



PEACE III

1.1 - Building positive relations at the local level

Peace and Reconciliation Plan 2007 – 2010

North Down Borough, Ards Borough and Down District Local Authority Cluster

30/06/2008



European Union
European Regional Development Fund
Investing in your future

CONTENTS

SECTION

Overview	Page -4
1 Preface	5
2 Executive Summary	8
3 Introduction	10
4 Area Profile	19
5 Area SWOT	44
6 Vision, Aims and Objectives	48
7 Options and Preferred Strategies	50
8 Peace & Reconciliation Action Plan	52
9 Managing the Strategy	56
10 Management Implementation Costs	59

APPENDIX

Appendix I	Glossary
Appendix II	Peace III Steering Group Members
Appendix III	Partnership Agreement
Appendix IV	Final Peace III Partnership, membership list
Appendix V	Shadow Partnership, membership list
Appendix VI	Proposed Consultation Process and response form
Appendix VII	Response to consultation
Appendix VIII	Letter to Consultees
Appendix IX	Letter to Consultees
Appendix X	Advert for Consultation
Appendix XI	Attendees at Promotional/Information Events
Appendix XII	Key complementary strategies
Appendix XIII	A map of the boundary of the cluster
Appendix XIV	Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan
Appendix XV	Key statutory, voluntary and community providers
Appendix XVI	Key Policies
Appendix XVII	Statistics for the Cluster
Appendix XVIII	Map of the Cluster Area
Appendix XIX	Black and Minority Ethnic and Migrant Worker Statistics
Appendix XX	Terms of Reference
Appendix XXI	Indicative Management Costs
Appendix XXII	Job Descriptions
Appendix XXIII	Target Areas and Groups
Appendix XXIV	Table of religion by Cluster
Appendix XXV	Table of deprivation by Ward
Appendix XXVI	Communications plan, timetable and budget
Appendix XXVII	Policy screening form
Appendix XXVIII	Consultation report and attendees
Appendix XXIX	Good Relations Strategy audit

TABLES

Table 1	Elected Member Representation by Political Party
Table 2	Statutory Partners
Table 3	The Guiding Principles of Partnership
Table 4	Core Values
Table 5	Key Characteristics
Table 6	Political breakdown across the Cluster
Table 7	Racial Motivation by PSNI District Command Unit 2004-2007

Table 8	Crime motivation, PSNI Annual Report 2007 - 2008
Table 9	Paramilitary-style shootings
Table 10	Paramilitary-style assaults
Table 11	Highest levels of perceived prejudice (Ward level)
Table 12	Highest for deteriorating relationships over next five years
Table 13	Own religion/race neighbourhoods preferred
Table 14	SWOT Analysis for the Cluster
Table 15	Building Positive Relations at the local level
Table 16	Acknowledging and dealing with the past.
Table 17	Timeframe and Strategic Options
Table 18	Timeline for calls for applications
Table 12	Peace II Extension Allocations
Table 19	Annual Profile of Spend Targets
Table 20	Weighting of Assessment Criteria
Table 21	Measurement Indicators for the three year period 2007 – 2010
Table 22	Council financial contributions

Overview

The EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland¹ (2007-2013) (hereafter the PEACE III Programme) is a distinctive European Union Structural Funds Programme aimed at reinforcing progress towards a peaceful and stable society and promoting reconciliation. It will promote social and economic stability in the region by supporting actions to promote cohesion between communities. It will assist Northern Ireland and the Border Region and specifically focus on reconciling communities and contributing towards a shared society. The Programme will carry forward key aspects of the previous peace programmes (PEACE I and II) and will have a continued and *renewed* emphasis on reconciliation.²

A legacy of the conflict in Kilcooley Estate, North Down. The three murals below have been removed through a project developed by the Intra Community Cohesion Partnership, supported by the Arts Council for Northern Ireland, Re-imagining Programme.



1 The Border Region includes the counties of Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo in Ireland and covers the same boundaries as the Border Regional Authority, one of eight Authorities established under the Local Government Act 1991 (The Irish Regions Office, www.iro.ie). The term border area refers to those areas adjacent to the border in both Northern Ireland and Ireland.

2 The programme has been developed consistent with Annex II paragraph 22 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006.

1. Preface

1.1 Statement of purpose for the planning process

The purpose of this plan is to detail how Theme 1.1: Building Positive Relations at the Local Level of the Peace III programme will be developed, managed and delivered within the Council area cluster of North Down, Ards and Down. Theme 1.1 specifically focuses on *"acknowledging and dealing with the conflict, building positive relations and contributing towards a shared society."*³

By adopting the underpinning principles of community planning, those of participation, openness, shared ownership, representation and, mutual respect, a Peace and Reconciliation Plan has been developed for the cluster, by the Interim Shadow Peace Partnership. These principles will also underpin the implementation of the resulting Peace Plan.

1.2 Statement of the geographical area

In line with the EU Guidance issued by the Managing Authority for the Programme, the Special European Programmes Body (SEUPB), Councils were required to form self- defined cluster areas in which to deliver Theme 1.1 (covering the period 2007-2010 inclusive). Beyond 2010, it is assumed that Peace and Reconciliation Action Plans will be formulated to reflect the agreed RPA council structures per the guidelines and assessment framework (July 2007) provided by SEUPB.

The Councils of North Down, Ards and Down District have formed a self-defined cluster grouping for the following main reasons:

- The Councils are contiguous
- They have common key service providers e.g. The Police Service of Northern Ireland, The N.I. Housing Executive, South Eastern Regional College and the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust
- The cluster area is one of the options under consideration in the RPA proposals.⁴

One of the cross cutting themes of the Peace III Programme is cross border co-operation therefore, where appropriate, the cluster will work with other Councils and County Development Boards of the Border Region of Ireland and Republic of Ireland⁵ on projects of mutual interest. Similarly, it will engage with partner organisations in Scotland⁶ as part of the wider East – West policy contained in the Programme for Government 2008 – 2011.

³ Theme 1.1 Building Positive Relations at the Local Level, Guidelines and Assessment Framework, July 2007

⁴The RPA option was consideration when the self defined clusters were being formed

⁵ In line with EU Peace III Regulations on eligibility

⁶ In line with EU Peace III Regulations on eligibility

1.3 Lead Partner

North Down Borough Council (NDBC) has been agreed as the lead partner in the Council consortium based on the *primus inter pares* principle. The role of the lead partner is to provide administrative support for the Partnership and facilitate the delivery of the programme. North Down Borough Council (hereafter referred to as the lead Council) will be responsible for the following:

- *Guaranteeing the sound financial management of the funds allocated to the operation.*
- *Ensuring the implementation of the entire project.*
- *Ensuring that expenditure claimed by the partners meets the objectives of the project and agreed activities.⁷*

The lead council has a fully accountable system of corporate governance and financial management. Gross expenditure in the 2006/2007 financial year, was in excess of £23 million gross, to provide a range of services to residents of the Borough.

NDBC complies with equality obligations both in the external provision of services and in the internal operation of the Council comply fully with all the requirements of the Local Government Auditor.

By November 2007 informal discussions between the three local authority areas, at elected member and officer level, led to a commitment to the formation of a Peace III Council cluster, resulting in the formation of a Peace III Steering Group (Appendix II). This Group initiated the establishment of an interim, representative Peace III Partnership for the cluster area (a Shadow Peace III Partnership). The process of creating such a Partnership was guided by advice and guidelines provided by the SEUPB and were fully compliant with all statutory processes and policies including Equality Legislation.

From early March 2008 the Shadow Peace III Partnership has managed and shaped the development of the Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan for the area and the implementation mechanisms for Measure 1.1.

The three Councils of North Down, Ards and Down District are fully committed to working with the nominated Statutory and Social Partners to tackle sectarianism and racism within the communities covered by the cluster area.

⁷ Theme 1.1 Building Positive Relations at the Local Level, Guidelines and Assessment Framework, July 2007

1.4 Statement of Endorsement

This Strategy and Action Plan has been fully considered and agreed by the three Councils within the Cluster along with the key stakeholders represented on the Peace III Shadow Partnership and we believe that its delivery will make a positive contribution towards building positive relations at the local level⁸.

