

SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

MONDAY 6th SEPTEMBER, 2021

MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor O'Hara (Deputy Chairperson); and
Alderman Rodgers.

External Members: Ms. B. Arthurs, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Mr. C. Gardner, Good Relations, TEO;
Mrs. J. Hawthorne, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;
Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council;
Ms. K. Jardine, Faith Sector;
Ms. G. Mornhinweg, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;
Mr. M. McBride, Education Authority;
Mr. I. McLaughlin, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Superintendent G. Pollock, PSNI; and
Ms. A. Roberts, Community and Voluntary Sector.

In attendance: Ms. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager;
Ms. D. McKinney, PEACE IV 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 the Chairperson, Councillor Kyle, and Councillor M. Kelly and Mr. J. Donnelly, Miss. G Duggan, Mr. S. Hamilton, Mr. M. O'Donnell and Ms. A. M. White.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 9th August, 2021 were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

Mrs. B. Arthurs declared an interest in item 4 (d), namely, Peace IV Updates – update on BPR Theme, in that she was an employee of the Forward South Partnership, which acts as the delivery agent for one of the Peace IV projects

Update from Workshop on Sectarianism

The Good Relation Manager drew the Members' attention to the notes from discussions held at the May meeting regarding Sectarianism in the City, where Members had agreed a number areas to be progressed. She reminded the Members that, at the June meeting of the Partnership, it had been agreed that a workshop would be convened to consider the outcomes from the facilitated discussion in more detail. In the interim, as requested, the workshop analysis and priorities had been conveyed to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and details of the discussion had been referred to the Living Here Board.

As previously agreed, officers were currently liaising with the Youth Service seeking it to present on best practice and to consider a potential project that might help to develop a better understanding of politics for young people.

She reported that in line with the update, the Education Authority had been invited to today's meeting to look further at Best Practice and support that the Youth Services offers young people which could be supported to on a more long-term basis as opposed to crisis intervention. Accordingly, Partnership Member, Mr. Mark McBride, Senior Youth Officer with the Education Authority Youth Service was invited to present.

Noted.

Presentation from Education Authority

Mr. McBride commenced by advising that the Youth Service fell within the directorate of Children and Young People's Services and he outlined that the Priorities for Youth directed that the two strategic aims of youth work within education were as follows:

- To contribute to raising standards for all and closing the performance gap between the highest and lowest achieving young people by providing access to enjoyable, non-formal learning opportunities that help them to develop enhanced social and cognitive skills and overcome barriers to learning; and
- To continue to improve the non-formal learning environment by creating inclusive, participative settings in which the voice and influence of young people are championed, supported and evident in the design, delivery and evaluation of programmes.

He advised that the Youth Service deployed its resources in the following 4 key areas:

- **Universal Provision** (Static Youth Centres);
- **Early Intervention** (Detached Work, PSD Groups, Participation structures, Global Service, Stay Connected);
- **Targeted Intervention** (SPARK, Belong, Youth Volunteer Academy, Learning Together Programme KS4); and
- **Specialist Services** (ENGAGE, FLARE).

He then proceeded to take the Members through the Street Based Youth Work Provision Models which included Mobile Youth Work, Youth Work Outreach, Detached Youth Work, Safety Focused Youth Work and Event or Incident Response Youth Work and provided an overview of how each of these worked operationally on the ground.

In terms of the Feet on the Street Programme, the representative advised that this was a Belfast PCSP funded programme designed to respond to increased levels of anti-social behaviour in identified hotspots across the city. He explained that Youth Units applied to receive provider status by fulfilling the key criteria of:

- Ability to deploy staff in a street setting;
- All staff have received detached training; and
- A proven track record of demonstrating positive outcomes for Children and Young People in a street setting.

At a weekly multi-agency planning meeting for street-based work in Belfast, it was determined by the Senior Youth Officers based on assessed and emerging need where feet

on the street responses were required. All relevant youth units who had nominated the area where work was required would then be offered the opportunity to respond.

The representative concluded by detailing the following four gaps and roles that the Education Authority had identified and where it was felt that the Shared City Partnership could possibly assist:

- The provision of shared and safe outdoor spaces for young people;
- Provision of support in the aftermath of a situation;
- Strength based messaging platforms; and
- Ensuring that the voice of young people was valued.

During discussion the lack of volunteers and capacity to work with young people was highlighted and the stress that this was putting on the entire sector, it was felt that the pandemic had only helped to exacerbate this situation as many volunteers had reassessed their own family situations.

It was also highlighted that the public and press were often very quick to highlight issues where young people had been involved in antisocial/negative behaviour but, sadly, were not a quick to recognise the many positive achievements of young people.

