



<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Establishment of the Peace Plus Partnership</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	<b>The Leisure &amp; Development Committee</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>13 April 2022</b>
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	<b>For Decision</b>

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)</b>	
Strategic Theme	Healthy, Active and Engaged Communities
Outcome	The Borough comprises cohesive and stable communities which work collaboratively with a range of stakeholders to address issues and deliver on opportunities.
Lead Officer	Head of Community & Culture Peace IV Co-Ordinator

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

<b>Screening Requirements</b>	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

The purpose of this report is to request that Leisure & Development Committee approve the number and advertisement for the recruitment of Social Partners to the Peace Plus Partnership.

The Social Partners will be recruited on the basis that they are representative on a geographical basis and are recruited from the Community & Voluntary sector as well as from underrepresented groups. 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 recently nominated Elected Members, and Social Partners, the composition of the Partnership will include Partners from Statutory Agencies, they have been issued invitations via Council's Community Planning Partnership.

## 2.0 Background

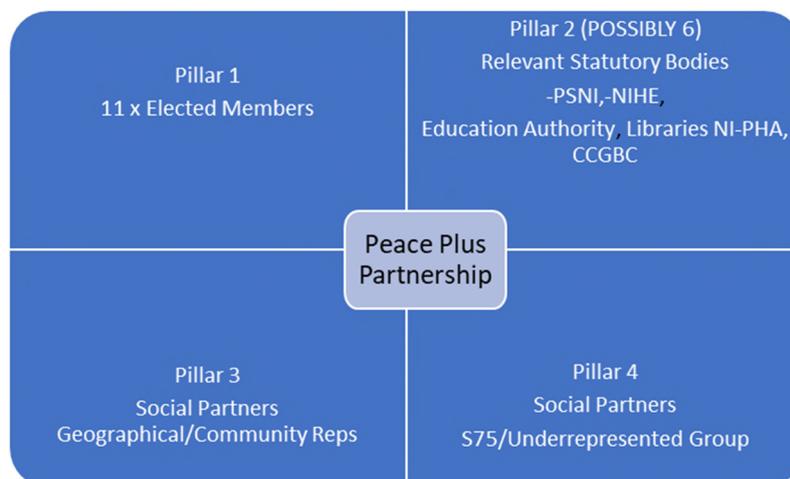
In April 2021, the Leisure & Development Committee received a presentation regarding the highlights of Peace IV whilst flagging up the next iteration of funding, Peace Plus.

The forthcoming Peace Plus 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 sectors. This has included the gathering 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. Peace Plus will build on the positives and successes from Peace IV and will use new opportunities to innovate where possible.

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 (**Annex A**), and includes:



In February 2022, Council approved the nomination of 11 Elected Members to the Partnership under D'hondt. Nominations were submitted by the Party Leads and a workshop for members was held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022. The Elected Members who will sit on the Peace Plus Partnership are as follows: -

Alderman Fielding  
Councillor Nicholl  
Alderman Baird  
Councillor Anderson  
Councillor Schenning  
Alderman Knight McQuillan  
Councillor McLaughlin  
Councillor McKeown  
Councillor Wallace  
Councillor McMullan  
Councillor MA McKillop

The consultants' recommendations to SEUPB (**Annex A**) includes 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.

Staff are currently liaising with the Community Planning Partnership and members elected to sit on the Partnership in relation to identifying the relevant statutory representatives to act in an advisory capacity.

Recruitment of Social Partners will constitute the final part of the establishment of the Peace Plus Partnership and will commence in early May with a view to having the Partnership in place by early summer.

### **3.0 Proposals**

To request that the council considers the approval of the recruitment for 11 Social Partners onto the Peace Plus Partnership as agreed in principle by the Elected Members at a recent Workshop in March.

The recruitment of 11 Social Partners will ensure balanced representation from as wide a geographical spread, underrepresented groups, and the Community & Voluntary Sector within the Borough. It is proposed that once recruited, the Social Partners along with representatives from the Statutory Agencies and the Elected Members will drive forward the Co-Designed Local Action Plan commencing with the consultation process.

### **4.0 Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee recommends to Council the option which provides the Co-Design process with as much scope and as much representation as possible, as this will be a collective effort in which widespread input will be required to develop a robust, practicable and meaningful Local Action Plan, thereby approving the recruitment of 11 Social Partners.



Special EU Programmes Body  
Comhlacht na gClár Speisialta AE  
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## **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.

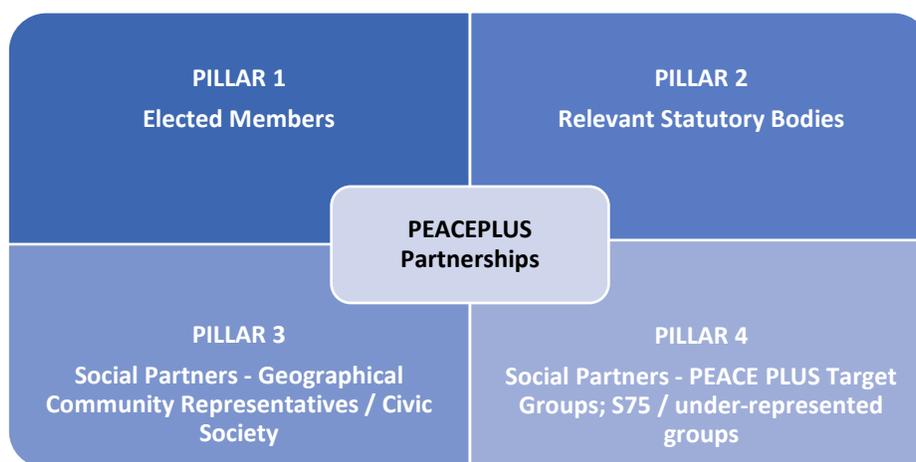
## **3.0: Process**

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
<b>Pillar 1: Elected Members</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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)</li> <li>• Ask parties to nominate</li> </ul>

