

Title of Report:	Peace Plus Partnership – Council representation
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	15 February 2022
For Decision or For Information	For Decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy & Engaged Communities
Outcome	Council will work to develop and promote stable and cohesive communities across the Borough
Lead Officer	Head of Community & Culture Peace Co-Ordinator

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	
Included in Current Year Estimates	Yes
Capital/Revenue	
Code	
Staffing Costs	N/A

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

To request the Leisure & Development Committee to nominate an agreed cohort of elected members to the Peace Plus Partnership using D'hondt.

This Partnership will be key to developing and driving the Co-Designed Local Action Plan for CCGBC under the new Peace Plus Programme. In addition to the Elected Members, the composition of the Partnership will include Partners from Statutory Agencies, individuals from the Community & Voluntary Sector and representatives from DEAs to be geographically representative. Whilst this is not prescriptive, it is a suggested model. Please see the attached draft report for a full view of the recommendations.

2.0 Background

In April 2021, the Leisure & Development Committee received a presentation regarding the Highlights of Peace IV and highlighting the next iteration of funding, Peace Plus.

The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) has the statutory responsibility for the implementation of the current EU PEACE IV (€270m) and INTERREG VA (€283m) Programmes and for preparing the successor programme, PEACE PLUS. We also have a signposting role to promote involvement in the INTERREG VB Transnational and INTERREG VC Interregional Programmes.

The Body is one of the six cross border Bodies set up under the "Agreement between the Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland establishing implementing bodies" signed on 8 March 1999 (the British Irish Agreement of 8 March 1999). The PEACE PLUS Programme will contribute to a more peaceful, prosperous and stable society in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland and will leave a lasting legacy. The programme will achieve this by funding activities that promote peace and reconciliation and contribute to cross border economic and territorial development. It will build upon previous PEACE and INTERREG Programmes.

The EU regulations pertinent to this programme have been published in draft form by the European Commission. Provision has been made for an indicative budget of approximately €1bn, including proposals from the EU budget, the Government of Ireland, the Northern Ireland Executive and the UK Government.

The Programme has been developed as a result of intensive stakeholder engagement and review of research material. From the outset of the Programme development process, the SEUPB has adopted a firm partnership approach at all levels and included community actors. This has included the garnering of views of stakeholders on the priorities and focus of the Programme. The SEUPB commenced the Programme development process for PEACE PLUS in 2019. Since then, there has been a considerable amount of preparatory work, research and stakeholder engagement undertaken, CCGBC having contributed as a consultee.

The overall objective of the PEACE PLUS Programme will be to build Peace and Prosperity and ensure that this Programme will leave a lasting and tangible legacy. In CCGBC it is our desire that Peace Plus will build on the positives and successes from Peace IV and will use new opportunities to innovate where possible.

Based on the extensive engagement described, SIX KEY THEMATIC AREAS have emerged. The Co-Designed Local Community Peace Action Plans) (€90million) (1.1) fall under "BUILDING PEACEFUL and THRIVING COMMUNITIES."

To date the Local Authorities have undertaken workshops and consultations with the SEUPB appointed consultants regarding the structures required prior to the delivery of a Local Action Plan, the Peace Plus Partnership becoming a crucial element in terms of driving the direction of the Action Plan through proposed public consultation in the coming weeks and months. There is a recommendation by the Co-Design Consultants' Consortium to include "4

Membership Pillars”, which is not dissimilar to the composition of the previous Peace IV Partnership. A full description of the “4 membership Pillars” is outlined in the attached draft report recommendations (**Annex A**).

The “Partnership”, will be comprised of:

- Elected Members (D’hondt);
- Representatives Statutory Agencies who will be nominated and will act as advisors (they will not have voting rights);
- Social Partners who will undergo a public recruitment process. Partners will have appropriate skills, experience, interest or expertise on peace building, reconciliation or good relations. In addition representation will be sought to ensure broad geographical coverage, Peace Plus target groups, under representative groups, representation from civic society and S75 groups.

As before, the Partnership will be bound by a Partnership Agreement, refer to Standing Orders and register Conflict of Interests.

