

**SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP**

**MONDAY 7th FEBRUARY, 2022**

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

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

External Members: Ms. B. Arthurs, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Miss. G. Duggan, Belfast City Centre Management;  
Mrs. J. Hawthorne, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;  
Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council;  
Ms. K. Jardine, Faith Sector;  
Mr. P. Mackel, Belfast and District Trades Union Council;  
Ms. G. Mornhinweg, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;  
Mr. M. McBride, Education Authority;  
Mr. I. McLaughlin, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Superintendent Pollock, PSNI; and  
Ms. Ann Marie White, British Red Cross.

In attendance: Ms. K. Gilliland, Neighbourhood Services Manager;  
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 McMullan and also from Ms. A. Roberts and Ms. A. Tohill.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 17th January 2022 were taken as read and signed as correct.

**Declarations of Interest**

Mrs. B. Arthurs declared an interest in item 2 (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.

**Peace IV Update Reports**

**Secretariat Update**

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, as detailed in the PEACE IV Thematic reports, the Projects were at varying stages of implementation. Project activity continued to be closely monitored with a number of the projects remaining as high risk.

The officer advised that resource issues were continuing to affect both the delivery partners and projects. The Programme Manager for BPR1 and Project Officer within BPR2 had both recently resigned and staff resources were increasingly becoming a concern across the entire programme.

In addition, the need for project modifications and flexibility in delivery and extensions was ongoing due to impact of Covid 19 restrictions. Contract extensions and addendums for projects had been progressed as required. The Members were asked to note that contracts that contained an option to extend did not require any further additional approval. Any further extension requests had been included in the relevant Thematic Updates.

The officer advised that discussions with the SEUPB regarding flexibility and modifications for projects was ongoing, although preliminary enquiries on forthcoming modifications indicated that the SEUPB was not likely be supportive of the requested changes. She continued that, given the current circumstances and timeframe of the programme, the Programme Board had agreed that the Thematic Chairs would meet to consider options and mitigations and that a further report would be presented to the Partnerships for its consideration. The officer highlighted that the Members should note that escalation of the issues might be necessary.

In terms of Governance, the Peace Programme Manager reminded the Members that meetings at a Thematic Steering Group (TSG) level had paused in March 2020 due to the priority response to the pandemic, government restrictions and resource pressures. During this time the role of the TSGs to oversee the delivery of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan at an operational level had been picked up by the PEACE IV Programme Board, with recommendations being made directly to the Shared City Partnership. This amended governance approach had worked effectively and had enabled prompt decision making and management of the programme. Given the current stage of implementation, in that all projects were now fully developed and that all operational matters were overseen by the PEACE IV Programme Board, the Programme Board was of the view that the Terms of Reference of the TSG had run its course and there was limited value in recommencing the meetings. As such, it was proposed that the Thematic Steering Groups be stood down and that all operational matters would be considered by the PEACE IV Programme Board. The Chairs of the TSG would continue as lead officers for each theme and report to the Programme Board accordingly. The Members were advised that the proposed change in Governance would also be discussed and agreed by Audit, Governance and Risk Services.

The Peace Programme Manager advised that, following a detailed forecasting exercise undertaken in December 2021, preliminary indications of an underspend in project activity was now estimated at £929K. Although, contractual obligations for delivery partners were still to be confirmed with the Legal Services. Given the recent developments and emerging issues, it was recommended that further analysis be conducted and the various options explored to utilise the underspend (within existing projects or assigned across themes). A further report would be submitted in due course for consideration, prior to submission to the SEUPB.

The Members were asked to note that planning for the delivery of the next Culture Café which would focus on the Jewish Community was underway, this event was scheduled to be held on 16th February and an invitation would be issued in due course.

The Members were advised that the Programme Support Assistant (PSA) had recently been recruited to the post of Project Development Officer (PDO), effective from 24th January. A recruitment exercise to fill the vacant PSA post was currently underway, however, resource pressures within the PEACE IV team continued.

The Members noted that, as previously reported, the total spend of the programme to date up to Period 28 (October 21) was £5,683,940. The SEUPB had now reimbursed all Period 26 claims and verification of Period 27 and 28 claims had commenced. The compilation of claims for Period 29 was being progressed and it would be submitted to the SEUPB by 28th February 2022.