Detailed discussion ensued regarding the possibility of establishing a directory of all funded youth services which it was felt would help to provide a more joined up and cohesive approach and avoid duplication of services. It was acknowledged that such a mapping exercise would be useful, however, both the Education Authority representative and Good Relations Manager highlighted the volume of work in drawing up such a directory. Following further discussion, the Members agreed that the Good Relations Manager would seek initial views from the Living Here Board to see how any such mapping exercise could be progressed.

The Education Authority representative agreed to forward information regarding Youth Service current work and programmes to the Community Relations Council representative who agreed to highlight it during Good Relations Week.

The Partnership noted that, as previously agreed and to ensure that discussions continued, a further facilitated workshop would be convened before the next meeting which would specifically look at the four gaps and roles that the Education Authority had identified where it was felt that the Shared City Partnership could possibly assist.

The Deputy Chairperson thanked the representative for his informative presentation.

Peace IV Update Reports

Update on Secretariat

The PEACE IV Programme Manager provided the Members with an update in respect of the Secretariat activity associated with the implementation of the Peace IV Local Action Plan.

The Members were advised that the Revised Letters of Offer (LoO) to extend the delivery of all three themes to 31st December 2022 had been received and accepted by the Council. The relevant contract addendums to extend the delivery timeframes of delivery partners, as outlined in the Business Recovery Plan and previously agreed by the SCP, were currently being progressed by the Council's Legal Department. On issue of the addendums,

delivery partners would be required to submit revised implementation plans to ensure the achievement of targets and outcomes.

In terms of Project Delivery, project modifications to enable the delivery partners to progress activity were continuing to be considered under delegated authority. Members were therefore requested to note that the modifications, as detailed in the Appendix below, had been agreed by the Programme Board, via written procedure in August 2021.

The officer then provided a brief update regarding the proposed Programme Workplan. She reported that the content for The International Day of Peace event, scheduled to be held on 21st September at Springfield Dam, was currently being finalised. Children and young people were due to contribute within the theme 'Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world'.

An Italian Culture Café to celebrate the diversity of Belfast was also being scheduled for Good Relations Week.

She reported that recruitment for the Building Positive Relations Thematic Project Manager was progressing with interviews scheduled to be held next week. The Project Development Officer Post was also becoming vacant and would be recruited in due course.

The Partnership was informed that the SEUPB had reimbursed all claims up to and including Period 25 claims totalling £4,214,386.

The Period 26 claims for all themes with a combined value of £569,339 were currently being verified by the SEUPB.

Vouching and verification of Claim Period 27, with an estimated value of £516,496, was progressing for submission to SEUPB by 1st September 2021. The total value of spend in the programme to date was £5,300,222

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

Appendix I

Peace IV Programme Board - 11 August 2021 – Project Modifications

No	Theme	Project	Delivery Partner	Proposal	Recommendation to Board
1	CYP	CYP1: Tech Connects	Belfast Met	Members are asked to consider & approve the inclusion of 16 years/school leaver age in order to increase participation/registrations. This has been considered by SEUPB and noted on SCP papers.	Recommend approval to include this age category. Approval granted already from SEUPB and noted by SCP.
2	CYP	CYP5: Local Area Networks	NIHE	NIHE LAN Programme has faced difficulties reengaging early programme (2018) participants following lapse in	Recommend approval subject to approval from SEUPB.

				engagement due to Covid. They have asked to reclassify some participants who completed early programme residentials from 'Core' to 'Peer' (ie. completed 30 hours) in order to complete out and to recoup costs from these residentials.	
3	BPR	BPR3: TFC	NICVA	In order to progress TFC collaborative projects component of BPR3, PIV wishes to explore options for additional support to be provided by NICVA and partners. This has been discussed with procurement and it fits within NICVA/partners' initial contract spec. PIV seeks approval for delegated authority for Officers to discuss additional support with NICVA and partners, up to 3.5 days per area to progress collaborative projects.	Recommend approval to delegate authority to Officers to discuss additional support with NICVA/ partners.
4	BPR	BPR3: TFC	NICVA	In order to complete out Autumn cohorts, NICVA are seeking approval to accept 21 hours contact time per participant (in place of 30 hours). This has previously been approved for other cohorts also affected by Covid pressures.	Recommend approval, subject to approval from SEUPB
5	BPR	BPR5: Roma	Forward South Partnership	SLA arrangement between Forward South and Advice NI (no legal arrangement with BCC). Discussions with Legal and IG confirm that Schedule of Processing needs to be revised. More information to be submitted by FSP soon (staff absence).	Recommend approval for delegated authority for Officers to liaise directly with Legal, once information is provided by FSP, and advise Board via written procedure.
6	SSS	SSS: Interpretative Panels	Mediation NI	PIV is seeking approval for the Shared History narratives for Section 1 which have been gathered by Mediation NI from local residents, and to agree to	Recommend consideration of the narratives by SCP for approval.

				progress on to SCP for approval.	
7	Secretariat	Secretariat	Secretariat	PIV is seeking approval to continue to review the standing down of Thematic Steering Groups on a monthly basis, due to continuing work pressures	Recommend approval to continue to stand down and review on a monthly basis

Children and Young People (CYP) Update

The Partnership 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 & Resources Committee that they note the contents of the report.

