LCCC PEACEPLUS Partnership

**Minutes of the proceedings of the LCCC PEACEPLUS Partnership held in the Chestnut Suite, Civic Headquarters, Lagan Valley Island,**

**Wednesday 29th November 2023 at 5pm**

# In Attendance - Partnership:

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| Cllr Jonathan Craig | DUP |
| Cllr Uel Mackin | DUP |
| Cllr Andrew Gowan (Mayor) - ZOOM | DUP |
| Ald Michelle Guy | APNI |
| Cllr Gretta Thompson - ZOOM | APNI |
| Cllr Alan Martin | UUP |
| Cllr John Gallen - ZOOM | SDLP |
| Cllr Gary Hynds | INDEP |
| Johnny Crymble | EA |
| Janice Cooke ZOOM | SERC |
| Lynda Vladeneau - ZOOM | SEHSCT |
| Denis Paisley (deputy) | Resurgam Trust |
| Diane Ewart - ZOOM | TADA Rural Network |
| Pauline McMullan | Lisburn YMCA |
| Thomas McKenna ZOOM | Killultagh |
| Amanda Marshall (deputy) | Castlereagh East |
| Lynsey Agnew | Lisburn North |
| Marc Cairns | Downshire East |

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# Secretariat/ Other Attendees:

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| Angela McCann | Head of Communities |
| Niamh O’Carolan | Peace Manager |
| Catharine McWhirter | Community Planning Manager |
| Lorraine McCourt ZOOM | Consultant (for LCCC) |

# Apologies

# Apologies were received from Cllr Laverty, Ald Grehan, Cllr Kemp, Cllr McCleave (Deputy Mayor), Ian McCormick, Mabel Scullion, Martin Busch, Des Marley and Louise Moore.

# 2. Minutes of the Partnership Meeting held on 13th November 2023 and Matters Arising

Cllr Craig invited members to review the minutes of the last meeting for accuracy. Members agreed that the minutes of the previous Partnership meeting held on 13th November 2023 were a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.Matters arising to be discussed under agenda item 4.

**RESOLVED:** To adopt the minutes of the Partnership meeting held on 13th November 2023 as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

**Proposed: Ald Guy Seconded: Lynsey Agnew**

**3. Declaration of any interest or conflict for items on the meeting agenda**

There were no declarations of interest/ conflict made. It was agreed that declarations could be made during the course of the meeting.

**4. PEACEPLUS**

**Theme 2 Budget –** **Thriving & Peaceful Communities**

The Chair, Cllr Craig, referred members to the document summarising Theme 2 projects including the original and revised budgets. Angela offered the rationale behind the budget reallocations specifically to Youth Leadership and Sports projects and explained that these had been discussed at the previous meeting and the decision now was to agree the revised allocations as outlined in the table. Cllr Craig asked the members if they were content with the revised figures and there was a consensus that the new budget reflected the discussion of the previous meeting.

**RESOLVED**: The ten projects and associated budgets under Theme 2 Thriving & Peaceful Communities were approved.

**Proposed: Cllr Uel Mackin Seconded: Pauline McMullan**

**Theme 3 Projects and Budget – Celebrating Cultures & Diversity**

Angela referred members to the list of Theme 3 projects, both the summary sheet and the fully outlined projects. Cllr Craig invited questions from the Partnership members about the four projects presented. Ald Guy remarked that some of the costings seemed high (Celebrating Us). Angela clarified the reasons for the costs including ensuring participation from across all 7 DEAs. Niamh added that costs included not just events but drama, arts, resources, facilitators etc. Furthermore the process will be co-designed and inclusive for participants with learning and physical disabilities. There was general agreement with the Theme 3 proposals.

**RESOLVED:** The four projects and associated budgets under Theme 3 Celebrating Cultures & Diversity were approved.

**Proposed Cllr Gary Hynds Seconded Thomas McKenna**

**Expression of Interest (EoI) Form for Theme 1 – Community Regeneration and Transformation**

Angela reminded members that the revised date for the submission of the Action Plan is 28th March and that partners need to be named at time of submission, An Expression of Interest (EoI) process will determine who these partners will be. The £1.2 million will be split between council led and community partner led projects. The community led projects will be assessed based on agreed criteria. She reminded members that this is not an application form, rather an Expression of Interest that will determine which projects will go forward for inclusion in our Local PEACEPLUS Action Plan. She further explained that elected members would be taking part in a council capital project meeting the following Monday and there may be a co-dependency to bring the theme to a conclusion. Feedback from the Partnership members is needed to take the EoI process forward. Angela added that information workshops will be planned for January when the Expression of Interest is opened to aid potential groups completing the form. Niamh proposed that the minimum budget requested under Theme 1 be £100k but welcomed feedback on this.

Cllr Craig agreed that most capital investments would be over the £100k threshold. Cllr Mackin enquired if a project could be part-funded and how could we ensure projects complete by June 2027. It was confirmed that projects could be part-funded and Niamh explained that projects should be at a certain state of readiness in terms of concept, planning and they need to confirm that the project would conclude by June 2027. Cllr Craig added that we also can’t rule out the unforeseen but that we needed a date to aim for. Cllr Mackin said that projects could be impacted by other funders and Ald Guy suggested that the Partnership ask for sight of other funding streams. Thomas McKenna recommended that all costings be itemised including any shortfall in funding which should be demonstrated. It was agreed that the expression of Interest form would be updated to reflect the inclusion of an itemized budget and evidence of match funding. Cllr Hynds asked if the process was a points system and would a successful project get full funding. Niamh clarified that projects could apply for the full amount of funding but there is a finite budget.

Johnny Crymble raised a point about who would score or assess the EoIs. Niamh explained that the process had not been finalised yet. Lorraine McCourt outlined the process that Fermanagh and Omagh Council had employed and advised that the key issue is managing the conflict of interest process. There is also a need for someone in an advisory technical capacity to attend.

Pauline McMullan recommended a word count on the form to make the process more equitable for groups. Ald Guy said that the perception of the conflict of interest is important and suggested that Partnership members be omitted from the assessment process. Cllr Mackin referenced previous experience in this regard and agreed that further consideration needed to be given to this matter.

Cllr Craig suggested that another, single item agenda meeting should be planned to consider the Expression of Interest form, guidance notes and finalise members of the assessment panel. Johnny Crymble reminded the Partnership that it wasn’t just elected members who would have a conflict of interest so it would be advantageous to have an independent officer with technical expertise and knowledge.

Cllr Mackin called the members’ attention to the threshold minimum budget of £100k in the EoI form stating that it was probably too high when it came to refurbishments and a lower minimum threshold should be considered. Cllr Craig confirmed that the figure wasn’t tied down and Lynsey Agnew suggested that perhaps £30K could be the threshold for a refurbishment while £100k remain for capital investments.

# 5. Any Other Business

There were no items raised under AOB.

# 6. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed the next meeting would be a single item agenda, online with a date to be determined after the meeting.

The meeting closed at 6.10pm.