Pillar	Selection Process Considerations
<b>Pillar 2: Statutory Sector<sup>1</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek nominations from the Community Planning Partnership to ensure alignment between Community Planning and Peace Plus</li> <li>• How many representatives?</li> <li>• Are there specific public sector organisations that have experience of Peace or for which peace building is germane to their work?</li> <li>• Clarify voting rights of statutory partners</li> </ul>
<b>Pillar 3: Social Partners<sup>2</sup></b> - <b>Geographic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How will applications be sought e.g., open and fair public advertisement and application process; or by nomination; or a hybrid model across both?</li> <li>• What are the guidance criteria for new members?</li> <li>• Agree process for assessment and selection and timeline</li> <li>• Establish an assessment panel including an independent member</li> </ul>
<b>Pillar 4: Social Partners</b> - <b>PEACEPLUS Target Groups<sup>3</sup></b> - <b>Section 75 / under-represented Groups// those most marginalised</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do you ensure geographic representation? DEA? Clusters of DEAs</li> <li>• Are there specific groups from which you want to seek representation e.g., PEACEPLUS Target Groups, Civic Society, Section 75/ under-represented groups?</li> <li>• How do you ensure balanced representation taking and demonstrating cognisance of S75 and equality considerations?</li> <li>• Have you considered any conflict-of-interest challenges that you may encounter through this process once the partnership is fully operational</li> </ul>

#### 4.0 Suggested Selection Process for Elected Members

See section 3.

#### 5.0 Suggested Selection Process for Statutory Sector Members

See Section 3.

<sup>1</sup> 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

<sup>2</sup> 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

<sup>3</sup> 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 75<sup>4</sup>, 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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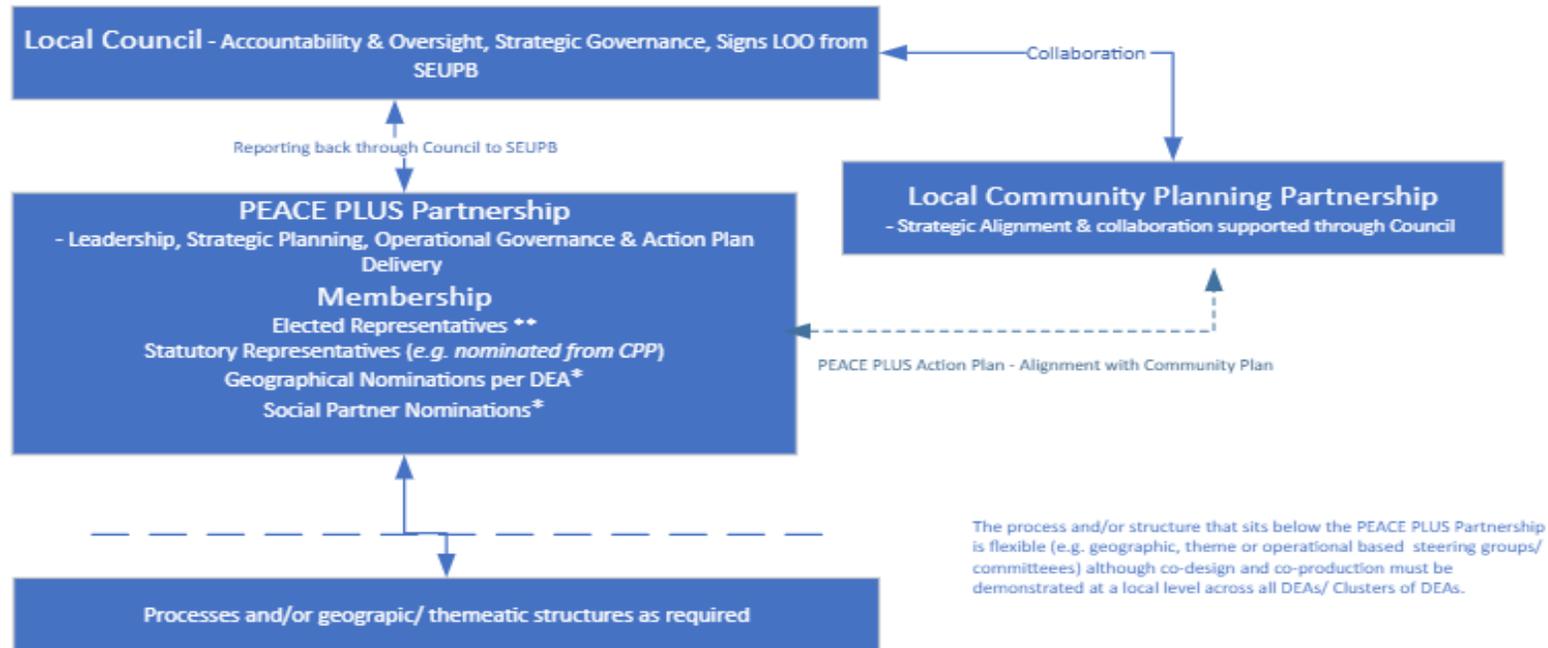
<https://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Employers%20and%20Service%20Providers/S75OutlineGuideforPAs2012.pdf>

## **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).

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**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