**Open Call for Social Partners for the CCGBC PEACEPLUS Partnership**

**Guidance Pack**

CCGBC is currently establishing a new PEACEPLUS Partnership for the new PEACEPLUS Programme 2022-2027 for the CCGBC area. The PEACEPLUS Partnership will oversee the design and implementation of a co-designed overarching PEACEPLUS Action Plan for our area.

As part of this process, we would **like to recruit 11 social partner representatives** who live or work within the council area and can represent the various geographies of our area or different sectors, target groups, local communities, underrepresented groups and PEACE PLUS target groups from across our council area.

We would like to achieve a balanced and representative PEACEPLUS Partnership and welcome applications from a wide range of individuals. Those with and without previous experience of PEACE programmes are welcome to apply.

This pack gives you background information about the PEACEPLUS Programme, what we mean by a social partner and our social partner application process.

The **deadline for receipt of applications** **is 12 pm on Friday 20th May 2022.**

Completed application forms (including an equal opportunities form) should be returned to the Council at the following address CCGBC, Cloonavin, 66. Portstewart Road, Coleraine, BT52 1EY in a sealed envelope clearly marked on the outside ‘**PeacePlus Social Partner Application’** no later than 12 pm on Friday 20th May 2022. Applications can also be submitted via email at **peaceplus@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk**, equality forms must be returned in sealed envelope via post. Late submissions cannot be accepted.

To ensure confidentiality, please place the Equal Opportunity Monitoring Questionnaire in the envelope marked **‘SP PEACEPLUS Monitoring Officer’**, seal the envelope and enclose it with your application form.

For more information, please contact the Peace Coordinator at email peaceplus@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk

A public information online meeting about the PEACEPLUS social partner recruitment process will take place on:

 -Tuesday 10th May – Sheskburn, Ballycastle 7pm – 8pm

-Thursday 12th May – RVACC, Limavady, 7pm – 8pm

-Monday 16th May – Coleraine West, 7pm-8pm

-Tuesday 17th May – Ballymoney Town Hall, 7pm-8pm

 Please register by emailing peaceplus@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk and a link will be sent to you.

Interviews for social partners, if required, will take place at the end of May/beginning of June.

The first PEACE PLUS Partnership meeting will take place in mid-late June 2022.

Documentation relating to this process can be requested in accessible formats by emailing: peaceplus@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk

**What is PEACEPLUS?**

PEACEPLUS is a new a €1.14bn European Union funding programme designed to support peace and prosperity across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland, building upon the work of the previous PEACE and INTERREG Programmes. The design reflects the importance of peace-building activity, but also the importance of actions that will contribute positively to the economy, building prosperity and adjusting to the new environment and challenges we face. The PEACEPLUS Programme represents investment in the social, economic and environmental development of Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland.

The PEACE PLUS programme comprises six themes, which include 21 individual investment areas as outlined in Fig 1 and approved by the NI Executive, Irish Government and North South Ministerial Council.

Figure 1: PEACEPLUS Themes

Councils will develop and deliver PEACEPLUS co-designed Action Plans under **Theme 1 – Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities** – Investment Area 1.1 - **Co-designed Local Community PEACEPLUS Action Plans** against which €110m has been allocated across the 17 council areas in Northern Ireland and the six border counties.

**Co-designed PEACEPLUS Action Plans** will be produced for each of the 17 local council areas across the Programme area. These will be devised to complement community planning structures and plans. A Co-designed approach enables groups which represent different communities of interest from defined areas, to collaboratively design projects tailored to meet the challenges and opportunities specific to that area.

The PEACEPLUS Action Plan will enable diverse partnerships to establish and invest in key actions for their local areas and collectively address these in a manner which will result in improved, shared and inclusive local services, facilities and spaces, and make a significant and lasting contribution to peace and reconciliation. The co-design process itself should enable cross community engagement and collaboration.

**The Thematic Strands within the PEACEPLUS Partnership Action Plan under Theme 1.1**

Three thematic strands have been selected upon which to design the content of the PEACEPLUS Action Plans. These are:

1. Local community regeneration and transformation
2. Thriving and peaceful communities
3. Celebrating cultures and diversity

These thematic strands provide scope to incorporate projects which span a range of different sectors and activities including health and wellbeing initiatives; children and young people; community regeneration including redevelopment and re-imaging of existing community facilities for shared usage; initiatives to build positive relations; social innovation; social enterprise; and education and skills and community education. All supported projects should be designed to address issues of racism and sectarianism, increase social inclusion, and promote civil leadership.

