

## **SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP**

**MONDAY 5th OCTOBER, 2020**

### **MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

Members present: Councillor Kyle (Chairperson);  
Alderman Rodgers; and  
Councillors M. Kelly, Lyons, Magennis,  
Smyth and Verner.

Also Attended: Councillor O'Hara.

External Members: Mrs. B. Arthurs, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Mrs. O. Barron, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;  
Mr. J. Currie, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Mr. S. Hamilton, Chief Executive, of the Belfast Chamber  
of Trade and Commerce;  
Mrs. J. Hawthorne, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;  
Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council;  
Superintendent Sayers, PSNI;  
Mr. P. Mackel, Belfast and District Trades Union Council;  
Mr. M. McGinley, Good Relations, The Executive Office;  
Mr. I. McLaughlin, Community and Voluntary Sector; and  
Ms. Ann Marie White, British Red Cross.

In attendance: Ms. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager;  
Ms. D. McKinney, Programme Manager;  
Ms. A. Allen, Neighbourhood Services Manager;  
Mr. S. Lavery, Programme Manager; and  
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

#### **Election of Chairperson**

The Partnership noted that it was required to elect a Chairperson for the coming year.

Moved by Alderman Rodgers,  
Seconded by Mr. P. Mackel and

Resolved – that Councillor Kyle be elected to serve as Chairperson to the  
Shared City Partnership from October, 2020 to June, 2021.

#### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Miss G. Duggan and  
Mr. J. Donnelly.

## **Declarations of Interest**

Mr. Currie and Ms. Arthurs declared an interest in relation to matters under item 4.) Update on PEACE IV, in that they were employed by an organisation which was a partner organisation of the initiative.

Mr. McGinley 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.

## **Presentation on Community Provision Recovery**

(Mrs. A. Allen, Neighbourhood Services Manager, attended in connection with this item.)

The Neighbourhood Services Manager provided the Partnership with an update presentation in relation to Community Provision Recovery which included an overview of the proposals the Council had in relation to the realignment of staff resources and funding streams to attempt to meet the emerging community needs in relation to recovery. It was agreed that a copy of the PowerPoint presentation would be emailed to all the Members of the Partnership and that it would also be uploaded to mod.gov.

The Committee then considered the undernoted report:

### **“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

**To update SCP Members with regards to Council realigning staff resources and funding streams to better meet emerging community need in relation to recovery over the summer months until 30th November 2020.**

### **2.0 Recommendations**

**That Members note the contents of this report and endorse the Council’s approach to Community Provision Recovery.**

### **3.0 Main report**

#### **Community Provision Funding to date to support emergency COVID-19 response**

**3.1 At the commencement of the pandemic and intervening months, the focus of the Council’s approach in terms of working with local communities was prioritised in the area of food provision, thematic funding and emergency, which has been funded through Council and the Department for Communities in the amount of £935k. Through the Council’s virtual area support teams, officers worked directly with local and citywide organisations to assist in supporting those who were most vulnerable.**

**3.2 Funding was allocated to support groups that were undertaking actions in response to the coronavirus pandemic, The purpose of the funding was to:**

- Provide strategic leadership and support to local groups in the planning and delivery of services to vulnerable residents. Three key overarching service areas of work are, Connectivity (Community Support), Food Supplies, Financial Advice and Support
- Work closely with the Council's Neighbourhood Integration Managers to align and respond to emerging issues identified through the Belfast wide COVID 19 response hub established by Belfast City Council;
- Deliver direct services to vulnerable residents;
- Develop and support local cluster / consortia of groups to pool resources and align delivery of services, enhancing emergency response to vulnerable residents.

### Learning from COVID-19 Emergency Response

3.3 There has been significant learning as a result of the COVID-19 Emergency response both internally within Council and based on feedback from community partners which should be factored in to any future decision making. This is:

- Ability to be responsive to need and empowering communities;
- Meaningful and highly effective relationships between Council and community partners are in place to aid agile service delivery
- Creating opportunities for engaging/supporting more volunteering in communities;
- Ability to share information between a number of different statutory and C&V organisations
- Opportunity to embed area working concept both internally/externally with partners.

### Previously scheduled summer 2020 Community Provision Grant Programmes and Activity

3.4 Members may be aware a number of annual grant programmes and activities were scheduled for the period 01/04/20 to 30/09/20 to support communities across a wide range of functions including the Good Relations, Bonfire and Cultural Expression and Planned Intervention Schemes as well as programmed activities.

3.5 Due to the emergency COVID-19 response and the current and likely ongoing impact of the NI Executive COVID-19 regulations, these programmes and activities could not take place in their current form, leaving communities in a position with unmet and continuing high levels of need as we emerge gradually from lockdown.

- 3.6 As a result, the Good Relations Plan had £276,000 of initial underspend relating to grants within the total amount of funding across Council, which amounts to a total of £636,097. Given the current situation, it is anticipated that the Good Relations Action Plan will require further revision to ensure they meet emerging community needs as the point at which they were developed was before COVID-19.
- 3.7 Many of the various programmes are match funded by central government Departments and in the case of the need to revise the Good Relations Action Plan, there has been positive engagements with TEO in supporting this approach and this has been included in our draft revised action Plan as outlined in an accompanying paper.

#### Emerging issues in communities

- 3.8 Close ongoing engagement through the COVID-19 response through the Area Support Teams has resulted in strong and meaningful relationships between Council Officers and community partners. Additionally, NICVA Pulse Surveys with the sector have added to our understanding of community priorities. This has allowed us to establish quickly a high level picture of short term community priorities up to end September 2020 and this is summarised below:
- Children and Young People: Summer activities and programmes, negative educational and wellbeing impacts of COVID-19 and digital connectivity
  - Civic Pride: Communities are rightly proud of the huge volunteering effort and sense of neighbourliness and community spirit and want to develop that
  - Preventing Isolation: the impact of COVID-19 on those shielding has been significant and a huge community effort is needed to support those individuals, with digital connectivity an element
  - Emotional Wellbeing: There is widespread concern about then emotional wellbeing concerns of vulnerable individuals, families and communities
  - Anti-Social Behaviour: Levels of anti-social behaviour, particularly in parks/open spaces has increased due to people not being at school/work and periods of good weather
  - Overall organisational health: Many organisations are expressing concern over their cashflow/finances and their ability to recover services which may affect their overall sustainability
  - Health and Wellbeing of staff/volunteers: The efforts of community partners have been huge in response to COVID-19 and this has taken its toll on the health and wellbeing of their staff/volunteers and they will need support in addressing this

- **Unexpected Premises and PPE Costs:** In recovering services and opening premises, community partners will have to make physical changes to their premises and purchase PPE to ensure social distancing. These are unplanned for costs placing an additional financial burden on them
- **Access to specialist knowledge/advice regarding health and safety and human resources:** Complex issues like the government furlough scheme and the management of health and safety in a situation where the parameters are changing so frequently is causing concern for community partners who are already under pressure and they may need assistance with this.

