SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

MONDAY 10th FEBRUARY, 2020

MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

Members present: Councillor Kyle (Chairperson);

The High Sheriff Councillor Verner;

Alderman Rodgers; and

Councillors M. Kelly and Smyth.

External Members: Mrs. B. Arthurs, Community and Voluntary Sector;

Mr. A. Cole, Good Relations, The Executive Office; Mr. J. Currie, Community and Voluntary Sector; Mr. J. Donnelly, Community and Voluntary Sector; Mrs. J. Hawthorne, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;

Dr. Y. Hanore, NI Inter-Faith Forum;

Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council;

Mr. M. O'Donnell, Department for Communities; and

In attendance: Ms. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager;

Ms. D. McKinney, Programme Manager;

Ms. A. Allen, Neighbourhood Services Manager; and Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Councillor Magennis and Mr. S. Dallas, Ms. G. Duggan, Superintendent K. McMillan, Mr. I. McLaughlin and Ms. A. White.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 13th January were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

Mr. Currie and Ms. Arthurs declared an interest in relation to matters under item 3.) Update on PEACE IV, in that they were employed by an organisation which was a partner organisation of the initiative.

In relation to item 3.b) Update on Peace IV - Children and Young People, Mr. Donnelly declared an interest, as he was a Director of Programmes for the Active Communities Network which was delivering the Playing Our Part Project under Peace IV.

Mr. Cole declared an interest in regards to item 4.) Good Relations Audit and District Council Good Relations Action Plan 20/21, in that he was employed by The Executive Office.

<u>Presentation - PEACE IV Shared Spaces and Services Branding</u>

The Partnership was informed that Mr. G. Stewart and Ms. A. McGrath, representing McCadden Design, were in attendance in order to provide an update on the verbal and visual identity of the Shared Spaces and Services Reconnecting Open Spaces project and they were welcomed to the meeting.

The Members were reminded of the need to create an iconic network of shared open spaces which would facilitate reconciliation and interaction between divided communities and would assist also in the provision of a catalyst for social and economic regeneration for local neighbourhoods. The Partnership was informed that, after the presentation by McCadden Design, they would be required to recommend a name and branding design for the project, under item 3. c) PEACE IV Programme - Shared Spaces and Services.

Mr. Stewart presented options for the naming and visual identity of the project. He explained the research and key underpinning concepts of building a brand which included a stakeholder questionnaire and the development of tangible values and benefits. He pointed out that the research which had been undertaken directed the naming and aided the proposed identity of the project. He reminded the Partnership that it had agreed to the positioning statement of 'on common ground' at its meeting in December, 2019. He suggested that the Brand Description be 'Urban Greenway' and highlighted how this might be represented through signage and graphic language, together with a series of illustrations of iconic sites relevant to the route.

He outlined two concepts for the naming of the project and suggested the following four names for consideration:

- Leeway;
- Midway;
- Forthmeadow (a compound name of Forthriver and Bog Meadows); or
- Springcairn (a compound name of Springfield and Glencairn)

The Chairperson of the Partnership thanked Mr. Stewart for his detailed and informative presentation and he departed from the meeting.

During discussion, the Partnership concluded that its preference would be with the name 'Forthmeadow', but felt that the brand description 'Urban Greenway' was not in keeping with the community linkage of the project. The majority of the Members suggested that the use of the word 'Community' in the brand description would also be more appropriate, so that the Project Name and Description branding would read 'Forthmeadow – Community Greenway'.

The Partnership noted the information provided and that the decision for the most appropriate branding option for the Reconnecting Open Spaces project was required under item 3. c) PEACE IV Programme - Shared Spaces and Services Update.

Update on PEACE IV

Peace IV Secretariat

The Partnership was provided with an update in relation to PEACE IV Local Action Plan which included an overview of the project implementation (copy available here).