Several of the Members expressed concern and disappointment at the lack of co-operation from the SEUPB regarding the proposed modifications and its lack of understanding as to why these were necessary, given the ongoing situation with the pandemic. During discussion several of the Members suggested that the SEUPB's approach and the seriousness of the implications of such needed to be urgently flagged with the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and with the Council's Corporate Management Team.

A number of Members thanked the Peace IV staff for their ongoing commitment during what had been a very difficult period.

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

- agrees to stand down the Thematic Steering Groups with all operational matters to be considered by the PEACE IV Programme Board; and
- notes the concern of the Partnership Members at the lack of co-operation from the SEUPB regarding the proposed project modifications and its lack of flexibility in terms of delivery and extensions.

### **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 and 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 and Digital Arts Academies (Tech Camps))

Members are requested to note that current recruitment for February 2022 programmes stands between 40 -50 and will be delivered face to face, with social distancing and additional COVID prevention measures in place.

GIGA have achieved the following in relation to set targets, programme ends September 2022.

Age Group	Target	Completed to Date	Balance
6-11Year Olds:	399	203	196 Remaining
12-16Year Olds:	460	110	350 Remaining
Total	859	313*	546 Remaining

\*Figures adjusted to reflect attrition and non-completion of previous cohorts.

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

The Delivery partner has reported that some schools have cut afterschool provision for a period, to reduce COVID transmission. This is impacting delivery of programmes that operate in school premises on an afterschool basis.

Integrated schools involved in the project have requested content to be delivered during school time. However, SEUPB has advised they do not support this delivery approach. Further discussions with SEUPB are ongoing. Belfast Metropolitan College is exploring other potential options with the delivery partner BYTES. The Secretariat will further progress as required, although no approval is required at present.

An additional complexity of this programme is that the age category is a hard-to-reach group (17–24-year olds). Therefore, if the integrated school registrations cannot be delivered then there is potential risk for a reduction in participants currently registered.

<i>Total</i>	<i>49 from a target of 160</i>	<i>111 remaining (contract ends Sept 22)</i>
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#### CYP 2 - Playing our Part in the City

Participant groups have now completed group sessions and certificates of completion have been issued via post to participants and parents. Analysis of monitoring and valuation figures illustrate that 122 parents have completed the programme, from a target of 100. Evidence of participation of 656 young people has been received, although the achievement of the required

contact hours indicates that approximately 618 will have completed the programme, from a target of 640. Discussions with SEUPB to confirm final completion numbers are progressing. The Delivery Agent is currently exploring dates for the closure event, with Morrow to compile a final montage of all project clips to show at the event.

<i>Total</i>	<i>618 from a target of 640</i>	<i>0 remaining Completed Dec 21</i>
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### **CYP3 – On the Right Track – Sports and Personal Change elements**

The Delivery Agent of the accredited training element the programme (Active Communities Network – ACN), has highlighted the need for additional costs, including management costs, OCN costs and facilitator costs to cover the extension period. Approximate costs submitted by the delivery agent amount to £33,000. The Project Officer is identifying areas within the budget that are underspent, to enable a potential uplift of the contract. ACN has confirmed virtual delivery of the OCN is a viable delivery option This is to reduce the risk of non-delivery of face-to-face training.

Members should note that a request to enable participants (approx. 40-50 young people) who completed the OCN training to be marked as completed has been agreed by the Programme Board, however this is subject to SEUPB approval.

Members are also reminded of the high risk associated with this programme given the target remains 1800 and there is no further response from SEUPB on the request to reduce the target.

There is also an additional query with regards to the use of an SLA for groups posing a potential concern. This is currently being escalated within SEUPB and no approvals are required at present.

<i>Total</i>	<i>647 from a target of 1800</i>	<i>1153 remaining</i>
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### **Personal Change**

Participants from the final cohort have now completed the programme. Final monitoring and evaluation data including exit surveys and attendance records are to be submitted to confirm the level of achievement.

Morrow communications is compiling all filmed clips from the programme into a short film which Extern will showcase at the closure event. Invitations to the event will be issued to members once a date has been agreed.

<i>Total</i>	<i>42 from a target of 42</i>	<i>0 remaining – due to finish Dec 21</i>
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#### **CYP 4 – Cooperation Ireland (Young Advocates)**

The participant target for Cooperation Ireland to achieve is 80 young people, at present 87 registrations have been received. The over-recruitment is to mitigate the risk of attrition. Delivery is progressing well with all 40 young people in the final cohort having completed the required 60 hours cross community contact time.

