

SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

MONDAY 17th JANUARY, 2022

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

Members present: Councillor Kyle (Chairperson);
Alderman Rodgers; and
Councillors Lyons and McMullan.

External Members: Mrs. J. Hawthorne, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;
Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council;
Ms. K. Jardine, Faith Sector;
Mr. I. McLaughlin, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Superintendent Pollock, PSNI;
Miss. A. Roberts, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Ms. A. Tohill, Good Relations, TEO; and
Ms. Ann Marie White, British Red Cross.

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

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Councillor O'Hara and Ms. B. Arthurs, Mr. J. Donnelly, Miss. G. Dugan, Mr. P. Mackel and Mr. M. O'Donnell.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 6th December 2021 were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

Ms. Tohill declared an interest in regard to item 3 - District Council Good Relations Action Plan 2022/23, in that she would be on the assessment panel for the District Council Action Plan assessment and left the meeting whilst the item was being considered.

Ms. A. M. White, declared an interest in regard to item 3 - District Council Good Relations Action Plan 2022/23, in that she was employed by the British Red Cross who were referred to within the Plan and left the meeting whilst the item was being considered.

The Chairman, Councillor Kyle, declared an interest in regard to item 4 - Update on Good Relations Action Plan 2021/22, in that he was Chairperson of the Lagan Village Youth and Community Association and left the meeting whilst the item was under consideration.

Updated Membership

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor McMullan to his first meeting and on behalf of the Partnership asked that its thanks be conveyed to Councillor Kelly for her contribution over the last year.

Peace IV Updates

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 project implementation was continuing across all themes as detailed in the PEACE IV thematic reports. The need for flexibility in delivery and ongoing Covid 19 impacts continued to require project modifications and extensions. She drew the Members' attention to the Dashboard that provided an overview of the achievements to date and highlighted the considerable level of delivery to progress

The Members were asked to note that the Children and Young People, Future Peacebuilders conference that had been scheduled to be take place on 18th January 2022 had been rescheduled to 8th March, as a result of the recent increase in Coronavirus cases, as face to face delivery was the preferred approach. An invitation to the event would be issued in due course.

The Members were advised that a new Project Development Officer (PDO) had taken up post on 5th January 2022. In addition, a temporary Finance and Systems Officer had been appointed whilst the recruitment of the post was progressing. It was envisaged the second PDO post would be filled from the reserve list in the coming weeks. Given the volume of work and the ongoing impact of Covid, resource pressures within the PEACE IV team continued.

The Partnership was informed that, following the submission of the Period 28 claim in November, the total spend of the programme, to date, up to Period 28 (October 2021) was £5,683,940.

The Members noted that the verification and reimbursement of claims from the SEUPB continued to remain an issue, with the value of outstanding now claims now exceeding £1m. As a result, officers recommended that formal correspondence be issued to the SEUPB to highlight this concern.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it note the report and the associated appendices and agree to issue formal correspondence to SEUPB highlighting concerns regarding the reimbursement of claims.

Children and Young People (CYP)

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 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))

Members should note that SEUPB has approved flyers for Mid term Camps taking place at Avoniel Leisure Centre, Strand Arts Centre and City Church in February 2022. It is anticipated the sessions will take place face to face unless restrictions prevent delivery; GIGA Training has a contingency to switch to virtual delivery, if necessary. However, participant numbers will be much smaller if this occurs. Planning for Summer Camps to ensure full targets are met is progressing. Members should note that GIGA is intending to submit a further modification to extend use of VR sessions to replace W5, as this reduces the risk of having to move young people via transport and keep sessions in the one venue.