### **Community Provision Recovery – Phase 1a Summer Period**

- 3.9** Further consideration is being given to supporting the overall recovery of Council’s Community Provision and an update will be brought to Council and the Shared City Partnership in due course. However, there is a recognition that there are short term and immediate needs of communities and community partners as identified above.
- 3.10** At its meeting in July, Council agreed to immediately establish a two strand grant programme (strategic funding and micro funding) aimed at supporting both strategic community partners and grassroots organisations. This programme is to be funded using the £636,097 of community provision funding not being distributed up to the end of September 2020 and would focus only on the following priorities at present:
- **Children and Young People:** Summer activities and programmes, negative educational and wellbeing impacts of COVID-19 and digital connectivity
  - **Civic Pride:** Communities are rightly proud of the huge volunteering effort and sense of neighbourliness and community spirit and want to develop that
  - **Preventing Isolation:** the impact of COVID-19 on those shielding has been significant and a huge community effort is needed to support those individuals, with digital connectivity an element
  - **Emotional Wellbeing:** There is widespread concern about then emotional wellbeing concerns of vulnerable individuals, families and communities
  - **Anti-Social Behaviour:** Levels of anti-social behaviour, particularly in parks/open spaces has increased due to people not being at school/work and periods of good weather

**3.11 Strand 1 – Strategic Funding of Key Area Based Organisations – Budget £436,000**

- Organisations who receive funding will provide strategic leadership and support to local groups in the planning and delivery of services in the identified areas above.
- Support from Area Support Teams within Council with documentation, delivery and evaluation.

**3.12 Strand 2 - Micro Grants (For delivery up to end November 2020 with budget of £150,000)**

The maximum allocation per organisation: £1,000 per organisation  
Process:

- Rolling open call on Council website/social media and promoted through existing community networks from 6th July 2020 with a closing date of 1 September – later extended to 30th September 2020.  
<http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/community/grantsandfunding/grantsandfunding.aspx> ;
- Focus on local delivery over the summer period in the identified priority areas above;
- Application process requires a quick turnaround to facilitate delivery.
- Support from Area Support Teams in Council with documentation/delivery/evaluation

**3.13 All of the above is subject to the current COVID-19 regulations which continue to change at pace and it is proposed that to support organisations in receipt of both Strategic Funding and Micro Grants, Council provides detailed updates and guidance on what types of activity are permitted when the NI Executive's position changes. This will enable early access to the funding to allow community partners to start making plans for activities but with ongoing support from Council as to what types of activities will be permitted/not permitted under the funding (as per the regulations).**

**Community Provision Recovery Phase 1b – Thematic Funding**

**3.14 Engagement is taking place with those organisations currently delivering services under the thematic funding stream to identify potential future needs and opportunities to connect them with existing funding mechanisms who can support their ongoing efforts e.g. Shared City Partnership or Policing and Community Safety Partnerships. If existing funding mechanisms cannot be identified, a further report will be submitted to Committee for consideration.**

### **Community Provision Recovery Phase 1c – Capacity and Buildings Support**

- 3.15 As identified at point 2.9, many community partners have expressed concern regarding their organisational health, capacity and sustainability.

A further report will be submit to Council in the coming weeks as Officers understand the detailed requirements of community partners, what they can reprofile from their existing grant allocations and what (if any) additional support they may need.

- 3.16 Members of the SCP who work in partnership with the community sector to deliver on strategic objectives will be well aware of the challenges facing the sector as a result of Covid 19 and the additional burden which it has placed on organisations which were already facing significant uncertainty in the pre-covid financial climate.
- 3.17 The Director of Neighbourhood Services will be in attendance at the meeting of the Shared City Partnership to give members a current update on the status of the Council’s Community Provision Recovery approach as it adapts to the changing environment and guidelines set by the Executive.”

The Partnership noted the updated provided and endorsed the Council’s approach to Community Provision Recovery.

### **Revised Good Relations Action Plans 2020/21 and 2021/22**

The Partnership considered the following report:

#### **“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

- 1.1 Council received a Letter of Offer from The Executive Office (TEO) towards the 20/21 District Council Good Relations Programme (DCGRP) based on the action plan submitted to TEO in February 2020.
- 1.2 Subsequently, a draft Revised Good Relations Action Plan for 2020/21 and associated programme budget was drawn up and submitted to TEO, as stipulated by the deadline of 24th July 2020 with the caveat that Council approval was required.
- 1.3 This is the first of a series of revisions to the Belfast City Council Good Relations Action Plan in line with the direction of travel agreed by Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 19th June 2020 and approved at Full Council on 1st July 2020. Specifically, the revision includes the Good Relations contribution to the new Support to Community Partners Fund Summer 2020 and the continuation of support to thematic communities of interest

funded by Council as part of the first tranche of COVID-19 emergency thematic funding.

- 1.4 Further revisions to the plan will take in to account emerging community need as part of overall community recovery across Belfast and will be brought forward in due course in that context.

## 2.0 Recommendations

### 2.1

- Members note the award of £571,893.01 from The Executive Office towards the District Council Good Relations Programme 20/21 and the associated Revised Action Plan agreed by Council on 10th August 2020.
- Members note the projects currently being supported outlined in points 3.7 – 3.9 in the report
- Members endorse the Council's approach to Community Provision Recovery and agree that the budgets for Tranche 2 Good Relations Small Grants Scheme and St Patrick's Day be allocated to ongoing community provision recovery funding programme.
- Members consider the Revised Action Plan Summary 21/22 and recommend its approval to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

## 3.0 Main report

### Current Position

- 3.1 Council submits an annual Good Relations Action Plan for consideration by TEO in February of each year; TEO then issues a Letter of Offer based on identified need in each Council area and the level of resource available. A Letter of Offer was received for approximately £570,000 on 15th June 2020. This will provide a total allocation of approximately £740,000 for the action plan which required amendment to reflect the level of resource available. A draft revised Action Plan along with the associated budget allocation was submitted with the letter of offer by 24th June 2020 as stipulated by TEO subject to approval by Council.
- 3.2 In addition, due to the emergency COVID-19 response and the current and likely ongoing impact of the NI Executive COVID-19 regulations, the programmes and activities detailed in the Plan will not be able to take place in their current form.
- 3.3 In the meantime, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at their meeting on 19th June agreed to realign staff resources and funding streams to better meet emerging community need over the summer months, including the approach to delivering on Summer Diversionary Activities. This included the funding attributed to Grant Aid under Tranche 1 Good Relations Grant Aid and The Planned Intervention Grant Aid Scheme, (the latter of which is funded 100% by TEO) as well as the monies from the Bonfire

Cultural and Expression Scheme and the Schools Intervention programme. It is anticipated funding will be awarded through micro grants, thematic funding and strategic grants.