The Young Advocates Programme Committee is finalising details to present their campaign to councillor's and community safety officials. Content will be sharing the campaign project idea and an animated sexual harassment awareness animation video.

The Delivery Agent is proposing to combine the final closure event with the young people's conference, which is a key target within the original contract.

<b>Total</b>	<b>87 from a target of 80</b>	<b>0 remaining - Due to finish April 22</b>
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#### **CYP 5 – NIHE Local Area Network Partner Delivery**

*NIHE has progressed an urgent recruitment exercise to replace the Programme Manager who recently resigned, with the new officer due to take up the role on 1 February 2022. This key role oversees both CYP and BPR themes under the PEACE IV local action plan.*

*The SLA approach approved by members for NIHE participant groups is still awaiting SEUPB approval. SEUPB has raised additional queries and a further meeting, with the Financial Control Unit and Joint Secretariat to escalate this, has been requested. Members should note the delay in approval is impacting recruitment and participation for both CYP and BPR. The SLA ensures that costs can be reimbursed without the need for additional layers of procurement and submission of contracts of employment for each youth worker / volunteer involved in the programme.*

*A response from SEUPB on the request to reduce the high targets associated with the Project is yet to be received. SEUPB is considering the approval approach.*

<b>Total</b>	<b>143 from a target of 900</b>	<b>757 remaining (Contract ends Sept 22)</b>
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#### **Financial and Resource Implications**

To date all PEACE IV costs for the CYP Theme totalling £1.29m has been reimbursed by SEUPB. As previously reported, reimbursement of Claims for Periods 27 and 28 valued at £199K is outstanding, although SEUPB vouching of the Period 27 claim has commenced.

## **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 to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it note the report and the associated appendices.

## **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 and drew the Members’ attention to the risks associated with delivery which had been attached as an appendix.

She then referred specifically to the Capital Works at the Forth Meadow Community Greenway.

**Springfield Dam** – The naming process for the Springfield Dam bridge would be progressed following completion of the current naming process of the Divis Path.

**PEACE IV Network Scheme – Capital Works** - The anticipated completion of works at Section 1 Glencairn remained on schedule for late February 2022. The naming of the lighting beacons had been further considered by the Capital Project Board, who had proposed that the names reflect the Council Asset name or the location name that it was best known (e.g., Springfield Dam / Glencairn Park etc.) Following assessment of the PQQ responses for the public art pieces, 6 artists had been provisionally short listed. Clarification points on insurance were currently being addressed. The artists would then be invited to tender for the art pieces.

**Social Value Clause** – officers were liaising with the contractor on implementation of the Social Value Clause and providing guidance on the fundraising and community aspects of the contract.

In regard to the other Programmes:

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

The Project Lead continued to engage and facilitate discussion groups through Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4 and had linked with GVRT to establish discussion with groups in the Village / Donegall Road / Roden Street areas in Section 5.

- **Programming**

Implementation of the programming aspects was progressing.

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

Delivery of the project continued to be affected by the impact of Covid 19. The Members were requested to agree a further 3-month extension to the Mediation NI

contract, with the option for an additional 3 months, to assist with the achievement of targets.

The Members were also requested to agree, in principle, a further delivery modification request to increase the tolerance for contact hours to 60% (thereby reducing the contact hours from 12 to 7 hours), to engage with participants in schools through a 'self-directed learning' approach for field trips and facilitated walks, as necessary. This approval would be subject to the agreement of the SEUPB.

- **Shared Space Volunteer Training**

Training of the second group of walking and cycle leads was progressing well. The group was also working closely with the first group on the organised cycles / walks. A promotional video clip had been circulated via the Council's social media channels during late January.

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

Officers were currently awaiting the submission of the final Dialogue and Engagement report from MDL which was due at the end of January 2022. The Members noted that they would be advised of the recommendations and next steps contained within the report in due course.

- **Governance / Management Model**

Viatac Limited had submitted its draft interim report which outlined the approach to date and the next stages in developing suggested governance model/s. The Members were advised that comments on the interim report were welcome and that these would be submitted to the delivery agent. The next key stages involved in person workshops and cross community discussions on the extent of the governance structure. The delivery agent would be visiting Belfast from 14th - 17th February 2022.