The attached draft report (**Annex A**) makes recommendations regarding the considerations required in order to deliver an inclusive and robust Partnership, and outlines some initial decisions in terms of composition e.g., 50/50 elected members/social partners.

Once the elected members have been nominated and approved by council, the development of the Partnership and further actions in terms of recruitment process, target groups etc will be brought to council in order to commence recruitment at the earliest possible juncture.

3.0 Proposal

To request that council nominate Elected Representatives using D’hondt for the composition of the Peace Plus Partnership, following the model that was used under Peace IV and is recommended by the attached annex. In addition to the requirement for Elected Members to be nominated, a range of other Partners will be required, such as relevant Statutory Partners particularly as the Local Action Plan should align with the outcomes of the Community Plan, these partners will perform an advisory role, and the Social Partners who will constitute representation from a wide geographical area and underrepresented groups will be encouraged to apply as individuals or representatives or community organisations.

It is proposed that once nominated, the Elected Members will support this process as a way of driving forward the Co-Designed Local Action Plan and to progress the governance of the Peace Plus Partnership.

4.0 Options

4.1 Nominate 11 elected representatives using D’Hondt:

DUP X 4

SF X 3

SDLP X 2

UUP X 2

4.2 Nominate 16 elected representatives using D’Hondt:

DUP x 6

SF x 4

UU x 3

SDLP x 2

ALL x 1

5.0 Recommendation

That the committee agrees a preferred option in terms of broad Council representation on the forthcoming Peace Plus Partnership to support both a co design process for the local Action Plan and the necessary governance to ensure its successful implementation.



Special EU Programmes Body
Comhlacht na gClár Speisialta AE
Special EU Skemes Boadie

PEACEPLUS Partnership Development Discussion Document for local authorities in Northern Ireland

as part of

Theme 1.1 Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities and action 1.1 Co-designed Local Authority PEACEPLUS Partnership and Action Plans

Please note, this document is a working draft document for discussion with councils as part of the co-design process of the new PEACEPLUS Partnerships. The initial meetings with Councils on partnership development may result in some minor changes to the final version.

Preamble

This document is to be used as part of a discussion and planning process between senior personnel (including PEACE IV staff members) within each of the 17 local authorities and the assigned consortium support consultant. This should be used to help identify the most appropriate PEACEPLUS Partnership model for each local authority area. It should build on learning to date from PEACE IV and other iterations of PEACE as well as complement community planning / LCDC processes in each area. The recommended PEACEPLUS Partnership Model is outlined in Annex 1.

It is recognised that some PEACE IV Partnerships are still operational so there may be some overlap between a PEACE IV Partnership and a PEACEPLUS Partnership. It is possible that the same people may be represented on both partnerships, however, clear demarcations between the role of each partnership should be made given the unique role that each performs.

1.0: Introduction

PEACEPLUS Partnerships will be established in each individual local authority area. The SEUPB will not be overly prescriptive in terms of partnership composition, development process or selection. This discussion paper has been produced to ensure good practice around the establishment of an effective partnership. Representation should be balanced, at least some members should have appropriate skills (e.g., expertise and interest in peace building, good relations and reconciliation, project planning, procurement, community engagement), and community interests and needs must be represented.

The Partnership must ensure effective communication on the establishment of the PEACEPLUS Partnership and in the development and implementation of the PEACEPLUS Action Plan led by appropriate best practice governance including, ideally, a consensus-based approach to and transparency of decision making.

In addition, the Partnership must be an appropriate size to be effective and efficient. A Partnership Agreement will ensure equality of contribution from all participating stakeholders. Partnerships may include all or some of the following:

- Local authority elected members
- Public sector bodies;
- Government departments;

- Youth organisations;
- Community and voluntary sector organisations;
- Good Relations organisations;
- Local community organisations;
- Universities; Institutes of Technology and Colleges of Further Education;
- Tourism sector bodies;
- Environment/climate action organisations; and
- Trade Unions; and Business federations.

A process to register and record any conflicts of interest on behalf of PEACEPLUS Partnership members should be introduced.