3.0 Main report

Project Updates

3.1 CYP 1 – Tech Connects

GIGA Training (Afterschool’s & Digital Arts Academies (Tech Camps)

Digital Summer camps are progressing with strong participation for each age group as follows:

6-11 Year Olds:	211
12-16 Year Olds:	94
Total	305

Feedback remains positive and daily blogs are updated with content completed by the young people following the group sessions.

Morrow Communications attended each session to collect video content for each age category and complete a video to encourage recruitment as well as capture participants’ journey.

The delivery of further Tech Camps during Halloween school break in October 2021 is currently being planned. This will provide the opportunity to further increase participation and encourage more young people to take part during half term closure.

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

Members are advised whilst there have been no further workshops or training sessions in the programme, work has continued to revise the action plan and develop marketing materials for the project.

A new action plan for the project has been developed and work on engagement and recruitment continues with the deliver partner Bytes – workshops are scheduled to commence in September – preparation for this training is underway.

The Delivery Partner continues to reach out to community, statutory and youth groups to raise awareness and have connected with employers to engage current participants as part of the mentoring element of the programme.

3.2 CYP 2 - Playing our Part in the City

Active Communities Network has reported the delivery of Year 3 is fully recruited with both young people and parents. ACN is now progressing towards completion with 80 new participants recruited for the final year 4, from a target of 140. The delivery agent is confident in completing before the end of Dec 21 with a potential celebration event to recognise the achievement of the young people and parents.

Positive feedback from young people participating in the programme has been received with participants saying the opportunity to get outside, get active and meet new friends has made them feel better mentally, have fun and are looking forward to keeping involved. Young people are fully engaged and have provided ideas for sessions, options on activity and using their initiative with games. Young people have benefited greatly by developing their soft skills, as well as stepping outside their comfort zones and building friendships.

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

Engagement with potential clubs to participate in the programme is progressing. The planning and scheduling of dates for activity is moving forward. Recent levels of activity include 47 additional participants recruited from St Galls & Church of Ireland Hockey with 36 current participants from Grove & Phoenix basketball is still continuing to engage and complete hours towards the full contact time. Groups are progressing with day activities for team / capacity building in the absence of cross border residential.

Currently 597 participants are engaged with the programme with a further 19 young leaders involved in training during this period. Therefore, to date 616 participants will have been achieved subject to all completing the training and contact hours. The target of

1800 remains high within the 12 -14 months delivery timeframe remaining, which equates to approx 83 young people per month. This target is ambitious in the current climate as capacity of the clubs is restricted. Lead officer is focusing to recruit as close to 85% of this target which is deemed permitted in line with the Output Indicator Guidance.

Active Communities Network remain as the partner in delivering the OCN & sports leaders training. Schedules are being agreed to fully deliver to clubs based on their availability and locations across the city.

Personal Change

The recognition event for the Year 3 participants cohort took place 25th August at the MAC Belfast with the SCP Chair in attendance to present certificates of achievement.

The final cohort of 15 participants is progressing well with many having completed 40% of the hours via smaller group sizes and one to one mentoring. Members should note that due to challenges around completing residential due to COVID ,contact hours were reduced from 305- 265, (within the OIG tolerance) and will be closely monitored.

Extern has fully recruited the required participant numbers and have 4 months remaining to deliver project activity, as such the risk remains low. Should any difficulties arise an option to extend delivery to March 2022 can be facilitated.

3.4 CYP 4 – Cooperation Ireland (Young Advocates)

Cooperation Ireland has appointed a new programme manager and 2 new peer mentors to support project delivery.

Community partners (R City, Saints & Holy Trinity YC, and East Belfast Alternatives) were consulted on the revised condensed delivery approach and all partners are engaged and committed to recruitment and participation. Recruitment of participants is now progressing and the procurement of suitable residential centres for participants to attend and complete hours is underway.

Members should note that SEUPB agreed that an 8% (approx. 4 hours) of preparatory work to develop confidence of participant and capacity building on an individual group level to prepare them to move to cross community work. This will only be used if required and not all groups will require these hours in advance of the group work.

Risk associated with this project remains low as remaining 32 participants are to complete activity by April 2022. It is anticipated that delivery of sessions, via a residential approach, should be completed by Dec/ Jan 21, with the social campaign to start in Jan 22.

3.5 CYP 5 – NIHE Local Area Network Partner Delivery

NIHE is currently reviewing their participant groups who had previously committed to the programme. Members should note that approximately 30 participants previously engaged as core participants have now been assigned as peer participants.

