

# **PREPARING THE PEACE PLUS PROGRAMME**

European Territorial Cooperation 2021-2027

**Stakeholder Engagement Survey – Questions**

For submission to SEUPB by February 25<sup>th</sup> 2020

**DERRY CITY AND STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Governance & Strategic Planning Committee 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020

**DRAFT RESPONSE V1**

DRAFT

## A. About you

### Q.A.1 Are you responding on behalf of an organisation or as an individual?

**Organisation:** Please state your name and your organisation's name and address.

Derry City & Strabane District Council

**Individual:** Please state your name and address

### Q.A.2 Which of the following best describes you? (Select as many as applicable)

I am a stakeholder associated with the management of the PEACE or INTERREG programmes

- I receive or have previously received funding from the PEACE or INTERREG programmes (as a project partner or a subcontracted organisation)**

I have applied for funding from the PEACE or INTERREG programmes but my application was not accepted

- I have been a participant or beneficiary of a PEACE or INTERREG funded project**

I would like to get involved with this PEACE PLUS Programme

Other. Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

## B (1). Thematic focus: Peace-building activities

**Q.B.1** Below are a list of indicative actions for achieving Peace and Reconciliation. Please rate the relevance of each type of action as a means to achieve Peace and Reconciliation.

	Not at all relevant 1	2	3	4	5	6	Extremely relevant 7	I don't know
Actions to improve community and social cohesion.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improving employment opportunities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increasing access to quality education.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reducing marginalisation through improved housing and services.	<input type="checkbox"/> ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increasing access to quality health care in the region.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other peace building activities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Q.B.1i Please explain why you have given the rating above: [Word limit 500 words] 491 words**

We ask the SEUPB to consider in full our Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan 2017-2032. It sets out our vision “of a thriving prosperous and sustainable City and District with equality of opportunity for all”, and our overarching integrated economic, environmental and physical, and community and social development framework and plan to deliver this vision.

**Social Cohesion**

Building strong, resilient and cohesive communities is at the core of our vision and community plan and are the cornerstone of effective peace and reconciliation projects. It is instrumental to delivering our vision and underpinned by two specific outcomes: We live in a shared, equal and safe community (aligned to PfG Outcomes 3,7,8,9); Our children and young people have the best start in life (aligned to PfG Outcome 12)

**Employment Opportunities**

We have seen significant improvement in employment figures. However, unemployment at 4.6% remains almost twice that of the NI average of 2.5%. Economic inactivity is the 2nd highest in the UK at 37%. Creating pathways and opportunities to employment are a high priority. That said, additionally is critical to ensure impact and to avoid duplication, funding of existing statutory services or “gap filling” of public budgets.

**Access to quality education**

Education is of fundamental importance for a cohesive society and strong economy. The expansion of 3<sup>rd</sup> level education provision in the NW region is a core priority within the ISPG (Outcome: We are better skilled and educated, aligned to PfG outcomes 5,6 & 10). Again to ensure meaningful and sustained impact the scale of investment, its additionality must be considered given the loss of ESF funding post Brexit.

**Improved housing & services**

Derry City and Strabane have a clear need for improved housing and services. The Strategic Growth Plan’s Statement of Progress in 2019 demonstrated that there has been an increase in homelessness and the percentage of applicants in housing stress in recent years. Housing Associations locally are concerned that there shall be an increase in homelessness if the welfare reform bedroom tax policy is implemented. There are however, reservations in terms of the scale of impact that is achievable within the constraints of the PEACE Plus budget given the scale of need in the eligible region for housing. Also, additionality is a key consideration as housing is a statutory function.

**Quality Health Care**

The Strategic Growth Plan outcome: We live long, healthy and fulfilling lives (aligned to PfG outcomes 4&8); seeks to address the high-levels of health inequalities experienced within the Council area, focusing on ageing actively and more independently, being more physically active with improved physical and mental health. Within the context of peace reconciliation mental health and health inequalities remain a major barrier for many with a significant legacy and generational impact across the region. Moreover, the Strategic Growth Plan’s Statement of Progress has shown that 14 health inequality gaps have widened in 2019 and the health and wellbeing outcome was the one outcome that the Strategic Growth Partnership were not able to report tangible progress since the development of the plan. Derry City and Strabane District Council would strongly assert therefore that investment should directed towards addressing this.