- **Youth Engagement and Civic Education**

Youth Link NI had confirmed details of the two staff that would co-ordinate the project and engage with the young people. The delivery partner had commenced engagement with local youth organisations and linking up with local youth / community safety forums. Recruitment was currently ongoing with training still anticipated to begin in February 2022. The Members noted that regular update meetings had been scheduled.

- **Modular Building**

The modular building was in the process of being included as a bookable facility, through the Council's Outdoor Leisure Department booking process. Opening of the facility would be in line with current COVID restrictions, guidelines, and recommendations.

- **SSS Activities and Animation Programme Co-ordinator**

Following a project initiation meeting, ArtsEkta had submitted the consultation plan which was due to commence imminently. The consultation would inform the programme of events / activities along the Greenway. It was anticipated that the first



event would take place in March 2022. The Members were advised that regular monthly up-date meetings had been scheduled and agreed.

The Partnership was advised that the SEUPB had reimbursed the Period 26 Claim (£50,171) and the reimbursement of claims up to Period 25 was £1,639, 341. The SEUPB had also commenced the processing of outstanding claims for Period 27 (£85,411) and Period 28 (£97,387).

During discussion, the Peace IV Programme Manager confirmed that active discussion was ongoing with all landowners, including the owners of the Invest NI Site, to ensure that all the necessary approvals were in place before section two was due to open.

Following a query regarding Social Clauses associated with the Capital Works, the Programme Manager undertook to submit an update report to the next Partnership meeting.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it note the contents of the report and the Thematic Risk Tracker and agree the following, which would be subject to the approval of the SEUPB:

- to extend the Interpretative Panels contract with Mediation NI to June 2022, with the option for an additional 3 months and agree the proposed delivery amendments; and
- to agree 'in principle' a further delivery modification request to increase the tolerance for contact hours to 60% (7 hours), to engage with participants in schools through a 'self-directed learning' approach for field trips and facilitated walks, as necessary.

### **Building Positive Relationships (BPR 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 Building Positive Relations (BPR) theme of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan.**

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

**The Partnership is requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that they note the contents of the report and related appendices and agree the following proposals:**

- **BPR1-NIHE**
  - (i) **to diversify and extend the participant cohort for the South Belfast Network to include participants from the BAME and PUL communities.**
  - (ii) **to extend the recruitment areas across South and North Belfast to enhance participant uptake.**
- **BPR2-Creative Communities-** to condense delivery via residential activity facilitated by Corrymeela and the STA approach with Radius Housing subject to SEUPB approval.

- BPR4- Centenaries- to realign of the budget to enable extended delivery and staffing to April 22.
- BPR6 St Comgalls – (i) to agree to a presentation on the digital and education resources associated with St Comgalls project by Copius, and their partner, Redhead, and;
- (iii) to amend the Study Visit from ROI to NI due to Covid 19 concerns and impacts, subject to SEUPB approval.

### **3.0 Main report**

#### **3.11 Key Issues**

Project activity is continuing to increase although Covid 19 impacts continues to affect elements of delivery and participation. Risks associated with delivery is outlined in Appendix I Risk Tracker and has recently been discussed with SEUPB.

#### **3.1 BPR1 – Cross Community Area Networks (CCAN)**

Community engagement and participation in the project is continuing, with the number of registered participants reaching 92.

Progress has been made in establishing all 6 CCANs.

To enable ongoing delivery NIHE has submitted modification requests which were considered and approved by the PEACE IV Programme Board as follows:

to extend the geographical scope for South and North Belfast to;

- (i) include participants from the BAME community and PUL given that CNR uptake continues to prove challenging.
- (ii) to include South Belfast: Lisburn Road area, North Belfast: Mt Vernon, Twaddell/Woodvale, and Ardoyne areas.

Members are asked to note that the requests for an 8-hour capacity building element and the reprofile of budget to accommodate a 2-day residential were considered and approved though Programme board and SEUPB.

Following the resignation of the NIHE Programme Manager, a recruitment exercise was undertaken via an internal expression of interest approach has been progressed by NIHE and a new manager is due to begin on 1 February 2022.

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

Project delivery is progressing with established clusters. The young people in the Woodvale/Ardoyne cluster continue to participate in interactive project workshops.