The West Belfast 2 Network recently completed 20 hours of digital engagement, as well as a residential & social justice element has also been completed. Digital engagement, delivered by Wheelworks, is progressing with Foster Carers Association, who have committed to additional hours and will be now participating as core participants. The South West Belfast Network comprising of groups in Colin Glen/Finaghy/Taughmonagh are currently participating in digital summer camps.

To date the Secretariat has considered over 20 project modifications to the programme to facilitate flexibility for the groups taking part, with SEUPB approval sought as necessary.

Recruitment remains a concern with challenges in relationships between community groups from across the city. The target of 900 participants with 144 core participants required to complete 200 hours remains a challenge given the level of commitment to one programme.

Members should also note NIHE also experienced challenges with staff shortages and turnover which has now been addressed with new staff in post.

NIHE has is also exploring adopting a new suite of electronic monitoring and evaluation forms and has been liaising with BCC Information Governance team with a view towards codifying the sharing of data between the two organisations.

3.6 Financial and Resource Implications

To date all PEACE IV costs for the CYP Theme up to Period 25 totalling £1,149,364 have been fully reimbursed by SEUPB. The Period 26 claim values at £147,494 is currently being verified by SEUPB.

Claims for Period 27 (1 May – 31 Jul 21) with an estimated value of £104,375 are currently being progressed for submission to SEUPB by 1 September 2021.

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 Nov 2020.”

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

Shared Spaces and Services (SSS) Update

The Programme Manager provided an update on the progress made to date in respect of the SSS theme, within the Peace IV Local Action Plan. She advised that implementation of the Shared Space and Services theme was progressing. Whilst Government restrictions and planning approval had impacted upon delivery, the recent easing of the restrictions was helping to progress delivery of both the capital and programming elements of the scheme.

She then referred to several capital projects which were being undertaken as part of the initiative, including:

Springfield Dam - As reported previously, the Council had agreed to the naming of the new bridge in Springfield Dam which would follow the same naming process undertaken for Colin Park. A cross-community panel was currently being finalised and the naming process would be facilitated after the completion of other Council naming processes that were ongoing. The Members were advised that Springfield Dam Park continued to be well used, a series of PEACE IV animation activities, aimed specifically for children from local Summer Schemes and playgroups, had been successfully delivered during July and August.

PEACE IV Network Scheme – Capital Works – The Members were advised that work was progressing well on site. Section 1 was on course to complete in December 2021 / January 2022. As noted earlier in the meeting, agreement of the narratives for the information panels would enable the contractor to finalise the location of panels and to place the order for the signage.

The Members were advised that, following receipt of a planning challenge and upon legal advice, the planning application for Section 2 had been temporarily withdrawn from the August Planning Committee to enable further consideration. In addition, invasive species within Section 2 required treatment, this was being progressed via a temporary licence obtained from the Department for Communities (DfC) to allow for spraying and treatment. Unfortunately, these issues would have an impact on the proposed completion dates for this section.

Several operational issues were being progressed by the Management and Maintenance subgroup meeting, these included: park furniture, opening hours, lighting on/off times, environmental management and management and maintenance costs. Wider discussions with the DfC regarding the site transfer, costs associated with treating invasive species, slope stability, associated maintenance costs and liability were scheduled to be held with the Physical Programmes team during September 2021.

Community engagement on Section 4 was progressing with details of boundary lines with the St. James City Farm being provided, the possibility of site visits was being considered.

Social Value Clause - Implementation of the social value clause associated with McQuillan's contractual requirements was at an early stage. Discussions with McQuillan's, Physical Programme and the Council's Employability and Skills team had been held in August 2021 with the following action points having been agreed:

- McQuillan's to progress apprenticeships and student work placements and update BCC on the status. Interviews for student placements had taken place during August;
- Explore Construction Academies and progress requirements for unpaid trainees and

long term unemployed with the Employability and Skills team (likely to commence in October as Section 2 and 3 works continued);

- Community Engagement Plan, to involve engagement with schools and local community groups to be finalised and submitted to Physical Programmes; and
- A Contractors Sustainability Report to be submitted on a monthly basis.

A Member referred to social clauses and he sought clarification as to how these were calculated and allocated against contracts to ensure that they were commensurate with the value of the contract.

Following discussion, the Programme Manager agreed to liaise with the Physical Programmes Section to clarify the approach the contractor was progressing in terms of community engagement.

The Deputy Chairperson advised that consultation on a revised Council policy on Social Value aimed at maximising community benefit was to open in due course.

Regarding programming, the Partnership was informed that all aspects of programming were progressing where possible.

In regard to the other Programmes:

- **Shared History, Heritage and Identity Content / Narratives for Shared Space**
 - **Draft Panel Narratives – Section 1 Clarendon/Glencairn**

The officer advised that, representatives from the Mediation NI were unable to present on the narratives as had been scheduled, therefore, the Members were asked to agree 'in principle' the Shared History, Heritage and Identity narratives for the Section 1 panels as detailed in Appendix 3 of the agenda and to delegate authority to the Programme Board and Capital Project Board to identify the most suitable narratives in line with the locations of the panels with a report to be submitted to the October meeting of the Partnership.