**Other peace building activities**

Having a strand within the programme that provides for investment in capital and revenue based projects to build 'infrastructure' and resilience that are focused on place- and community making would enable very impactful and strategic investment. Furthermore, permitting investments in projects that add value

to or enable the scaling up of projects funded under previous PEACE programmes would leverage the previous investment and build on the legacy of the PEACE Programme initiative.

**Q.B.1ii If there are other types of action not covered by the table in Q.B.1 that you think are relevant for achieving Peace and Reconciliation in your local area, please describe them below. [Word limit 1000 words]**

SEUPB should give consideration to allocating a tranche of funding that can be used to support or add significant value to projects previously funded through the PEACE programme. For clarity, the purpose of such a tranche of funding would not be to simply update a project or 'refund' an initiative. Its purpose would specifically be to significantly add value to high impact projects, such as the Peace Bridge, by enabling the upscaling and leveraging of the investment to date to deliver significant additional benefits to and the long-term outcomes we envision for our communities and the City Region.

**Q.B.1iii What are the main challenges and opportunities for greater Peace and Reconciliation (previously addressed under the PEACE programme)? [Word limit 1000 words]**

INSERT: UPDATED SOCIO ECONOMIC PROFILE FOR CITY AND REGION

NWSDG – KEY NW PRIORTIES & OPPORTUNITIES – TBA WITH DCC

**Q.B.1iv Please list any ideas for initiatives or projects that could address the challenges/opportunities identified in Q.B.1iii. [Word limit 1000 words]**

INSERT: SUMMARY OF ALL RELEVANT CURRENT & FINALISED DCSDC STRATEGIES WITH WEB-LINKS TO PUBLISHED & HIGHLIGHTED POTENTIAL PRIORITY INITIATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

INSERT: SUMMARY OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS WITH WEB-LINKS TO DOCUMENTS

INSERT: AWAIT ADDITIONAL INPUT FROM MEMBERS, DIRECTORATES, KEY STAKEHOLDERS.

## B (2). Thematic focus: North/South economic, social and environmental development of the region

### Q.B.2 Rate the relevance of Policy Objective 1: A SMARTER EUROPE

(i) Actions under this Policy Objective could include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Measures to boost the innovation capacity of the region,</li> <li>Measures to increase the uptake of advanced technology,</li> <li>Actions to increase the growth and competitiveness of the SME sector,</li> <li>Improvements to digital services.</li> </ul>

Not at all relevant	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Extremely Relevant
	<input type="checkbox"/>							

I don't know

### Q.B.2i Please explain why you have given the rating above: [Word limit 500 words] (word count 698 – edit required)

We ask the SEUPB to consider in full our Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan 2017-2032. The ISGP sets out our vision “of a thriving prosperous and sustainable City and District with equality of opportunity for all”, and our overarching integrated economic, environmental and physical, and community and social development framework and plan to deliver this vision.

The proposed actions are in line with the ISGP outcome “We prosper through a strong, sustainable and competitive economy” (aligned to PfG outcomes 1,5,6&11) with specific objectives to ensure: our economy is better connected and more prosperous; that we are more entrepreneurial, creative and business ready and have grown our economic base; and that we are more specialised and innovative and have competitive advantage.

The Integrated Economic Strategy for the Derry City and Strabane District Council (DCSDC) area sets out our priority sectors which will provide the step-change required for economic growth. These are: Life and Health Sciences; Digital and Smart Industries including Business, Professional and Financial services; Creative Industries; and Advanced manufacturing and engineering.