The artist in residence for the Football cluster has dates scheduled to progress activities throughout February with the steering group leads from St. Malachy's and Albert Foundry assisting with recruitment. A visit to Windsor is scheduled for late February.

The Clusters for North are in further discussions to progress activities and project objectives. The East Cluster is keen to condense delivery and progress a planned residential as per STA request.

Members to note that whilst the project is progressing, delivery is slower and participation lower than anticipated. Further recruitment of participant clusters is required and the recruitment of a new project officer will prioritise this objective.

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

#### **Transformative Leadership Programme:**

75 participants have completed the TLP across Belfast for the period of June to Dec 21. Recruitment of new cohorts is progressing and start dates identified by the delivery partners for late January and early February with final participant numbers to be confirmed.

The PEACE IV team continue to be involved in welcome and project development workshops which are now scheduled as part of the leadership programme. A community project for a Springfield Road/Falls Road Garden of Reflection has been approved and the project is now underway. Resource allocation agreements have been progressed allowing for projects to commence activity in the West.

Coordinated dates have been scheduled with partners and S3 Solutions, S3 also attended the virtual networking event on the 27th January. The Neighbourhood Services Manager also attended the event to outline linkages of the programme with Community Planning.

A full schedule of engagement of the Transform for Change progress and activity is outlined in Appendix II. The schedule illustrates the extent and scope of the project.

Planning for the community engagement events and local study visits to take place in early 2022, is progressing.

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

The delivery partner has identified three new cohorts with all groups now actively participating in project activity. Participant numbers for year 4 cohorts is currently confirmed at 37 with overall figures in excess of 170 participants out of the 190 target required. Residentials are scheduled through February and March and delivery hours have reached a mid-point for these groups.

The delivery partner, as previously noted, has submitted a revised implementation plan and budget to ensure staff are in place until the end of the project, as requested in the extension request to April 2022.

Options for the delivery of targets associated with the EU Study trips and alternative trips across NI and ROI are progressing with locations identified and planning underway. A full itinerary is due early February. Cohorts remain keen to partake in this element of the project.

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

The Neighbourhood Participatory Forums are embedded in all areas and currently 96 core participants are actively involved in activity. Each area has developed a suitable strategy for engagement in line with participant needs, and capacity. A summary of project progress to date is outlined below.

- South Belfast groups engaged in a total 18 sessions / events / workshops with a combined total of 67 contact hours.
- East Belfast groups engaged in a total 23 sessions / events / workshops with a combined total of 94 contact hours.
- North Belfast participants have engaged in 10 sessions / events with 32 contact hours.
- West Belfast participants have engaged in 21 sessions / events with 71 contact hours.

Due to the delivery partners organisational approach regarding Covid, the planned Symposium due to take place in January has been replaced with a smaller Inclusion forum which the Thematic Project Manager will attend. The symposium is to be rescheduled for later this year.

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

Delivery of the Genealogy programme of workshops and exhibition is progressing with 11 regular participants. Delivery has been rescheduled for February, due to the venue closure impacted by Covid.

Discussions regarding other engagement opportunities are continuing, although it is challenging making direct contact with other potential Traveller participants.

The Invitation to Tender for the Capacity Building project was released early January with a closing date of the 28 January 2022. The quotation for Empowering Young women workshops and exhibition is to be reissued due to an unsuccessful submission, a further scoping exercise has taken place to widen possible interested parties.

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

A significant increase in the use of the Roma Support Hub is evident with 212 referrals during the last quarter.

Capacity Building Sessions are progressing and are structured around a weekly Women's Group. Recent activities include a sewing group and theatre visits. Morrow is scheduled to film community engagements once finalised.

Members should note that the requested non accredited 'conversational English' element has now been approved by SEUPB with specific requirements for delivery outlined and participant numbers are being identified.

The delivery partner has advised that Advocacy and Advice Skills training is to commence. 5 participants for the Advice training have been identified from the Romanian community.

### **3.8 BPR6 – St. Comgalls**

Workshops, seminars and networking events for youth and adult cohorts continue.

Members should note that the St. Comgalls capital build is now scheduled for completion in April 2022 due to material shortages and delays. SEUPB's condition is for delivery of project activity to take place in the building. The project will finish in May 2022.