Planned for Feb 22

6-11 Year Olds:	250 from a target of 399	44 (Virtual 20)	149 Remaining
12-16 Year Olds:	116 from a target of 460	44 (Virtual 20)	344 Remaining
Total	366 Total Recruited to date	88 (Virtual 20 – 30)	493 Total Remaining

Belfast Metropolitan College (Digital Insights Programme) (17- 4 yr. olds)

The Delivery Agent has completed the launch event in Girdwood with Morrow attending a further session held at the E3 campus on the 02nd of December 2021. This footage will be used for promotion of the programme and to encourage registrations / participation. Participant numbers remain at 50% (80) of the target, with 8 months of delivery remaining to August 2022 in order to achieve full 160 young people. As this group remain a hard to reach group, the delivery agent has put in place some measures to make it more accessible. For example, sessions are now being held in local community venues as well as Belfast Metropolitan campuses.

Total 80 from a target of 160 80 remaining

3.2 CYP 2 - Playing our Part in the City

Members should note an addendum to extend delivery to March 2022 to enable project closure has been approved. Approval to permit ACN to issue Activity packs to participants to include a certificate of completion was approved by both the Programme Board and SEUPB. Face to face delivery of sessions was completed in December 2021. Active Community Networks has submitted current monitoring and evaluation data for review to the Secretariat.

Morrow Communications recently attended sessions to capture participants' journeys on the programme. This footage will be released at the closure event planned for January 2022 to highlight the achievements of the programme.

Total 640 from a target of 640 0 remaining

(Due to finish Dec 21)

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

Members are asked to note the addendum to extend delivery of the accredited training by ACN is being progressed, although the delivery agent has highlighted concerns regarding staffing and additional costs being introduced in April 2022. Additional costs include management costs, OCN costs & facilitator costs. The Delivery agent has requested that concerns regarding the high targets are noted. By way of contingency, ACN is exploring virtual delivery of the OCN with the accrediting body. Delivery of the other qualifications, VRQ and Sports leaders is not suitable for virtual delivery.

Members are asked to note a business case has been progressed and submitted to SEUPB to include the potential reduction of targets for this programme, given the previous programme board meeting discussions on trying to negotiate an acceptable level of achievement. The current target is 1800, however secretariat is preparing papers to negotiate a reduction of 260. If approved, this would bring the target within the acceptable levels for full achievement, in line with the Output Indicator Guidance.

Total 647 from a target of 1800 1153 remaining

Personal Change

Members are asked to note that Addendum has been progressed to permit the delivery of a final closure event in February/March 2022. Delivery of the event has been delayed due to Coronavirus impacts and to enable attendance from all previous participants. It is anticipated the event will take place in the MAC Belfast, although Extern is exploring a virtual delivery platform should restrictions prevent face to face delivery of the planned event.

All participants from the final cohort have achieved 200+ hours from a target of 265, the remaining hours will all be completed by the end of December 2021. Risk is low and all targets will be completed before final payment is issued.

Total 42 from a target of 42 0 remaining – due to finish Dec 21

3.4 CYP 4 – Cooperation Ireland (Young Advocates)

Programme delivery is progressing with a lobbying campaign focusing on Homelessness and Sexual Harassment in schools. This will be used as a formal report to present findings and will be used as a formal report of Council. The Delivery Agent is progressing and exploring dates in February 2022 to present the campaign to local and elected representatives. at City Hall

Planning is underway for the Young Peoples conference to be held in February/ March 2022, with the participant group completing the full 60 contact hours by end of April 22 with a closure event.

Total 88 from a target of 80 0 remaining - Due to finish April 22

3.5 CYP 5 – NIHE Local Area Network Partner Delivery

Monthly contract management and senior management meetings between Council and NIHE are continuing to provide regular updates via email. NIHE has advised procurement with regards to the Social Justice element of the programme will be progressed on a network-by-network basis due to the different needs of each network. The approach will be confirmed with SEUPB. During the period, officers also met with NIHE to progress Transport and hospitality price checks / higher quotations.

Members are reminded that the formal request for a reduction in targets is currently with SEUPB for consideration. NIHE will be updated on the outcome of the request when received.