DCSDC was designated an EU Digital City by the European Commission in 2018. The Strategic Growth Plan and recent City/Inclusive Future Fund programmes place Innovation, Digital Transformation and delivery of a SMART City/Region as being central to the future Economic Growth and Prosperity of the Place. DCSDC was selected as one of 5 Domestic Mission Cities by Innovate UK and is currently leading out on the growth of Advanced Urban Services built around City collaborations, building increased partnership between public authorities and innovative businesses. This programme has highlighted a number of key strategic interventions to place DCSDC at the forefront of SMART Innovation:

- Development of a SMART GRID to increase renewable energy capacity (Residential sourced) for the district roll-out of Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure
- Development of a Digital Innovation and Growth Hub with bespoke Accelerator Initiatives to increase growth and competitiveness of the SME Sector

DCSDC along with its city and regional partners has successfully secured UK Government investment through a City Deal, match funded by the NI Executive. At the heart of our City Deal proposition is the growth of the city region's innovation capabilities to increase the growth and competitiveness of our SME sector. Through the city deal significant investment will be made in three large scale innovation centres underpinned by a programme of investment in digital infrastructure and services. The potential funding through the PEACE Plus programme presents a real opportunity to leverage this investment to further amplify and scale-up the additionality and added value that these projects will bring to the region.

These core innovation projects are:

#### Northern Ireland General Entry Medical School

NIGEMS will be a nationally and internationally excellent medical school competitively recruiting and retaining high quality staff and students. It will produce graduates whose vision is community focused yet globally ambitious: academically capable change agents. NIGEMS graduate doctors will be able to deliver whole person care with skill and compassion, as members and leaders of diverse clinical teams, in partnership with patients and clients.

Transformation for Health Innovation & Value Based Ecosystem - THRIVE is a personal medicine focused applied research led and industry-facing research facility which has been developed in response to the strategic needs of the Northern Ireland health and life science industry and in recognition of the global health challenges and opportunities that exist. It will propel the City and region to the position of a major international influencer regionally and globally by delivering tangible patient, economic and societal benefit.

Cognitive Analytics Research Laboratory is a transformational new cutting edge applied research centre that brings together businesses, government and advanced applied research expertise. CARL is unique in that it is conceived and built from the ground up through collaborative consultation with our industry and civic stakeholders with a strong focus on economic and societal impact.

With the commitment of the UK, Irish Governments and the Northern Ireland Executive in the New Decade, New Approach deal to the development and expansion of the UU campus at Magee College, including the increase in maximum student numbers to 10,000 and the Graduate Entry Medical School there will be further opportunities for high impact investment in the city region.

### Q.B.3 Rate the relevance of Policy Objective 2: A GREENER, LOWER CARBON EUROPE

(i) Actions under this Policy Objective could include:

- Measures to improve energy efficiency,
- Additional renewable energy production capacity,
- Smart grids for improved energy management,
- Improved disaster monitoring, warning or response systems,
- Improved water and waste treatment,
- Measures to improve biodiversity

Not at all relevant	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Extremely Relevant
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						

I don't know

**Q.B.3i Please explain why you have given the rating above: [Word limit 500 words]**  
 (word count 689, edit required)

We ask the SEUPB to consider in full our Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan 2017-2032 in respect to Council's environmental and climate priorities. Specifically, our ISPG outcome to live sustainable – protecting and enhancing the environment (aligned to PfG outcome 2) focuses on: creating well designed and managed green space; investing in stronger environmental stewardship; and valuing and enhancing our environment. The ISPG outcome: we connect people and opportunities through our infrastructure (aligned to PfG outcome 11) aims to enhance our energy, waste and water infrastructure. Our focus is on: a secure and affordable energy supply; moving towards a zero waste circular economy; and on ensuring that our water is cleaner and more effectively managed.

In June 2019 DCSDC Councillors unanimously passed a climate emergency motion noting that urgent action is required at international, national, local and individual level to address the devastating impact of climate change. establish an all-party Climate Emergency Working Group and Multi Agency Climate Group to investigate and determine how Derry City and Strabane District should respond to the climate crisis, identifying mitigation measures that may be put in place as a matter of urgency.