Members are asked to agree that the project presents at the March Partnership meeting, on the approach it has taken to developing its digital and educational resources alongside various draft examples, which will be used as templates for the final outputs.

Members are also asked to note that the project partner has also now requested flexibility to deliver study trips previously agreed to be to ROI historical museums and landmarks to take place instead in NI museums and landmarks, as a Covid mitigation, subject to SEUPB approval. Delegated authority has been granted to the Programme Mgr. and BPR Thematic Mgr., by the Programme Board, to consider these modification requests. This is in addition to the UK trips modification that was proposed last month.

These will be agreed by all parties in advance of taking place to ensure outcomes are still met.

### **3.9 Cinematography Project**

Filming of project activity and content for the Belfast Peace Journey project and thematic films, as well as for social media clips, is continuing.

Monthly filming opportunities are identified and agreed with Morrow including Traveller, CYP4, Shared Space and others during February. Drafts of the first Project Short Stories, for the CYP2 Playing our Part in the City and CYP3 Personal Change projects will be submitted in January for final agreement ahead of being screened at these projects' final project closure events in February. Officers will also agree the style for the full series of short stories.

Following delivery partner agreement of a contract extension and uplift, a contract addendum and revised targets have been issued to the project.

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

The financial position for the BPR theme remains as previously reported with £1,792,882 reimbursed by SEUPB for some claims up to Period 26.

Reimbursement of Period 26 claims for NIHE and St. Comgalls (£54,641) has progressed, although payment has not yet been received by Council. SEUPB has commenced the verification for Period 27 (£326,709) and Period 28 claims (£246,521.73).

### **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 Peace IV Programme Manager advised that under the BPR5 – Traveller Project she could now update that unfortunately, once again, no tender responses had been received for the Capacity Building project by the 28th January deadline and therefore market testing showed there was no suitable organisation with the capacity or resources to deliver the project. As such, it was felt that the delivery of the project with the remaining timeframe would be no longer feasible. She undertook to submit an update report to the next meeting that would include proposals as to how some of the elements might be added to existing projects and give consideration of the reallocation of the remaining funding to other projects.

Several Members expressed their disappointment that no tenders had been received which they felt was another indicator of the current challenges within the sector.

The Partnership recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee adopt the recommendations as outlined at 2.0 of the report and note that an update report in respect of the Traveller Project would be submitted to the March meeting of the Partnership.

## **Update on District Council Good Relations Action Plan 2021-2022**

The Good Relations Manager drew the Members' attention to the updated Action Plan that had been attached as an appendix to the agenda.

She advised that officers had engaged with the various partners regarding all the projects within the Action Plan and highlighted that TEO had agreed the reprofile request that had been reported to the Partnership in January 2022 and the change to the budget that had previously been highlighted.

The Members noted that Volunteer Now had been contracted to deliver the Leadership Development Programme, which had arisen as an action from the recent COVID Research report and was being delivered as part of the BCC4 Programme.

Several Members welcomed the updated Action Plan and referred to the need to have a wider conversation as to how the people of Belfast saw it as a 'Shared City'. Also discussed was the need to emphasis this approach across all sectors and to ensure that the programmes offered were as inclusive as possible.

The Partnership noted that a revised Action Plan would be submitted to TEO reflecting the proposed amendments.

Noted.

## **Update on Youth Representation to Shared City Partnership**

The Partnership considered the following report:

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

**At the November meeting of the Partnership, Members agreed that a representative from the Youth Council be invited to join the Shared City Partnership on an advisory capacity. As per the terms of reference, the representative would have the right to participate fully in the discussions of the SCP and to offer advice but would not have any voting rights.**

### **2.0 Recommendations**

- **That the Good Relations Manager engages with the Youth Coordinator on their return, to explore ways in which the Partnership can engage with the Youth Council productively in the current context which will ensure the views of young people are taken on board.**
- **That a further report is brought back to the Partnership on the outcome of those discussions.**
- **That the status of the nominations of Youth Champions from each political party be confirmed to ensure that views of young people on good relations can be shared.**

### **3.0 Main report**

**3.1 Further to the decision of the Partnership, the Good Relations Manager met with the Community Development Officer working with the Youth Council to discuss the SCP's wish to involve a representative from the Youth Council to join the Partnership as a nonvoting member.**