The Programme Manager advised that a range of culture cafes, seminar, workshops and events had been developed as part of the PEACE IV programme workplan, (copy available here) and further peace building events were being explored.

She explained that the underspend proposals for SSS and BPR themes had been submitted to SEUPB for consideration. Preliminary points of clarification had been discussed and were to be submitted to SEUPB in advance of the SEUPB Steering Committee in January 2020.

She pointed out that SEUPB had confirmed that forecasting spend targets for 2019 were within an acceptable tolerance, as follows:

Children and Young People (CYP): 89%
Building Positive Relations (BPR): 91%
Shared Spaces and Services (SSS): 75%

She advised that detailed forecasting for expenditure to June 2022 had been submitted to SEUPB for consideration and spend targets for 2020 were to be confirmed by SEUPB. She pointed out that, SEUPB had highlighted that the overall spend (£1.6m) across the programme was low (11.5%) and raised concern regarding the achievement of total spend within the timeframe.

She explained that, given the difficulties in mobilising some BPR projects, withdrawal of CYP delivery agent and planning delays for SSS, it was proposed that an extension request to September 2022 was explored, subject to approvals and budget availability.

The Partnership agreed that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee be recommended to note the information contained within the report and approve that an extension request to September 2022 be explored, subject to approvals and budget availability.

Update on Peace IV - Children and Young People

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

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

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

2.0 Recommendations

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

- 1. Extend delivery timeframe for CYP1 to March 2022
- 2. Reallocate necessary funding (up to £57,000) from the CYP underspend to the CYP1 project.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 Implementation of projects within the Children and Young People theme is continuing. Projects of concern are CYP1 Tech Connects and mobilisation of CYP5 LAN.

3.2 <u>CYP 1 – Tech Connects</u>

As previously advised, there have been a number of issues affecting delivery of this project resulting in the contracted delivery partner withdrawing from the contract.

A detailed verification of outputs is underway with the delivery agent and final reporting has been requested. Initial indications suggest that participant levels were lower than reported and an outstanding balance of approximately 1,000 participants will need to be include in the re-scope of the project.

- 3.3 In addition, SEUPB has advised that closure of the project should be in accordance with applicable policies and procedures and that:
 - (i) Final payments should be calculated on actual achievement and work completed.
 - (ii) The Delivery Agent to submit a final report outlining results and impacts.
 - (iii) Council to undertake a full verification of all outputs to ensure eligibility
 - (iv) All evidence and back up documentation needs to be retained for inspection.
 - (v) SEUPB will conduct a verification of these outputs
- 3.4 Legal advice on the termination of the contract based on withdrawal is also progressing.

In relation to the re-scoped project, discussions with SEUPB indicate that a reduction in participant numbers will not be permitted, on the basis that the project had been assessed for value for money.

Scoping discussions with potential delivery agents have been positive and will help re shape the project.

3.5 The re-scoped activity will take into account learning from delivery to date, such as the duration being too long for schools, and seek to maximise the impact of enabling participants to form positive and effective relationships with others. To minimise risk to Council and maximise achievement of targets, it is likely that procurement will be based on lots.

Initial cost estimates for the re-scoped project suggests costs of £300,090.00 for delivery of all aspects of the project. The current

available budget for project delivery is £243,182.36. Whilst an equipment budget of £58,927.32 is available. SEUPB has advised that reallocation of the CYP underspend would be preferable. As such it is requested that members approve the reallocation of necessary funding (up to £57,000) from the CYP underspend (£129,902.41) to CYP1, subject to necessary approvals.

Given the remaining high targets, it is proposed that members agree to an extension for the delivery of this project to March 2022, which is within the Council's current Letter of Offer period.

3.6 CYP 2, 3 and 4

CYP2 Playing our Part, CYP3 – On the Right Track – Sports and Personal Change elements and CYP4 are proceeding as previously reported, with no current issues.