DCSDC has the following strategies and action plans are in place or in the process of being finalised that will span the programme funding period 2021-2027 and beyond:

- Zero Waster and Circular Economy Strategy, November 2017
- Climate Adaption Plan, – currently being developed
- NW Climate Action Plan – Being developed jointly with Donegal County Council
- NW Energy Strategy - Being developed jointly with Donegal County Council
- Green Infrastructure Plan 2019-2032, November 2019

DCSDC is the first Council in N. Ireland to introduce a Climate Adaptation Plan. The CAP is currently being finalised , the vision and aims of the 5 year plan are:

"Derry City & Strabane District Council is prepared for and resilient to the effects of climate change creating a safe and sustainable region for all"

## Aims

- Increase capacity to respond to climate change ensuring resilience of our services, people, operations, assets and estate to the impacts of climate change
- Raise awareness of the impacts of climate change across the City & District to deliver effective adaptation
- Lead by example and work collaboratively to ensure resilience and deliver climate adaptation

In November 2019 DCSDC launched its Green Infrastructure Plan 2019-2032 (GI) developed by the Derry and Strabane Green Infrastructure Stakeholder Group following an extensive consultation process. It outlines a vision that GI can provide a radical new approach within the District:

"By 2032 the environmental, economic and social benefits of Green Infrastructure are valued and maximized by all"

It outlines the strategic vision, aims and priorities for the District to 2032 along with a plan outlining the short, medium and long term actions to deliver this GI Plan.

The NW Energy strategy looks at five themes: Energy Efficiency; Smart Energy Management; Low Carbon Heating; Low Carbon Transport; and Renewable Generation and Energy storage. It defines a pathway for initiatives and projects required to achieve a net zero carbon region within a 10, 20, 30 year timescale.

Emerging projects that are currently being explored and developed help inform the objectives are:

- Mapping a Smart Energy System for the region
- Developing a tool to accurately map carbon emissions (open data)
- Introducing hydrogen vehicles into council's fleet/ public transport
- Large scale energy project with multiple energy users such as universities, hospitals, council and colleges
- Integration of renewable energy into the EV charging infrastructure

The need to establish an overarching organisation to drive the low carbon agenda forward has also been identified.

DCSDC and Donegal County Council have embarked on a joint initiative to develop a North West Climate Action Plan. The aim of the NWCAP is to:

"Deliver climate action on a cross sectoral multi agency basis to achieve greater adaptation and resilience to the effects of climate change while leading by example to reduce emissions and mitigate against further global warming."

This will be the first regional climate action plan in Ireland and will deliver transformative change from 2020-2032 focussing on collaboration, green infrastructure and a just transition for the region.

## Q.B.4 Rate the relevance of Policy Objective 3: A MORE CONNECTED EUROPE

(i) This Policy Objective focuses on  
 improving transport and ICT infrastructure in the eligible region.  
 Actions could include improvements to cross-border  
 transport infrastructure

Not at all relevant	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Extremely Relevant
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						

I don't know

### Q.B.4i Please explain why you have given the rating above: [Word limit 500 words] (word count 588, edit required)

We ask the SEUPB to consider in full our Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan 2017-2032 in respect to Council's transport and ICT priorities. Specifically, the ISPG outcome: we connect people and opportunities through our infrastructure (aligned to PfG outcome 11) and our focus on more integrated, sustainable and accessible transport. In regard to ICT the ISPG outcome: we prosper through a strong, sustainable and competitive economy (aligned to PFG outcomes 1,5,6&11).

Led by the Department of Infrastructure a new North West Transport Plan – Draft Local Transport Study is currently being finalised. The draft plans identified the following seven transport objectives for the development and assessment of transport options in the Study Area:

Objective 1 - Improving external linkages: Enhance accessibility by road and public transport to the City of Derry from Letterkenny, Belfast, Dublin, Strabane and other gateways / hubs, to support greater levels of inward investment and tourism.

Objective 2 - Improving public transport accessibility: Ensure financially viable and sustainable public transport accessibility to essential services including health and education for people living in DCSDC.

Objective 3 - Improving active travel accessibility: Ensure there are attractive and safe active travel networks (walking and cycling) linking all residential, retail, leisure, culture, office and commercial uses within the urban areas of the DCSDC.

Objective 4 - Providing high quality public realm: Deliver high quality public realm in Derry City Centre (especially the central riverfront area) and Strabane town centre with reduced vehicle dominance and permeability / walkability, to make them attractive, shared spaces to live and work and improve safety for active modes.

Objective 5 - Improving town centre accessibility: Enhance transport accessibility and manage traffic congestion in Derry City and Strabane town to strengthen Derry's role as the principal city of the cross border North West City Region.