NIHE is also to provide and update on recruitment and mobilisation for each network under both CYP and BPR. For example, current number of Participants for each group and potential links are being explored at present. Risk remains high with 792 participants to recruit and with 9 months remaining to September 2022. This will require engagement of up to 88 young people and in the current climate and impacts of the pandemic is unlikely. This is due to social distancing and lack of providers in the market to deliver specific elements of the programme. As members are aware a request for a formal reduction in targets is under considerations by SEUPB.

Total 108 from a target of 900 792 remaining

3.6 Financial and Resource Implications

To date all PEACE IV costs for the CYP Theme totalling £1.29m has been reimbursed by SEUPB. Reimbursement of Claims for Periods 27 and 28 valued at £199K remains outstanding.

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.”

During discussion, several of the Members referred to the difficulties in meeting the targets set and noted that these remained difficult to achieve with the ongoing challenges.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it note the report and the associated appendices.

Shared Space 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 and drew the Members' attention to a status update of the projects which had been attached as appendices to the report.

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

Springfield Dam - Further guidance and clarity on the process in relation to the naming of the new bridge was to be provided by the Director of Physical Programmes.

PEACE IV Network Scheme - The completion date for Section 1 (Clarendon / Glencairn) was now delayed to late February due to temperatures preventing the buff being all laid, delivery of the PIR system for the lighting (planning requirement for the bats) and delay in approving the signage. It should be noted that completion at the end of February would include the beacons and feature panels. However, the information panels would be 12-14 weeks from point of order and these designs were still being finalised, targeting an order date of mid-January 2022. Naming of each beacon (for example., Springfield Dam / Glencairn Park etc) was also to be progressed in mid-January 2022. The Members were asked to note that following a request for further information on the robustness of materials, McAdam Design Limited had finalised their structural review of the signage design for the beacons, feature panels and information panels and all had been deemed fit for purpose and sufficiently robust.

In relation to the procurement of public art pieces (x5), 11 submissions had been received in response to the PQQ (Stage 1 of the procurement process). Documentation had been circulated to the assessment panel members, with a moderation meeting planned for early January 2022.

Social Value Clause - Given the focus of construction issues during December, no further update on the Social Value Clause had been provided. Discussions were to be arranged with the Council and the contractor (McQuillans) to progress.

In regard to the other Programmes:

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

Discussion groups continued to be facilitated through Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 and requests to meet and participate with groups from other sections were progressing. An Equality Screening exercise on the narratives had been conducted with a recommendation of screened out, with mitigating actions. Actions included consideration of accessibility for people with disabilities and who speak different languages (for example, accompanying leaflets in braille and other languages or the inclusion of QR codes in the future). Discussions with the designers to agree the layout and design of the first 7 panels would now progress.

As advised at the previous meeting, a walkthrough of Section 3 (Springfield Road / Falls Park), involving the project and Council Officers from Physical Programmes and PEACE IV, had taken place on 2nd December, with the narratives and locations for the information panels having been provisionally agreed.

The Members were asked to note that the project contract had been extended to 31st March 2022 and advised that a further request to extend to June 2022 had just been received.

- **Shared Space Volunteer Training**

Volunteer Cycle and Walk leads (Group 1) had now completed their training with participants achieving the required level of contact hours. The second group of walk and cycle volunteer leads were continuing with their training. The Members were asked to note the project contracts for the Walk and Cycle Leads had been extended to June 2022. Discussion with Sustrans to further develop the volunteer's experiences of organised cycles and walks was progressing.

The Conservation Volunteers had commenced recruiting volunteer nature guides with training scheduled to begin in late January/February 2022.

Volunteer Now had continued recruitment through December with an information/induction day held on Thursday 16th December in the Springfield Dam Park's Modular Building. The Members were asked to note that the project contract had been extended to June 2022.

The Members were also asked to note that Sustrans, The Conservation Volunteers and Volunteer Now had all accepted 10% up-lifts to their project budgets, to train additional 3 volunteers to each of their projects.

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

MDL had completed the Dialogue and Engagement work with the identified key stakeholders on the use and management of Forth Meadow Community Greenway. The final report was currently being prepared and would be circulated in due course.