- 3.4 The Letter of Offer from TEO acknowledges that some DCGRP funds may need to be redirected towards Covid-19 support and asks that in this case, Council provide details of this to TEO for consideration. Work in response to the Covid-19 outbreak needs to be fully documented with identified links to GR work. It is also worth noting that revision can take place during the year.
- 3.5 It is important to note that the Letter of Offer states that the current funding allocation is indicative and subject to change pending Ministerial decisions. The TEO will formally review progress and associated spend by 31st July and 31st October. The Department reserves the right to reallocate resources in light of the review.
- 3.6 At the June Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, it was agreed that immediate engagement takes place with those organisations delivering services under the thematic funding stream to identify potential future needs and opportunities to connect them with existing funding mechanisms who can support their ongoing efforts.
- 3.7 At the Council meeting on 10th August, a Revised Action Plan was agreed with the following projects included as these clearly meet with TEO objectives:
- Roma Helpline Project - up to £12,000 until 31st December, 2020 to Forward South, with the option to extend to March 2021 pending evaluation and funding being available;
  - Race Relations Coordinator Project – up to an additional £18,000 towards the cost of the Race Relations Coordinator post until 31st March, 2021 to East Belfast Community Development Association; This will be conditional on EBCDA undertaking an evaluation and exploring other sources of funding in advance of 31 March 2021 if the project is to continue subsequently; and
  - Support to Refugee and Asylum Seekers Project – up to £15,000 to Embrace NI towards the provision of a bi-lingual helpline and outreach service to enhance and support the integration of refugee and asylum seeker communities in Belfast.
- 3.8 Other projects supported:
- Duncairn Community Partnership – up to £15,000 towards the costs of procurement of an artist/facilitator to develop an arts-led consultation and design scheme for the transformation of two interface sites in Duncairn Gardens;
  - Belfast Interface Project – up to £20,000 towards the costs of further development of an augmented reality app for use in the development and promotion of shared space and

community planning at Divis/Townsend St and Inner East/Short Strand;

- 22nd Old Boys Football Club – £2,880 towards the design and installation of a mental health awareness mural at the Spectrum Centre;and
- Strategic Research project – up to £12,000 towards consultation and research on the successes of the response to Covid19 and capture how the response contributed to peace building and how this could be built upon.

### **3.9 Schools Intervention Project**

An update on the Schools Intervention Programme which has been impacted by the pandemic, is provided in more detail at Appendix 3 (which was issued with the agenda). The Advisory Group to the Project met on 2nd September 2020 and it was agreed that the budget would remain the same at 30k with Stena Line contributing an agreed 25k. The focus of the project will be on Partnership Teacher Professional Learning and Planning for Pupil to Pupil Engagement.

### **3.10 Tranche 2 Grants**

Within the Revised Action Plan, an amount of £39k has been set aside for Tranche 2 Good Relations Small Grants for activity from 1st October 2020 until 31st March 2021. A sum of £30k was allocated to St Patrick's Day Grants. In previous years, both of these Schemes would have been publicly advertised in May, closed in July and allocated by the end of September.

- 3.11 Given the current position as outlined earlier in the paper and the direction of travel to be outlined by the Director of Neighbourhood services at the meeting, members are asked to consider that the budget for these grants be allocated to the approach to support community provision recovery.

### **3.12 Governance**

The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in June noted that the use of funding associated with the Shared City Partnership should require consideration from the Shared City Partnership as a matter of good practice. However, given that formal working groups of Council did not recommence until 5th October and the SCP is a subcommittee of Council, direct consideration by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee was able to take place if necessary. The Revised Plan is being brought to the Shared City Partnership for noting at the earliest opportunity.

### **3.13 Other issues**

Members may recall that in 19/20, councils were awarded indicative three year funding. The Council's Programme has also received

funding in principle for the next financial year. This funding is subject to a positive end year project evaluation, budget availability and that the Council match funds the Programme.

- 3.14 TEO have now requested that Council reviews its Year 3 Action Plan Summaries in light of the changes that have been made to the Revised Year 2 Action Plans and submit by 30th September 2020. This applies to the financial year 21/22.
- 3.15 A draft revised action plan summary was submitted by the deadline, subject to Council consideration and approval, this takes into account that current guidelines and restrictions may still be in place and therefore, may be subject to change. Members are asked to consider the revised action plan summary 21/22 and recommend approval to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

#### **Financial and Resource Implications**

The Plan will be 75% funded by TEO and the remaining 25% has been included in the Council's 20/21 budget. The TEO has awarded £571,893.01 towards the programme and this award is contingent upon an additional minimum contribution of £168,964.33 from Council resources to the Action Plan.

The Council has made provision to support Good Relations Activity with an amount which is in excess of the required 25% contribution included in the budget for 20/21. This Funding supports a portion of some of the salaries within the Good Relations Unit.

#### **Equality or Good Relations Implications and Rural Needs assessment**

Screening and a rural needs assessment has taken place for the Good Relations Strategy. The councils' District Council Good Relations Action Plan is one element of this strategy."

Following consideration of the report, the Partnership agreed the recommendations and further agreed that an amount of up to £1,000 be allocated to assist with a workshop for the East Belfast Tension Monitoring Group to refocus its priorities and communication.

It was also agreed that representative from the following organisations be invited to present to the November meeting of the Shared City Partnership: Forward South, East Belfast Community Development Agency and the Consortium working on the Refugee and Asylum Seekers Projects.

### **Peace IV Updates**

#### **Update on PEACE IV - Secretariat**

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 Secretariat activity associated with the implementation of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan.

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

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

- delegate authority to the PEACE IV Programme Manager and the relevant Thematic Project Manager to sign off participant's achievement based on the 80% of contracted contact hours with no financial impact to the delivery partner.
- delegate authority to the Chair of the relevant Theme, in conjunction with the PEACE IV Programme Manager and the relevant Thematic Project Manager to consider requests, on an exceptional circumstances only, achievement of 80% of 26 hrs taking into account any financial and contractual impact, subject to SEUPB approval.