Objective 6 - Improving public safety including air quality: Enhance safety for all modes of travel, reduce the number and severity of casualties and improve air quality. Transportation should contribute to / not worsen the health and well-being of the people of the region.

Objective 7 - Promoting sustainability and resilience: Protect and enhance the built and natural environment by ensuring our transport systems operate sustainably and can integrate climate change adaptation requirements.

In respect to significant strategic projects, currently under consideration are the feasibility of a bridge linking the NW Multi-Modal Transport Hub to a relocated bus station at the Derry Visitor Bureau site to enhance regional connectivity. There have also been high level conversations with Translink and the Department for Infrastructure on considering the feasibility of a Bus Rapid Transit Corridor from the border on A2 Buncrana Rd to Strand Rd and NW Transport HUB and on to Altnagelvin/Drumahoe. This may also extend to Letterkenny to improve transport connectivity across the NW region.

In regard to ICT infrastructure - Investment in our digital infrastructure is critical to leveraging and the scaling up our innovation assets and to creating the conditions for growing our private sector into the future. The UK Industrial Strategy recognizes that “the world is becoming increasingly digitalised and digital connectivity has rapidly become an essential requirement for the way people live and do business”. Investment in our digital infrastructure, including our rural and urban broadband is critical to leveraging the scaling up of our innovation assets and to create the conditions for growing our private sector into the future. A regional asset that we have yet to fully maximise is Project Kelvin, which provides one of the fastest digital links to North America available throughout Europe.

### Q.B.5 Rate the relevance of Policy Objective 4: A MORE SOCIAL EUROPE

All of the PEACE elements for PEACE PLUS must be set within the context of this objective. However, this objective can also fund activities with a wider scope. **For this question, we would like to know how relevant Policy Objective 4 would be for the wider economic, social and environmental development of the region.** Actions that can be funded under the activities include:

- Actions to improve community and social cohesion,
- Improving employment opportunities,
- Increasing access to quality education,
- Reducing marginalisation through improved housing and services,
- Increasing access to quality health care in the region.

Not at all relevant	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Extremely Relevant
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						

I don't know

#### Q.B.5i Please explain why you have given the rating above. [Word limit 500 words]

Peace and reconciliation is fundamental to a strong, attractive and competitive economy. It is fundamental to enabling our communities to be safe, resilient, welcoming and vibrant places to live and for our citizens to flourish. Equally growing and strengthening our economy, and creating the opportunities for people and communities to flourish is fundamental to ensuring a peaceful society. Therefore, Objective 4 is very relevant for the wider economic, social and environmental development of the region.

Given the limited available budget, particularly in light of the loss of ESF and ERDF funding in Northern Ireland, with no clear indication from the UK Government of their replacement through national funds, the importance of two discrete and prioritised programmes that are inter-connected and bound together by the common purpose of creating a thriving, prosperous, sustainable and peaceful society with equality of opportunity for all is clear.

**Q.B.6 Rate the relevance of Policy Objective 5: A EUROPE CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS**

(i) Actions under this Policy Objective could
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Activities to boost tourism,</li> <li>▪ Measures to promote cultural heritage,</li> <li>▪ Improving community facilities,</li> <li>▪ Measures to improve security.</li> </ul> <p>This Policy Objective covers urban, rural and coastal areas</p>

<b>Not at all relevant</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Extremely Relevant</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					

**I don't know**

**Q.B.6i Please explain why you have given the rating above: [Word limit 500 words]**

(word count 314, awaiting additional content)

Please note the above ranking applies to the first three policy objectives only. Not 'Measures to improve security'. Security is a core statutory responsibility and function of any Central Government. As with housing the scale of the cost of delivery far exceeds the potential budget of the PEACE PLUS Programme, with any meaningful impact and therefore additionality being minimal in terms of any benefits to our citizens given the potential level of funding for the new programme.

We ask the SEUPB to consider in full our Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan 2017-2032 in respect to Council's to tourism and cultural heritage. Specifically, the ISPG outcome: we live in the cultural destination of choice and offer world-class visitor experiences.