- **Shared Space Volunteer Training**

Volunteer Now had commenced recruitment of the Shared Space Ambassadors. The assessment and award of the contract for the Volunteer Nature Guides was also progressing. Sustrans continued to deliver face-to-face training for both the Cycle and Walking leads projects and had been able to secure separate support for additional mediation training which would enable all the project participants to avail of the mediation training.

The cycle leads element had a cycle maintenance event scheduled for 7th September in Springfield Dam Park. Sustrans had been liaising with BCC's Age Friendly project in relation to some of the Walk Leads facilitating walks with pensioners' groups.

The officer reported that, unfortunately, no applications had been received to deliver the Volunteer History Guides and options for delivery were currently being considered.

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

Phase 1 of engagement had been completed and a residents' survey launched on 19th August via the Council's Engagement HQ platform, the survey would be open until 27th September 2021. Key stakeholders had been made aware of the survey which was also being promoted via social media.

Phase 2 of engagement was scheduled to commence during September with further promotion of the residents' survey, workshops, presentations, and a site visit.

- **Governance / Management Model**

Viatic Limited had accepted and returned the signed contract. Due to holidays there had been no project activity from that previously reported. Activity and engagement was due to recommence during September with stakeholder discussions and a site visit.

- **Youth Engagement and Civic Education**

Following the unsuccessful procurement exercises, feedback, and engagement with youth providers along with FMCG had taken place. Consensus feedback indicated the need to rescope the project as it was felt that no single organisation could deliver the high targets (600 participants) and also that the project targets, both in terms of hours (120 contact hours) and participant numbers (600), were exceptionally high. It was also highlighted that the budget would need to significantly increase. The Members were asked to note that the original targets had been based on a 2-year delivery timeframe, but the timeframe was now 14 months.

On review of the SSS Programming deliverables and budget, a rescope modification request and indicative cost breakdown based on the reduced delivery timeframe had been submitted to the SEUPB for its consideration.

Members were asked to note the following key changes:

- delivery via 4 lots;
- reduced contact hours to 60 hours per participant;
- participant numbers reduced to 400 (100 participants per lot); and
- an increase in budget of £160k (£40k per lot).

- **Springfield Dam Activities**

Following initial problems with the Covid 19 restrictions having affected participation, the Men's Shed programme was now progressing. A group of 6 men (4 CNR and 2 PUL) had been attending regularly and were now halfway through the completion of their Hedge Chairs. Discussions regarding establishing more long-term projects for the Men's Shed would be progressed in due course.

- **Modular Building**

The modular building had been opened to facilitate toilet access during the recent programme activity at the Springfield Dam. The internal process for bookings had been

finalised and bookings were now being managed through Outdoor Leisure. Staff from OSS would open the building as required and carry-out the necessary checks.

The Partnership was advised that claims up to and including Period 25 totalling £1,589,170 had now been fully reimbursed by the SEUPB. The Period 26 claim valued at £50,171 was currently being verified by the SEUPB. Claim 27 (May - July 2021) totalling £85,411 had been submitted on 1st September.

The Partnership agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it note the contents of the report and appendices and agree 'in principle' the Shared History, Heritage and Identity narratives for the Section 1 panels – Clarendon/Glencairn as detailed in Appendix 3 of the agenda, for inclusion in the project publication and to delegate authority to the Programme Board and Capital Project Board to agree on the locations, with a report to be submitted to the October meeting of the Partnership.

Building Positive Relations (BPR) Update

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

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

Face-to -face delivery across all BPR projects is progressing as the easing of restrictions continues. Appendix I and Appendix II provides an overview on project progress and the RAG status for each project.

3.1 BPR1 – Cross Community Area Networks

CCANs across the City have re-engaged following a period of disengagement due to recent community unrest.

Participants from Ligoniel, Longlands, Rathcoole associated with the North Belfast CCAN have actively engaged in Good Relations sessions delivered by the appointed good relations delivery agent, Verbal Arts Centre.

Participants in the southwest Belfast CCAN from Suffolk and Finaghy have registered to the programme and engagement with Colin is ongoing.

Good relations sessions have also been progressing with participants from Black Mountain, Moyard, Springmartin and Highfield, Gort na Mona and Sliabh Dubh who form part of the West Belfast 2 CCAN.

Further good relations sessions with Networks are scheduled for September 2021.

Engagement with groups to establish the West Belfast 1 (Clonard / Mid Shankill), South Belfast and East Belfast Networks are progressing. Approval has been provided for capacity building on an individual group basis with a view to moving to cross community engagement.