#### **3.0 Main report**

##### **3.1 Covid 19 Impact**

The current COVID 19 crisis has presented a number of challenges for the implementation of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan. In summary the impact has been:

- administrative process on procurement, communications and implementation planning have increased and are proceeding
- engagement is ongoing at a project level however participant numbers are lower
- activity where possible has moved on line, subject to the type of project is limited
- some face to face activity has recommenced with smaller groups
- delays in signing up new cohorts and delivering community activity
- events / launches have been delayed / postponed

The PEACE IV team remain in regular contact with all delivery partners regarding the current level of activity, engagement, the impact and future impact on project delivery.

Project modifications have been progressed and approved as necessary to facilitate delivery during this period further detail is contained in Thematic Reports and Appendices I and II.

### **3.2 Contractual / Financial Payments**

Delivery Partners continue to make claims and be paid in line with the quarterly terms detailed in the relevant contracts / agreements which is generally linked to the achievement of results / project milestones. To date project modifications have not resulted in financial adjustments.

Some delivery partners have raised concern on the payment approach, given the impact of Covid 19 and as such it is proposed that the TPM and Programme Manager review the achievement of results, realign KPI / milestones and payment terms as necessary with a further report submitted to the Shared City Partnership. Subsequent contract addendums will be put in place.

### **3.3 SEUPB Approach and Mitigations**

Advice from SEUPB regarding managing the Covid: 19 impacts has been limited with project modifications on a case by case basis. SEUPB advised that an extension to the timeframe for delivery will be considered within the current programme timeframe, up to December 2022 however there will be no additional funding for this extended period, as such projects must be delivered within the agreed contracted financial allocation, regardless of any increased costs.

3.4 A meeting between SEUPB's Chief Executive and Council Senior Officers, including the Chief Executive, took place on 8 June 20. SEUPB reaffirmed the position above although they agreed to work with Council and adopt a flexible approach on modifications, budget reallocations and extension requests, on a case by case basis.

### **3.5 Governance and Operational Delivery**

During the height of the pandemic and to enable prompt decisions on project modifications, the Programme Board agreed temporary amendments to the governance structure and delegated authority to the Good Relations Manager and PEACE IV Programme Manager. Significant changes were referred to the Programme Board via written procedure.

3.6 As recovery continues, members should note that delegated authority arrangements have been agreed until October 2020 after which approval will be reverted to the Programme Board.

3.7 All projects are expected to meet the contracted contact hours however due to current circumstances and reduced activity / engagement consideration regarding participant completion in line with SEUPB's Output Indicator Guidance (OIG) needs to be agreed.

The OIG states that a 'participant will be considered to have completed the programme if they have either engaged in at least 80% of the sessions or days agreed for that participant ...'.

Given the unique circumstance, agreement is sought to delegate authority to the PEACE IV Programme Manager and the relevant Thematic Project Manager to sign off participants achievement based on the 80% of contracted contact hours with no financial impact to the delivery partner.

- 3.8 A further mitigation in terms of completed participants is achievement of 80% of minimum 26 contact hours as stipulated by SEUPB, however this variation to contact hours should be on an exceptional circumstances only. It is proposed that the SCP agree to delegate authority to the relevant Thematic Chair in conjunction with the PEACE IV Programme Manager and the relevant Thematic Project Manager to consider such requests taking into account financial and contractual impacts. Approval of any reduced contract hours will be subject to approval by SEUPB and will be reported to the Programme Board and SCP.

3.9 Programme Impact Analysis

Significant analysis has taken place of monitoring and evaluation data to determine results and the impact of project activity at both a cohort and project level.

3.10 Underspend proposals

SEUPB has approved the underspend proposal for the SSS theme and the modification process is being finalised. Clarifications on the VFM review by SEUPB of the BPR St Comgalls proposal have been submitted and assessment has progressed to the Accountable Departments. An indicative response is expected by end September 2020.

3.11 Delivery Timeframe

To date several delivery partners have submitted extension requests to June 2022, however as Council's current LoO is to June 2022, requests have only been approved to April 2022, with the new contracts for CYP1 approved to May 2022.

Due to the Covid 19 Impact, consideration on the timeframe for extension is ongoing. Financial modelling to enable the extension of staff / activity has been compiled however in light of changing circumstances these will be reviewed to ensure budget availability for any extension request.

It is proposed that a request is submitted to SEUPB regarding an extension request to the maximum timeframe permitted but a further report will be presented to a future meeting.

### **3.12 Programme Workplan**

Delivery of the programme workplan has changed to digital delivery where appropriate. As part of the Good Relations week programme a virtual tour of the City Cemetery took place on 14 September, International Day of Peace event, Shaping Peace Together took place on 21 September. Future events include Tenx9 event on Peace, a drive in cinema and further virtual City Cemetery tour.

### **3.13 Verification and Audit**

A response to the internal audit progress review of the Peace IV Programme has been submitted to AGRS and we are awaiting a response.

### **3.14 Staffing**

One of the Project Development Officers commenced maternity leave on 8 June 2020 and due to current circumstances recruitment is on hold.

### **3.15 Financial and Resource Implications**

All PEACE IV costs are recoverable from the funding body subject to eligibility.

SEUPB has reimbursed all expenditure totalling £2,379,728.62 up to and including claim 22 (Feb – Apr 20). The breakdown across themes is as follows:

- CYP: £779,950.55
- BPR: £932,857.69
- SSS: £666,920.38

Period 23 Claim (May-Jul 20) totalling £562,452 was submitted on 28 August 20. The forecasted claim was £581,710, resulting in a negative variance of £19,258, equating to 3.32% of forecasted expenditure. During 2020 no expenditure has been deemed ineligible by SEUPB.

### **3.15 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 recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it adopt the recommendations.

### **Update on PEACE IV – 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 with a progress report in respect of implementation of the Children and Young People (CYP) theme of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

The Partnership is requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources committee that they note the contents of the report and appendices and the agreed changes to projects.

## **3.0 Main report**

### **3.1 Key Issues**

The delivery of Children and Young People projects has been ongoing. *All partners have been impacted by COVID 19 lockdown and 3 of the 5 projects have been progressing with online delivery. Government restrictions and social distancing measures are impacting bringing groups together.*

3.2 Great resilience has been shown by partners and participants to continue project work over the last six months. Communications activity via social media was significantly increased with promotion of CYP3 and CYP4. In addition, project briefs were circulated to elected members and area working teams to encourage participation in the projects.