Tourism currently attracts almost 283,000 overnight visitors to the Derry City and Strabane District and contributes to over £50m in the local economy. This in turn supports over 4,685 tourism jobs which makes up 8.7% of total jobs in the City and District.

Launched in May 2018 Tourism 2025: A New Level of Ambition the tourism strategy for the Derry City and Strabane district. Derry City and Strabane Tourism 2025 sets out priorities and activities to help us double visitor spend to £100 million and create 1,000 additional jobs in the sector by 2025. The development of the strategy was an action identified in the Strategic Growth Plan which highlighted tourism as a key sector for economic growth and job creation and was developed following extensive consultation with tourism partners and stakeholders.

There are significant opportunities to expand on our existing partnership with Donegal County Council to develop the tourism offering for the region. Maximising the Wild Atlantic Way brand, and cultural heritage of the region through a potential NW Cultural Tourism Project' which would connect the Walled City and The Wild Atlantic Way. There is also potential for exploring a deep-water facility for cruise ships in Lough Foyle currently under development with our

regional partners. We will share with SEUPB our priorities for investment within the coming months at the earliest opportunity.

**Q.B.7 What are the main challenges and opportunities for the wider economic and territorial development of the programme area (previously addressed under the INTERREG programme)?** [Word limit 1000 words]

INSERT: UPDATED SOCIO ECONOMIC PROFILE FOR CITY AND REGION

NWSDG – KEY NW PRIORTIES & OPPORTUNITIES – TBA WITH DCC

**Q.B.8 Please list any ideas for initiatives or projects that could address the challenges/opportunities identified in Q.B.7.** [Word limit 1000 words]

INSERT: SUMMARY OF ALL CURRENT & FINALISED DCSDC STRATEGIES WITH WEB-LINKS TO PUBLISHED & HIGHLIGHTED POTENTIAL PRIORITY INITIATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

INSERT: ADDITIONAL NW REGION CONTENT ONCE RECEIVED AND AGREED WITH DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

DRAFT

## C. Increasing simplification and focus on results

### Q.C.1i To what extent would the following measures further simplify management and implementation of projects?

#### Greater use of flat rates

(i) Where costs are calculated through an automatic calculation. An example of a Flat Rate in the 2014-2020 programming period is the Flat Rate at which partners claim costs under the Budget Heading: "Office and Administration Costs". Projects do not claim actual costs related to Office and Administration (photocopying, electricity bills etc.). Instead the value of these costs are automatically calculated as 15% of eligible Staff Costs

Not at all beneficial	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Extremely beneficial
	<input type="checkbox"/>							

I don't know

#### Greater use of unit costs

(i) Where payments are tied to the delivery of pre-agreed outputs rather than based on the direct costs related to producing the output. An example of a Unit Cost in the 2014-2020 programming period is the Unit Cost for SMEs attending a project workshop. Under this Unit Cost, partners can claim a fee for each SME that attends a workshop, rather than the actual costs associated with the workshop.

Not at all beneficial	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Extremely beneficial
	<input type="checkbox"/>							

I don't know

**Q.C.1ii Please explain why you have given the ratings above. [Word limit 500 words]**

This is considered to be a high priority for the PEACE PLUS Programme. On the basis of the experience of the PEACE IV Programme, the usage of flat rates provides increased flexibility and a corresponding reduction in the administrative burden of delivering projects and facilitates a greater focus on results.

It is suggested that a flat rate for communications be considered for the PEACE PLUS Programme.

The usage of unit costs within the current ESF Programme being delivered across the Region should be considered. These have facilitated a reduction in administration and could have similar benefits within the PEACE PLUS Programme.

It is suggested that common project elements such as catering be considered as having unit cost potential.

**Q.C.1iii Please detail any measures that would further simplify management and implementation of projects that are not listed above? [Word limit 500 words]**

To be considered. Feedback from Project & Programme Managers in charge of current projects.

DRAFT

## D. Other administrative and delivery arrangements

**Q.C.1i** Below is a list of examples of measures that could provide project development support. Using the scale below, please rate how beneficial each of the following examples would be while applying for funding.