Trevor Polley
Chief Executive,
North Down Borough Council
Date _____

Ashley Boreland
Chief Executive,
Ards Borough Council
Date _____

John McGrillen
Chief Executive,
Down District Council
Date _____

The Strategy and Action Plan has been developed and endorsed by the three Local Authorities and the Peace III Shadow Partnership. In accordance with the guiding principles of partnership (see Section 3) a "Partnership Agreement" will be produced in line with the EU Lead Partner Principle, following legal advice. The Agreement will be collectively approved and adhered to by each Local Authority represented on the Peace III Partnership (Appendix III).

⁸ Hard copy signed by Chief Executives

2. Executive Summary

This Peace and Reconciliation Plan (hereafter referred to as the Peace Plan) has been drawn up in accordance with detailed guidelines issued by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)⁹ and represents the consortiums bid for funding under Priority 1.1 of the EU Peace III Programme - "*building positive relations at the local level*".

The Peace Plan, provides a detailed profile of the designated cluster area¹⁰, an analysis and overview of the local situation from the perspective of delivering the key requirements of the initiative within the wider community and specifies the vision for the area in terms of the two key objectives of Priority 1.1;

- To challenge attitudes towards sectarianism and racism and
- To support conflict resolution and mediation at a local level.



The Plan has been produced to enable the cluster to achieve the following vision by 2013; "*to have challenged attitudes towards sectarianism and racism by sustaining meaningful community, cross-community and cross-border initiatives that have improved trust and tolerance*".

The removal of a paramilitary mural in Scrabo Estate, Ards, supported by Northern Ireland Arts Councils Re-imagining Programme.

The aims and objectives of the Peace III Programme dictate that, this Peace Plan is an overarching Peace Strategy for the cluster. The Priorities identified in the Action Plan are complementary to and add value to those detailed in each of the Councils Good Relations Strategies. The three corporate Good Relations Strategies have developed in association with the other major statutory and non-government agencies and have been subject to recent and robust community consultation as outlined in best practice guidelines.

⁹Theme 1.1 Building Positive Relations at the Local Level, Guidelines and Assessment Framework Document, July 2007.

¹⁰North Down Borough Council, Ards Borough Council and Down District Council

Based on an analysis of the needs of the cluster area, this Peace Plan outlines the main Strategic Priority Themes, which form the framework for the delivery of EU support across the cluster including;

- Developing Core Capacity Building
- Developing Community Capacity Building
- Enabling Cross Community Engagement
- Establishing Cross Border Linkages
- Tackling Racism
- Supporting representative, inclusive and effective decision making fora
- To support Conflict Resolution within Communities
- To address physical manifestations of the conflict
- To support mixed communities

The indicative Peace III resource applied for by the cluster, from Priority 1.1 is £1,068,421.93 per annum, or £3,205,265.78 for the three-year period 2007 - 2010. As this is an overarching strategic plan for the cluster, it is anticipated that where appropriate and complementary additional funding to deliver aspects of the Strategic Action Plan will be levered from other sources e.g. Councils, statutory and voluntary agencies and Government Departments. At this point in the production of the plan the Partnership is unable to specify, with certainty, where these sources of funding will be made available, however, leverage and added value will be monitored throughout the lifetime of the programme.

To manage the arrangements, North Down Borough Council will co-ordinate and support a Peace III Partnership comprised of elected members from each Local Authority, along with representatives from local statutory, community and voluntary agencies and other social partners. This Partnership will be fully representative and comply with all relevant Equality Legislation.

Technical advice and support has been received from the Community Relations Council (CRC) and Border Action, who have been appointed by the Managing Authority, SEUPB, as the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) for the programme, to advise on the content of the Plan and to ensure that the consultation process to produce the Plan is as inclusive as possible.

The Peace Plan was endorsed by North Down, Ards and Down Councils and by the interim Peace III Shadow Partnership in March 2008, to enable submission to CRC, Border Action and SEUPB for consideration by 31 March 2008. Following the rejection of the Plan by SEUPB in May 2008, the Plan has been revised, for resubmission by 30th June 2008.

Following additional and extensive community consultation on the Peace Plan during the period 6th March to 30th May 2008 and the results of baseline Social Attitudinal Surveys, the Plan will be reviewed in September 2008, and will fully reflect the outcomes of the community consultation process and surveys.

3. Introduction

3.1 Development of the Plan

The Peace & Reconciliation Action Plan has been drawn up in accordance with the Guidelines and Assessment Framework document issued by SEUPB in July 2007.

"The overall objective of the Peace III Programme is to reinforce progress towards a peaceful and stable society and promote reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Region. Building on the success and lessons of Peace I (1995 - 99) and Peace II (2000-06) Programmes, the Peace III Programme will have a continued and renewed emphasis on reconciliation and will specifically focus on acknowledging and dealing with the conflict, building positive relations and contributing towards a shared society"¹¹.

This Peace Plan relates specifically to Priority 1, Theme 1, Building Positive Relations at a local level and will be delivered through a local partnership arrangement.

Priority 1 of the Programme "Reconciling Communities" has two themes:

- **Building positive relations at the local level**
- **Acknowledging the past**

The Peace Plan outlines the self-defined consortium's proposed partnership arrangements and strategic priorities to inform the delivery of the Peace III programme for the period 2007-2010.

The Peace Plan has been drafted by a Peace III Steering Group, which was established in November 2007, by the three Local Authorities, who came together formally to form a "self-defined" cluster. The Peace III Steering Group was driven by key personnel from each Council, who could offer the specialist knowledge required to develop the Peace Plan.

¹¹ Theme 1.1 Building Positive Relations at the Local Level, Guidelines and Assessment Framework, July 2007

The Plan was developed primarily, but not exclusively, in cognisance with the three Councils Good Relations Strategies and Audits, due to the obvious links between the aims of Peace III and that of Good Relations. The Peace Plan is complementary to the Good Relations, Community Development, and Community Safety Plans being delivered within each of the three Council areas.

The Steering Group agreed to establish a representative, interim Peace Partnership for the Cluster area. It was considered that the early establishment of this Partnership was required to ensure that the principles of partnership were enshrined in the process of developing the Peace Plan, together with the associated consultation processes and delivery structures.

3.2 Description of the Partnership

Based on the lessons learned in Peace I and Peace II a Community Planning Partnership model is considered to be the appropriate vehicle for the development of the Peace Plan and the administration of the Programme.

The Peace III Community Planning Partnership will be a "*strategic model of collaboration between the public, private and community sectors that focuses on reconciliation, cultural diversity and equality*"¹².

In line with this Guidance issued by the Managing Authority, the Steering Group recognised that the Peace III Partnership must be comprised of representatives from the key agencies and community representatives from the relevant sectors, who are best placed to contribute to the overall objectives of the Programme.

The structure of the final Peace III Partnership for the consortium will comprise of 25 members, representing local government elected representatives, statutory representatives, the private sector, trade unions, and the community and voluntary sector, from each local authority area (Appendix IV). Whilst the number of representatives on the Partnership was not prescribed by SEUPB, the Steering Group determined that all main political parties within the cluster should be represented, as should the key statutory agencies (Tables 1&2). This enabled the prescribed representation from each of the Social Partners to be accommodated on the Social Strand of the Partnership. The recommendations of the Peace Partnership will be ratified by a joint committee, representative of the three local authorities, statutory agencies and social partners, in keeping with the N.I. Local Government Act, section 19.