- Participants from CYP3 Personal Change recently celebrated their achievements at Belfast Castle with the 2nd Cohort being recruited.
- Second Cohorts for CYP3 Sport Element are due to begin programmes for Year 2- on going recruitment continuing in order to maintain the rate of attrition.
- Platforms to highlight the campaigns developed by the Young Advocates is being explored, with Cohort 3 beginning with discussions.

3.7 <u>CYP 5 – NIHE Local Area Network Partner Delivery</u>

In order to increase delivery, in line with updated implementation plan submitted to Council, a Good Relations Officer has been appointed to the project and has met with CYP Project Manager to discuss progression of implementation/ procurement

3.8 Financial and Resource Implications

PEACE IV costs are recoverable from SEUPB, as the funding body, subject to eligibility of expenditure. Costs totalling £460,723.43 have been reimbursed to Council for the CYP theme with verification of £142,180.30 for Claim 20 (Aug-Oct 19) underway. Claims for Period 21 are to be submitted to SEUPB by end February 2020.

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 13 May 2015."

During discussion, the Programme Manager explained further the SEUPB targets and the necessity for the reallocation of funds. She also highlighted the monitoring process of funding recipients.

After discussion, the Partnership agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it notes the contents of the report and agrees to:

- Extend the delivery timeframe for CYP1 to March, 2022; and
- Reallocate necessary funding (up to £57,000) from the CYP underspend to the CYP1 project.

Update on Peace IV - Shared Spaces and Services

The Partnership considered the following report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

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

2.0 Recommendations

The Partnership is requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy & Resources committee that they

- (i) note the contents of the report
- (ii) agreed the most appropriate branding option for the Reconnecting Open Spaces project

3.0 Main report

3.1 <u>Key Issues</u>

Implementation of both the Shared Space & Services (SSS) 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. Then progression on to Section 4 at Bog Meadows.

3.2 Branding

McCadden has further the SSS branding options based on feedback from Shared City Partnership in December 2019.

Shared City Partnership is to consider the options presented earlier today by McCadden and recommend the preferred branding option.

3.3 Capital Works

Springfield Dam

The contractor has been appointed, all planning conditions have now been fully discharged and the necessary licences are in place. As such the Contractor is now mobilised and will commence work on 10 February 2020. The duration of works is approximately six to eight months for completion.

Approval for the implementation and management of the social clauses contained within the works contract is being sought from SEUPB

3.4 Key Indicative Dates for Peace IV Capital Elements

Item	Date
Commence procurement of Main Contractor	July 2019
Contractor Appointment	June 2020
Section 1 (Glencairn) - Commence works on site. Detailed design complete and planning applications to be submitted for lighting, entrance and signage	July 2020
Section 2 (DfC/INI Site) – Submit Major Planning Application Detailed design work in final stages and an Invasive Species Management Plan underway. Planning application submitted for gates at Woodvale Avenue. Both sets of gates will be locked with an alley type gate security key with keys issued in line with the current Council procedure. Hours of opening and closing to be agreed	Feb 2020
Section 2 (DfC/INI Site) - Commence works on site	Sept 2020 – Jan 2021 Subject to planning approval
Section 3 (Springfield/ Falls Park) – Commence works on site As capital delivery is on a phased basis there is no further progress required at present	Sept 2020 – Jan 2021 (may start earlier whilst planning approval for other sections is progressed)
Section 4 (Bog Meadows) – Major Planning Application Discussions with land owners being progressed regarding management, maintenance and liability issues to be confirmed in advance of a planning application	April 2020
being submitted	

Section 4 (Bog Meadows) - Commence works on site	Nov 2020 – Mar 2021
	Subject to planning approval
Section 5 (Broadway/ Westlink) – Commence works on site	November- April 2020

Wider scheme tender documentation being finalised with a view to issuing documents for Section 1 and Section 2 March 2020.