	Not at all beneficial 1	2	3	4	5	6	Extremely beneficial 7	I don't know
Expert assistance supporting project development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Events, including networking events and project development workshops	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional materials published online, including manuals and instruction videos to support the development of projects	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lump sum payments for preparation costs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Q.D.1ii Please explain why you have given the ratings above. [Word limit 500 words]**

Expert assistance supporting project development

This is considered to be a priority for the PEACE PLUS Programme. Expert advice can be hugely beneficial and result in the development of higher quality project concepts and applications. Would result in the de-risking of projects from the outset as well supporting the capacity and capabilities of project promoters.

Events including networking events and project management workshops

Based on the experience of the current Programmes is that networking events and project management workshops have not been hugely beneficial. The provision of one-to-one project support and advice structured around a developmental application, selection and assessment process would be preferable

Additional materials published online, including manuals and instruction videos

Manuals and instruction videos have been beneficial within the current Programmes. However, as above the provision of one-to-one project support and advice structured around a developmental application, selection and assessment process would be preferable.

Lump sum payments for project development

This is considered to be a priority for the PEACE PLUS Programme. Often advance payments are required to develop revenue and capital projects. Such arrangements are often necessary for smaller community and voluntary organisations to participate within the Programmes.

Large scale strategic projects, both revenue and capital, require specific and, in large part, pre-determined if not compulsory information and pieces of work requiring expert external and/or independent services to support the development of a project and/or application process. Within local government this can often pose difficulties in respect to financial planning in terms of unexpected or unforeseen in year expenditure, particularly in light of increased pressure on local government finances, and the potential impact of the loss of significant levels of EU funding across key service areas.

**Q.D.1iii Please detail any measures you can suggest that would be beneficial to potential applicants during Project Development that are not listed above? [Word limit 500 words]**

The format of business cases and, to some degree, the process for the appraisal and approval of public sector expenditure in Northern Ireland is changing as of April 2020. As of April 2020 the Better Business Case 5 Case model will be required for all significant expenditure. Although the purpose is fundamentally the same as the current NIGAE model, there are significant changes in terms of the overall approach and steps required for the completion of business cases under the 5 Case model. With a far greater emphasis on Step 1: Strategic Assessment and Scoping and the requirement for the involvement of the business case approvers and senior decision makers from the outset and throughout at key gateway steps of the programme and/or project and business case development process as set out in HM Treasury's Guide to Developing the Programme / project Business Case.

It is a priority for the SEUPB to consider this in respect to the overall application and subsequent evaluation and approvals process. In particular the role of Departmental officials, SEUPB programme and project officers and external consultants. It will be critical to the success of the PEACE Plus Programme that the SEUPB in conjunction with government officials to understand

and agree how they will engage and work with project promoters throughout the application and evaluation process.

There must also be clarity on the definition of significant expenditure and the level of expenditure at which the 5 Case Model will be required.

If not given appropriate consideration this has the potential to pose significant issues for both funder and applicant, especially for organisations that are as yet unaware of this change and smaller organisations with limited capacity and in-house capabilities and expertise and those that do not have the capacity to train staff in the new approach.

This must be considered along with the proposed support measures for expert assistance supporting project development and lump sum payments for project development.

**Q.D.2 Should the current arrangements to source match-funding continue, or should some or all of match-funding be provided by the applicant (public or private)? Please explain your answer. If you would consider applying to PEACE PLUS, please state in your answer whether you would be willing to provide some or all match-funding? [Word limit 500 words]**

In light of the increased pressure on local government finances, and the potential impact of the loss of significant levels of EU funding across key service areas funding should remain at 100%.

## E. Other comments

**Q.E.1 Please make any additional comments about a future PEACE PLUS Programme that have not already been included in previous questions. [Word limit 1000 words]**

**INSERT: AWAIT ADDITIONAL INPUT FROM MEMBERS, DIRECTORATES, KEY STAKEHOLDERS, PROJECT MANAGERS.**

**Q.E.2 If you know of any reports that can inform the future PEACE PLUS programme development, please attach them here:**

**INSERT: ADDITIONAL WEBLINKS TO OTHER DCSDC AND RELEVANT REPORTS NOT ALREADY INCLUDED:**

**LDP**

**COMMUNITY PLANNING - STATEMENT OF PROGRESS**