In order to accelerate delivery and condense hours, the delivery agent is planning residential activity for each CCAN and a formal modification has been submitted for approval.

The place shaping tender has progressed to final assessment/ award stage and it is hoped the contractor will be in place early September with activity commencing mid-September.

Senior Officers within BCC and NIHE met on 25 August 21 to discuss project progress and ongoing issues. NIHE outlined the need for flexibility to achieve project targets.

A process of senior oversight on a quarterly basis and an escalation process for issues were agreed. NIHE provided a commitment and assurance to deliver both the BPR and CYP projects.

3.2 BPR2 – Creative Communities Project

Delivery of activity by the Artist in Residence is continuing on a face-to-face basis with Woodvale/Ardoyne, Clonard/Mid-Shankill, Divis/Lower Shankill and Football clusters.

The new Ardoyne cluster have had one successful facilitated session and a draft specification for artist in residence is underway.

Discussions with groups involved in the LGBTQ+ cluster are continuing and have been positive and ideas that fit the programme are being explored.

The appointment of the Artist in Residence for the Inner East cluster is being progressed.

As members are aware the artist in residence appointed for the Carlisle Cluster has resigned and a meeting with the steering group to determine a way forward is scheduled for 3 September 2021.

3.3 BPR3 – Transform for Change Project

Transformative Leadership Programme:

Recruitment for Autumn cohorts is progressing for the 7 TLP courses to commence in September 2021, to date approximately 60 EOI across the different courses have been received.

Discussions with NICVA on support for progressing the local project development Action Plans is continuing. Due to the backlog of projects as a result of Covid 19 is likely that NICVA and Partners will support a further 2-3 project development sessions to enable the projects to be delivered. Details on the projects and level of participation is progressing.

3.4 BPR4 – Belfast and the World (BATW)

Final activity for Year 3 participants (online cohort) is progressing and a walking tour to bring the group together is planned for September 2021. Recruitment is underway for the final year cohorts and activity is also expected to commence in September 2021.

Due to resource issues as well as travel restrictions, the delivery of the EU Study trips and / or alternative trips across NI/ROI remains on hold.

3.5 BPR5 – Supporting Connected Communities - LINCS Projects

Cultural workshops have re-commenced across the 4 Neighbourhood Participatory Forums A Cultural Day is taking place in C.S Lewis Square on 24th September from 12 noon to 4pm with a range of cuisine and entertainment. South, West and East groups continue to participate in mainly outdoor activity, with recent trips taking place to Crawfordsburn and Carnfunnock, participation in the activities were 95 adults and children.

3.6 BPR5 – Traveller Project - Supporting Connected Communities

The tender for Traveller support Hub is currently open for submissions and is due to close on 10 September 21.

The 'Lets do Lunch' event has been rescheduled with the Heart Project and Feile an Phobail to take place on 3 September 2021.

Discussions with key agencies that provide Traveller support services is taking place on 2 September with a view to identifying engagement opportunities with the Traveller community.

Ideas and opportunities for Culture and Heritage workshops are continuing to be explored.

3.7 BPR5 – Roma Project - Supporting Connected Communities

The Building Positive Relations programme has commenced although participation is low. The delivery agent continues to work with the local Roma community to promote the programme and the benefits of participation. The Roma Support Hub is active and is taking a monitoring calls through a subcontract arrangement with Advice NI.

Options for the replacement of the OCN language element are currently being explored and the necessary project modification is to be submitted for consideration.

3.8 BPR6 – St. Comgalls

Workshops for young people continue to be successfully delivered online on a weekly basis. The delivery agent is planning the first face to face session in the form of a walking tour for all participants.

Ongoing community tensions have impacted the commence of adult activity, it is envisaged the Adult cohorts will commence in September and plans for a networking event and seminar are underway.

3.9 Financial & Resource Implications

All BPR project delivery partners are regularly reviewing delivery methods and contractual deliverables which will determine the level and impact of COVID 19 crisis.

To date all PEACE IV costs for the BPR Theme, up to Period 25 totalling £1,475,851 have been fully eligible and reimbursed by SEUPB. The Period 26 Claim for £371,673 is still being verified by SEUPB.

Claim 27 (May-July 21) totalling £326,709 is currently being compiled for submission on 1 September 2021.

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. 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 Covid Research Project

The Good Relations Manager referred to the June meeting of the Partnership where a report and presentation had been given in respect of the research into the Council’s response

to COVID-19 during the first lockdown. At that meeting, it had been agreed that a further report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Partnership to give the Members the opportunity to consider what areas they might wish to prioritise within the next steps section of the report, taking into account that £10,000 had been set aside within the Good Relations Action Plan 2021/22.

The officer advised that the issue of leadership within communities had been heavily highlighted throughout the research and linked strongly with other recommendations in the report, namely:

- Investment in community infrastructure;
- Integrating services at a local level;
- Building on the tacit knowledge, skills and capacity of all players; and
- Developing co-design and co-production of services.