3.5 **Programming**

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

The Youth Civic Engagement project is continuing, with an extended delivery timeframe to 31 March 2020 as approved by the PEACE IV Programme Board in January 2020.

Procurement for Dialogue & Engagement and Inter-generational projects is being progressed.

A cross community Fitness Project with Clonard Neighbourhood Development Partnership has commenced with participants utilising various locations across the shared space network.

Discussions to establish an active travel project and hub, comprising of cycle/walking aspects close to Whiterock Leisure Centre are progressing. Linkages with PHA programmes are being developed.

Community based project ideas and opportunities along the Reconnecting Open Spaces Network are being explored with Ulster Wildlife. These include nature/environmental themed community events and a volunteer training project commencing in summer 2020.

With the assistance of EA, a schools based initiative to promote the project through pupils and their parents is due to commence in March 2020.

3.6 Financial and Resource Implications

PEACE IV costs are recoverable from SEUPB, as the funding body, subject to eligibility of expenditure.

Costs totalling £409,202.87 have been reimbursed to Council for the SSS theme with verification of £69,756.12 for Claim 20 (Aug-Oct 19) underway. Claims for Period 21 are to be submitted to SEUPB by end February 2020. Discussions with DfC, DoJ, DfI and TEO regarding wider community benefit and contributions to the project are to be being progressed and prioritised.

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.

Equality screening for the SSS capital build is being progressed through Council's Equality Screening process."

After discussion, the Partnership agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources committee that it notes the contents of the report, and:

 Considers the Partnership's suggested brand name for the Reconnecting Open Spaces project of 'Forthmeadow' and the brand description of 'Community Greenway' for approval.

<u>Update on Peace IV - Building Positive Relations</u>

The Shared City Partnership considered the following report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

To provide the Shared City Partnership (SCP) with a progress report in respect of the Building Positive Relations (BPR) theme of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan.

2.0 Recommendations

The Partnership is requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy & Resources committee to note the contents of the report

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

Implementation of projects within the Building Positive Relations theme is continuing with 4 key projects now mobilised.

3.2 BPR1 – Cross Community Area Networks

Project Manager and two Good Relations Officers have now been appointed with the remaining posts taking up post at the end of February. An implementation meeting has been arranged to confirm deliverables, timeframes and progress reporting on the project. Early indications suggest that NIHE may be seeking a further extension for project delivery to 30 June 2022. A formal proposal, implementation plan and revised budget has been requested from NIHE.

3.3 BPR2 - Creative Communities Project

Following an external commissioning exercise for the Artist/Heritage in residence, three clusters will be ready to commence their project with an anticipated 112 participants registering. Three clusters require further project idea facilitated sessions and the remaining two clusters will be established on a thematic basis.

3.4 BPR3 – Transform for Change Project

It is anticipated that 9 courses will be delivered between Jan-May 2020. 74 participants are currently registered and 57 have submitted expressions of interest awaiting cluster assignment. Securing participation from Council staff, statutory and political sectors remains a key focus. The organisation of local community engagement events, City –wide networking events and a cross border study visit is currently underway.

3.5 BPR4 – Belfast and the World (BATW)

Year 2 (2019) participant group (20 ppl) will commence in Ligionel at the beginning of February 2020. The two year 3 participant groups have commenced in the Shankill and Ballynafeigh. The Ballynafeigh group will comprise of CNR, PUL and BME participants.

40 participants have been successfully selected to participate on the EU trip to Belgium in late March.

3.6 BPR5 – Supporting Connected Communities - LINCS Projects

Alternatives undertook an internal trawl and has been successful in filling the Project Co-Ordinator post. Further discussions are ongoing with the BPR Thematic Manager, the lead delivery agent and project team in relation to the proposed amendment of engagement that was submitted.

3.7 <u>BPR5 – Traveller and Roma elements of Supporting Connected</u> Communities

Public Information Sessions were held on 30 January 2020 which confirmed the content and delivery approach of the proposals. Proposals are being finalised for submission and approval by SEUPB.