*Details of project progress is outlined below and a summary of the key changes to CYP projects are:*

- *Award of CYP1 contracts*
- *Reshaping project content to online delivery for CYP2, CYP3 PC, CYP4*
- *Award of residential contracts for cross border engagement for CYP3 OTRT Sports-*
- *Replace cross border activity / residentials for CYP3 with activity days to Jan 2021*
- *Reduction in contact hours for CYP3 PC (Personal change) from 305 to 265 hours*

### **3.3 CYP 1 – Tech Connects**

*Contract with Ashton Community Trust was concluded in June 2020 with achievement of 133 participants and final payment based on achievement of results was reimbursed.*

*The CYP1 project was rescoped and following a procurement exercise contracts have been awarded for the delivery of this project:*

*Afterschool’s (6-11 years old) - Awarded to GIGA Training.*

**Tech Camps (10-16 years old) - Awarded to GIGA Training.  
Insight Young Adults (17- 24 years old) - Awarded to Belfast Metropolitan College.**

**Digital Arts Academies, Creative Tech Camps and Technology Insights courses will be delivered as part of this rescoped programme. Tender submissions were based on face to face delivery, however due to ongoing government restrictions, online delivery to December 2020 has been approved by SEUPB.**

#### **3.4 CYP 2 – Playing Our Part**

**During lockdown, ACN moved some play activities online and provided participants with activity packs. Parents engaged in a social action project, Nominate your Neighbour sending in nominations on a weekly basis, enabling participants to be connected to their community at this time and send out positive messages.**

**Realignment of KPIs and milestones due to impact of COVID 19 and delayed recruitment has been approved with no impact to outputs or budget.**

**ACN is now actively recruiting for the next cohorts and including uniformed organisations to extend the reach of the project.**

#### **3.5 CYP 3 – On the Right Track**

**Due to the sporting nature of this project, online activity was unsuitable, however, every effort was made to keep participants engaged,. Cross community boxing participants completed an online challenge with local sporting mentors Carl Frampton and Paddy Barnes. To date there has been over 6,000 views of the video, 32,000 impressions of the Tweet and the Facebook post reached an audience in excess of 15,000. The young people's participation featured on BBC Sports Website in August 2020.**

**Procurement for residential activity on a lots basis has been progressing with 4 lots totaling £64,000 awarded. Further procurement for the remaining lots is underway.**

**Due to ongoing government restrictions and EA operational constraints, residential activity is on hold. Members should note approval has been granted from SEUPB and the Programme Board to suspend cross border activity and replace residential activity with day activity until January 2021, subject to budget availability. This modification will enable the achievement of contact hours.**

**A revision of targets, KPIs and an extended end date has been approved to April 2022. However a request to reduce participant numbers was declined by SEUPB. Members should note that alignment of targets and KPIs requires a contract amendment with OCN delivery partner ACN and will be progressed over coming weeks .**

*The project officer is actively recruiting participants, however differing regulations of Sports Governing Bodies is proving a challenge in pairing sports clubs.*

### **3.6 CYP 3 – Personal Change**

*Extern have continued delivery throughout lockdown and have recommenced face to face group activity ensuring adherence to government guidelines and facilitating social distancing.*

*A revised programme plan with measures to increase educational visits, sporting activities and residential over the summer months had been planned to increase contact hours missed during lockdown.*

*Due to ongoing restrictions, a request to reduce contact hours from 305 hrs to 265 hrs was approved with SEUPB. Participant numbers remain unchanged. The amendments do not alter the original context of the project or affect the outcomes and impacts of the project.*

*A showcase film on the project delivery during lockdown recently featured on the BCC and Extern social media platforms.*

### **3.7 CYP 4 – Young Advocates**

*Co-Operation Ireland continued to deliver project activity to June 2020 and to date has achieved 53 completed participants from a target of 80. Cohort 3 met the Lord Mayor at City Hall in February 20 and discussed improving council technology to include a youth and family friendly app to promote positive mental health. Due to lockdown, the campaign had to be adapted to online delivery. The Young Advocates carried out online survey on the mental health of young people during lockdown engaging 169 of their peers and producing recommendations on what the Executive and Council should be doing for young people post-lockdown. The recommendations were sent to Cllr and MLAs. A presentation on the campaign took place on 15 September 2020 attended by Cllrs, SCP members, Council Officers and external organisation. Key recommendations are:*

- Communication from Government should be aimed at Young People*
- Need for support from Government / Statutory Agencies regarding Mental Health*
- Explore how Mind Your Mind App should be progressed*
- Young people need opportunities to connect*

*Consideration by members on taking forward and assisting with implementing the recommendations would be welcomed.*

***Recruitment of the 4th Cohort is ongoing and it is anticipated that activity will proceed as planned subject to Government restrictions with an expected completion date of April 2021.***

### **3.8 CYP 5 – NIHE LAN**

***NIHE has focused on re-establishing connections with groups via telephone and digitally, refining target areas, promotion and recruitment flyers. During lockdown, participants were not interested in online delivery of the programme. Recruitment continues to be impacted by COVID 19 and ongoing restrictions within Education Authority youth premises.***

***NIHE have progressed with procurement of facilitators for key project elements. Delivery of the project continues to be closely monitored with a revised Implementation Plan for procurement and recruitment submitted to SEUPB, with further monthly updates.***

***Given the level of recruitment to date, 276 from a target of 900, it is likely that NIHE will seek an extension beyond the current agreement of December 2021. The PEACE IV Manager and TPM will continue to liaise with NIHE to consider a revised implementation plan and extension request initially to April 2022. Without an extension, the risk of not achieving the full outputs is higher. A further report will be presented to the Programme Board and SCP in November 20.***

### **3.9 Financial and Resource Implications**

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

### **3.10 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.”**

A Member stated that he had concerns that the SEUPB appeared to be inflexible in its approach and he was concerned that this might result in participants feeling under pressure to engage face to face which could be contrary to current public health and government guidelines.

The Partnership noted the update and recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources that it adopt the recommendations.

### **Update on PEACE IV - Shared Spaces and Services**

The Programme Manager provided the Partnership with an update in respect of the Shared Spaces and Services (SSS) theme of the Peace IV Local Action Plan.

The officer advised that implementation of both the SSS capital and programming element had continued on a phased basis. Currently the work and activities had concentrated in an around the Springfield Dam, Springfield Park, Paisley Park and the INI site (Section 2

and 3 of the Forth Meadow Community Greenway). She advised that as the project developed the focus would progress to the other sections.

The Partnership was advised that a formal launch of the project had been previously scheduled to be held in May but due to Covid 19 it had been rescheduled to 14th October, due to ongoing restrictions it was likely to be a photo call with a social media launch. The Partnership Members were asked to note that, if appropriate, invitations would be circulated.

