHE is progressing the mobilisation of this project.

3.3 BPR2 – Creative Communities Project

Project mobilisation is progressing with 5 clusters established and meeting regularly. Facilitator has been commissioned to generate project ideas. Terms of Reference has been established for Creative Clusters. There are some challenges in the cluster areas Inner East and Inner South.

3.4 BPR3 – Transform for Change Project

Mobilisation of the project is progressing well with the Transformative Leadership Programme delivery commencing in 6 cluster areas (2 North (Duncairn; Lower Old Park- Manor Street), 2 West (Falls - Shankill; Lenadoon – Suffolk), 1 East (Inner East) and 1 South (Market – Lower Ormeau – Holylands – Donegall Pass).

The official launch of Transform for Change launch took place on 4th November in the City Hall.

Recruitment of political representatives is continuing.

3.5 BPR4 – Belfast and the World (BATW)

Project delivery is progressing well. Participants have completed a historical tour of Belfast and the historical tour of Dublin is planned in November. Currently 30 participants have been recruited. Target – 50 participants. Exploratory meetings have been held to address the shortfall in participant numbers.

As previously agreed, the first EU study visit will take place in March 2020. Recruitment and selection will commence w/b 4th November and will allow for up to 40 participants to participate.

3.6 BPR5 – Supporting Connected Communities (LINCS)

Project delivery is progressing with participant engagement exceeding targets, however the percentage of newcomer families and refugees is lower than anticipated at this stage. A strategic recruitment plan is now in place to enhance BME participation.

Their second Shared learning event will be held during Restorative Justice week on the 22nd November in East Belfast Network centre.

3.7 BPR5 – Traveller and Roma elements of Supporting Connected Communities

Discussions to reshape project content and deliver mechanism are ongoing. The revised proposals are to be submitted to SEUPB by mid November. It is anticipated to commence both projects early 2020.

3.8 BPR – Cinematography

The revised tender closed on 21st October, with 6 tenders being submitted. These are currently being evaluated and it is anticipated that the successful tenderer will commence in late November.

3.9 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

The draft plan has been equality screened and discussed at the Equality Consultative Forum on 13th May, 2015.”

After discussion, during which the need for increased participation amongst statutory organisations in some of the projects was emphasised, the Partnership agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it note the information contained within the report.

Review of Shared City Partnership

The Good Relations Manager reminded the Partnership that it had, in 2017, been subject to a review, which had resulted in a significant change to its governance and membership. The membership had been reviewed to ensure that the appropriate partners, including those from Section 75 groups, were involved in the decision-making process.

She reported that the Council’s Audit, Governance and Risk Services unit had recommended that the implementation of the actions arising from the review be monitored on a regular basis. Accordingly, she drew the Partnership’s attention to an ‘action tracker’, which confirmed that actions relating to the role of the Partnership, membership, induction training, attendance and the use of advisors had been completed. A Code of Conduct had also been approved and would be circulated to newly appointed members of the Partnership for signature. Other actions relating to the appointment of specific Task Groups and monitoring/evaluation work were being progressed and would be reported upon at a future meeting.

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

Update on District Council Good Relations Programme

The Partnership was reminded that, at its meeting on 7th October, it had been provided with an update on the outcomes which were being delivered through the District Council Good Relations Programme for 2018/19.

The Senior Good Relations Officer reported that, as part of the conditions of funding for the Programme, the Council was required to submit a progress report to the Executive Office on a quarterly basis. She highlighted the importance of keeping the Partnership fully involved in that process and submitted for its consideration a report which provided an update on the Good Relations Programme Action Plan for the period from April till September, 2019, for the ten projects making up the Programme, together with highlights and feedback. She pointed out that, whilst six of those projects were on track for delivery, there were some minor issues/delays associated with the other four projects, which were being monitored.

The Partnership noted the information which had been provided.

Update on Events

The Good Relations Manager highlighted the following two events in which the Good Relation Unit was involved and to which the Partnership was invited:

- a visit to the Indian Community Centre on 20th November (10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.); and
- an Irish Cultural and Linguistic Experience on 5th December (10 a.m. to 12 p.m.) - 20 Cooke Street.

The Partnership noted the events and agreed that it should receive at a future meeting an update on the forthcoming Restorative Justice Conference and the Human Rights Festival which were each receiving financial support through the Good Relations Unit.

Chairperson