One of the main thrusts of the research had been a recognition that there needed to be an effort to add to the pool of local volunteers, in order to support those who had stepped up by supporting residents during the pandemic through the delivery (across community boundaries) of food parcels, medication and other resources. Furthermore, there had also been recognition of the need to develop a new generation of similar leaders who would have the ability, cross-community networks and commitment to fulfil those tasks that had been undertaken by local volunteers during the first lockdown.

The Members were advised that it was therefore being proposed that an appropriate leadership development programme would be sourced that would aim to develop and deliver new leaders within communities.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it agree to the delivery of a Leadership Development Programme to progress the recommendations contained within the COVID research report.

Update on Council's District Good Relations Action Plan 2021/22

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

To update the SCP on delivery of the District Council Good Relations Plan (DCGRP) 2021/22.

2.0 Recommendations

Members are asked to note the updates to the DCGRP Action Plan 21/22 contained in Appendix 1.

Members are asked to note that the North Belfast Friendship Club has been awarded £1,960 to facilitate meetings of the North Belfast Friendship Club through the Strategic Intervention Programme within the DCGRP Action Plan.

3.0 Main report – Project Details

3.1 Members will be aware that the Council submits an annual action plan to the Executive Office (TEO) every year in order to draw down

funding for the good relations work of the council. The draft Action Plan 21/22 was approved by Council via the Partnership in February 21 and was submitted by the deadline of 22 February 2021.

- 3.2 A Letter of Offer for the District Council Good Relations Programme 21/22 was subsequently received in awarding an amount of £571,893.27 with the Council required to provide match funding of at least £190,631.09. From the funding supplied by TEO, £374,205 must be allocated towards Programme costs.
- 3.3 A copy of the Action Plan with a brief update on progress is attached for Members' information.

For Members to Note:

- 3.4 A number of Letters of Offer have been issued to groups for projects which have been named within the GR Action Plan 2/22 and approved by Council. The majority of these are contained within the BCC8 Programme 'Our Safe Community'
- 3.5 These include:
- Black Mountain Shared Space Programme: £8,000
 - Spectrum Centre: £5,000
 - Belfast Interface Project: £10,000
 - New Lodge Arts: £2,500

Strategic Intervention Fund

- 3.6 Members will also recall that in the Action Plan 21/22 a new targeted Strategic Intervention programme had been introduced with the funds being directed to a distributed on an area basis.
- 3.7 This was to ensure that the approach could be targeted, strategic and proactive and could include work at interface areas or on good relations issues impacting the specific area. Work can take place all year round and not just at certain times of the year. 15k has been allocated to each area with the condition that any project must address good relations issues and one of the T:BUC priorities. This allocation is discussed at Area Team level meaning there is complementarity and a coordination of resources. The projects are agreed by the relevant Good Relations Officer, Neighbourhood Integration Manager and Neighbourhood Services Area Manager, the latter of which SCP agreed could be granted delegated authority.
- 3.8 Members are asked to note that under the theme of the DCGRP BCC 10 Strategic Intervention Programme, the following has been allocated:
- 3.9 North Belfast Friendship Club: £1,960 towards the facilitation of meetings in the Duncairn Arts Centre. This project promotes

inclusion and integration and aims to foster social cohesion and demonstrate collective opposition to hate crime in North Belfast. The project sits under the Safe Community theme and T:BUC priority.

- 3.10 The Friendship Club for North Belfast was one of several initiatives developed in response to a spike in hate crime in the area in 2015-16. The project was originally conceived as a conversation club to address the problem of isolation among newcomers to North Belfast due to lack of English language skills. However, it was recognised that the feelings of loneliness and isolation experienced by many migrants (particularly refugees and asylum seekers who are separated from their families, unable to work and have little or no access to transport) are not unlike the feelings experienced by other vulnerable residents in the community. The Club had been meeting in the R City café which is no longer open and therefore, the Club needs support to manage the transition to the new venue, the Duncairn Arts Centre and to facilitate the rebuilding of networks and relationships. This support will cover the period until March 2022.

Financial & Resource Implications

All costs can be covered through the District Council Good Relations Action Plan budget 21/22.

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

All the projects/programmes have been approved in the DCGRP 2021/22.”

The Good Relations Manager drew the Members’ attention to proposed project modifications which had been circulated immediately prior to the meeting and she took the Members through the detail of the proposed modifications.

The Partnership recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the updates to the DCGRP Action Plan 2021/22 and to note that the North Belfast Friendship Club had been awarded £1,960 to facilitate meetings of the North Belfast Friendship Club through the Strategic Intervention Programme within the DCGRP Action Plan and recommend that it agree the modifications as detailed below:

DCGRP Action Plan 2021/22 – Modifications

Programme/Priority	Project /Current budget	Modification	Recommendation
BCC4/Shared Community	Programme to grow BAME leaders in the City – 10k	Add an additional £5k to this project from underspend within the Action Plan – Total cost of project £15k.	SCP to agree that the budget of this programme be increased to 15k with additional 5k being taken from underspend within the Plan.