**3.2 While keen to ensure that the Youth Council has links with the Shared City Partnership and that its members can input into good relations issues, the Community Development Officer advised the following:**

- That the members of the Youth Council would not be able to attend SCP meetings as they are held in the afternoons when young people are in education, training, or employment.**
- That recruitment for the Youth Council had only taken place in October 2021 with the induction for young people beginning in November. Up until the time of writing, the members of the Youth Council had only met each other online.**
- That the age range for the Youth Council is 13 -18 years of age and the recently recruited members are at the younger end of the age range.**
- That there was considerable interest from several quarters in engaging with the Youth Council and therefore, demand on the Youth Council's input and time is likely to be high.**
- That the Community Development Officer was covering the remit of the Youth Coordinator in their absence and that the Youth Coordinator was due to return to post in a matter of weeks.**

**It is worth noting the following points:**

**3.3 That the Youth Council has formal Special meetings scheduled with the Council's People and Communities Committee three times a year.**

**3.4 At the June meeting of the above special Committee, it was agreed that each Political Party in Belfast City Council nominate a 'Youth Champion' who can liaise with Belfast Youth Council on motions and matters relating to youth in the city as a mechanism to aid communication between Elected Members and BYF members.**

**3.5 That Local Authorities have been given responsibility to deliver a Local Community Peace Action Plan under the PEACE PLUS Programme, managed through the Special European Union Programmes Body. It is envisaged that the guidelines given by SEUPB regarding the composition of the PEACE PLUS Partnership may require changes to governance arrangements and consideration of how the SCP fits with any such arrangements needs to be undertaken as part of this process. There will also**



need to be discussion about what engagement and codesign with young people will look like to maximise their participation and may include informal mechanisms.

Given the above points, Members are asked to consider the following:

- That the Good Relations Manager engages with the Youth Coordinator on their return, to explore ways in which the SCP can engage with the Youth Council productively in the current context which will ensure the views of young people are taken on board.
- That a further report is brought back to the Partnership on the outcome of those discussions.
- That the status of the nominations of Youth Champions from each political party be confirmed to ensure that views of young people on good relations can be shared with those champions.

#### **Financial and 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 Partnership recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee adopt the recommendations as outlined at 2.0 of the report.

#### **Response to Draft Refugee Integration Strategy for NI 2021-2026**

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

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

The Executive opened their consultation on their draft Refugee Integration Strategy for NI 2021-2026 on 29 November 2021 and Officers have prepared a draft response to the Strategy for Members to consider.

##### **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That Members consider the response to the consultation on the draft Refugee Integration Strategy for NI 2021-2026 produced by The Executive Office and recommend approval to submit the response to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

- 2.2 That Members note the response will be forwarded to The Executive Office in draft, pending Council approval, to ensure timely submission for the deadline of 20 February 2022.
- 2.3 That Members note a virtual Briefing Session on Issues facing Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Belfast, which will be led by the Red Cross, has been organised for the Shared City Partnership on 22 February 2022 from 10am – 12pm.
- 2.4 Members are asked to agree that relevant Council Officers be invited to attend this briefing to ensure maximum impact across delivery of Council services.

### 3.0 Main report

#### Key Issues

- 3.1 The Executive's Racial Equality Strategy 2015-2025 provides a framework for Government departments to tackle racial inequalities and to promote and encourage good race relations and social cohesion for Irish Travellers, minority ethnic people whose families have been here a number of generations or who have recently arrived, migrant workers and asylum seekers. The Racial Equality Strategy states there is a strong case for a separate Refugee Integration Strategy, to ensure a smooth transition between being an asylum seeker and a refugee and to ensure that refugees can build a new life here and realise their full potential. Accordingly, a draft Refugee Integration Strategy has been developed for consultation.
- 3.2 The draft Strategy has been developed and informed through research and engagement with stakeholders with expertise in the area. A report was commissioned by The Executive Office from Queen's University Belfast on the experiences of asylum seekers and refugees in Northern Ireland. The report helped to focus the Strategy on the main areas raised by those interviewed. The report can be accessed at the link below:
- <https://www.qub.ac.uk/home/media/Media,784971,en.pdf>
- 3.3 This consultation is intended to seek the views of all stakeholders to ensure the final Strategy is focused on the priority issues and needs and sets out the most important actions that must be taken to support refugees and asylums seekers here.
- 3.4 The draft Strategy outlines the draft Vision and 4 high level outcomes to achieve the vision. The document also gives greater detail on supporting actions.

