

## SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

MONDAY 10th MAY, 2021

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

Members present: Councillor Kyle (Chairperson); and  
Councillors Lyons and O'Hara.

External Members: Ms. B. Arthurs, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Mrs. O. Barron, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;  
Mr. C. Gardner, Good Relations, TEO;  
Mrs. J. Hawthorne, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;  
Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council;  
Mr. I. McLaughlin, Community and Voluntary Sector; and  
Superintendent G. Pollock, PSNI.

In attendance: Ms. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager;  
Ms. D. McKinney, Programme Manager;  
Mrs. K. McCrum, Democratic Services Officer; and  
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

#### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Councillors M. Kelly and Magennis and Mr. M. O'Donnell, Miss G. Duggan, Father. E. O'Neill and Ms. A. M. White.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 12th April, 2021 were taken as read and signed as correct.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

Mrs. B. Arthurs declared an interest in item 3 (d), namely, Peace IV Updates – update on BPR Theme in that she is an employee of the Forward South Partnership, which acts as the delivery agent for two of the Peace IV projects, as there was no discussion on the agenda item she was not required to leave the meeting.

#### **Membership of Partnership**

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. C. Gardner, Good Relations, TEO to his first meeting and on behalf of the Partnership asked that its thanks be conveyed to Mr. R. Cushnie for his contribution.

Noted.

#### **Congratulations**

The Chairperson extended, on behalf of the Partnership, congratulations to Councillor M. Kelly and her family on the recent birth of their daughter Charlotte.

Noted.

## Peace IV Updates

The Good Relations Manager drew the Members' attention to the following four Peace IV update reports and reminded the Partnership that, as agreed at the April meeting, these were all for notation to enable the remainder of the meeting to be dedicated to agenda item 5: Workshop - Facilitated discussion on how to address sectarianism in the City.

Noted.

### Update on Secretariat

The Partnership noted that with the relaxation of Health Protection Restrictions, planning for project recovery was now progressing, a business case outlining the anticipated level of achievement of projects with an extended timeframe was currently being prepared. Once available, this would be considered by the Programme Board and Senior Managers prior to submission to the SEUPB and it would be tabled at the next meeting of the Partnership for noting.

The delivery of project activity continued to be impacted by government restrictions and recovery was very gradual with delivery partners reporting lower engagement levels online.

Planning was ongoing for the following events scheduled for May and June. These events would be held virtually, after which it was anticipated that face to face delivery would be able to recommence:

<b>Month</b>	<b>Events</b>
May	<b>Culture Café - The Polish Community</b> Tuesday 11th May  <b>Webinar - Working Together at Interfaces</b> Tuesday 18th May
June	<b>Webinar - Media's Role in Peace Building</b> Wednesday 9th June  <b>Culture Café - The Chinese Community</b> Wednesday 16th June

A preliminary draft Audit Report from AGRS had been received and was currently being reviewed. A management response would then be compiled and the final report circulated to the Members in due course.

The financial position had not changed from the previous reporting period. The Period 25 (November 2020 - January 2021) claim, totaling £561,478, was currently being verified by the SEUPB.

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

## **Update on Children and Young People's (CYP) Theme**

The Working Group considered the undernoted 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 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 and Resources Committee that they note the contents of the report and related appendices.

### **3.0 Main report**

#### **Project Updates**

Delivery of project activity is continuing where possible and the level of activity and risks are reviewed monthly with SEUPB, refer to Appendix I CYP Risk Tracker.

### **3.1 CYP 1 – Tech Connects**

#### **GIGA Training (Afterschool's and Digital Arts Academies (Tech Camps) (6-16 Yr. Olds)**

Tech camps delivered virtually during the Easter period were successful, albeit with reduced numbers from 81 CYP registered for face to face delivery to 20 CYP participating when the activity was moved online. Lack of access to equipment / internet continues to affect participation.

The Delivery Partner is now promoting summer camps, via GIGA Trainings website. The Digital Arts Academy camps will run from 26 July – 25 August with the intention of delivering 50 young people per camp, per week for ages 6-11 and 12-16. Suitable venues to enable social distancing such as Girdwood and Fifth Element are being explored.