The Programme Manager then provided a detailed overview of the specific capital projects. She commenced by reporting that the work at the Springfield Dam site had been demobilised on 20th March and remobilised again on 18th May 2020, compensation for this had been approved by the SEUPB and current costs were estimated at approximately £25,000, this would have to be met from within the existing budget allocation. Works were progressing well, the bridge and modular building installation were both completed and works in respect of the remainder of the causeway and pathways was progressing. Completion of these works was scheduled for November 2020. The process for implementing the £12,000 social clause associated with the Springfield Dam contract had been approved by SEUPB, it focused on addressing antisocial behaviour and providing community outreach work. The Partnership noted that a closed call for invitations had been issued to 10 community groups in the target area.

The Programme Manager reported that in respect of the Peace IV Network Scheme the ITT for a Single Party Framework Contractor for the SSS Network (works package 2) had been issued on 12th June. Three tender responses had been received and the assessment of these was currently underway. The planning application for Section 2 (Glencairn) had been submitted in June and the current status was now valid. The cost estimates for this ambitious project remained high and the news that the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) had recently announced £375,000 of support to the Greenway was very welcome news. Discussions with the Department for Communities (DfC), the Department of Justice (DoJ) and The Executive Office (TEO) regarding wider community benefit and contributions to the project were being progressed and prioritised. Works, landscaping and resurfacing at the gates, in conjunction with INI, had commenced in August and were scheduled for completion in September.

The Partnership noted that the design works in respect of Sections 3-5 (Springfield/Falls Park; Bog Meadows; Broadway/Westlink) were now progressing. The officer highlighted that the major factors key to successful progression of the capital aspects were as follows:

- planning for section 2 Forthriver/DfC needed to be achieved before March 2021;
- planning for section 4 Bog Meadows needed to be achieved before May 2021, subject to agreement with the Ulster Wildlife Trust; and
- the completion date for the overall scheme was now March 2022.

In regard to the Programming aspects of the SSS, the Partnership noted that, where possible, these project had progressed.

The Pilot Youth Civic Education Project had been extended until 31st March 2020, both Clonard Monastery Youth Centre and Forthspring Inter Community had continued to try and maintain contact with the young participants. As a result of Covid 19 restrictions project work had finished on 11th March and detached/outreach work had continued until the end of March. The SEUPB had agreed to accept the level of activity achieved and the project had now closed.

The Lanark Way Fitness Project had been successful in recruiting 20 women from the Clonard Mid Shankill areas, this project had been scheduled to complete at the end of March but as a result of the pandemic it had concluded on 12th March, again the SEUPB had accepted the level of achievement and the project had now closed.

In respect of the Dialogue and Engagement Project the Partnership was advised that Dr Mary Dellenbaugh-Losse, an international facilitator who was experienced in the development of shared spaces, had been contracted to engage and involve community groups/organisations in a process that would accompany the capital development of the Community Greenway. Due to current restrictions, delivery of this element had been progressed virtually and the officer provided an overview of the issues that the dialogue events had focused on.

The Partnership noted that uptake of virtual workshops had been limited, particularly with the PUL communities along the Greenway. In an effort to increase engagement an online survey on the use, running and management of the Greenway had been circulated to all SSS contacts and West and North Area Teams. In addition, a feature on the project was scheduled to appear in the City Matters newsletter.

The Partnership further noted that the following procurement exercises had been progressed:

- Shared History, Heritage and Identity Content / Narratives for Shared Space. Whilst nil responses had been received, a direct / negotiated approach was progressing;
- Shared Space Volunteer Training – recruitment and training of 60 volunteers as Shared Space Ambassadors, Cycle Leads, Heritage Tour Guides, Walking Leads and Nature Guides. The assessment process was currently underway.

The Programme Manager concluded by advising that the development of an animation programme for the opening of Springfield Dam was underway, however, activity was likely to be limited due to ongoing government restrictions.

The Partnership noted the update provided and adopted the report recommendations.

### **Update on PEACE IV - Building Positive Relations**

The Programme Manager provided the Partnership with an overview of the five projects within the Building Positive Relations (BPR) theme. She advised the Members that, despite the current challenges, the Peace IV team had worked with the various delivery agents and all of the projects had now been mobilised. All of the BPR delivery partners had experienced challenges trying to both engage and retain participation levels and had indicated that their ability to achieve their contractual obligations had been significantly impacted as a result of the pandemic.

In relation to BPR1, Cross Community Area Networks, the officer reported that key staff were in post and had commenced engagement with residents/community group prior to lockdown, the recruitment of a Digital/Comms officer was currently underway. Refinement of target CCAN areas had been considered using the delegated authority process. She detailed that the draft Terms of Reference for two external commissioned pieces of work (Good Relations and Place Shaping) were currently awaiting the necessary internal NIHE approvals

prior to SEUPB approval. The Partnership noted that the NIHE internal procurement timeframes were lengthy but following discussions, Peace IV, was now on the priority procurement list.

The Programme Manager advised that in respect of the BPR2, Creative Communities Project, Artist/Heritage in residence had been appointed for three clusters and the re-procurement for artists for two further clusters was underway. Three clusters had yet to be established despite numerous attempts. Two disengaged from the programme prior to lockdown. Subsequently, SEUPB had agreed to thematic clusters - LBGTQ+ and East Belfast Women's Network. The final cluster for South West was to be progressed as the initial thematic proposal of Malone Integrated College was not approved. Modification to target numbers and contact hours had been agreed by SEUPB and reduced from 50 participants per cluster to 33 and contact hours had been reduced from 90 to 60 hours per participant.

In regard to BPR3, Transform for Change Project, the Programme Manager reported that 11 courses had been completed with 128 participants completing formal training. Two remaining courses for Year one were expected to be completed by the end of September. NICVA was currently recruiting participants for Year two online delivery which was due to commence from mid September to December 2020. Areas for Year two would include, Crumlin Rd/Ardoyne/Glenbryn, Duncairn, Lower Old Park/Manor St, Whitewell Rd/Longlands, Suffolk/Lenadoon, Upper Springfield Rd, Falls/Shankill, Short Strand/Inner East and Lower Ormeau/Market.

She asked the Partnership to note that proposals identified for additional cluster areas in South and West Belfast had been approved via written procedure West: Colin – including Dunmurry; Seymour Hill, Lisburn and Milltown and South: - Belvoir; Taughmonagh; Finaghy; Annadale and Ballynafeigh (Belvoir and Taughmonagh requested to be included at South Area Working Group). Following a low uptake during the summer period, it was anticipated that collaborative project workshops (led by BCC) would be resuming again online in September. Clusters had identified key community action plans which would be progressed once the workshops recommenced. The Inner East / Short Strand Cluster was at the advanced stage of progressing the creation of Kid's Zone/Urban Garden (corner of Beechfield Street / Thistle Court – adjacent to interface). The organisation of local community engagement events, City-wide networking events, cross border and UK study visits unfortunately would remain on hold due to current Covid-19 restrictions. She advised that discussions were ongoing with NICVA regarding realigning KPIs, timeframe and payment schedule and advised that a further report would be submitted for consideration in due course.