- **Governance / Management Model**

Following engagement and discussion with key umbrella groups / organisations, Viatac had submitted an interim report, providing an overview the activity and outcomes so far, along

with findings. The report was under review and would be submitted to the Programme Board in January 2022 for review. The next steps to develop details of potential governance arrangements was to be progressed in 2022.

- **Youth Engagement and Civic Education**

A project initiation meeting with YouthLink NI had been facilitated on 16th December 2021. Recruitment of participants was due to begin in January 2022, with training commencing February 2022.

- **Springfield Dam activities**

No further update from December, but officers from the Council's City and Neighbourhood Services (Outdoor Space and Active Living, Parks Outreach, Community Services and PEACE IV) would liaise to agree projects and programme of activities.

- **Modular Building**

The modular building had now been included as a bookable facility and could be booked through the Council's Outdoor Leisure Department's booking processes.

- **SSS Activities Co-ordinator**

Following assessment and moderation, ArtsEkta had been successful with its application for the provision of animation activities and showcase events along the Greenway. An initiation meeting had been scheduled for early January 2022.

The Partnership was advised that the financial position remained as previously reported with reimbursement of claims up to Period 25 totalling £1,589,170. Payment of claims for Period 26 (£50,171), Period 27 (£85,411) and Period 28 (£97,387) remained outstanding.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it note the contents of the report and related Appendices.

Building Positive Relations (BPR)

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 agree the following proposals and note the contents of the report and related appendices:

- **BPR1 - to agree in principle to the request to reduce contact hours by 27% and delegate authority to the BPR Chair and**

Programme Manager to consider the detail subject to SEUPB approval.

- BPR3 - to agree to extend the current reduction in contact hours (from 30 to 21 hours for cohorts completing up to June 2022).
- BPR4 - to agree in principle the request for extension and reprofile of budget and to delegate authority to the PEACE IV Programme Board to progress the modification.
- BPR6 St Comgalls:
 - (i) to agree in principle to amend the Overnight Study Visit to NI or ROI in place of Wolverhampton due to Covid 19 impacts, and
 - (ii) to delegate authority to BPR Chair/ PIV Programme Manager to consider and approve the finalised arrangements, subject to SEUPB approval.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

Delivery of project activity is increasing, although ongoing government restrictions continues to impact delivery.

3.1 BPR1 – Cross Community Area Networks (CCAN)

Community engagement and participation in the project is slowly progressing with an increase in participants from 39 to 78 and also in contact hours.

Progress has been made in establishing all 6 CCANs. A meeting with NIHE and their delivery partner Verbal Arts has taken place to confirm contact hours for core / peer participants. A modification to reduce contact hours for the Good Relations element from approx. 172 hr to 126 hrs (27% approx.) for core participants and an amendment for peer participants is being finalised. To expediate approvals, members are requested to consider this high-level request and agree in principle a reduction in contact hours, subject to consideration via delegated authority by the BPR Chair and Programme Manager and SEUPB approval. The final modification will be reported to the Programme Board in January 2022.

As previously reported, the request for approval for an SLA arrangement for groups remains outstanding from SEUPB since 6 October 2021.

3.2 BPR2 – Creative Communities Project

As previously reported, project delivery is progressing albeit participation lower than anticipated.

The Clonard/Mid-Shankill cluster has completed with 25 participants achieving over 85% of engagement hours. Members are asked to note that a request to increase OIG tolerances for this cohort in terms of contact hours achieved is being progressed with SEUPB.

Members should also note that a request for condensed delivery of activity via a residential for the East Belfast cluster is currently being considered by SEUPB.

The condensed delivery approach will aid the attainment of required 60 hours engagement.

Re-engagement with St Malachy's and Albert Foundry FC participants in the Football Thematic cluster has been progressed with early indicators that engagement with participants will follow.

Discussions with client groups involved in the LGBTQ+ cluster have reached a final decision not to avail of, or progress with, this opportunity. After 10 months of engagement and conversation, it was agreed by all parties to look for new cohort opportunities. Options are being explored with the support of the PEACE IV team.