3.8 Financial and Resource Implications

PEACE IV costs are recoverable from SEUPB, as the funding body, subject to eligibility of expenditure. Costs totalling £409,136.67 have been reimbursed to Council for the BPR theme with verification of £174,352.15for Claim 20 (Aug-Oct 19) underway. Claims for Period 21 are to be submitted to SEUPB by end February 2020.

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 13 May 2015."

After discussion, during which the need for increased participation amongst community and 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.

Good Relations Audit and District Council Good Relations Action Plan 2020/21

The Partnership was reminded that the Council submited an annual action plan to the Executive Office (TEO) every year in order to draw down funding for the good relations work of the Council. TEO had requested submission of this year's action plan by 14th February, 2020 and the plan for 2021/22 by 13th March, 2020.

The Good Relations Manager summarised the findings from the Partnership's Workshop which took place on 6th February to consider the key audit recommendations and the draft action plan to ensure that it delivered on key identified needs.

She outlined the contents of the draft Action Plans for 2020/21 and 2021/22 (copies available here). The audit contained a range of 30 recommendations and suggestions on how the Council could shape its Action Plan, considering the issues raised within the audit and aligned with its newly agreed Good Relations Strategy. In addition, the audit had raised a range of complementary issues. The Good Relations Manger explained that these would fall outside the parameters of the Action Plan but were nevertheless crucial issues for the Council and other city-based stakeholders to progress.

She informed the Partnership that all future agreed actions would be developed within the overall context of the Belfast Agenda and its identified priorities and the issues identified in the audit would require further consideration by the Council and other agency partners.

She advised that the recommendations fell into 4 distinct areas:

- 1. Areas for the Council to consider corporately;
- 2. Good Relations in Council:
- 3. City-wide issues that the Council should lead on progressing; and
- 4. How Belfast City Council should position itself as a regional leader in promoting Good Relations.

She presented the following 30 audit recommendations for consideration:

"Corporate

- 1. Further shift the language toward a shared city;
- 2. Focus the language also to ending segregation;
- 3. The chair of the Shared City Partnership should be invited to the party group leaders' meetings when discussing issues of relevance to good relations;
- 4. The Shared City Partnership should be better utilised specially to explore long-term and emerging critical issues and how Council may respond;

- 5. Council should clarify the value of the Shared City Partnership and chief officers should attend meetings more often;
- 6. Council should clarify how good relations is manifest within its decision-making structures;
- 7. Good relations considerations should be integral to emerging policy discussions:
- 8. Good relations considerations should be enhanced in policy consideration at a corporate and city-wide level, and not confined to an area-based contribution;
- 9. Develop a good relations programme to engage all elected members; and
- 10. Develop space for discussion for the group leaders including the chair of the Shared City Partnership.

Good Relations in Council

- 11. Rename the grant programme the Shared City Grant programme;
- 12. By 2021/2022 move to an annual grant aid process;
- 13. By 2021/2022 move to the possibility of longer-term funding;
- 14. Establish a seed fund especially for those that feel unable to properly access larger funding;
- 15. Establish strategic intervention funding in one or two areas of work e.g. removal of interface barriers/"peace walls" helping reduce the proportion of spend on grant aid;
- 16. By 2021/2022 further review the criteria and process for funding;
- 17. Develop a new programme of work to engage staff in good relations with particular effort to involve new communities and PUL employees;
- 18. Further engage with the physical regeneration unit in Council on major capital and other works; and
- 19. Develop an interface programme through the Shared City Partnership that engages the IFI and other agencies to explore sustainable support in communities to remove interface barriers/"peace walls".

