



PRESS RELEASE

Date: 2 October 2017

£2.7 MILLION OF PEACE IV FUNDING FOR MID & EAST ANTRIM

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council is to receive £2.7million of EU funding to roll out a new Peace IV local action plan.

The money will be used to develop a variety of exciting programmes incorporating arts, sports & culture initiatives.

Welcoming the announcement at a launch event in Carrickfergus, Mayor Cllr Paul Reid said: **“I fully appreciate the importance of the PEACE IV investment for our area and thank the Special EU Programmes Body for helping us to draw down this funding.”**

“Mid and East Antrim Borough Council has a strong and ongoing commitment to peace and reconciliation and I see this plan as another part of our overall strategy to continue to develop good community relations in our Borough.”

PEACE IV aims to improve relationships between Protestants and Catholics and increase cultural awareness of minority ethnic communities.

It's hoped that the programmes this funding will facilitate will benefit local people at a local level.

MEA PEACE IV Partnership Chairperson Ald Maureen Morrow, said: **“As a partnership we will be responsible to ensure that the local action plan is successfully delivered. The plan will focus on three key areas: ‘Children and Young People’, ‘Shared Spaces and Services’ and ‘Building Positive Relations’.”**

“We hope to roll out the projects between now and March 2020 but we will work to ensure that we create a legacy that continues beyond this and creates a cohesive and peaceful society.”



The Chief Executive of Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, Ms Anne Donaghy said:
“Council is committed to the continual improvement of the Borough’s services to promote and create opportunities for health and well-being.”

“We want to increase social, environmental and economic benefits for our citizens. This partnership announcement is very welcome and I am proud and excited to see what the future holds for our citizens across Mid and East Antrim.”

Welcoming the funding, Gina McIntyre, Chief Executive Officer with the Special EU Programmes Body said: **“In the previous PEACE Programme local authorities played a vital role in helping to ensure that funding was delivered at a local level, where it was needed most.”**

“This is set to continue under the PEACE IV Programme and I am delighted to hear about how Mid and East Antrim Borough Council's PEACE Partnership will oversee support to localised projects that can promote positive relations and sustained contact for people from all communities.”

To find out more information about the Mid and East Antrim PEACE IV programmes you can contact the Investment and Funding Unit on 028 25633266 or email peace@midandeantrim.gov.uk

Notes to editor:

For Mid and East Antrim Borough Council media enquiries, contact, T: 028 2563 3531.

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SEUPB

- The Special EU Programmes Body is a North/South Implementation Body sponsored by the Department of Finance in Northern Ireland and the Department of Public



Expenditure and Reform in Ireland. It is responsible for managing two EU Structural Funds Programmes, PEACE IV and INTERREG VA which are designed to enhance cross-border co-operation, promote reconciliation and create a more peaceful and prosperous society.

- The Programmes operate within a clearly defined area including Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and in the case of INTERREG VA, Western Scotland.
- The PEACE IV Programme has a value of €270 million and aims to address the economic and social problems which result from the existence of borders.
- For more information on the SEUPB please visit www.seupb.eu