3.3 BPR3 – Transform for Change Project

Transformative Leadership Programme:

Delivery of the Leadership Training is ongoing with 6 clusters across the City. Final sessions for these clusters took place in December 2021. Monitoring data is to be submitted to confirm the level of achievement across the clusters. Recruitment and promotion for new Transformative Leadership Programme cohorts to start in January / February 2022 is progressing.

Due to the latest government guidance, safe choices options and increased Covid 19 cases, the level of engagement from participants continues to fluctuate. As such members are requested to agree to extend the current agreed reduction in contact hours from 30 to 21 hours to June 2022.

The Resource Allocation cluster projects continue to be progressed and are at various stages of delivery. Project ideas progressing include mental health training, youth training and community days.

NICVA and delivery partners have noted concerns regarding the Resource Allocation, these have been addressed through legal services and NICVA updated to offer assurances.

A Virtual Networking Event is planned for Thursday 27th January 2022 and procurement for events facilitation is underway. The networking event is coordinated with projects and participants across Ireland and includes keynote speaker, Cormac Russell,

from Nurture Development. The schedule and invitation to the event will be issued to members in due course.

3.4 BPR4 – Belfast and the World (BATW)

Delivery of activity for a condensed programme of 5-6 weeks for the final year cohort is progressing via blended learning online/ residential/ face to face sessions.

Residential that were proposed and planned for year 4 cohorts for late January and February 2022 are currently under review due to increasing Covid impacts.

Planning for delivery of the Civic Led play focusing on Partition and the learning resource pack focusing on 'How do we do commemoration better' are underway.

The Delivery Agent is exploring the potential to extend delivery further into 2022, subject to contracted budget availability. A formal modification to extend delivery and realign the budget is currently being prepared. To expediate approval Members are asked to delegate authority to PEACE IV Programme Board to consider the request. Members should note that no additional monies are to be requested and any budget movements will be associated with cost savings that reflect elements that were unable to be delivered, such as venue hire, transport and catering. These monies have been repurposed to allow delivery to April 2022.

Meetings are scheduled to progress discussions and review plans for EU Study trips and alternative trips across NI and ROI.

3.5 BPR5 – Supporting Connected Communities - LINCS Projects

The project is close to achieving agreed targets and outcomes, (96 participants completing 68 hours in line with the agreed rescope activity), although flexibility to ensure the achievement of outcomes is required. BAME participants remain anxious about engaging outside of their own social bubbles and the delivery partner is making every effort to meet targets, however the latest recent government guidelines relating to Covid continue to impact engagement.

NI Alternatives submitted a modification request to extend the delivery timeframe to September 22 and this has been approved, an addendum to the contract has been issued to delivery partner.

Members should note the approved Inclusion Forum, formally the Strategic forum, is underway with a symposium scheduled for late January. This event will be held in Belfast Castle, and the aim is to bring the Neighbourhood Participatory Forums and Inclusion Forum participants together in a wider showcasing event with guest speakers in attendance. Delivery of this event is subject to Government Covid approach/practices in place at the time.

NI Alternatives will also consider the participants' ability/preference to engage in the symposium.

3.6 BPR5 – Traveller Project - Supporting Connected Communities

Engagement with the Traveller Community is ongoing. The first programme of workshops and exhibition commenced delivery of Genealogy sessions on 9th October 2021. The sessions continue to have successful attendance.

The tender for the Capacity Building Project and the quotation for the Empowering Young Women workshop have been formally approved by SEUPB and procurement process is progressing. The tender will be publicly advertised on 7 January 2022.

Discussions to identify other engagement opportunities through existing support agencies such as Extern, Barnardo's and NIHE is ongoing. The scoping of a programme aimed at young mothers focusing on Health and Wellbeing is being progressed. Discussions with a local Housing Fold to work with local Traveller Men to develop a community garden within the Fold grounds are also underway.