Table 1. Elected Member Representation by Political Party

¹²Theme 1.1 Building Positive Relations at the Local Level, Guidelines and Assessment Framework, July 2007

Council/Political Party	DUP	UUP	Alliance	SDLP	Sinn Fein
North Down Borough Council	1	1	1		
Ards Borough Council	1	2			
Down District Council				2	1
Total	2	3	1	2	1

Table 2. Statutory Partners

Police Service of Northern Ireland	PSNI
Northern Ireland Housing Executive	NIHE
South East Health and Social Care Trust	SET
South Eastern Regional College	SERC

In December 2007 nominations to an interim Peace III Shadow Partnership were sought and received from Local Authorities (see table 1), key representative groups, including statutory agencies (see Table 2) and umbrella organisations, in order to ensure that the principles of partnership were enshrined in the process of developing the Peace Plan, the consultation and in establishing the delivery structures, at the earliest opportunity (Appendix V).

Whilst key regional or sub-regional organisations could be approached to nominate representatives for the cluster from the majority of the sectors, appropriate and representative organisations for the ethnic minority, community and voluntary sectors could not be agreed, despite discussions with Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities (NICEM) and the Northern Ireland Community and Voluntary Association (NICVA).

Furthermore, it was agreed by the Steering Group that the open and transparent nomination process adopted for specific sectors by both Ards and Down Councils in the establishment of Peace I and Peace II Partnerships should be continued.

In the interim period the Local Strategy Partnerships (LSPs) in each Council area were invited to appoint one community and one voluntary representative to the Shadow Partnership, to ensure that the knowledge and experience of these sectors were included at the outset of the process. Minority ethnic nominations were specifically targeted, in the interim period, based on the majority ethnic groupings and existing work within the cluster. Each of the three Councils have supported a number of minority ethnic groups and initiatives through their existing Good Relations programme. On this basis two civic leaders were invited to represent their communities on the Shadow Partnership.

Post the submission of the Peace Plan to SEUPB by 31 March 2008, the Shadow Partnership agreed the open nomination process to the final Peace III Partnership. In their capacity as advisors in the Programme, both the Community Relations Council and Border Action advised on suitable assessment criteria for appointment. Following the closing date for nominations the selection panel will be comprised of representatives from:

- Rubicon Consulting
- Newtownabbey Borough Council and
- NICVA.

3.3 Consultation and participation

In line with the principles of community planning, the production and implementation of the Peace Plan is underpinned by the best practice procedures of ongoing consultation and participation.



"As well as the involvement of locally based statutory, community and voluntary organisations, the process of drawing up and implementing a Peace & Reconciliation Action Plan will also involve ongoing participation and consultation with local citizens. The purpose of this consultation and participation will be to raise awareness amongst local communities and to allow people to make positive contributions towards the contents of the strategy and to hear and provide feedback on progress with implementation"¹³

In addition to input and direction from the Shadow Partnership, community consultation has shaped and will continue to enhance the Peace Plan. Consultation on the draft Plan commenced on 6th March 2008 and extended beyond the original submission of the Plan to CRC, Border Action and SEUPB to 31st May 2008. The community consultation process was agreed by the Shadow Partnership at its first meeting on 6th March 2008 and included advertisement, public information sessions and targeted information provision (Appendix VI).

In accordance with the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972, Councils are required to approve recommendations of sub-committees and working groups. Each local authority within the consortium approved the principles of this Peace III Plan as a working document in March 2008, in recognition of the pending input from the Shadow Partnership and community

¹³ Theme 1.1 Building Positive Relations at the Local Level, Guidelines and Assessment Framework, July 2007

consultation process. The Chief Executives of each of the Councils involved in the cluster have signed off the Plan and have formally written to SEUPB to confirm each Councils provision of financial support, as detailed in the Plan.

A public consultation period of eight weeks is required under good practice guidelines. The consultation period for this Plan has extended from 6th March to the 31 May 2008, 12 weeks. In addition, each Council in the consortium has undertaken recent (2004 - 2008), robust and widespread consultation and research, involving in excess of 930 residents and key stakeholders¹⁴, in order to produce Good Relations, Community development and Community Safety Strategies, which have informed this plan. Therefore the evidence of need contained within this document is grounded on recent and robust information. The Shadow Partnership believes that the main Priorities, currently identified for the cluster, are reflected within this Strategic Peace Plan.

The key statutory agencies have also disseminated the Plan within their nominating organisations, including the South Eastern Regional Colleges (SERC) senior management team and the Northern Ireland Housing Executives (NIHE) District Managers. Views, comments and information received before the 31st May 2008, verbally, by email and by letter have been influenced the development of this Peace Plan. An example of a written response received from a District Manager (NIHE) is attached at Appendix VII.

The ongoing consultation will be of the utmost importance in terms of community endorsement and will add value to the Plan. The Partnership recognises that whilst it made every effort, within the timeframe available, to engage with many of the communities which the Plan targets, additional detailed baseline studies will add value to the Plan especially to gauge current social attitudes and views and to gain a more up to date picture of the level and needs of the non indigenous population. These studies will provide additional evidence of the needs of the cluster and will provide the baseline from which future progress can be measured. The final Peace III Partnership will also review the Peace Plan, in September 2008, and will more fully consider the results of the consultation process and recommendations of any baseline studies, carried out during that period.

The Steering Group has also compiled a sub-regional database for the cluster area, comprised of over 470 community and voluntary groups. In January 2008, each of the groups were notified by letter (Appendix VIII) of the emerging cluster grouping, the lead Council and, proposed partnership structure and were invited to register their interest in the consultation process. To date over 70 groups have registered their involvement.

In addition to public notices in each of the five main local newspapers across the cluster (Appendix X), in March 2008 all 470 groups on the consultation

¹⁴ A total of those participants involved in the production of the local plans

database were formally invited to attend one of three facilitated Peace III Public Consultation Sessions (one in each Council area). A report on the feedback from the public consultation sessions as attached in Appendix XXVIII. The recommendations of the report have influenced the revised and final Plan to be submitted to SEUPB by 30 June 2008. A web based copy of the Peace Plan and consultation questions was also available from each Council's website (Appendix IX) for further feedback. Since posting the document on each Councils web-site in excess of 1489 hits have been recorded. However only one written response was received. Consultation was also arranged for specific groups e.g. the Intra Community Cohesion Partnership in Kilcooley and representatives from the Bangladeshi and Polish communities. The Partnership was committed to providing additional or targeted consultation, if required or requested.

Local Networks within each Local Authority Area, including the North Down Community Network, the Ards Development Bureau & Community Network, East Down Rural Community Network and Rathgill Community Association have also assisted with the grass roots consultation process, by circulating notification to their members and/or by inviting community representatives to four promotional and information events. In total 85 community and voluntary representatives have been involved in these events (Appendix XI). The purpose of the promotional and information events was to raise the profile of the programme and to make key stakeholders and the public aware of progress to date. There was no formal consultation on the content of the Draft Plan at these information events.

Information and consultation on the development and content of the plan has also been disseminated to communities and interested agencies, through the LSPs in each Council area, via the community and voluntary representatives nominated from each Partnership and through progress reports presented by LSP officers. Feedback from this process has influenced the development of the Peace Plan.

In addition, SEUPB is planning a number of regional open days to promote the Peace III Programme and this will add value to local efforts.

Through the use of the local press, local networks and with the assistance of local civic leaders and each Councils community workers, the Partnership considers that they have made all reasonable attempts to raise the profile of the Programme and to engage in an inclusive consultation process, to ensure the views of hard-to-reach groups have influenced the development of the Peace Plan.

The final report on the three consultation meetings carried out by Rubicon Consulting during March and April 2008 details the following key recommendations:

- The cluster Partnership should commit to ongoing consultation, inform groups of the review of the Plan in September 2008, with a dedicated contact for feedback.
- The process for recruiting voluntary and community, and minority ethnic, Partnership members should start as soon as possible, with as much transparency as possible;
- The Partnership could consider the make-up of the Partnership, in particular the number and status of public bodies and the number of trades union/private sector representatives, and whether that may facilitate an increase in voluntary and community representation;
- Reference to Filipino numbers within the statistical section could be re-examined, and identification of need regarding racism reinforced;
- The vision statements should be revisited to ensure consistency of wording regarding sectarianism and racism.