City Wide Impact

- 20. Continue to develop existing programmes including working with the relevant partners on bonfire engagement and on the decade of centenaries/50-year anniversaries;
- 21. The youth forum should be invited to attend the Shared City Partnership;
- 22. Invite the International Fund for Ireland on to the Shared City Partnership or an interface sub-group;
- 23. The Shared City Partnership should receive a small budget to facilitate its thinking and research into emerging issues; and
- 24. The emerging issues the Shared City Partnership should consider include demographic change, interface barrier/"peace wall" removal or why reconciliation and good relations funding has not led to greater attitudinal change.

Positioning and Promoting

- 25. Re-brand the good relations programme and resource further promotion of the good relations work the Council undertakes;
- 26. Continue to expand the meaning of a shared city to include all minority and majority groupings in the section 75 definition;

- 27. The good relations unit should also be involved in dialogue and process around what a shared city means for all groups beyond the section 75(2) groups even though not a formal part of TEO good relations priorities;
- 28. Develop a project or intervention to raise the profile of BME civic leaders;
- 29. All political parties on the Council should be offered opportunity to engage with members of the BME community to explain how the political structures work in Council and within their parties; and
- 30. Council should not just rebrand and prioritise the promotion of its good relations work within the Council, it should acknowledge and promote the importance of the work it does on these islands and internationally."

The Good Relations Manger pointed out that the conclusions and recommendations chapter, along with a summary of all the recommendations, had been appended to the report (copy available here) and that the full document would be submitted to a future meeting for further discussion in due course. She advised that the audit findings would also form part of the overall Implementation Plan for the Good Relations Strategy of which the DCGRP action plan was only one element.

During discussion, Members highlighted that the audit recommendations should align with existing Good Relations work being undertaken outside of the Council and that the language used needed to be clear to avoid duplication of such work.

The following changes to the recommendations were suggested by the Panel:

- 11. Develop a new programme of work to engage staff in good relations with particular effort to involve new communities and PUL employees in good relations work.
- 19. Bearing in mind existing structures and partnerships, further develop the Interface programme through the Shared City Partnership continuing to engage the relevant agencies to explore sustainable support in communities to remove interface barriers/"peace walls" in Belfast.
- 22. Invite appropriate funders on to relevant sub-groups of the Partnership.

After discussion, the Partnership:

- Noted the key findings and recommendations outlined in the draft Good Relations Audit 2020 and agreed that these be recommended for approval, subject to the aforementioned changes;
- Noted that the audit had raised a range of complementary issues which fell outside of the parameters of the Action Plan and would be considered further by Council in the context of the Good Relations Strategy and Belfast Agenda;
- Recommended to the Strategic and Policy Resources Committee that the draft Action Plans 2020/21 and 2021/22 be submitted to The Executive Office (TEO); and
- Noted that this Action Plan submission was subject to agreement by the Council in relation to any estimates setting exercise and also amendments during the assessing and scoring process that would be undertaken by TEO, and that the Council would be notified of any changes to the final approved Action Plans.

Request for Presentations

The Partnership noted the following requests had been received to present at future meetings of the Partnership and agreed that these be acceded to:

- Future City Centre Programme City Centre Connectivity Study;
- Strategic Director of City and Neighborhoods Department; and
- Belfast Mobility Study.

Forthcoming Events

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

- EU Settlement Scheme Drop in information session, City Hall, 12th February, 6.00 p.m. 8.30 p.m.;
- Visit to Ballynafeigh Orange Hall, 13th February, 10.00 a.m. 12 noon;
- Visit to Belfast Islamic Centre, 27 February, 11.00 a.m. 2 p.m.;
- Visit to Clonard Monastery, 11 March, 10 -12 p.m.;
- Islamic Awareness Training 2, 9 and 19th March, 9 4 p.m.; and
- An introduction to sexual orientation and gender, 2 April, 10.00 a.m. -1.00 p.m.

During discussion, Mr. Currie advised of a Myths and Realities, Race Relations event at the East Belfast Network Centre on 10th March and would send further details of the event to the Good Relations Manager for circulation.

Noted.

Chairperson