



PRESS RELEASE

Date: 16 August 2017

**ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY BOROUGH COUNCIL WELCOME
PEACE IV FUNDING**

The Antrim and Newtownabbey PEACE IV Programme, which is managed by the Special EU Programmes Body, is a unique initiative of the European Union which has been designed to support peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.

The PEACE IV Partnership has been working on the development of programmes since March 2016; beginning with consultation and engagement sessions, public information events, co-design workshops, focus groups, project design and development, and finally an extensive application and assessment process with the Special EU Programmes Body.

The content of the Antrim and Newtownabbey PEACE IV Local Action Plan has now been agreed by the Northern Ireland Executive and the Irish Government with the overarching priority of supporting peace and reconciliation within three main themes:

- Children and Young People with a budget of £594,384.89
- Shared Spaces and Services with a budget of £1,004,282
- Building Positive Relations with a budget of £1,229,694

To launch the new PEACE IV Programme, a public event was held on Tuesday 15 August at Mossley Mill. Representatives of the Council including the Director of Community Planning and Regeneration Majella McAlister, and members of the PEACE IV Partnership, attended the event, as well the Mayor of Antrim and Newtownabbey, Councillor Paul Hamill.

The PEACE IV Chairperson, Councillor Noreen McClelland commented, **“The PEACE IV Partnership is delighted to be able to launch the local action plan and we look forward to seeing all of the exciting projects being delivered over the next three years. We have had great success with previous Peace initiatives and hope to build on this to continue working towards a fully cohesive community in Antrim and Newtownabbey.”**

Representatives from SEUPB and Northern Ireland Executive Office were also in attendance and provided an overview from a funding perspective. CEO of SEUPB, Gina McIntyre commented, **“The PEACE Programme is a unique EU funding programme that exists nowhere else in Europe. One of the most significant added benefits of the Programme is the wide range of partnerships across every sector that were, and still are, being created.”**

“This £3.2m funding award will facilitate the development of many more of such beneficial partnerships in the Borough, and will encourage reconciliation, cultural diversity, conflict transformation and equality.”

The launch event marked the official start of the new PEACE IV Programme, bringing together local community groups, sports clubs, church groups, youth clubs, delivery agents and activity providers, to find out how they could get involved in the Programme.

The PEACE IV Programme is an EU funded Programme designed to support peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the border region. It is managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

Match-funding for this element of the PEACE IV Programme has been provided by the Executive Office in Northern Ireland, the Department for Rural & Community Development (Shared Spaces and Services/Building Positive Relations) and the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government in Ireland (Children and Young People).

The Council will be welcoming tender applications from external parties within the three main themes. All details of this tender process will be advertised on E-Sourcing NI, E-tenders NI and E-tenders.ie.

- **ENDS**



Notes to Editor:

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