3.7 BPR5 – Roma Project - Supporting Connected Communities

The Roma Support Hub remains active, and the monitoring of calls is progressing. The number of calls and advice sessions are increasing weekly, mainly dealing with welfare issues associated with living conditions, education, and health. Advice NI Schedule of Processing to enable the processing of data through a subcontract arrangement continues.

Delivery of the Building Positive Relations capacity building programme is ongoing with 28 core participants.

Following approval to extend the participation to the wider community Forward South Partnership is progressing training and recruitment of participants for the Advice, Advocacy, and English Language elements.

As previously reported the Roma women recently attended the Holylands Intercultural Festival, providing a stall with Romanian food and highlighting Romanian culture as part of the wider intercultural event.

3.8 BPR6 – St. Comgalls

The youth cohort has completed the required contracted hours and additional hours will be contributed through a further seminar. The adult cohort's workshops are underway, and an additional cohort will run early in the New Year to meet the 20 participant recruitment target. Wider engagement through citywide engagement element and thematic networking events are progressing.

Members should note that the St. Comgalls capital build is scheduled for completion January 2022 which will enable SEUPB's condition of delivery of project activity within the building to be met.

The research element which contributes to the exhibition and educational resources has been significantly progressed and approvals of the educational resources from the SCP will be progressed in early 2022.

Planning of the overnight study visit, tying in with the research, is also progressing.

Members are asked to agree in principle to amend the Overnight Study Visit to NI or ROI in place of Wolverhampton due to Covid 19 impacts, and to delegate authority to BPR Chair/ PIV Programme Manager to consider and approve the finalised arrangements, subject to SEUPB approval.

3.9 Cinematography Project

Morrow Communications is continuing to capture project activity and content for social media clips, project films, thematic films and the overall programme film tracking the development and accomplishments of the whole Peace Programme.

The current priority for filming is capturing the activity of projects due to complete in early 2022, including CYP2 and CYP3 Personal Change element, to allow short films to be made for these projects. PEACE IV will review a showcase to agree style for these short films early in the New Year.

Members should note the contract extension has been progressed and targets have been realigned to match projects' revised completion dates, following various extensions.

3.10 Financial & Resource Implications

The financial position for the BPR theme has a total of £1,824,642 reimbursed by SEUPB Reimbursement is still outstanding for periods 26 through to period 28 totalling £590k.

3.11 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 to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it adopt the recommendations.

District Council Good Relations Programme
Action Plan 2022/2023

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 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. TEO have requested submission of this years' action plan by 22 January 2022.**

Members will be aware that Action Plans are to be based on an audit of good relations issues and need within the Council area. Members will recall that the most recent audit of good relations needs was completed at the end of 2019/early 2020.

The purpose of this report is to advise of the content of the draft Action Plan for 22/23 and seek approval to forward the Plan to TEO.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 To recommend to the Strategic and Policy Resources Committee that the attached draft Action Plan 2022/23 be submitted to TEO.**

- To note that in order to meet the deadline set by The Executive Office, that the plan will be submitted in draft by 26 January 2022, subject to approval by Council at the beginning of February.**
- Members are also requested to note that this Action Plan submission is subject to amendment during the assessing and scoring process that will be undertaken by TEO. The Council will be notified of any changes in the final approved Action Plans.**

3.0 Main report

- 3.1 The Good Relations Action plan which is submitted to TEO on an annual basis is designed to outline local responses to locally identified good relations issues. In order to inform development of the action plan, councils are obliged to carry out an audit of local good relations needs every three years.**

- 3.2** Members will recall that the most recent audit of good relations needs was completed at the end of 2019. A copy of the recommendations was available online.
- 3.3** The opening TEO budget position for 22/23 has not yet been confirmed, However, in the absence of confirmation, Officers have drawn up the Plan based on last year's allocation of approximately £571,893.
- 3.4** Officers have developed the draft action plan based on the findings of the audit, and also on the findings of consultations undertaken with the community and voluntary sector over the past year, as communities responded to the needs presented within their areas. It should be noted that an approach to grant funding for next year has yet to be approved by Council. However, the draft plan does implement some of the recommendations in relation to a realignment of funding towards strategic programmes rather than grant aid.
- 3.5** Officers will engage further with the SCP, elected members, and other relevant stakeholders to develop the delivery of strategic pieces of work.
- 3.6** As part of the process of drawing up the Action Plan, Officers have consulted with Officers in PEACE IV, the PCSP, Tourism, Culture and Arts and Organisational Development Teams. We have also taken cognisance of other funding streams such as the Minority Ethnic Development Fund (MEDF) and programmes operating within the City under the Urban Villages Initiative.