2.0: Role of the PEACEPLUS Partnerships

The PEACEPLUS Partnership will oversee the design and implementation of a co-designed process in their local authority area which will be used to inform the development of an overarching PEACEPLUS Action Plan. Following approval, each Partnership will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of their PEACEPLUS Action Plan. All partnerships should ensure their Action Plan aligns with the local Community Plan for the area.

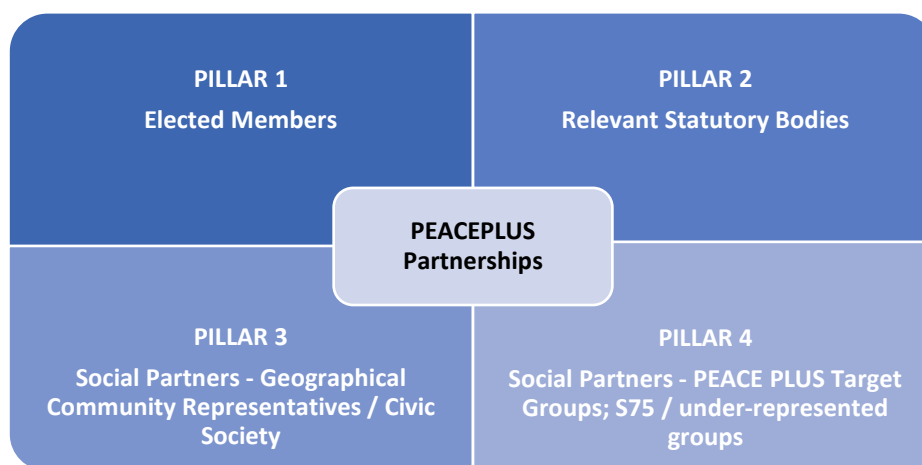
3.0: Process

The Blu Zebra consortium will assist and help to facilitate the partnership development process. Local authorities will want to ensure;

- Representation is balanced – elected members, statutory sector, community voluntary sector, geographical representation, communities of interest, PEACEPLUS target groups
- At least some members have appropriate skills and expertise on peace building and reconciliation
- The Partnership is of an appropriate size to be effective

The following four membership pillars are recommended for inclusion in each PEACEPLUS Partnership as outlined in Figure 1 overleaf.

Figure 1: PEACEPLUS Partnership – four recommended membership pillars for inclusion



This reflects the results of the SEUPB’s PEACEPLUS consultation process which identified a need to widen the engagement of those across each local council area in peace building, including those who may not have engaged in peace building work previously or those who felt marginalised from the programme previously.

Specifically, Local authorities will want to consider how to appoint members from across these four different pillars.

- How many partnership members are anticipated? How many per pillar? Do you need to set a maximum and minimum number?
- What will be the elected member / social partner split (excluding statutory partners) – is it 50/50 or will elected members be in the majority?

Following discussions and support from Consortium, a high-level paper should be prepared and presented to council for approval on the proposed composition of the new PEACEPLUS Partnership. The following table should be used to support the development of this paper by Council senior staff.

Table 1: Selection Process Considerations for the Four Membership Pillars

Pillar	Selection Process Considerations
Pillar 1: Elected Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree a Local authority allocation system such as by agreement or D’Hondt++ which will ensure cross party representation (DEA coverage, gender and age balance to be considered) • Ask parties to nominate

Pillar	Selection Process Considerations
Pillar 2: Statutory Sector¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek nominations from the Community Planning Partnership to ensure alignment between Community Planning and Peace Plus • How many representatives? • Are there specific public sector organisations that have experience of Peace or for which peace building is germane to their work? • Clarify voting rights of statutory partners
Pillar 3: Social Partners² - Geographic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will applications be sought e.g., open and fair public advertisement and application process; or by nomination; or a hybrid model across both? • What are the guidance criteria for new members? • Agree process for assessment and selection and timeline • Establish an assessment panel including an independent member
Pillar 4: Social Partners - PEACEPLUS Target Groups³ - Section 75 / under-represented Groups// those most marginalised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do you ensure geographic representation? DEA? Clusters of DEAs • Are there specific groups from which you want to seek representation e.g., PEACEPLUS Target Groups, Civic Society, Section 75/ under-represented groups? • How do you ensure balanced representation taking and demonstrating cognisance of S75 and equality considerations? • Have you considered any conflict-of-interest challenges that you may encounter through this process once the partnership is fully operational

4.0 Suggested Selection Process for Elected Members

See section 3.