**CCGBC PEACEPLUS Partnership**

The development of a PEACEPLUS Action Plan requires each council to **establish a PEACEPLUS Partnership.** As such a PEACEPLUS Partnership is being established in CCGBC area. The PEACEPLUS Partnership will oversee the design and implementation of a co-designed process in our area which will be used to inform the development of an overarching PEACEPLUS Action Plan. Following approval of the PEACEPLUS Action Plan by SEUPB, our Partnership will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the PEACEPLUS Action Plan. Our partnership must ensure the new Action Plan aligns with the local Community Plan for our area

Our CCGBC PEACEPLUS Partnership will comprise the following four pillars –

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| **CCGBC PEACEPLUS Partnership (28 Members)** |
| **Pillar 1: 11 nominated Elected Members** | **Pillar 2: 6 nominated Statutory Representatives** |
| **Pillar 3: 6 Social Partners representing Geographical/ Community/ Civil Society selected through this open call process**  | **Pillar 4: 5 Social Partners representing PEACEPLUS Target Groups selected through this open call process** |

As per the table above, we are seeking to recruit a total of 11 Social Partners under pillars 3 and 4.

* Under Pillar 3, we wish to recruit a total of 6 social partners that can represent the different geographical parts of our area as well
* Under pillar 4 we wish to recruit 5 social partners who can represent Section 75 interests or other PEACEPLUS target groups. Social Partners will be chosen through this open call selection process.

**What is a social partner?**

A social partner includes those within the community, voluntary and social enterprise sector; those from special interest groups or those representing Equality Groups; individuals from civic society; and those from PEACE target groups, trade unions and businesses. The role of a social partner is to represent the sector from which you have been nominated (not your individual organisation) and to represent the interests of the wider community.

**What are PEACE PLUS target groups?**

PEACE PLUS target groups 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.

**What are Section 75 groups?**

All public authorities must have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between different Section 75 groups [[1]](#footnote-1). There are nine groups which include persons of different: religious belief, political opinion, gender, racial group, age, marital status, sexual orientation, persons with a disability and those without and persons with dependants and those without.

**What is a good relations duty?**

This recruitment process will also have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

**Time commitment for social partners**

* The role is a voluntary, unpaid role
* Travel expenses and caring expenses will be available for each member
* It should be assumed that the partnership will meet at least 6-8 times per annum and each meeting would require a time commitment of approximately 2 hours (maximum) per meeting. Preparation time for meetings is not included.
* During assessment periods this commitment may increase facilitated through an Assessment sub-committee.
* While the programme commences in 2022 and runs to 2027 the commitment will lessen in the latter years as the programme winds down. The Partnership tenure for each member is likely to be 3 years when members can step down or step back for the last two years.
* Meetings will be a mix of virtual and face to face
* Any person who requires support with IT connectivity etc. will also be supported.
* Training will be supplied for all partnership members in all aspects of the programme.

**What is a co-design process?**

CCGBC local authority will seek to identify local and district level priority PEACEPLUS Action Plan projects and initiatives through a **co-design led consensus decision making approach**.

Co-design is a participatory approach in which community representatives/beneficiaries are treated as equal collaborators in the design process. According to research conducted by Community Places and Queen’s University Belfast, four common co-design principles in the context of community planning are as follows:

* **An asset-based approach** which recognises and value the abilities and resources within communities;
* **Equal inclusion** of professionals, peoples and communities;
* **An emphasis on building capacities and networks** of mutual support for people and communities; and
* **Building trust and sharing power** in both service planning and delivery

**Co-design in the Context of the PEACEPLUS Action Plans**

Co-design goes beyond the process of local consultation, which in many cases informed the content of previous PEACE Programmes. Rather, this practice will enable groups which represent different communities of interest from defined areas, to collaboratively design projects tailored to meet the challenges and opportunities specific to that area.