Specific Points of Note:

- 3.7** Pending confirmation of the Council's approach to Grant Aid in 22/23, it is anticipated that groups will be able to avail of funding through the microgrants scheme for planned intervention work with young people and events. Medium grants of up to 5k will also be made available.
- 3.8** Given the experience of Officers of implementation of the Strategic Intervention Programme in 21/22, to enhance strategic outcomes, rather than allocation of an amount for a number of projects within an area, each area will be allocated 12k for a year long programme meeting TBUC outcomes. Similar to the process in place last year, the projects will be agreed by the relevant Good Relations Officer, Neighbourhood Integration Manager and Neighbourhood Services Manager, the latter of which will have delegated authority to approve the project. The approved projects will be brought to the Shared City Partnership for information and noting.

- 3.9 A copy of the draft proposed Action Plan 22/23 was available online.**

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.10 The plan will be 75% funded by TEO with the remaining 25% included in the Council's 22/23 budget. 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 2/23. Funding supports a portion of some of the salaries within the Good Relations Unit. The programme bid for 22/23 totals £775,903, with an approximate amount of £573k being requested from TEO.**

**Equality or Good Relations Implications
And Rural Needs assessment**

- 3.11 Screening and a rural needs assessment have taken place for the Good Relations Strategy, the Council's Good Relations Action Plan is one element of this strategy.**

Detailed discussion ensued, during which a Member referred to the ongoing problems regarding sectarianism throughout the city and if these could be addressed through the Action Plan.

The Good Relations Manager undertook to discuss this matter further directly with the Member.

A further Member referred to the Action Plan and the need to highlight the positive work achieved as it was often challenging to link specific projects from the original audit.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that:

- it approve the draft Action Plan 2022/23 for submission to TEO;
- it note that, in order to meet the deadline set by The Executive Office, the plan would be submitted in draft by 26th January 2022, subject to approval by Council at its February meeting; and
- it note that the Action Plan submission would be subject to amendment during the assessing and scoring process that would be undertaken by TEO and that the Council would be notified of any changes to the final approved Action Plan.

**Update on District Council Good Relations
Programme Action Plan 2021/2022**

(Councillor Lyons chaired this agenda item as the Chair had previously declared an interest.)

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 contents of the report including:

- That a request has been submitted to TEO to increase the programme budget for the BCC1 Community Provision Support Programme using underspends from other programmes within the DCGRP Action Plan 21/22.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Delivery of the DCGRP Action Plan 21/22 is continuing.

3.2 BCC1 – Council Community Provision Support Programme.

Members will be aware that a budget of £111,936.68 had been set aside within the 21/22 Good Relations budget for the above programme which incorporated both Micro (£1,500) and Medium Grants (£5,000).

3.3 As reported to SCP, calls for applications to Micro and Medium Grants had gone out in June 2022 relating to 4 themes, one of which was including improved attitudes towards people from different backgrounds and cultures. On review of the programme, 68 organisations were awarded funding for projects related to good relations outcomes totalling £202,486.48.

3.4 Members are asked to note that a request has been submitted to TEO to increase the programme budget for the BCC1 Community Provision Support Programme using underspends from other programmes within the DCGRP Acton Plan 21/22.

3.5 BCC6 – Inclusion Programme

Members had also agreed funding support of £5,000 to support The Four Corners Festival which was to take place in February 2022, and delegated authority was granted to the Good Relations Manager to liaise with the group and award the funding if appropriate.