The handover of the project equipment from Council to the delivery partner, including laptops has now been completed.

#### **Belfast Metropolitan College (Digital Insights Programme) (17-24 yr. olds)**

BMC is continuing to deliver sessions online, Phase 1 is a taster session and completion of hours will be progressed across Phase II & III. Depending on the needs of the learners, the structure of the sessions may be a full or half day with hours recorded at each session to ensure the required level of contact hours is met.

The current cohort has completed taster sessions and are progressing to further activity, which includes mentor support, which will contribute towards achievement of the contact time required.

The Delivery Partner has highlighted challenges in engaging young people in this age category and at present is progressing with targeted recruitment.

### **3.2 CYP 2 - Playing our Part in the City**

Active Community Network is currently engaging in live recruitment and members should note that in line with delegated authority approvals, a change to the delivery platform to include online sessions for 6-8 hours, with both parents and young people was agreed by the Programme Board members and SEUPB. The dual identity sessions will take place virtually between May to July 2021. This approved request will enable participation help develop rapport and relationships with the new Year 3 group and also aid Active Communities Network to recapture some of the time lost due to lockdown restrictions. The delivery partner has advised they will also be utilising the weekends in order to achieve the required contact hours required for both parents & young people.

### **3.3 CYP3 – On the Right Track – Sports and Personal Change elements**

Relaxation in restrictions effective from 30 April, enable sports activity, squad training as well as competitive outdoor sports to resume. Interim arrangements to progress project activity are under consideration whilst the recruitment exercise for a new Project Officer is progressing. Discussions with the contracted delivery agent for OCN delivery are taking place to realign deliverables and timeframes until a replacement officer is in post.

An indicative date of the 24 May has been set for the return of indoor group exercise and training (numbers informed by the venue). These allowances should prove advantageous for the programme in order to progress with delivery of current participants and also recruit new participant clubs.

#### **Personal Change**

The final cohort of 19 young people continue to engage virtually at present with a focus on one to one mentoring, to increase confidence to engage in the upcoming group work sessions.

As face to face delivery has been lost from January – March 2021, the time commitment per participant may be challenging. Extern is keen to deliver as close to the required 305 contact hours as possible by the contract end date of December 2021. The level of achievement of contact hours will be reviewed following the next quarterly claim.

If all of the current group achieve the required contact hours by end of Dec 21, the full target of 42 will be delivered by Extern.

The impact of the programme has been extremely positive, with one young person receiving the OCN Third Sector Learner of the Year 2020 award for their hard work across the 11 OCN categories of the programme. This young person had been inspirational throughout lockdown, helping the local community with organising street clean-ups and making up food parcels for delivery.

#### **3.4 CYP 4 –Young Advocates**

The Delivery Partner, Co-Operation Ireland is planning to commence delivery from May/June 2021 through to December 2021. A change in delivery approach to condense the delivery of training primarily through residential based work was agreed by the Programme Board and SEUPB. The need for the change was based on the feedback from the current partner organisations across Belfast including R City, Saints & Holy Trinity YC, and East Belfast Alternatives. There is no impact to the 60 hours contact time or to the target of 80 participants.

Cooperation Ireland will be adhering to the Youth Restart guidelines and ensure appropriate safety measures are in place in order to keep community transmission low. All participants will download COVID NI app and close contact records will be maintained. The delivery agent is also considering the use of antigen test kits etc to protect participants.

#### **3.5 CYP 5 – NIHE Local Area Network Partner Delivery**

NIHE continues to plan for the delivery of activity once further relaxation of restrictions are announced. Members are requested to note Programme Board approval for in person multi-cultural events (subject to Government restrictions) for four of the CYP networks that were not involved in the remote delivery pilot in December. The four relevant networks are: South Belfast, Southwest Belfast, West Belfast 1 and West Belfast 2. This proposal was informed by feedback from community youth partners following the remote delivery of multi-cultural events to the two networks (East Belfast and North Belfast). NIHE propose to deliver the events in-person once public health restrictions allow.