The Partnership has reviewed these recommendations and is committed to ongoing consultation in line with the underlying principles of community planning. Advertisements seeking the appointment of community/voluntary and ethnic minority representatives were placed in five local newspapers in June with a recommendation on final appointments to be made by July 2008. The identification of need regarding racism has been reinforced in this Plan following input from a number of ethnic minority representatives. As noted, there is no up to date Census statistics to inform the current numbers of the non-indigenous population, however the proposed baseline studies may provide a more accurate picture of current local trends. The vision statements contained within the draft plan have been reviewed to ensure the consistency of wording, in response to the recommendations of the consultation report. The recommendations contained within the consultation report will be more fully considered by the final Peace Partnership in order to inform the first review of the Plan in September 2008.

3.4 Overview of the Strategic Context

Whilst a bottom up process of consultation, involving the local community, is central to the identification of local issues which acknowledge and deal with the conflict, and which can be addressed through the building of positive relations, which in time contribute to a shared society, these must be considered within the overarching strategic context of Northern Ireland's devolved government.

Examples of key complementary strategies and bodies directly and indirectly influencing the Peace Plan are provided at Appendix XII.

3.5 Guiding Principles & Values

The production of this Peace and Reconciliation Plan has been underpinned by, a community planning process and principles of partnership.

"The statutory power of community planning will be an important feature of local government in the future. This will require Councils to consult with all its constituents about issues which, affect their lives and allow people to have a say in the way in which their area is developed. All other statutory bodies will be required to work with Councils in developing and delivering these plans.¹⁵"

The Peace III Programme builds on the lessons learned from previous Structural European Programmes namely the Peace I and Peace II Programmes. Fundamental to these is the model of Partnership, which operates within the following Guiding Principles:

Table 3.The Guiding Principles of Partnership

Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ As many people and organisations as possible should contribute to the planning process ➤ Public involvement should begin early ➤ People who will be affected should have an opportunity to participate in the planning process ➤ Particular effort is made to facilitate the involvement of New TSN areas (or equivalent in the border region) and marginalised and disadvantaged groups ➤ Different methods are used to engage different types of groups
Openness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Participants in the planning process can expect early and frequent opportunities to feedback including :- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • easy to read and accessible information • adequate notice of meetings, events etc.
Shared Ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All those involved in the process or affected by it should feel a sense of shared ownership and responsibility ➤ The partnership working arrangements should be team-based and decision making based on consensus

¹⁵ Theme 1.1 Building Positive Relations at the Local Level, Guidelines and Assessment Framework, July 2007

Representative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Decisions are made by people or groups who are representative of the local constituency and based on the issues in that area ➤ Decisions need to be taken by open and transparent processes ➤ Decisions should be linked to wider policy issues at sub regional, UK, Cross-Border, European and global levels
Mutual Respect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There is respect by all participants of the views of others on a strategic partnership

Each Council in the consortium is expected to incorporate the following core values in all good relations, community development and civic leadership functions:

Table 4. Core Values

Equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To ensure that all sections of society have equal opportunities to participate in economic, political and social life through redressing inequalities arising from independently from peoples choices.
Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ By acknowledging how our differences as individual human beings and as members of groups can improve the quality of our lives. Trust building within the context of our diverse community will be of paramount importance to Councils good relations activity.
Interdependence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recognising that we are shaped by our relationships and that our potential as human beings and as a society is dependent on the equality of our relationships with one another. The building of social capital within the cluster is fundamental to each Council.

To ensure that these Principles of Partnership and Core Values are adopted and maintained by the Peace III Partnership, each representative will be required to formally sign up to the above statements.

4. Area Profile

4.1 The Cluster Profile

The Local Authority areas of North Down and Ards Borough and Down District make up the self-defined cluster for this Peace Plan. A map of the boundary of the cluster is attached at Appendix XIII. The council areas are diverse, geographically, socially and politically and as such offer a number of challenges as well as presenting a number of opportunities in the development and implementation of a Peace Plan for the sub region.

The total area of the consortium is approximately 1103 square kilometres, which represents a percentage of 7.9% of the total area of Northern Ireland. The population of this area is now well in excess of 213,395, which represents 12.8% of the total population of Northern Ireland.

Table 5. Key Characteristics ¹⁶:

Council	Area (sq Km)	% of NI Total	Population (2001 Census)	% of NI Total
North Down	81	0.6	76,323	4.7
Ards	376	2.7	73,244	4.3
Down	646	4.6	63,828	3.8
Total	1103	7.9	213,395	12.8

A detailed area profile for each specific Council within the cluster grouping is available at section 4.3.

The NI Census 2001 estimates an average religious breakdown across the cluster of 66% Protestant, 29.04% Catholic and 4.96% other. When each Council area is considered individually the largest Protestant community is in Ards (82.25%) and the largest Catholic community resides in Down Council (61.95%). The smallest Catholic community of the three areas is in North Down (12.58%).

This population split is also evident in relation to areas where people live. While census statistics gather details of this level of segregation on a Ward basis, segregation at a neighbourhood level is even more striking. This is as a result of housing pressures in recent years, which has resulted in a significant shift in population, with people for example, from a Catholic background moving into areas which have been traditionally viewed as Protestant, such as in Kilcooley in North Down. Community leaders have reported that this shift has caused community tensions, which have included intimidation and threats. It has been reported that, residents of minority communities are often reluctant to use locally based advice and support services where their community background may become evident.

¹⁶ Northern Ireland Year Book 2008

Table 6. Political Breakdown across the cluster

	DUP	UUP	SDLP	Alliance	Sinn Fein	Other
Ards	11	2	1	3	0	0
North Down	8	8	0	6	0	1
Down	3	3	10	0	5	2
Total	23	19	11	9	5	2

The political breakdown across the cluster, reflecting the results of the Council elections in 2005, is shown in Table 8 above. Elected representatives for both North Down and Ards Councils are from the "Unionist" parties, with no representation from Sinn Fein and only 1 representative from SDLP in Ards. The majority elected member representation in Down is SDLP, followed by Sinn Fein, with the Unionist parties in the minority. This difference in the dominance of political parties in each Council has potential implications for minority communities in each Council, when Councils are perceived by residents, as being controlled by one or other tradition.

4.2 Key service providers

In addition to the service support provided by the three Local Authorities, many of the key service providers operating within the consortium area, service the geographic area as defined within this Peace Plan.

Whilst the Partnership acknowledges that there is a wealth of service support delivered by a range of providers, the purpose of this Peace Plan is to consider the key organisations, which can contribute both in terms of expertise and resources to the Plan's overall strategic aims. The statutory organisations referenced in this Plan are represented on the Shadow Peace Partnership and details of each organisation's potential contribution to the Plan can be viewed in the Peace Action Plan at Appendix XIV. Details of key statutory, voluntary and community providers are attached at Appendix XV.

4.3 Audit of current policies and current service provision

The content of the Plan draws on relevant strategies, policies and practices in place within the cluster area, along with relevant research and analysis, which has been carried out within it.

The strategy documents, which specifically make reference to sectarianism and racism issues, are the **Good Relation Plans** for each of the three Local Authority areas. The Good Relations strategy audit at appendix XXIX provides an overview of each Council's Good Relations activities and details the additionality provided by this Peace Plan.

One of the most concise definitions of community relations is offered by the Peace II "Setting the Scene" document:

"Community Relations isn't about the eradication of differences or the creation of imposed consensus. Disagreement and diversity are the stuff of healthy societies...A key task must be to make our expressions of identity less abrasive and to assist local communities in exploring how they might be themselves without denying that right to others."

The main points of each Council's Good Relations Strategies are summarised below:

North Down Borough Council's Good Relations Strategic Plan (2007-2010) and associated Action Plan is based on eleven objectives arising directly from the Government Strategy *A Shared Future*, published in March 2005. The Strategic Plan was produced as a working document after considerable consultation with North Down's elected members, communities, statutory and voluntary sectors, between December 2006 and February 2007).