3.6 After the meeting in December 21, the Festival organiser contacted Officers to thank Council for the offer of support but stating that, as the circumstances of the programme had changed due to covid, that they would not require the additional funding. Officers have advised that they could seek support for the next year's programme from the Council's grant aid scheme when it opens.

3.7 Members are therefore, asked to note that the 5k awarded to The Four Corners Festival is no longer required.

3.8 BCC2 – St Patrick’s Day Celebrations Grants

Members will also recall that at the last SCP meeting it was agreed that £10,000 of unspent funding from the Micro Grants budget would be directed into the St. Patrick’s Day fund. This funding was reallocated to the Civic Programme being led by the Tourism, Culture, Arts and Heritage Team to assist with the delivery of the four large scale events scheduled to be held in Belfast over the week of St. Patrick’s Day.

3.9 Given the above position as reported under points 3.2 and 3.7, Members are asked to note that the 10k required will be redirected from underspend in other programmes within the Action Plan. In the interim, Officers are working with colleagues in the TCAH Team to progress this initiative given the timescales involved.

3.10 Members may wish to note that Officers are reviewing the DCGRP budget on a regular basis and will bring back a further progress update to the February meeting.

Financial & Resource Implications

All costs are covered through the District Council Good Relations Action Plan budget 21/22 as agreed by Members in March 2021.

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

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

The Good Relations Manager further advised the Partnership that, under the Belfast City Council (BCC10) Strategic Intervention, there was currently an underspend in the South of £4k and suggested that this be reallocated to the Lagan Village Youth and Community Centre for a reimaging project and, if required, also a proportion of the North underspend. She highlighted that officers had been made aware of this just immediately prior to the meeting.

Several of the Members noted the need for the reallocation and welcomed the progress made but highlighted that, where possible, they would be keen to ensure there would be no other potential projects within the North and South areas. However, they acknowledged the requirement for activities to take place within the current financial year and the fact that it was beneficial to support projects that would meet that deadline.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that:

- it note a request had been submitted to TEO to increase the programme budget for the BCC1 Community Provision Support Programme using underspends from other programmes within the DCGRP Action Plan 2021/22; and
- it agrees, under the BCC Strategic Intervention, that the underspend in South of £4k (and if required a proportion of the underspend in North) be reallocated to the Lagan Village Youth and Community Association for a reimaging project.

**Briefing Session on Challenges facing Refugee
and Asylum Seekers (Verbal update by Good Relations Manager)**

The Good Relations Manager advised the Partnership that a briefing session on the challenges being faced by Refugee and Asylum Seekers was currently being organised for the near future and she undertook to e-mail the Members with the date when confirmed.

She also advised that the Refugee Integration Strategy was currently out for consultation. A Council response was being prepared which would be tabled for consideration at the February meeting of the Shared City Partnership for consideration and endorsement prior to its submission by the 21st February deadline.

Noted.

Events Update

The Good Relations Manager advised the Members of the following events which they were welcome to attend:

- **Confronting Hate: Lessons from Holocaust and Genocide Studies**
Date: Thursday, 27th January 2022
Time: 12 Noon - 1:30 p.m.
Format: Via Zoom
- **The Lesson Not Learnt: The Forgotten Victims of the Holocaust**
Date: Friday, 28th January 2022
Time 10 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.
Format: online via Zoom
- **Countering Racial Prejudice**
Date: Thursday, 3rd February 2022
Time 10.00 a.m. - 12 Noon
Format: online via Zoom
- **Black Cultural Dichotomy**
Date: Thursday, 10th February 2022
Time 10 a.m. - 12 Noon
Format: online via Zoom
- **Strategies for Addressing Anti-Muslim Hostility**
Date: 3rd March, 10th March and 24th March
Time 10 a.m. - 12 Noon
Format: online via Zoom

The Members were advised to contact the officer/organisation responsible for the event should they require any additional information and to note that details and invites would be issued in due course.

Noted.

Chairperson