**Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council – FORMATION OF PEACEPLUS PARTNERSHIP 2022-2027**

**Section 75 Equality and Good Relations Screening**

**Part 1. Information about the activity/policy/project being screened**

The PEACEPLUS Programme is a €1.14bn investment in the social, economic and environmental development of Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland. It comprises six themes, which encompass 21 individual investment areas.

Local Authorities will be delivering their plans under Investment Area 1: Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities, specifically Theme 1.1 Co-designed Local Community PEACE Action Plans, with a provisional figure of €110m for the 17 participating local councils in Northern Ireland and the border counties.

**The PEACEPLUS Partnership** functions as a voluntary body and will oversee and be responsible for the design, development and implementation of the Local Action Plan 2022-2027.

It will be representative of the community from across the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area and comprises 13 nominated Elected Members, 5 Social Partners representing Target Groups, 7 Social Partners representing each District Electoral Area (DEA) along with 6 nominated Statutory Body Representatives who will provide additional advice and expertise. Social Partners will be chosen through an open call selection process. The PEACEPLUS Programme is to run to 2027 so membership is likely to last from April 2022 to 2027 (winding down).

The PEACEPLUS Programme, is supported by the EU and managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). More information can be found on <https://www.seupb.eu/>

# **Name of the activity/policy/project**

# Formation of PEACEPLUS Partnership

# **Is this activity/policy/project – an existing one, a revised one, a new one?**

This is a new activity. There were previous PEACE Partnerships but they were dissolved as each programme concluded.

**What are the intended aims/outcomes the activity/policy/project is trying to achieve?**

The plan will enable and empower the partnership to self-determine and deliver priority projects on a cross community basis, 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 proposed plans will span the range of activities, for example: youth development programmes; health and wellbeing initiatives; community regeneration projects; redevelopment and reimaging of existing community facilities for shared usage; initiatives to build positive relations; and education and skills development programmes; social innovation / enterprise initiatives.

Members will play a significant role in the co-design process. A co-design approach goes beyond consultation with local communities about needs relevant to the programme. It will also be seeking and designing clear project ideas to meet those needs. Our bid for funding will have to detail the specifics of those projects. Partnership members will, among other things, play a key part in the process of helping to select and prioritise those projects that best meet the specific peace building criteria of the funding stream, address local demand and need, and are meaningful, deliverable and cost effective.

**Who is the activity/policy/project targeted at and who will benefit? Are there any expected benefits for specific Section 75 categories/groups from this activity/policy/project? If so, please explain.**

The PEACEPLUS Partnership will be representative of the community from across the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area and comprises 13 nominated Elected Members, 5 Social Partners representing Target Groups, 7 Social Partners representing each District Electoral Area (DEA) along with 6 nominated Statutory Body Representatives who will provide additional advice and expertise.

This will ensure that the future action plan and programme delivery are appropriately targeted and will benefit those groups that have been identified as intended beneficiaries of PEACEPLUS funding. Partnership makeup will include members who represent different Section 75 groups.

The Partnership should be balanced and inclusive in structure. It will represent all political parties. It will be advertised in local papers, council website, ezine and other council platforms. Furthermore information sessions were provided.

**Who initiated or developed the activity/policy/project?**

The Partnership formation is required by The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). The work to establish the Partnership will be carried out by the PEACE Manager within the Communities Unit of the Leisure and Community Wellbeing directorate.

**Who owns and who implements the activity/policy/project?**

LCCC is responsible for formation and management of the PEACEPLUS Partnership so owned by LCCC. It will be implemented by the PEACE Manager within the Communities Unit.

**Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the activity/policy/project?**

Yes

**If yes, are they: financial, legislative, other? Give brief details of any significant factors.**

The budget for Partnership set up will cover adverts etc. Inability to secure all Social Partners in a timely manner could delay the process and formation of the Partnership. Additional measures have been put in place to mitigate this risk in terms of targeting those areas that are under-represented to ensure there is appropriate representation.

**Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the activity/policy/project will impact upon?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Staff – | PEACE Manager (other staff will be recruited once the fund is agreed) |
| Service Users – | Groups – community, youth, church, uniformed, sport, schools, women, men, BAME, disability, Arts, LGBTQ+ etc – these will be the beneficiaries |
| Other Public Sector Organisations – please list | On Partnership = PSNI, SERC, EA, NIHE, Belfast Trust, SEHSCT |
| Voluntary/Community/Trade Unions – please list | Not engaged yet but open to all |
| Other – please list (eg, Elected Members, delivery partners, contractors, etc) | 13 Elected Members, 6 Statutory bodies, 12 Social Partners, delivery agents TBA |

**Other policies/strategies/plans with a bearing on this activity/policy/project**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of policy/strategy/plan** | **Who owns or implements?** |
| Community Plan | LCCC |
| Good Relations Action Plan | LCCC |
| Local Development Plan | LCCC |
| Interim Corporate Plan | LCCC |
| SEUPB Guidance / programme doc | SEUPB |
| PEACEPLUS Action Plan | LCCC |

**Available evidence**

**What evidence/information (qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered or considered to inform this activity/policy? Specify details for each Section 75 category.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Section 75 Category** |  |
| Religious Belief | In forming the new Partnership we have looked at the SEUPB guidance, liaised with nominated consultants, equality officer, reviewed the operation of the previous Partnership and targeted promotion to ensure a diverse and representative balance. |
| Political Opinion |
| Racial Group |
| Age |
| Marital Status |
| Sexual Orientation |
| Men & Women Generally |
| Disability |
| Dependants |

### Needs, experiences and priorities

**Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories, in relation to the particular activity/policy/decision? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Section 75 Category** | **Details of needs/experiences/priorities** |
| Religious Belief | Priorityis to ensure equal opportunity for all groups and S75 categories to apply for a position on the PEACEPLUSPartnership. Priority to ensure Elected Member parties and Statutory bodies get the opportunity to nominate representatives for the partnership. |
| Political Opinion |
| Racial Group |
| Age |
| Marital Status |
| Sexual Orientation |
| Men & Women Generally |
| Disability |
| Dependants |

**Part 2. Screening questions**

**1 What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this activity/policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Section 75 Category** | **Details of impact** | **Level of impact -** **major or minor\*** - |
| Religious Belief | There will be no differential impact as recruitment is an open and fully inclusiveprocess. | None |
| Political Opinion |
| Racial Group |
| Age |
| Marital Status |
| Sexual Orientation |
| Men & Women Generally |
| Disability |
| Dependants |

\* See Appendix 1 for details.

**2(a) Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equality categories**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Section 75 Category** | There are opportunities afforded by specific targeting, proactive promotion and inclusive communication. |

**Does the activity/policy/project being screened relate to an action in the Equality Action Plan 2012-2025? If yes, give brief details.** Yes

* To make explicit that all faiths, and none, will be accommodated
* To keep under review requests for information in various formats across Council
* Proactive promotion to and targeting of underrepresented groups
* Identify training needs

**2(b) DDA Disability Duties (see Disability Action Plan 2021-2025)**

Does this policy/activity present opportunities to contribute to the actions in our Disability Action Plan:

* to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people?
* to encourage the participation of disabled people in public life?

Yes - The PEACEPLUS Partnership will comprise representatives who will consult with target groups and actively encourage programmes to be inclusive of all including those with disabilities. Actively seeking representation for the Partnership.

**3 To what extent is the activity/policy/project likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Good Relations Category** | **Details of impact** | **Level of impact –** **minor/major\*** |
| Religious Belief  Political Opinion  Racial Group | The Partnership is intended to have a positive impact as the PEACEPLUS programme is a GR one and S75 groups are specifically targeted. Partnership members are drawn from different backgrounds, faiths (and none), political parties and communities to contribute to a positive impact. | Minor - positive |

\*See Appendix 1 for details.

**4 Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?** [

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Good Relations Category** | **If Yes, provide details** | **If No, provide details** |
| Religious Belief | All publically advertised and targeted through ezine and directly through community and voluntary groups. The process utilised will promote a representative Partnership. All faiths and none encouraged to apply/participate. |  |
| Political Opinion | All parties represented through nominations by political parties |  |
| Racial Group | All local groups encouraged |  |

**Multiple identity**

**Provide details of any data on the impact of the activity/policy/project on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.**

The invitation is open to all. It is likely that appointments to the Partnership will represent more than one identity and the Partnership will bring expertise in multiple identity issues to eventual projects and beneficiaries.

**Part 3. Screening decision/outcome**

Equality and good relations screening is used to identify whether there is a need to carry out a full equality impact assessment on a proposed policy or project. There are 3 possible outcomes:

1. **Screen out** - no need for a full equality impact assessment and no mitigations required because no negative impacts identified (or only minor positive impacts for all groups). This may be the case for a purely technical policy for example.
2. **Screen out with mitigation** - no need for a full equality impact assessment but some minor impacts identified which can easily be mitigated. Most activity will probably fall into this category.
3. **Screen in for full equality impact assessment** – potential for significant (and potentially negative) impact identified for one or more groups so proposal requires a more detailed impact assessment. [see Equality Commission guidance on justifying a screening decision.]