When developing our Action Plan, we will aim to assemble and facilitate diverse and inclusive groups to co-design priority projects, specific to our area guided by our partnership. These projects will strongly align with the peace and reconciliation objectives of PEACEPLUS and incorporate the level of sustained contact between those from different community, cultural and political backgrounds.

Partnership members will play a significant role in the co-design process and will be central to designing the way in which we engage meaningfully with local communities and other stakeholders in identifying the most appropriate projects that help to embed and promote peace and reconciliation in our area.

Training for all partnership members in co-design principles and methods will be undertaken during the first Partnership meetings so that all partnership members are fully embraced in the process.

Partnership members will, among other things, play a key part in the process of helping to select and prioritise those projects that best meet needs, that address the peace building criteria of each of the three funding streams, and that are meaningful, deliverable and cost effective.

Our action plan will be assessed not only on the quality of our priority projects and the potential of these to achieve peace and reconciliation progress, but also on the extent and effectiveness of the co-design process undertaken to develop the Action Plan and the extent to which the co-design process represents diversity and geographic inclusivity. Our social partners in particular will play a significant role in helping us to achieve this.

This is an exciting opportunity to be part of an innovative new programme that can make a huge difference to the communities of the CCGBC area. **We look forward to receiving your application.**

**PEACEPLUS Social Partner Specification**

We are seeking applications from community representatives, including volunteers, from constituted Community and Voluntary Sector organisations based within or who provide services within our council area and who could represent our local areas e.g., a District Electoral Area (DEA); those representing PEACEPLUS Target groups; or from individuals nominated by other recognised local organisations e.g., rural development and agriculture; trade union; climate action organisation; business; arts; sports but with a demonstrable interest in peace building.

The individuals and organisations should have expertise relevant to the PEACEPLUS programme or represent a target group of the PEACEPLUS Programme.

The partnership will consider applications from traditionally under-represented groups, including women, young people 18-25 and those with a disability.

The Social Partner Open Call is seeking a diverse skillset and representation for the Partnership under two pillars. While applicants can apply under either pillar, we are asking each applicant to outline all of the categories under either pillar against which they would like to be considered.

We are also requesting that each applicant completes an equality form. This will assist the Partnership to ensure a balanced membership representative of the area.

* As far as possible, we would like to draw our social partners from the voluntary members of organisations rather than the paid employees of organisations (although either can apply).
* We would like at least 50% of our partnership overall and of our social partners to be women
* We would like some of our social partners to include young people (18-25) or their representatives
* We are striving to ensure that our Partnership is balanced in terms of cross community membership

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| --- | --- |
| **Pillar** | **Number of Social Partner Places** |
| **Pillar 1:** | Geographical representation - e.g., DEAs (District Electoral Areas) or Geographical based Community/ Voluntary Sector Group / Other Civic Society Representatives  | 6 representatives |
| **Pillar 2:**  | PEACEPLUS Target Groups / Section 75 groups  | 5 representatives |

All social partner applicants will be required to meet **all four pre-selection Mandatory Criteria** plus **at least one** of the following **Other** **Pre-Selection Criteria before their application can be assessed**:

**Pre-selection Criteria (Mandatory)** - Applicants will be required to **ALL FOUR Mandatory Criteria**

1. A resident within or work within the CCGBC area **(Mandatory)**
2. Submitted an equality form **(Mandatory)**
3. Must be nominated by a nominating body and the form must be signed by the chair or other office bearer of said body; **(Mandatory)**
4. Capacity to commit the time required to the work of the Partnership **(Mandatory)** min 6-8 meetings per annum plus sub-committees- c.2 hours per meeting)

**Pre-selection Criteria (Other) -** Applicants will be required to meet **at least ONE Other** **Criteria from this list of five**

