

<p>Title of Report:</p> <p>PEACE IV Statistical Support Services</p>	<p>Officer Presenting: Head of Business</p> <p>Author: Programme Manager (PEACE IV)</p>
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1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations

- 1.1 To inform members of the essential statistical support services required for the successful delivery of the PEACE IV Programme and seek approval for provision of that service via NISRA (NI Statistical Research Agency).

2 Background

- 2.1 Prior to May 2020, Council had a statistician within its own services on secondment from NISRA. Statistical services were provided in house and systems for the PEACE IV programme were professionally established and operational. Since May 2020 the in house service ended and the post is vacant.
- 2.2 Statistical support for monitoring, evaluation and equality reporting is an essential component for successful delivery of the PEACE IV Programme. Services are required immediately and for the remainder of the programme. The key timescale is December 2020 – June 2021. (End date subject to possible extension depending on the impact of Covid).
- 2.3 The PEACE IV Manager has sustained basic level statistical information requirements from May 2020 – November 2020 but as the PEACE IV programme reaches its end phase, the higher level of comparative analysis, equality reporting, end of project and end of overall programme requirements can only be delivered by a trained statistician.
- 2.4 The service is also essential for the collation of relevant supportive information for any future PEACE PLUS programme funding bids.

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 The statistical services previously provided in house focused on providing key information regularly to the PEACE IV Programme manager. PEACE IV reaches approximately 5000 sustained participants across 65 projects under 3 themes.
- 3.2 Whilst the NISRA post (secondment) within DCSD Council remains vacant, the PEACE IV programme requires the following services (in summary) be provided: Annual

Equality Report, monthly updates on start/end questionnaires, duplicate participant checks, Section 75 updates, cross-community balance updates, 65 project end reports, thematic/programme level comparative reports to demonstrate the impact of the PEACE IV Programme delivery in general and tracked against 14 key indicators.

3.3 Overall, the monitoring and evaluation systems was designed to capture the impact of the programme and to put DCSD Council in a strong position for future funding bids in relation to PEACE Plus and other similar funding opportunities.

3.4 DCSD Council has been in discussion with NISRA on approaches to resourcing this essential requirement. NISRA have indicated a willingness to take on board the work which would have previously have been provided through the NISRA seconded post within DCSD Council. Service can be provided through 'The Hub' – a research consultancy based within NISRA which provides ad hoc support to these types of projects.

4. Financial, Equality, Legal, HR, Improvement, Rural Needs and other Implications

4.1 The cost of the services required will be a maximum of £16,000 anticipated. The budget would be found within the PEACE IV programme existing budgets and do not require further funding.

5. Recommendations

5.1 For decision, that members approve the appointment of NISRA (via 'The Hub') to provide the statistical support services required by the PEACE IV Programme.

Background Papers

None