5.0 Suggested Selection Process for Statutory Sector Members

See Section 3.

¹ Traditionally, statutory sector were partners in an advisory capacity with non-voting rights – in some current PEACE IV Partnerships they do and in others they do not have voting rights

² Under PEACEPLUS, Social Partners include those within the community, voluntary and social enterprise sector; those from special interest groups or those representing Section 75 Groups (NI); individuals from civic society; and those from PEACE target groups; trade unions and businesses and those are the most marginalised within society

³ PEACEPLUS Action Plans should be designed to engage people from many different socio, economic and community backgrounds. Special consideration should be given to under-represented groups. These include women, young people, older people, those living with a disability, members of the LGBTQI+ community, those particularly impacted by the legacy of the Conflict, such as victims and survivors and those dealing with legacy issues such as ex-prisoners and former members of the security forces as well as ethnic minorities, migrants, asylum seekers and members of the Traveller Community.

6.0 Suggested Selection Process for Social Partners

- 1) Agree number of social partners to be appointed / nominated / or a hybrid of both (*Paper prepared by senior team and approved by the Local Authority with support from Consortium*)
- 2) Establish an assessment panel (*including independent member from consortium*)
- 3) Agree selection criteria and weighting
- 4) Advertise for applicants (*Preparation by Local Authority; advertised in local press / social media channels; animation video for social partners?; CVS databases etc. – open and transparent process*)
- 5) Assess applications with appointment recommendations for approval by Council
- 6) Approve recommended list of appointments by Council
- 7) Appoint social partners
- 8) Initiation meeting for social partners

7.0 Suggested Selection Criteria for Social Partners

- a) All community / voluntary sector social members must be resident within or work within the local authority area.
- b) Local authorities should strive to encourage engagement from across their geographical areas e.g., have at least one social partner member from each District Electoral Area or a cluster of DEAs, if more appropriate.
- c) Social partners should be drawn from groups representing specific PEACEPLUS target groups e.g., women, those living with a disability, those particularly impacted by the legacy of the Conflict, such as victims and survivors and those dealing with legacy issues such as ex-prisoners and former members of the security forces.
- d) Ideally, social partners should be drawn from the voluntary members rather than the paid employees of organisations.

- e) Consideration should be given to the participation of traditionally underrepresented groups, including women and young people on the partnership:
- Ideally, at least 50% of social partners should be women.
 - Ideally, social partners should include young people (under 25) or their representatives.
- f) Representation should be balanced in terms of cross community membership.
- g) Ideally, experience of and/ or interest in the Peace and Reconciliation programme and / or Good Relations is relevant.
- h) The PEACEPLUS Partnership must always ensure that it is representative of those groups defined under Section 75⁴, which are:
- persons of different religious belief;
 - persons of different political opinion;
 - persons of different racial groups;
 - persons of different age;
 - persons of different marital status;
 - persons of different sexual orientation;
 - men and women;
 - persons with a disability and persons without; and
 - persons with dependents and persons without.

8.0 Establishment of the PEACEPLUS Partnership

The recruitment process will then need to be followed by animation / capacity building of the PEACEPLUS Partnership. This will aim to build the skills of the PEACEPLUS Partnership in areas such as collaborative working, outcomes-based planning / value creation for peace building, consensus building, collaborative advantage thinking and to consolidate thinking on the co-design process for the PEACEPLUS Action Plan.