- Core Activity
- Tackling the visible manifestations of sectarianism and racism
- Reclaiming Shared Space
- Reducing Tensions at Interface Areas
- Shared Education
- Shared Communities
- Supporting Good Relations through Diversity and Cultural Diversity
- Developing Shared Workplaces
- Good Relations, Community Development and Tackling Disadvantage
- Ensuring that a "Voice" is Given to Victims
- Shared Services

Further consultation to develop North Down Borough Council's Good Relations Audit (2007) took place between March and May 2007 to audit the local communities and key stakeholders views and needs on good relations. The purpose of the audit was to refine and refocus the aims, objectives and budgets, within the existing NDBC Good Relations Strategy and explore issues both internal and external to the organisation.

Ards Borough Council's Good Relations Strategy (2006-2009) focuses on the creation of an environment which is conducive to good relations, the development of civic leadership and ensuring that local communities have the capacity and the support required to address a number of Good Relations issues.

The Ards Borough Council Good Relations Strategy was developed as a result of research activity undertaken by the Council in partnership with the Link Family and Community Centre during 2004-2005, The Council's Borough-wide

Good Relations Audit (2004) and more recently Focused Group based qualitative research in 2005.

The Good Relations Action Plan is categorised into four key strategic themes for the Ards Borough:

- Good Relations Environment; To enable the continued development and promotion of Good Relations in all parts of the Ards Borough
- Civic Leadership; To develop positive citizenship through strong and accountable civic leadership and by enabling and supporting wider participation in civic society
- Community Capacity; To support communities in working for the common good addressing the issues behind prejudice and mistrust, regardless of religious, political or racial background.
- Cultural Expression; To promote respect for and celebration of the rich cultural diversity of cultures in the Ards Borough, preserving it and developing it for the future.

Down District Council's Good Relations Strategy and Action Plan (2006-2009) is a working document based on a Good Relations & Community Support Audit carried out to assist Down District Council to identify, through consultation, community relations and community support issues and priorities. The audit was undertaken between March and July 2006, involving community, voluntary and statutory organisations, Council staff and members. The resulting main community relations priorities identified for the Down District include:

- Enhancing Civic Leadership and Promoting Mainstreaming
- Addressing Segregation and Promoting Shared Space and Shared Resources
- Supporting and Enhancing Diversity
- Encouraging and Supporting Community Involvement and Capacity Building
- Promoting Inclusion

Actions undertaken in support of the Plan by Down Council are supported through its own resources and those available under the District Councils Good Relations Programme (funded by the Community Relations Unit of OFMDFM)

Whilst the above Priorities for each Council will provide a strategic framework for the Peace Plan for the cluster, this plan will complement, not duplicate any of the activity supported by each Council. In addition to Good Relations Strategies each Council has produced Community Safety Plans, which are also based on the community needs and priorities for each area.

North Down Community Safety Partnership (2005-2008) created a formal Strategy and Action Plan to tackle Community Safety issues within the Borough. The aim of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is to create conditions that promote an inclusive partnership based approach in

developing community safety initiatives with a view to reducing crime generally and enhancing community safety locally. CSP's main priority areas for action, which mirror needs across Northern Ireland, include:

- Car Crime
- Domestic Burglary
- Business and retail crime
- Youth Offending and reducing criminality
- Anti-social behaviour and low level neighbourhood disorder
- Offences motivated by Prejudice and hatred
- Drug, substance and alcohol abuse
- Fear of Crime amongst older people, vulnerable adults, victims and children

Ards Community Safety Partnership is driven by a partnership made up of representatives from Ards Borough Council, the youth sector, PSNI , Ulster Community and Hospitals Trust, NIHE , PBNI, Community Safety Centre, SEELB , Chamber of Trade and Consumer Panel.

This Community Safety Partnership is responsible for taking forward an action plan, which aims to reduce crime and the fear of crime across the Ards. The current community safety action plan has four themes:

- Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour in Newtownards town centre
- Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour in an Donaghadee
- Dealing with crime - and the fear of crime - affecting vulnerable adults
- A community safety plan drawn up for the West Winds estate in Newtownards.

Down Council Community Safety Plan (2005-2008). The Down District Community Safety Partnership, produced the plan based on the results of a community audit and wide spread consultation in carried out in 2004. The following 8 key issues represent the community safety priorities for the community:

- Anti-social behaviour
- Drug, substance and alcohol abuse (with particular emphasis on under age drinking)
- Car crime
- Domestic burglary
- Youth offending and reducing criminality (with particular emphasis on vandalism and criminal damage)
- Fear of crime amongst older people, vulnerable adults, victims and children
- Offences against individuals particularly domestic violence and sexual assault
- Increasing community participation in community safety.

Additional key strategy documents driven by Councils and supported by central government departments and policies include Community Support and Community Development Plans.

North Down Borough Council Community Support Plan (2006-2009)

details the overarching objectives and relevant actions that aim to address specific community based needs that North Down Borough Council believes are inherent within the Borough. The Plan identifies three main objectives. These are:

- Capacity Building
- Working Together
- Resourcing the Sector

The delivery of the Plan is supported by the Department for Social Development. During the course of 2008 a new Plan for the period 2009-2012 will be established.

Ards Community Development Plan (2007-2009) was based on the results of robust consultations which took place across the borough with representatives of existing community groups, the wider community, a consultation forum in Mountstewart and seven focused consultation group meetings. The broad strategic themes of the Plan are:

- The promotion of Capacity Building and
- Partnership Working

A series of budgeted actions designed to improve and sustain community development in individual settlements and borough wide, together with partnership working in critical sectors such as health and intergenerational working have now been time-tabled and are being delivered through third party organisations and measured by key performance indicators.

Down Council Community Support Plan (2006-2009) is a management plan for the relevant actions to be undertaken by Down Council, supported through its own resources and those available under the Community Support Programme (funded by the Department for Social Development's Voluntary & Community Unit) in addressing community support needs. It is a working document based on a Good Relations & Community Support Audit carried out to assist Down District Council to identify, through consultation, community relations and community support issues and priorities. The audit was undertaken between March and July 2006, involving community, voluntary and statutory organisations, Council staff and members. Resources are directed to support the following resulting main community support priorities identified for the Down District:

- Empowering and Supporting Communities
- Co-ordination of Service Delivery
- Capacity Building
- Provision of Resources to Community and Voluntary Organisations
- Supporting Advice Services

The aim of this Peace Plan is to draw on the valuable information produced by each Local Authority in each Strategy document summarised above, which have been subject to widespread and robust community consultation. This

Peace Plan will highlight common needs and priorities, without duplicating initiatives or actions supported under existing programmes.

Local Authorities are also expected to deliver services in line with a number of Government policies. The most relevant of these policies for the Peace Plan are New Targeting Social Need (2002) (TSN) based on Noble (2001), Equality and Equality Screening. Details of each key stakeholders policy is attached at Appendix XVI.

Additionally, key statutory partners in the Peace Plan have also produced a number of documents, which are relevant to the Strategy.

The **Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE)** has produced a number of Strategies such as "Towards a Community Relations Audit" in 1999 and in 2000 a "Community Relations - Community Safety Plan". More recent reports include the Black and Minority Ethnic and Migrant Worker Mapping Update in October 2007. A number of the key statistics referenced in the study as attached in Appendix XIX. The 2001 Census information revealed that the ethnic origins with the highest levels of population across the cluster were those with a "mixed" ethnic group and Chinese. 3.5% of the Northern Ireland total of those applications approved for Eastern European Countries, under the worker registration scheme are from the cluster area. 13% of the Northern Ireland total of work permits issued by Government District of Employment (April 2004 – March 2006) were from the three partner authorities. However, it is widely recognised that many non-nationals, resident and working within the cluster are not represented in the figures quoted.

The Executive recognises racism and sectarianism issues and the housing management aspect, including those relating to murals, graffiti and kerb stone painting. It also acknowledges the development of more segregated housing with more than 70% of housing estates in Northern Ireland now being deemed as segregated (no more than 10% of a type of community background). The Executive recognises the intra community, as well as cross community, implications and needs.

The Community Relations Strategy of the NIHE includes the Executive as the lead body to bring together the "housing family" and other key stakeholders to examine the potential for improving relations and the maintenance of neutral working spaces. The NIHE also seeks to target the removal of sectarian symbols, work with local residents and the community.