The Programme Manager advised that, at the time of lockdown, the BPR4, Belfast and the World (BATW) Project, had been running with three groups (Ligional Improvement Association; Shankill Women's Centre Health and Wellbeing group; Ballynafeigh Community Development Association. The Delivery Agent had been able to retain 94% active participation by adopting alternative methods allowing participants to complete the BATW programme via online, the postal service and telephone. Approximately 50% of participants indicated they did not have access to technology, however they had been able to remain engaged on a one-to-one basis with the Delivery Agent. Participants had also engaged with a Virtual Tour of the City Cemetery. Contact hours per participant had been reduced from 33 to 26 hours with no budgetary impact as agreed and approved with SEUPB. The EU study visit trip had been postponed due to Covid-19 and would hopefully be rescheduled. The Partnership noted that the Delivery Agent remained confident that two plays (commemorating International Day of Peace and 1921 Partition) would be able to be held at a later date.

The relation to the final project, BPR5, Supporting Connected Communities - LINC Projects, the officer reported that the LINC project team had continued to engage and support

their core participants on a daily basis through phone calls and online workshops. Of the 90 core participants registered, 67 had remained actively engaged. LINC'S staff were now focusing on the organisation and promotion of a wide range of events and day trips to enhance participation and contact hours throughout the Autumn period.

In regard to the, BPR5, Roma Support Programme, the Programme Manager advised that following SEUPB approval of the rescope and further legal advice a procured approach had been adopted with the tender opportunity advertised on 11th September 2020.

In respect of the BPR5, Traveler Support Programme, the SEUPB had approved the re scoped proposal for direct delivery by Council. The officer advised that the recruitment of the Support Officer was currently being progressed.

The Partnership noted the update, report and adopted the recommendations.

Several Members commended the work of the officers in continuing to progress the implementation of the various Peace IV Projects over the pandemic which had been extremely challenging for all involved.

### **Notice of Motion on Addressing Hate Crime and Intolerance**

With the permission of the Chair, Councillor O'Hara addressed the Partnership to outline the context of the motion presented to the Council at its meeting held on 1st October.

The Partnership then considered the undernoted report:

#### **“1.0 Purpose of Report**

#### **1.1 Notice of Motion from Council on 1st September 2020**

#### **Addressing hate and intolerance across all our communities**

**In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor O'Hara proposed:**

**“The Belfast Agenda has an ambition to be a welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive City for all. While we have made significant progress there are opportunities for enhancing this work. This council recognises the work that has been undertaken particularly by many in the community and voluntary sector to improve relations and realise the Belfast Agenda. However, gaps remain, including through the allocation of funding.**

**This Council recognises the scourge of Hate Crime and Incidents in the City. In 2019/2020 there were 694 Hate Crimes and 758 Hate Incidents reported to Police in the Belfast District Area on the basis of sexual orientation, race and religion. We appreciate that there is a significant underreporting of hate crimes and incidents. There were 98 hate crimes and incidents on the basis of transgender status and 171 crimes and incidents on the basis of disability status across all of Northern Ireland.**

This Council recognises that it has a statutory duty to address Good Relations but also recognises that this is on the limited basis of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion and racial group. This only covers some of the hate crime categories yet we understand that to tackle hate and intolerance we must promote good relations between those groups who experience hate but are not covered by the Good Relations duty.

This Council therefore commits to:

- Supporting the extension of the Good Relations duty to the hate crime categories
- Write to the Executive Office requesting flexibility in its Good Relations funding and request that the Executive Office consider extension of its Good Relations duties to the hate crime categories
- Council officers scope internal mechanisms re good relations and equality and diversity funding to fund more proactive work in addressing hate crime and fulfilling the ambition of the Belfast Agenda.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Groogan.

In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred, without discussion, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. At its meeting on 18th September 2020, the Committee asked that the motion be discussed at the Shared City Partnership.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Partnership is asked to consider the Notice Of Motion on addressing hate and intolerance across all our communities proposed by Councillor O’Hara and seconded by Councillor Groogan at the Council meeting on 1st September 2020.

## **3.0 Main report**

### **Key Issues**

### **Legislative Context**

- 3.1 Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 provides that:

- (1) A public authority shall in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity-
- (a) between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
  - (b) between men and women generally;

- (c) between persons with a disability and persons without; and
- (d) between persons with dependants and persons without

(2) Without prejudice to its obligations under subsection (1), a public authority shall in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

3.2 The good relations duty for Council and all public bodies is governed under Part 2 of the above legislation and only includes the three categories of religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

### **Good Relations and Equality – Belfast City Council**

3.3 The Council launched its new Good Relations Strategy in September 2019. The Strategy outlines a vision for the promotion of a shared Belfast. It is not intended to be an action plan rather a framework to support the delivery of Good Relations in Belfast. Throughout this document, we have used the term Good Relations to describe good community and race relations between people of different community, religious, racial or political backgrounds in keeping with the basis of the legislation. In the Strategy, Good Relations is acknowledged as a core ingredient of the Belfast Agenda and essential to supporting its top priority of delivering inclusive growth and leaving no one behind.

3.4 The Strategy also outlines that good relations is everyone's business and as such should be incorporated into the work of all Departments within Council to ensure that all actions, policies and funding streams have taken into account their impact on good relations. These would also be subject to equality screening to ensure that they took account of the need to promote equality of opportunity to the nine categories under Section 75 Part 1.

3.5 The Good Relations Strategy is being driven forward by the Shared City Partnership, which is a unique body across all local authority areas. The Partnership acts as an example of an integrated approach in mainstreaming good relations into the work of all bodies, including the private sector, across the city. The Partnership is a formal working group of Council and reports directly to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

3.6 One of the mechanisms which Council uses to address good relations is the District Council Good Relations Action Plan which is 75% funded by The Executive Office and to access the funding must be aligned to the Executive's Together: Building a United Community (TBUC) Strategy four outcomes:

- Improving attitudes of children and young people towards those from a different background to them