Concern regarding the level of engagement and delays in recruitment and procurement has been highlighted to Senior Officers in NIHE and a revised implementation plan, supporting budget and procurement plan are to be submitted by NIHE.

NIHE has highlighted the lack of incentives within the project as a potential barrier in the recruitment and retention of participants, particularly given that other cross-community youth programmes offer participants incentives such as a weekly cash allowance.

Following consultation with community youth partners regarding incentive options, a request was submitted to SEUPB to provide hoodies, which include programme and Council logos, as a small incentive for participants and groups on a pilot basis. Members should note that this request has been approved and the effectiveness of the initiative will be kept under review.

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

The SEUPB verification of the Period 25 claim totalling £104,574 has progressed to the second stage review with reimbursement expected to follow in due course. Preparation of the next claim and reporting for Period 26 1 February 2021 - 30 April 2021 is progressing.

### **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. The Equality Consultative Forum was further consulted on 18 November 2020.”

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

### **Update on Shared Spaces and Services (SSS) Theme**

The Programme Manager provided an update on the progress made in respect of the SSS theme, within the Peace IV Local Action Plan. She advised that, as with the other projects, the ongoing government restrictions continued to impact the implementation of both the Shared Space and Services (SSS) capital and programming elements.

The Partnership noted that the following capital projects which were being undertaken as part of the initiative, including:

- **Springfield Dam**

The first completed section at Springfield Dam continued to be well used by the public. Snagging and operational issues were being progressed as they arose.

The site was regularly patrolled by Belfast City Council SNOs and the PSNI. The PSNI recently acknowledged that the Youth Outreach Workers from the Clonard Monastery Youth Centre and the Forthspring Inter Community Group had been instrumental in diffusing antisocial behaviour involving young people during the recent interface tensions. The support for Youth Outreach through the social value clause had ended on 30th April but the area would continue to be supported by existing local initiatives.

Local Primary Schools close to the Springfield Dam had been invited to submit project proposals for Bio-Diversity projects as part of the remaining social value clause associated with the Springfield Dam.

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

The construction contractor McQuillans had still to submit a programme of works and commencement dates for each of the sections. It was anticipated the contractor would be on site in Section 1 (Clarendon / Glencairn) by the end of May 2021.

Planning for the official Project Launch was ongoing with an indicative date of 20th May. The launch would be relatively low key with representatives from all the funders, the SCP and the Council invited to attend.

Planning of publicity around the launch and also the sectional commencement dates were being progressing to ensure all stakeholders and the public were kept informed. Engagement sessions and webinar events were being prioritised to provide regular updates.

A Management and Maintenance Working Group to review the whole life costs and necessary maintenance arrangement had been established.

In regard to programming, the Partnership was informed that all aspects of programming were progressing where possible.

**Remaining Programmes:**

- **Shared History, Heritage and Identity Content / Narratives for Shared Space**

The delivery partners continued to experience difficulty engaging with larger groups, virtually, and establishing sessions where participants could consistently attend. PEACE IV had assisted by identifying older people's groups in North and West Belfast, which already met virtually and might be interested in participating in the project. With the anticipated easing of COVID restrictions and the weather improving, it was hoped that this would enable face-to-face sessions in the Council's parks or other open spaces.

Regular meetings involving, PEACE IV, Physical Programmes, McAdam Design and the Project Lead, continued regularly.

The Programme Board had agreed that a sub-group of the SSS Steering Committee should be established. The sub group would review draft narratives that were to be included on the information panels along the Greenway, with the final narratives presented for approval to the PEACE IV Programme Board and Shared City Partnership.

- **Shared Space Volunteer Training**

Following two unsuccessful tender calls for the delivery of Volunteer Training (Shared Space ambassadors, history guides and nature guides) a further tender call had been opened for submissions with a closing date of Monday 17th May.

To date, 16 volunteers had been recruited for the cycle and walking lead training. Virtual sessions, focusing on course induction, monitoring and

evaluation and mediation skills, had commenced on 27th April. It was anticipated that face to face training would commence in May 2021.