Statistics collated by the **Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI)** to monitor the level of sectarian and racially motivated incidents within the cluster area are also relevant to this Peace Plan. The statistics below generated for the three-year period 2004-2007 show a general increase in the level of incidents with racial motivation. In North Down in particular the number of incidents recorded in 2006/2007 has increased by over 50%.

Table 7. Racial Motivation by PSNI District Command Unit 2004-2007

District Command Unit	Total Number of Incidents with Racial Motivation			
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/2007	Change 04/05 to 2006/2007
Ards	25	28	31	6
North Down	19	20	47	28
Down	8	13	17	9
Total	52	61	95	43
Northern Ireland (NI) Total	813	936	1047	234

Table 8: Crime Motivation, PSNI annual report 2007-2008

	2006/7	2007/8	2006/7	2007/8	2006/7	2007/8
	Racially motivated		Sectarian		Faith/Religion	
Ards	31	18	15	13	7	1
Down	17	8	23	14	0	0
N Down	47	35	12	7	3	0

The above figures extracted from the PSNI Annual Report 2007-2008, depicts an overall decrease across the cluster in sectarian and faith incidents during 2008. However, community leaders have advised that a significant number of racially motivated incidents are not notified mainly for fear of recrimination or due to language barriers.

A number of current **government initiatives** including the Department of Social Development's (DSD) **Neighbourhood Renewal Programme** have been specifically designed to address social, community, economic and physical issues within deprived communities. These areas include Portavogie, Scrabo, East End and Glen Estates and Cloughey in the Ards Borough, Kilcooley in North Down and the Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Area within Down District. The results of community consultation in these areas have provided evidence that many residents wish to see the removal of flags, emblems and murals. Councils and other key organisations in each area have taken steps to see that this is progressed. The Peace III Programme will offer an opportunity to further this work.

Further government initiatives to tackle a range of issues linked to low income, unemployment and limited access to services include DSD's **Local Community Fund, Small Pockets of Deprivation** and **Access all Areas**

programmes. Many of these programmes will complement and enhance the implementation of this Peace Plan, especially in TSN areas.

In addition, the Northern Ireland Arts Council's **Re-imaging Programme** has been specifically designed to visually improve the public realm in such areas, which suffer from the physical manifestations of the troubles. Various locations across the cluster have benefited from this programme, including Kilcooley in North Down and Portavogie in Ards and Ballyhornan in Down District, highlighting that progress towards a more tolerant and inclusive society is already underway, offering more widespread opportunities for further development under the Peace III Programme, especially in light of the closure of the Re-imaging Programme.

4.3 Analysis of current economic, social and environmental situation

The cluster area of North Down, Ards and Down District varies considerably in relation to its geography, population profiles, economic activity and community background trends. Statistics to support these variations have been included in Appendix XVII. A brief overview of each Council area has been summarised below.

The Borough of **North Down** is located on the southern shores of Belfast Lough and situated 12 miles east of Belfast. It covers an area of approximately 81 sq km and as such is the smallest geographically sized Council in the Province. It has a current population of approximately 80,000 and is ranked the 6th most populated Council in Northern Ireland.

The Borough encompasses the towns of Bangor and Holywood. Bangor is the third largest town in Northern Ireland, which functions as an administrative and service centre, as well as a market town and seaside resort. Bangor is home to the largest Marina in Northern Ireland/Ireland and is synonymous with the Province's major sailing events. The Borough contains five villages - Conlig, Crawfordsburn, Groomsport, Helen's Bay, and Seahill and one hamlet at Six Road Ends. There are approximately 30,000 homes and business premises situated within its boundary.

Of all of the Local Authority areas in Northern Ireland North Down Borough Council has the lowest proportion of young people (19%) aged 0-14 years and has the highest proportion of elderly residents (17%). Around three quarters of the population of North Down reside in Bangor.

The New TSN Statistics (Noble) for North Down rank the Wards of Bloomfield, Bangor Castle, Conlig, Harbour, Whitehill and Dufferin as being the six most deprived Wards within the Borough, based on Multiple Deprivation Measures. Of the 25 Wards across North Down, Dufferin ranks the highest in deprivation in Income, Employment, Health and Education domains, with Harbour ranking the highest in the domains for the Living Environment and Crime and

Disorder. Whitehill ranks second highest in Income, and Health, with Bloomfield ranked second highest in the Living Environment

Ards Borough Council covers an area of 140 square miles and has a resident population of 73,244 (2001 Census). It stretches from the major urban settlements of Newtownards and Comber at the head of Strangford Lough towards Donaghadee in the north-east, southwards down the Ards Peninsula. There is a higher level of Bangladeshi people living in the Borough than anywhere else in Northern Ireland. The proposed housing allocation for the period 1996 – 2010 will lead to an estimated population by 2015 of 105,000 – the third fastest growing area in the Province. Tourism, creative industries, retailing and specialist manufacturing in the added value food and pharmaceutical sectors are mainstays of the local economy.

Of the 23 wards across the Ards Borough Council, the six most deprived areas identified under the Multiple Deprivation Measures are; Scrabo, Central, Ballyrainey, Portaferry, Glen and Kircubbin. The Scrabo is ranked highest in Income, Health and Education deprivation domains, where it is ranked 41 out of the Province's 582 Wards. Ballyrainey is ranked 34, the highest in the Living Environment domain and second highest in Employment and Income domains. Proximity to services is a significant issue for many in the rural Ards community, specifically those living along the Ards Peninsula, with wards of Portagovie and Killinchy being the most disadvantaged in this respect.

Down District Council is the largest geographically of the three Councils in the cluster covering an area of 646 sq Km. It is also the least populated of the three with a population size of approximately 65,000 people. Down District Council is home to the highest Mountain range in Northern Ireland, the Mourne Mountains. The district's main population centres include the historic town of Downpatrick, the popular seaside resort of Newcastle and the market town of Ballynahinch. Downpatrick is well connected through public transport to the district's other main centres of population and has traditionally been the administrative and service centre for the South Down region.

The mid year population estimates from 2001 to 2006 at Appendix XVII, show that the population in North Down and Ards Councils have risen largely in line with the increases in population on a Province wide basis, whilst those in Down have risen consistently higher than those across Northern Ireland.

The 6 most disadvantaged Wards in Down District are Ballymote, Murlough, Cathedral, Ardglass, Shimna and Castlewellan. Ballymote is ranked the highest in the domains of Income, Employment, Health and Education, with Murlough ranked second highest in Income deprivation and Cathedral second highest in both Employment and Health domains. Shimna ranks 8 out of 582 in Crime and Disorder with Murlough 58th. Access to services is an issue for the rural communities of Deryboye and Seaforde.

The Cost of the Troubles Study (1999) acknowledges that whilst none of the Councils in this self defined cluster had a significant number of recorded deaths attributed to the Troubles, in comparison with Councils in the mid Ulster area, it is acknowledged that many of the ratepayers now resident in the cluster were displaced from areas which did originally suffer considerably from sectarian violence. This has resulted in the culture, views and aspirations of this displaced sector remaining a legacy of the conflict, which to some extent has not been addressed because it has not manifested itself in significant levels of conflict, in comparison with other interface areas.

The Multiple deprivation statistics available for each Council area at Appendix XXV highlight the wards which are most deprived in relation to the domains of Income, Employment, Health, Education, Proximity to Services, the Living Environment and Crime and Disorder, which collectively make up the multiple deprivation score for each ward. The wards generally, do not directly correlate with "pockets of deprivation", which are evident across the cluster area, but figures for these pockets contribute to the overall deprivation score for the ward.