1. Represent a Community and Voluntary Sector organisation from one of the 7 DEAs in CCGBC area – Bann, Ballymoney, Benbradagh, Causeway, Coleraine, Limavady, The Glens
2. Are they an individual nominated by a recognised local organisation e.g., rural development and agriculture; trade union; climate action organisation; business; arts; sports but with a demonstrable interest in peace building
3. Represent a Section 75 / Equality group e.g., Gender - women or men, Age, Disability, Race, Religious belief, LGBTQIA+, marital status, persons with a disability and those without and persons with dependants and those without
4. Have experience either through work or volunteering in the field of Good Relations / Race Relations/ Peace and Reconciliation / Dealing with the Legacy of the Past
5. Represent a sector of specific relevance to the PEACEPLUS programme e.g., Irish or Ulster-Scots culture; Church/ Faith / Minority Faith/ Inter-faith-based organisations; those most impacted by the legacy of the past (such as victims and survivors and those dealing with legacy issues such as ex-prisoners and former members of the security forces;
6. A young person under the age of 25 (linked to a local youth group) or their representative (must be over 18)

**Essential Criteria**

All social partner applicants will be required to meet **at least** **three** of the following **essential criteria**:

1. Level of knowledge and **understanding of local issues** in particular around peace and reconciliation facing CCGBC area.
2. Level of **skills and experience gained** through professional and /or community and voluntary endeavours, which are directly applicable to the PEACEPLUS Programme
3. Relevance of the applicant’s **skills / experience /** **knowledge to the PEACEPLUS Programme** **and its three core themes:** Local community regeneration and transformation; Thriving and peaceful communities and Building respect for all cultural identities
4. Level of experience of **partnership working** **and /or co-design/ co-production** involving a range of partner organisations e.g., community organisations, statutory bodies, local councils etc.
5. The ability to **promote and participate in the PEACEPLUS Programme** and encourage uptake and involvement of all sides of the community

All social partner applicants will be required to **meet at least three** of the Essential Criteria. The applicant must score at least 3 in each of these 3 (or more) essential criteria.

**Scoring Matrix**

Note scores will be determined either by reviewing the application only, or if a tie break, then through an interview. The scoring matrix against which the essential and desirable criteria will be assessed is outlined in the table below.

| **Score**  | **Rationale**  |
| --- | --- |
| 0 | Unacceptable / No Response | Response fails to address the question in virtually all areas.  |
| 1 | Very Poor | A response with serious reservations. Limited detail and supporting evidence. |
| 2 | Poor | A response with some material reservations. Response does not convincingly demonstrate that the applicant understands the requirement and/or the response lacks detail and/or evidence.  |
| 3 | Acceptable | Response generally meets requirements but with minor reservations in one or more areas. Demonstrates reasonable understanding of the requirements. |
| 4 | Good | A good response that meets the requirements with good, convincing supporting evidence. Demonstrates good understanding and ability to meet the requirements.  |
| 5 | Excellent | Excellent response. Response is clearly explained and provides detailed, supporting evidence and no weaknesses. Demonstrates strong understanding and ability to meet the requirements. |

**Assessment and Selection Process**

Social Partner places on the Partnership can only be selected on the basis of information provided on the application form. Please assume no prior knowledge of yourself or the organisation you represent. A six-person Selection Committee comprising 4 elected members and the Head of Service from Community & Culture will assess all applications. An Independent Observer from the Co-Design Consultants will also be in attendance, and a Staff Officer will take notes and act as scribe on the day.

Applications will be assessed based on the information in the application. If required, it is intended that interviews will take place within a fortnight of the shortlisting.

Applicants will be notified in writing of the final decision of the Selection Committee.

The Council will also maintain a reserve list of successful applicants.

For those who are successful the inaugural meeting of the CCGBC PEACEPLUS Partnership will take place in mid-June. It is imperative that all members can attend these meetings as they will include induction and training on the co-design process which will commence immediately after the Partnership is in place.

**How to contribute to the Development of our Action Plan**

Please note that being a Partnership member is not the only way to be involved with PEACEPLUS Theme 1.1. The co-design process will involve a wide range of opportunities for local people and communities to engage in the action plan development process. This is likely to commence in the late summer 2022 and will be advertised widely. Please feel free to register your interest in this process through our dedicated PEACEPLUS email at peaceplus@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk

**Queries**

If you have any queries about the information above, please **contact the Peace Coordinator** on email **peaceplus@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk.**

1. Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 provides that: (1) A public authority shall in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity- (a) between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation; (b) between men and women generally; (c) between persons with a disability and persons without; and (d) between persons with dependants and persons without. (2) Without prejudice to its obligations under subsection (1), a public authority shall in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)