<p>BCC6/Shared Community</p>	<p>Completion and launch of the new Refugee Transition Guide – 5k</p>	<p>Add an additional 5k to cover launch and training sessions on the new guide for relevant individuals and agencies. This can be reprofiled from the Migrant Forum budget as the group are currently meeting online and from BCC7 as training also taking place online. Note that the last edition was quoted as an example of good practice by the Department of Work & Pensions</p>	<p>SCP agree that an additional 5k be allocated to the Refugee Transition Guide to cover a launch and training sessions on the new guide.</p>
<p>BCC6/Shared Community</p>	<p>Inclusion of tailored events/programmes to build re - engagement and contact opportunities between communities – including neighbourhood celebrations, intercultural encounters/events such as the shared celebration of festivals, animation of parks, spaces and neighbourhoods with a focus on soft good relations projects to promote physical contact, engaging communities through sport, arts, community gardens and cultural event – 10k</p>	<p>Given that restrictions etc have prevented certain activities taking place and that we are coming into autumn/winter time – Officers have been approached about 2 shared housing spaces and the need to develop a good relations programme to develop relationships between neighbours and develop the necessary links to support the intended ethos of shared housing. Officers are currently</p>	<p>SCP to agree that up to a maximum of 4k be allocated to each of the 2 shared housing projects subject to a relevant good relations programme being developed and assurance that this was not duplication of funding. Delegated authority to be given to Director.</p>

		exploring the need but would recommend that an allocation of up to a maximum 4k be agree with delegated authority given to the Director.	
BCC7 Shared Community	Support a pilot intervention that can prevent the escalation of tensions in communities by supporting the orientation and cultural competence of new and host communities building on work with agencies such as NIACRO- 20k	Given the current needs being presented and increase in no of refuge/asylum seekers that officers engage with relevant agencies to allocate monies to orientation programme and associated support.	SCP to agree that monies be allocated to relevant agency/agencies to provide orientation and support to asylum seekers
BCC7 Shared Community	This will include resourcing for issues identified through relevant groups which focus on vulnerable/interface communities. This can be funnelled through Area Managers, Good Relations Officers and Community Safety Coordinators	In 20/21 SCP had agreed to allocate £1k towards a Workshop for re – energising the East Belfast Tension Monitoring Forum and producing an Action Plan. This was not able to take place due to health restrictions.	Given the time lag and the need to build on recent events in East Belfast, the group would like to host 2 workshops – SCP to agree that the project be allocated up to £1500 from the 21/22 budget.

Request from NI Refugee Resettlement Consortium

The Partnership was advised that, since December 2015, nearly 2000 individuals had been resettled across Northern Ireland as part of the Vulnerable Person’s relocations scheme, now known as the NI Refugee Resettlement Scheme. The scheme had been in operation in Northern Ireland from late 2015, with the arrival of the first Syrian refugees in December of that year. After a pause, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, resettlement was due to restart in Northern Ireland later in the year.

The Members noted that the arrival of the Syrian refugees had generated a significant expression of goodwill from the NI public with many donations of food and essential household items having been received. The Good Relations Manager advised that, over the last five

years, the Councils had acted collaboratively to contribute to the costs of storing the donations with Kiltonga Christian Centre in Bangor having been identified as an ideal space to collect, hold, sort and distribute the donations that had been received. With resettlement hopefully recommencing, Kiltonga Christian Centre volunteers would again be involved in the arrivals process for new refugees, putting together starter packs, offering support post arrival and providing items which were not provided in their temporary accommodation.

To retain the storage space, the NI Refugee Resettlement Consortium had written to the Council to seeking a donation of £300 towards the operation at Kiltonga Christian Centre. The officer advised that the associated costs could be met from within the annual Good Relations Action Plan (75% of which would be recouped by the Executive Office under the District Council's Good Relations Programme).

Following a query, the Good Relations Manager suggested that a presentation could be made to a future meeting of the Partnership which would seek to provide an overview of the response to the resettlement of refugees and ensuring that its humanitarian responsibilities were being met.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it assists with cost for the storage of donations relating to the NI Refugee Resettlement Scheme with an award of £300 for 2021/22 and an additional £300 for the 2022/23 financial years.

Recruitment of Staff

Following a query, the Good Relations Manager provided an overview of the number of vacant positions throughout the City and Neighbourhood Services Department. She reported that the Department's recruitment freeze had now been lifted and that recruitment was progressing but noted that it would take time to work through the volume of vacant positions.

In response to a specific query regarding the recruitment of Community Development Officers, the officer undertook to liaise with the Member directly.

Noted.

Chairperson