These pockets of deprivation are, in general aligned with public sector housing estates, which saw a rapid and continuous growth since the 70's, as people were displaced and re-housed due to the "the troubles" in Belfast and other areas of conflict. These are now generally the areas where the physical legacy of the troubles is most evident, with territorial markings through murals, memorials, flag-stones, lamp posts and kerb stone painting. Generally these are areas of segregated communities with the majority of residents representative of one or other of the main traditions. These communities generally have a strong affinity to their geographical origins and, their cultural and historical background. Before the present political situation, post the Good Friday Agreement, paramilitary groupings like, the UDA, UVF and IRA and their subsets would have been regarded as community defenders, and were synonymous, in the eyes of many, as being linked with criminal activity including racketeering and drug dealing. Whilst there is a significant population across each of the Councils, which has been displaced over a 40 year period, the Councils have been starved of economic and social investment, in comparison with other areas of conflict, as there are no high profile interfaces or peace walls. However, the reality is that many paramilitary activists are as influential in these areas as they were in Belfast and that intra community conflict is as detrimental to these communities as interfaces are elsewhere. These are now communities in transition and need to be targeted effectively and deliberately by the Peace III Programme, if any meaningful and long lasting change is to be affected.

4.4 Analysis of Need for the North Down, Ards and Down Council Cluster.

Since the loyalist cease-fires in 1994, paramilitary style shootings and beatings rose sharply in the **North Down** and Ards Boroughs to 2003.

Table 9 Paramilitary Style Shootings

Year	North Down	Ards
1994	4	1
1995	0	0
1996	3	0
1997	1	2
1998	2	0
1999	1	0
2000	3	1
2001	13	4
2002	2	8
2003	2	12

Table 10 Paramilitary Style Assaults

Year	North Down	Ards
1994	0	1
1995	1	4
1996	1	6
1997	7	6
1998	4	6
1999	7	8
2000	3	4
2001	6	12
2002	4	8
2003	10	8

A few key examples of these shootings and assaults include the shooting dead of a UVF/Red Hand Commando racketeer in 2003, in his luxury home in Crawfordsburn. In 2004 the UVF were blamed for the Murder of an LVF man and following a number of bombs in East Belfast and Holywood, nine families presented themselves as homeless to the Housing Executive. The threat of retaliation led to a loyalist feud, the effects of which were apparent in the Holywood community of Redburn/Loughview. At the time, the PSNI Chief Constable, Hugh Orde, suggest that the real reason for the upsurge in violence was a 'sordid turf war' between drug peddlers 'hiding behind the cause of loyalism'. There have also been reports locally of an "indirect link" within some communities to Combat 18.

Key events over the last twelve months in North Down, which are indicative of the ongoing sectarian issues facing communities, include the riots in Kilcooley, which took place on Wednesday 1st August 2007, after police raided a

number of houses in the estate. The incident was dubbed by the press as a "throwback to the worst of our past". Up to 200 people were involved in the rioting and there were reports that shots were fired by rioters. The PSNI responded with six baton rounds. Residents were forced out of their homes, stolen cars were set on fire and 10 police vehicles were damaged during the incident. The houses searches, which reportedly initiated the riots, were said to be linked to paramilitary-related activity and fuelled tensions in the estate, which spilled into other areas across the Borough. The police reported that the search operation was aimed at dealing with serious and organised crime linked to the activities of the UDA in North Down. The Ulster Political Research Group (UPRG) reported that the incident caused "a lot of discontent in unionist communities which are feeling isolated at this time". Community leaders, politicians and the PSNI initiated considerable efforts to quell the unrest and to address the potential long term effects within the community. This incident followed press reports in North Down and Ards, which hailed the success of the twelfth of celebrations by elected members in both Council areas. The riots were indicative of the "fragile peace" enjoyed by communities in transition.

Following the riots community leaders in Kilcooley were keen to raise the profile of the estate and considerable efforts were made by constituency leaders to show case the progressive, but yet unacknowledged work, which had been carried out within the community. The Inter-Community Cohesion Project (ICCP), which was supported by the NIHE, brought together leaders from four key paramilitary groupings coming out of conflict, to work collectively for the betterment of the estate, by tackling sensitive community issues. In January 2008, three predominant paramilitary murals were removed after local negotiations. The Re-imaging Kilcooley Project was supported by the Northern Ireland Arts Council and the original pilot project has now progressed to the second stage, with a significant number of murals, memorials and plaques identified for potential removal, pending the outcome of a recent application to the Arts Council. The ICCP are investigating the possibility of expanding the project to other areas within North Down, and whilst negotiations are at a very early stage, there is potential for this type of initiative to be supported under Peace III.

North Down's communities have reported mixed experiences in relation to ethnic minorities and migrant workers, some having no reported incidents, whilst others reporting intimidation, attacks on property and persons and non-engagement. However, a survey carried out locally in March 2008 by the "Tell Me About It" project in Bloomfield and Whitehill estates found that "young people in the two areas feel most favourable towards protestant and elderly communities and feel least favourably towards ethnic minority communities and the gay/lesbian community. In fact they feel more positively towards the catholic community than they do toward ethnic minorities and the gay/lesbian community". If these findings are a trend common to other areas, then intervention at an early stage, may address issues which could be

exacerbated in the future. The findings are in keeping with the attacks by young people, on black and ethnic minority traders in the Holywood area.

In common with other predominantly protestant communities North Down's communities have in the past worked largely in isolation from neighbouring communities and with little to no cross community or cross border working. Historically, there was little exchange between TSN areas in the borough, and the capacity of the community associations, for example in accessing funding varied greatly. Some variation in capacity still remains and there is an acknowledgement within North Down communities that this is an issue, which will need addressed on a continuous basis due to the cyclical nature of community development work and, especially in light of limited resources. Through a targeted and collective effort, mainly supported financially under Peace II, North Down's most deprived areas have started to break down their invisible barriers and sustained cross community work is being progressed e.g. with Poleglass and the Flying Horse and cross border work e.g. in Sligo and Ballymunn. There is local evidence of increased collaboration e.g. through the North Down Neighbourhood Renewal Programme and through the Inter-community Forum. There is however, suspicion and unrest, largely attributed to the pending Review of Public Administration and what is seen by communities as the move to transfer the responsibility for the delivery of major community support funds to Council, which in some of the communities view "squeezes out" community groups. This issue has been articulated strongly in a joint response by the Inter-community Forum, to the draft Peace 3 Plan. Councils and other statutory agencies face a challenging time ahead. Targeted and effective interventions cannot be put in place without the continued support from community leaders and activists. Effective community planning should therefore be high on the Peace 3 agenda to ensure that communities are "brought along" with, and included in, the process of change. Their advice, expertise, and support will be valuable for locally elected members implementing change and to ensure the ethos of community planning underpins this change.

Similarly, in the **Ards Borough** paramilitary style shootings and beating rose sharply since the loyalist cease-fires of 1994. More recently, during 2004 in Killinchy, Co Down, a pipe bomb was thrown through the window of a house in New Line Crescent. PSNI also said that they were investigating reports that a number of shots were fired at the house.

Due to urban migration from the early seventies and thereafter from loyalist parts of Belfast to settlements such as Millisle and Portavogie, anecdotal information shows that Ards as a Borough is seen, by some, to have "single identity" issues. This would manifest itself in anecdotal terms as the Borough, in certain areas, for certain times of the year, being deemed by some to be "unwelcoming" to the nationalist visitor. Ards Council has had instances of this "feeling" resulting in Republic of Ireland visitors either cancelling a stay or cutting it short.

The presence in Census population terms of a nationalist minority, concentrated in settlements such as Portaferry, coupled with the fact that until 2001 Portaferry was designated as an officially designated area of deprivation, by virtue of which, the town would have received more funding from certain government departments comparative to other areas, did lead to allegations of "one side gets everything". This has resulted in a need to effectively communicate with those bodies putting forward such comments.

Ards Borough Council has engaged in a process of communication at various intervals with assistance from Mediation NI, also, in regard to temporarily removing flags and emblems, which would be deemed by businesses to be unhelpful when securing or retaining contracts from companies visiting the Borough, who would also be unsettled by such flags and emblems.

