

<p>Title of Report:</p> <p>Preparing the PEACE PLUS Programme – Council response to SEUPB Stakeholder Engagement Survey - Questions</p>	<p>Officer Presenting: Richard Osterhus</p> <p>Author: Richard Osterhus</p>
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1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations

To seek Members views on the 1st draft of Council’s corporate response to SEUPB’s consultation on the new PEACE Plus Programme 2021-2027.

2 Background

Members will be aware that the current PEACE IV and INTERREG VA Programmes will end in 2021.

- 2.2 The UK Government, Northern Ireland Executive, Irish Government and the European Commission have agreed to fund a new combined successor programme to be called the PEACE PLUS Programme, European Territorial Co-operation 2021–2027.
- 2.3 The new PEACE PLUS Programme will be a combined programme that will fund actions in support of peace and reconciliation and activities in support of North-South cooperation on areas of mutual interest.
- 2.4 Special EU Programme Body are responsible for the implementation of the EU’s current PEACE IV (€270m) and INTERREG VA (€283m) Programmes.

Key Issues

The SEUPB have been tasked with the development of the new programme. The wider stakeholder engagement process will contribute to the preparation of a Cooperation Programme document. This document will set out funding objectives and delivery arrangements for the new PEACE PLUS programme.

Submission of the Stakeholder Survey by 25 February 2020, with a summary of views published after completion.

In addition to the survey, SUEPB are undertaking other engagement activities including: a programme of engagement events (Derry took place on 20th January 2020); engagement with representative organisations; and with government departments. Alongside this, a socio-economic analysis of the region will be carried out.

Furthermore, SEUPB are engaging directly with local government Chief Executives.

This is the start of the development of the Cooperation Programme Document. SEUPB, the EU and respective governments envisage the programme to be operational in 2021.

Summary of the proposed new programme:

Programme Period: 2021 – 2027

Eligible Region: Northern Ireland & Irish Border Regions only. Scotland is not included in the new programme.

Actions: Combined Peace and Reconciliation and North-South Cooperation

Budget: The indicative programme budget is €600/€650m-€700m

3 Financial, Equality, Legal, HR, Improvement, Rural Needs and other Implications

None at this stage.

4 Recommendations

Members are asked to consider the initial 1st draft corporate response to SEUPB's consultation on the new PEACE Plus Programme 2021-2027.

Background Papers

Draft 1 Response (To follow)

SEUPB Stakeholder Information Document

SEUPB Stakeholder Engagement Survey – Questions