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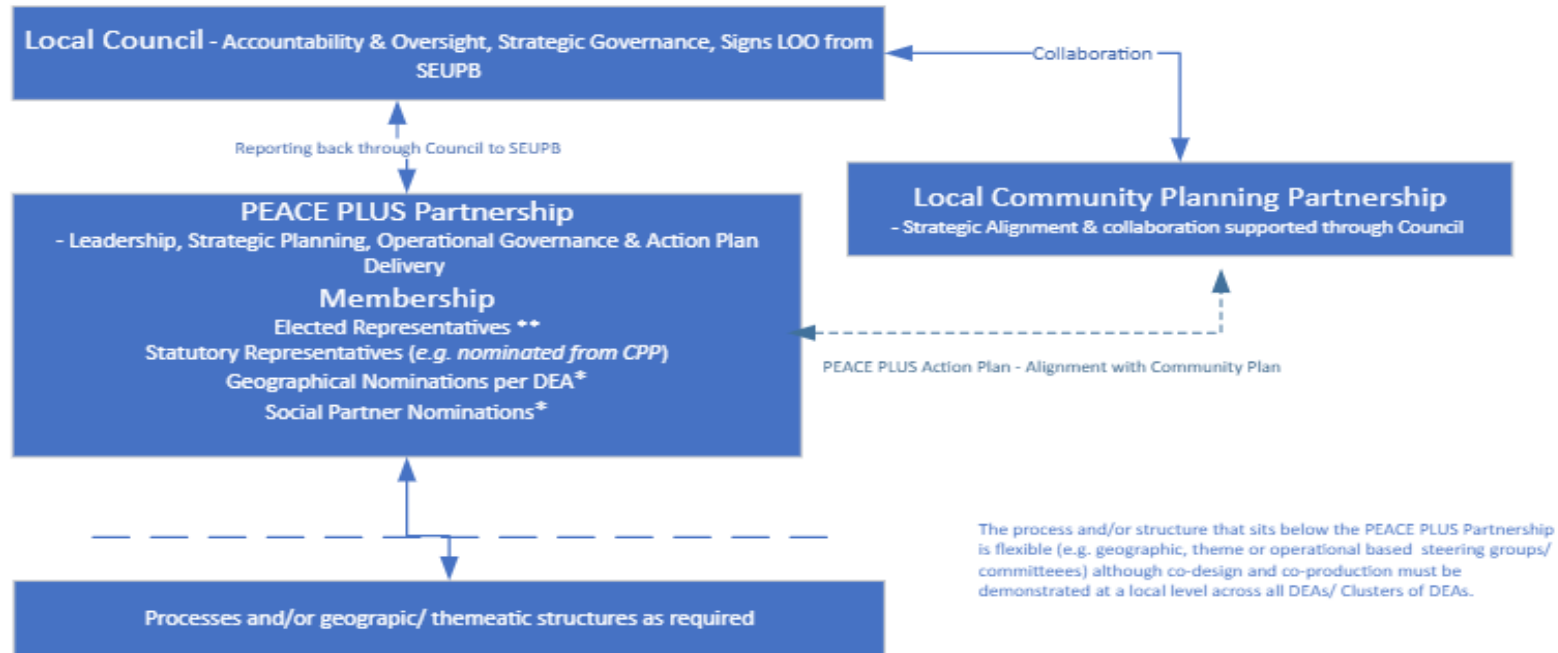
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9.0 Next Steps for the Consortium engagement with councils

- Initial meetings with consortium to discuss and agree the partnership development process
- Seek Council approval of the partnership development process
- Agree plan of action and timeline for partnership establishment process including final partnership approval by council with consortium
- Delivery of the action plan with support from consortium (e.g., advertisement templates; social partnership application forms and guidance notes; and selection criteria templates will be provided to ensure consistency across the programme).

DRAFT

Annex 1: Recommended Local Authority PEACE PLUS Partnership Model (NI) (as per Feasibility Study on PEACE PLUS Model undertaken by Consortium).



** Elected Representatives - Agreed council allocation system such as D'Hondt+ and which ensures cross party representation

* Geographical and Social Partner nominations through open independent competition process reflective of the following existing structures:
 DEA Forums/Clusters/Council VCSE lists,
 Urban & Community Networks and Youth Councils,
 Local S75 Representative Groups & PEACE focused target groups,
 Trade Unions and Chambers of Commerce.

Equality, diversity and inclusion should be considered across all elements inclusive of PEACE PLUS Target Groups