- Developing shared space
  - Creating safe space; and
  - Promoting positive cultural expression
- 3.7 The Plan is funded on an annual basis and is based on a good relations audit undertaken every 3 years.**
- 3.8 In addition, the Council is responsible for delivering the PEACE IV Local Action Plan which is 100% funded by the Special EU Programmes Body (14.5 million) and is centred on supporting peacebuilding initiatives and improving good relations between the three categories under Section 75, Part 2. The Plan centres on three themes: Children and Young People, Shared Spaces and Services and Building Positive Relations. It will conclude by December 2022.**
- 3.9 The Council also has an Equality and Diversity Unit, which has been a regional leader on our work on Disability. The Unit hosts an external Equality Consultative Forum , which includes membership from across the Section 75 categories on new policies, programmes and initiatives being brought forward by the Council. The Council has gained recognition in marking specific occasions such as International Women’s Day, Pride, Intercultural Week, Refugee Awareness Week and has a range of internal staff fora, such as the LGBTQ+ group and the Women’s Network.**
- 3.10 Work around Equality and Good Relations comprises of two general areas: compliance and developmental. It should be noted that Council is required to implement an Equality Scheme, Action Plan and conduct an audit of inequalities. This is reported to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland.**
- 3.11 The Good Relations Work of the Council, the Equality Consultative Forum and the Council’s various networks and support structures, are largely centred on an approach that is grounded in engagement, relationship building, awareness raising and promotion.**
- 3.12 All of this work, while not directly designed to tackle hate crime, nevertheless should have outcomes that would impact in a reduction in hate crime. Tackling Hate Crime is one of the key outcomes in creating safe and shared spaces for all. However, this primarily focusses on the areas of racial background, religious belief and political opinion, and is a process of engagement and relationship building.**
- 3.13 The work of Safer Cities and certain aspects of Equality, is centred around enforcement and compliance with the law. Ultimately prosecuting hate crimes is the responsibility of law enforcement.**

### Review of Hate Crime Legislation in NI

- 3.14 Judge Marrinan is currently conducting a review into the current legislation on Hate Crime in Northern Ireland.
- 3.15 As part of the Terms Of Reference, the Review will consider and make recommendations on a number of areas including a workable and agreed definition of what is a hate crime; and whether new categories of hate crime should be created for characteristics such as gender and any other characteristics (which are not currently covered. The characteristics presently protected under hate crime law in Northern Ireland are race, religion, sexual orientation and disability.
- 3.16 The report on Review of Hate Crime is due in November 2020.
- 3.17 As the Plans and Programmes funded through the Executive and SEUPB for Good Relations work are governed by the current Section 75 Part 2 legislation, Members may acknowledge that it is unlikely these would be extended to cover the current hate crime categories – sexual orientation and disability.
- 3.18 It is also worth mentioning that the current Review of Hate Crime legislation may recommend that other characteristics be covered under hate crime legislation which may necessitate further discussion in future.

### Way Forward

- 3.19
- Supporting the extension of the Good Relations duty to the hate crime categories
  - Write to the Executive Office requesting flexibility in its Good Relations funding and request that the Executive Office consider extension of its Good Relations duties to the hate crime categories
- 3.20 Given that the good relations duty is a legislative matter as outlined above and that the current Good Relations Programme and its associated funding are based on this legislation, Council could not use this funding to support groups which fall outside the specified categories.
- 3.21 However, should Members be in agreement, Council could write to The Executive to ask what plans are in place to support those groups which fall outside of the current good relations duty and if consideration is being given to extension of the categories in line with the Hate Crime legislation.
- 3.22
- Council officers scope internal mechanisms re good relations and equality and diversity funding to fund more

**proactive work in addressing hate crime and fulfilling the ambition of the Belfast Agenda.”**

- 3.23 The Council convenes through Safer Cities, a Belfast Hate Crime Steering Group with the relevant key partners and projects and delivery of hate crime related projects are delivered under the auspices of the Belfast PCSP with an associated budget.**
- 3.24 If Members were in agreement, Officers could look at the above and other different strands of funding across Council which could assist in funding more proactive work relating to Hate Crime and bring a report back to Committee in due course.**

#### **Financial and Resource Implications**

- 3.25 There are no direct resource implications in terms of staff time or additional costs associated with this request at present.**

#### **Equality or Good Relations Implications**

- 3.26 All Council Strategies and policies are screened to look at the impact of such a policy or Strategy on groups listed under Section 75. The District Council Good Relations Programme and the PEACE IV Programme have been screened previously.”**

Following consideration, the Partnership agreed:

- to write to The Executive Office seeking to ascertain what plans it had in place to support those groups which fell outside of the current good relations duty and to request that it consider an extension of the categories in line with the Hate Crime legislation; and
- that officers look at the Hate Crime Steering Group convened by Safer Cities and other different strands of funding across Council which could assist in funding more proactive work relating to Hate Crime and submit a report back to the Partnership in due course.

#### **Partnership Members Update on Good Relations Issues relating to Covid 19**

The Good Relations Manager stated that she would welcome any input from the Members in regard to how the organisations that they represented had responded to the various issues that arose as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic but particularly in regard to Good Relations.

Ms. Ann Marie White, British Red Cross, commended the work of the Council in respect of its response to support refugees and asylum seekers over the pandemic. Whilst she welcomed the immediate intervention, she stated that she would be keen to ensure that this support was maintained going forward and that the Council would continue to identify potential future needs and to provide ongoing support to ensure the integration of refugee and asylum seeker communities in Belfast.

Mrs. O. Barron, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, advised that every year Belfast Trust prepared a Winter Plan to deal with the additional demand for unscheduled care. This year this extra pressure would be further compounded by the likely impact of a second wave of Covid-19. She explained that the Trust had developed a Resilience Plan which brought together what the Trust could do to address winter pressures coupled with those arising from COVID-19. This was currently with the Minister for Health for approval and would be published in due course.

The Partnership noted the update provided.

### **Update on Membership**

The Good Relations Manager provided the Members with an update in respect of the membership of the Shared City Partnership.

She advised the Members that Superintendent Peter Brannigan had been nominated to replace Kellie McMillan as the PSNI representative on the Partnership and would hopefully be available for the next meeting.

The Members were also advised that a replacement was currently being sought for Mr. S. Dallas who had been The Executive Office representation on the Shared City Partnership.

The Good Relations Manager reminded the Partnership that it had 2 representatives from the faith sector, one of which was fulfilled by the Interfaith Forum. In addition, she reminded the Members that the following individuals had been selected to represent the sector on a rotational basis, in line with the Council's four year term, as follows:

- Year 1 – Church of Ireland – Hilary McClay
- Year 2 – Catholic Church – Father Eugene O'Neill
- Year 3 – Presbyterian Church – Karen Jardine
- Year 4 – Methodist Church – Rev. Andrew Irvine

Father Eugene O'Neill was due to replace Mrs. H. McClay and would take up the position at the next meeting.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Partnership, thanked those Members who had, for various different reasons, stepped down. The Good Relations Manager advised that letters would be sent to those members whose term of service had been completed, thanking them for their commitment for good relations within the City.

The Partnership noted the update.

Chairperson