### 3.5 Vision

Our vision is for a cohesive and shared society where refugees and asylum seekers are valued and feel safe, are integrated into communities and are supported to reach their full potential.

### **3.6 High Level Outcomes**

#### **OUTCOME 1 – REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS ARE VALUED AND RESPECTED**

Refugees and asylum seekers are respected as members of our communities and their presence, knowledge and contribution to society is recognised and valued.

#### **OUTCOME 2 – REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS ARE SAFE AND FEEL SECURE**

Refugees and asylum seekers feel welcome and live here safely without fear of persecution or discrimination resulting from their immigration status.

#### **OUTCOME 3 – REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS EXERCISE THEIR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Refugees and asylum seekers are integrated into diverse and inclusive communities and are aware of, and able to exercise, their rights and responsibilities.

#### **OUTCOME 4 – REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS ARE SUPPORTED TO ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL**

Refugees and asylum seekers have access to services and support to achieve their full potential.

- 3.7 A copy of the draft BCC response to the consultation is attached at Appendix 1 (detailed in Section 3 of the template document provided by The Executive for completion.

#### **Briefing Session on Issues facing Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Belfast**

- 3.8 A Briefing Session on Issues facing Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Belfast which will be led by the Red Cross has been organised for the Shared City Partnership on 22 February 2022 from 10am – 12pm. This will take place via Microsoft Teams and a link will be sent out to members, along with an agenda nearer to the date. A hold the date invite has been previously circulated to members.
- 3.9 Members are also asked if they would agree to invite relevant Council Officers to the briefing session given that this is an opportunity to bring further learning and to ensure delivery of Council services can be examined through this lens.
- 3.10 Members are also asked to note the publication of a new joint report from the British Red Cross and the VOICES Network 'We want to be strong, but we don't have the chance': women's experiences of seeking asylum in the UK'. This is the first-time the

**Red Cross has co-produced a report with the VOICES Network and the first research that specifically looks at experiences of women.**

- 3.11 The research finds that, for many women, the UK’s asylum process is not sensitive to gender or trauma and does not provide the support they need. This is despite commitments by the UK government to provide an asylum system that is ‘gender-sensitive’ in terms of application and decision-making processes, and support services, such as accommodation or healthcare.**
- 3.12 The report includes detailed recommendations – on the asylum interview process, decision-making delays, access to healthcare, education, housing and more. The main recommendation is that the government develop asylum policy with the people these policies affect - with women who have first-hand experience of seeking asylum. A link to the report will be circulated to Members when received.**

### **Financial and Resource Implications**

**All financial and resource implications are covered under existing budgets.**

### **Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**

**The response to the draft Refugee Integration Strategy aims to further promote good relations and equality.”**

During discussion the representative from the Red Cross advised that she would be happy to run a supplementary session for any of the Members who had indicated that they would be unable to attend and suggested that the ‘mop up’ session could be shared with other external representatives from the Partnership Members organisations if they thought it would be useful.

Following consideration, the Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that:

- it endorses the draft Refugee Integration Strategy for NI 2021-2026 consultation response and its submission by the 20th February deadline, subject to Council ratification at its meeting on 1st March; and
- it notes the virtual Briefing Session on Issues facing Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Belfast, led by The Red Cross, on 22nd February 2022 from 10 a.m. – 12 noon and agrees that the relevant Council Officers be invited to attend the briefing to ensure maximum impact across delivery of Council services.

### **Events Update**

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

**Event: ‘Trapped by the Border’: Northern Nationalists, Southern Unionists and the Impact of Partition 1920-25’.**

**Date: Wednesday, 23rd February 2022**

**Time:** 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Format:** Online Webinar Talk and QandA with Dr. Éamon Phoenix

**Registration:** <https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/Events/Trapped-by-the-Border-Northern-Nationalists-Southe>

**Contact Officer:** David Robinson

**Event: Decade of Centenaries Conference**

**Date:** Wednesday, 23rd March 2022

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Format:** Online Webinar

**Registration:** <https://plannd.co.uk/decade-of-centenaries-conference-2022/>

The Members were advised to contact the officer responsible for the event should they require any additional information.

Noted.

Chairperson