- **Dialogue and Engagement Project (young people, residents and BME groups)**

The request for quotations to progress the dialogue and engagement works had closed on 2 April, with only one response. The assessment process and SEUPB approval to award the contract had been received and the issue of the formal contract was being progressed.

The tendering process for the facilitation and development of a governance / management model for the Forth Meadow Community Greenway closed on 30 April.

- **Springfield Dam activities**

Planning for activities with the anticipated easing of COVID restrictions was progressing, provisional plans included establishing a Men's Shed, on a pilot basis to commence in June 2021.

- **Modular Building**

In line with other council facilities, the building remained closed due to the Health Protection restrictions. Compliance checks had commenced on 1st April with Legionella sampling, fire risk assessment and emergency lighting checks all having been undertaken. The building was now included on the assets list and maintenance contract, which would ensure regular checks and maintenance when required. Options for interim management arrangements for the facility were under consideration.

The SEUPB had progressed the Period 25 claim totaling £196,726.36 to the second stage of the verification process.

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

### **Update on Building Positive Relations (BPR) Theme**

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 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 and Resources Committee that they note the contents of the report and related appendices.**

### **3.0 Main report**

#### **Key Issues**

As Project Delivery Agents/Partners plan ahead and move into recovery readiness, recent unrest in some areas of the City has proved to be a challenging working environment affecting some delivery. Appendix I provides detail of the Risk Tracker as at April 2021.

### **3.1 BPR1 – Cross Community Area Networks**

Due to recent unrest, the project team have experienced levels of disengagement from local networks particularly in the West and East of the City. All efforts are continuing to maintain contact and retain interest across the CCAN areas.

The appointed facilitators await dates to deliver the Shared History and Mental Health & Wellbeing workshops whilst the Programme Manager and GRO's attempt to re-engage area networks.

The Programme Manager is exploring with the newly appointed deliverers of the GR programme if relationship building can commence earlier than schedule in the attempt to re-engage resident and community groups.

The ITT for the Place Visioning programme remains under NIHE internal review and as such the advertising of the public tender opportunity is now anticipated mid-late May 2021.

Concern regarding the level of engagement, recruitment of participants and procurement has been highlighted to Senior Officers in NIHE and a revised implementation plan and procurement plan are to be submitted by NIHE.

### **3.2 BPR2 – Creative Communities Project**

The Artist/Heritage residency programme is planning to recommence face-to-face delivery in the Woodvale/Ardoyne Cluster with smaller participant numbers attending. The Creative Communities team continues to engage with the Steering group to encourage increased participation.

Virtual delivery of sessions for the Shankill/Clonard Cluster is successfully continuing with 32 participants across 4 groups. Divis/Lower Shankill, St Malachy's/Albert Foundry FC and Carlisle Circus Clusters are currently planning for face-to-face group work sessions. Participant interest/numbers have been affected by COVID sickness and restrictions and lack of online momentum due to a lack of digital capacity over the last 4 months.

It is expected that the 3 remaining clusters (East Belfast Women's Network and LGBTQ+ and Malone Integrated College) will commence over the summer period into early September.

### **3.3 BPR3 – Transform for Change Project**

**Transformative Leadership Programme:** Spring cohorts (Jan – Mar 2021) have completed the Leadership Training element with an anticipated 90% participant completion rate subject to verification. Local project development continues across the City and include Community Gardens, Art installation, Branding and Identity, Intergenerational events and Multi-Cultural festivals. Development of project plans continue on line while Cluster participants attempt to schedule convening face-to-face to further implement projects subject to Government guidance and legalisation.

Clusters in North and Upper Springfield Road have commenced early April with Colin, Belvoir/Taughmonagh/Finaghy Clusters commencing in May.

Local community engagement events and cross border/UK study visits remain on hold due to current restrictions. Planning of a virtual citywide ‘networking’ event for 10th June is progressing. The event will focus on innovative, transformative models of collaborative approaches to Peace Building and will include local case studies and key note speakers from Scotland. Members are encouraged to participate and invitations will be issued in due course.