**Choose only one of these** and provide reasons for your decision and ensure evidence is noted/referenced for any decision reached.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Screening Decision/Outcome** | **Reasons/Evidence** |
| Option 1  **Screen out** – no equality impact assessment and no mitigation required [go to Monitoring section] | Equality screening has concluded no need for detailed equality impact assessment as no negative impacts identified, with the intention to have a representative panel.  No mitigations required as all reasonable steps are already in place to ensure fair representation. |
| Option 2  **Screen out with mitigation** – some potential impacts identified but they can be addressed with appropriate mitigation [complete mitigation section below] |  |
| Option 3  **Screen in** for a full Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)  [If option 3, complete timetabling and prioritising section below] |  |

**Mitigation (Only relevant to Option 2)**

**Can the activity/policy/project plan be amended or an alternative activity/policy introduced to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations?**

If so, give the **reasons** to support your decision, together with the proposed changes/amendments or alternative activity/policy and ensure the mitigations are included in a revised/updated policy or plan.

N/A

**Timetabling and prioritising for EQIA (only relevant to Option 3**) [if no equality impact assessment is to be carried out, can say Not applicable and delete the paragraphs below and go to Section 4 Monitoring.]

N/A

**Part 4. Monitoring**

Public authorities should consider the guidance contained in the Commission’s Monitoring Guidance for Use by Public Authorities (July 2007).

The Commission recommends that where the activity/policy has been amended or an alternative policy introduced, the public authority should monitor more broadly than for adverse impact (See Benefits, P.9-10, paras 2.13 – 2.20 of the Monitoring Guidance).

Effective monitoring will help the public authority identify any future adverse impact arising from the activity/policy which may lead the public authority to conduct an equality impact assessment, as well as help with future planning and activity/policy development.

Who will undertake and sign-off the monitoring of this activity/policy and on what frequency? What will be monitored and how? What specific equality monitoring will be done?

All Partnership members are required to complete a monitoring form. Monitoring by Equality category will be carried out by a panel yet to be appointed.

Please give details below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Will be undertaken by:  Name & Position/Job Title: | Frequency (eg. Annually): |
|  |  |
| Will be signed-off by: |  |
| Name & HoS Title: |  |
|  |  |

**Part 5 - Approval and authorisation**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Screened by:** | **Position/Job Title** | **Date** |
| Niamh O’Carolan | PEACE Manager | 27/04/22 |
| Reviewed by | Equality Officer | 29/04/22 |
| **Approved by:** |  |  |
| Angela McCann | Head of Communities | 29/04/22 |

Note: On completion of the screening exercise, a copy of the completed Screening Report should be:

* ‘signed off’ and approved by a senior manager responsible for the activity/policy
* sent to the Equality Officer for the quarterly screening report to consultees and internal reporting
* published on the LCCC website
* made available to the public on request.

Evidence referenced in the screening report should also be available if requested.

**Appendix 1 – Equality Commission guidance on equality impact**

\*Major impact:

1. The policy/project is significant in terms of its strategic importance;
2. Potential equality matters are unknown, because, for example, there is insufficient data upon which to make an assessment or because they are complex, and it would be appropriate to conduct an equality impact assessment in order to better assess them;
3. Potential equality and/or good relations impacts are likely to be adverse or are likely to be experienced disproportionately by groups of people including those who are marginalised or disadvantaged;
4. Further assessment offers a valuable way to examine the evidence and develop recommendations in respect of a policy about which there are concerns amongst affected individuals and representative groups, for example in respect of multiple identities;
5. The policy is likely to be challenged by way of judicial review;
6. The policy is significant in terms of expenditure.

Minor impact

1. The policy is not unlawfully discriminatory and any residual potential impacts on people are judged to be negligible;
2. The policy, or certain proposals within it, are potentially unlawfully discriminatory, but this possibility can readily and easily be eliminated by making appropriate changes to the policy or by adopting appropriate mitigating measures;
3. Any asymmetrical equality impacts caused by the policy are intentional because they are specifically designed to promote equality of opportunity for particular groups of disadvantaged people;
4. By amending the policy there are better opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

No impact (none)

1. The policy has no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations;
2. The policy is purely technical in nature and will have no bearing in terms of its likely impact on equality of opportunity or good relations for people within the equality and good relations categories.

Draft Revised Template @ Nov 2021