### **3.4 BPR4 – Belfast and the World (BATW)**

Delivery of activity to two cohorts from Ligoniel and Ballynafeigh is now in the final stages and is scheduled to complete w/c 3rd May with anticipated 35 participants.

A virtual civic led event with Eamon Phoenix entitled ‘Partitioning of Ireland and the creation of Northern Ireland’ was held on the 6th April, with 55 people participating. The second event is anticipated to be held early Autumn, again marking 1921 through a Play focusing on Partition.

The online course (recruited via an open call) continues successfully with regular attendance. Further open calls are anticipated in late May and early autumn with a blended learning approach (online; face-to face and residential were permissible).

Consideration of alternative visits to the EU study visits continue to be explored. Sites of interest, related to the project content, under consideration are the North Coast, Cavan and Cork.

### **3.5 BPR5 – Supporting Connected Communities - LINCS Projects**

Engagement with Neighbourhood Participatory Forums in all areas continues as they coordinate and encourage walks in local parks and areas of interest. This has reconnected the participants as well as showcasing places of interest at local level, e.g. Connswater

Greenway, Titanic Quarter, the newly opened Springfield Dam and the Peace Walls.

The Delivery Partner is currently in planning phase for up and coming events/sessions/workshops as the easing of restrictions are announced.

#### **3.5.1 BPR5 – Traveller Project - Supporting Connected Communities**

The Traveller Support Officer continues to mobilise the project and develop links with organisations/key agencies that support the Traveller community.

Planning for a virtual project launch, via social media, is underway and scheduled for the end of May 2021. The development of the tender call for the delivery of the Traveller Support Hub is at the final stage with an anticipated supplier appointed in July 2021.

Planning for an Intercultural event during the summer is progressing and it is expected that Culture and Heritage workshops will commence in early Autumn.

#### **3.5.2 BPR5 – Roma Project - Supporting Connected Communities**

The Roma Support Hub helpline is live and the opportunity for face-to-face appointments will commence once the Delivery Partner's premises has re-opened. The Capacity Worker is now in post and is currently establishing an engagement plan.

A 3rd recruitment exercise to fill the post of Advice worker is progressing with interviews taking place w/c 26th April. The Building Positive Relations and Intercultural events programmes are anticipated to commence over the summer period where permissible.

#### **3.6 BPR6 – St. Comgalls**

SLA agreements with Copius Consulting's community partners have been finalised and are awaiting signatories.

To date, 24 adults have been recruited to the programme and engagement is ongoing for the recruitment of young people. The workshop framework has been agreed and workshops are expected to commence mid- end of May 2021.

Planning of a project launch is progressing; it is likely the launch will be in the form of a photo call and press release due to current restrictions.

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

All BPR delivery partners regularly review delivery methods and contractual deliverables to determine the level and impact of COVID 19 crisis.

**SEUPB Verification of the Period 25 claim totalling £260,178 has progressed to the second stage.**

**3.8 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 Equality Consultative Forum was further consulted on 18 November 2020.”**

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

**Council's Approach to Community Grants 2021/22**

The Partnership considered a report which provided an update in regard to the proposed Community Grant Funding Approach for 2021/22 and noted that the Council had approved the Micro and Medium Grant Scheme grant approach, including the recommendation that the micro grant programme could be paused and re-opened as needed, based on demand and the available budget.

The Members were advised that an amount of £111,000 had been set aside in the Good Relations Action Plan 2021/22 towards Grant Aid addressing good relations outcomes. Officers were currently awaiting confirmation in regard to the amount of funding from The Executive Office.

Noted.

**Request for a Presentation by Blu Zebra on the research into Council's Response to the Covid Pandemic**

The Partnership agreed that representatives from Blu Zebra attend a future meeting of the Shared City Partnership to present its findings into the Council's response to the Covid – 19 Pandemic.

**Workshop - Facilitated discussion on how to address Sectarianism in the City**

The Chairperson welcomed Dr. Duncan Morrow who had agreed to facilitate discussion on how to address sectarianism in the City.

It was agreed that an update report in respect of the discussion and finding of the workshop would be submitted to the June meeting for the Partnership's consideration.

Chairperson