In addition to sectarian unrest, Ards has seen a rise in the number of attacks on migrant workers and associated property. In Comber, there have been increasing racial tension which came to a head at the start of May 2007, when there was a disturbance in the town. Since then, the local Ulster Political Research Group (UPRG) representatives have been working with leaders of the Lithuanian Community to keep the peace at weekends. Tailored training has been provided for the local community and people from the Lithuanian and Polish communities, which includes diversity training and teambuilding. As there is a growing number of migrant workers in the Ards area and the potential for further unrest, similar positive training programmes could be beneficial in addressing community tension in the future.

As part of the Ards Borough Council Good Relations audit, which analysed relationships and prejudice, the wards reporting the highest levels of perceived prejudice against the principle communities are detailed in table 11. This information will be very relevant to further targeted intervention through the Peace III Programme, where preventative measures can be implemented to address the potential of related issues arising in the future.

Table 11 : Highest levels of perceived prejudice (Ward Level)

Ethnic Minorities (%)		Protestants (%)		Catholics (%)	
Comber East	70.6	Donaghadee South	45.0	Portaferry	64.2
Comber West	38.0	Comber West	42.9	Kircubbin	47.6
Donaghadee North & South	35.0 each	Ballygowan	33.3	Bradshaws Brae	46.0

In addition, the survey found that the areas below were the top three wards where residents felt that relationships could deteriorate over the next five

years and where a potential decline in community relationships were most likely.

Table 12 : Potentially viewed as highest for deteriorating relationships over next five years

Between Ethnic Minorities and Protestants	Between Ethnic Minorities and Catholics	Between Protestants and Catholics
Kircubbin	Scrabo	Ballyrainey
Comber East	Kircubbin	Kircubbin
Killinchy	Comber East	Scrabo and Loughries¹⁷

In terms of neighbourhoods, the wards which identified the highest percentages in favour of living in a community of its own religion and own ethnic group are represented in Table 13:

Table 13 : Own religion/race neighbourhoods preferred

Prefer Own religion only neighbourhood (%)		Prefer own ethnic group only neighbourhood (%)	
Scrabo	25.0	Loughries	37.5
Portavogie	25.0	Movilla	27.3
Carrowdore	21.4	Scrabo	25.0

There have been a number of incidents recently, in **Down District**, which are possibly linked to sectarianism, these include the destruction of Downpatrick Baptist Church, by fire on Saturday 14 July 2007. On 25 August 2007, a person was reported as having attempted to remove a flag from the roof of the Orange Hall in Newcastle and in November 2007, headstones, some of which dated back hundreds of years, were smashed at the graveyard of Downpatrick Presbyterian Church. People using the church's facilities have been regularly verbally abused, although Sunday service has usually taken place without interference. Since November, there has been further vandalism, which has been linked to underage drinking.

In recent months anti Catholic graffiti e.g. "taigs out" made out of cement blocks has appeared in the village of Clough on several occasions. On 11 May 2008, thousands of pounds worth of damage was caused in a weekend attack on St Paul's Church of Ireland in Castlewellan. Recent incidents of criminal damage at the church culminated in stained glass windows being shattered. Posters have recently been erected on lamp posts in Clough village warning people that republicans and the Police are using the social networking site

¹⁷ There was the same percentage return for these two wards

bebo as a way of monitoring and spying on people within the unionist community.

There is generally a higher proportionate mix of both the Catholic and Protestant Communities in the Down District in comparison with both North Down and Ards Councils, however the statistics in Appendix XXIV, show that a number of Wards across the District have a greater predominance towards one or other of the main traditions. Therefore there are still areas in some towns, villages and rural settlements where housing is mainly segregated. In these areas in particular the pursuit of some social and recreational activities are segregated i.e. centres around individual churches, schools etc. The evening economy in some areas has also been affected to a degree with, for example, town centre clashes between different sections of the community in, Ballynahinch, creating a chill factor and leading to concerns for one's safety.

In common with both North Down and Ards sectional symbols are displayed in some towns, villages and rural settlements in Down District, at various times of the year or on a semi-permanent basis and some of these have given rise to other related incidents e.g. attacks on homes of Catholics and Protestants and the use of abusive language towards Catholics and Protestants. Down District Council has sought to provide support, advice, assistance or facilitation in various forms and engaged in a process of communication at different intervals to help address sectional symbols (flags, murals, kerb painting etc) giving cause for concern. In order to give further consideration to, and as a means of trying to address at a high level and in a more formal and structured way, the issue of sectional symbols Down District Council has established a Good Relations Working Group made up of an elected representative from each party on the Council.

Work considered to be extensive, progressive and productive, has also been undertaken by Down District Council's Community Safety Partnership, with the support and participation of community, voluntary and statutory organisations, community and elected representatives, in addressing bonfire safety.

Statistics from Library Service in 2006 suggest that 133 migrant workers are registered with libraries in the Down District employed by 17 different employers. The main national identities are Poles (34 people largely working at LIDL in Ballynahinch and TS Foods in Castlewellan), Indians (24 people working in health or the local hotels), and Lithuanians (23 people working fish and food industries). This is not an accurate reflection of total numbers. Further statistics suggest around 400 children attending schools in the South Eastern Education and Library Board area are non-nationals.

There have also been racist incidents in Downpatrick e.g. during 2007, a Moroccan born man who arrived in NI in 2002 and moved to Downpatrick in 2006 and opened a pizza take away in Downpatrick. In January 2007, there was an arson attack on his take away premises. Other incidents include

attacks on homes of members of black & minority ethnic (BME) communities and the use of abusive language towards members of black & minority ethnic communities.

The Down Diversity in Action Forum operates to identify and address the needs and issues experienced by members of black & minority ethnic (BME) communities and has to date undertaken a mapping of migrant workers; produced an information/guide to services leaflet in eight languages; and hosted a dramatisation by Artsektra on issues of racism. The Forum is made up of representatives from the following - South East Health & Social Care Trust, East Down Rural Community Network, PSNI Community Safety, NI Housing Executive, South Eastern Regional College, Court Service, SEELB Library Service, Citizens Advice Bureau, Down District Council and the Council's Community Safety Partnership and District Policing Partnership, together with a number of migrant workers employed by the South East Health & Social Care Trust.

A number of good examples of initiatives to address BME issues in the Down area include PSNI's 'Report Hate Crime' initiative and Harmony Community Trusts' Glebe House delivers on an ongoing basis a variety of focused programmes addressing Community/Good Relations. Down District Council's Community Relations & Development Section has part funded a three year Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Inter-Estates Community Programme being delivered by East Down Rural Community Network. The Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal area includes Flying Horse, Model Farm and New Model Farm estates; Kennedy Square; Meadowlands; Marian Park; Bridge Street/Mount Crescent; town centre and links between these areas. One of the objectives of the programme is to build positive relationships between communities within the area. The Council's Community Relations & Development Section also funded Down District Volunteer Centre to provide Anti Racism & Equality Training for its staff, office volunteers and management committee. Staff from East Down Rural Community Network also participated in the training.

Minority /Ethnic trends across the three Councils are difficult to analyse due to limited information available for the cluster and the speed at which the sector is changing. The 2001 census information at Appendix XIX is largely considered to reflect "the tip of the iceberg".

Both Ards and Down Councils have carried out recent mapping studies which have identified Ards as possessing the largest Bangladeshi community in Northern Ireland, with the presence of the Islamic Community Welfare Centre in Newtownards and a number of initiatives addressing the integration of this community, as well as the resident Chinese community have taken place since 2005. The presence of almost 1,800 registered employees in agriculture and manufacturing from the Eastern European communities, particularly in Comber and Newtownards presents similar challenges and opportunities.

The recommendations of the Ards mapping study conclude:

"In light of the findings it is recommended that the Ards Intercultural Forum considers the following courses of action:

- *Given the increase in numbers of people from minority ethnic communities, the Ards Intercultural Forum may consider engaging in a further, and more detailed mapping exercise before March 2007 to see if this baseline is true or has changed*
- *There is clear evidence to suggest that the main training need of migrant workers resident within the Ards Borough is in the area of language and communication, therefore the Ards Intercultural Forum may consider seeking appropriate partners and funding either to establish new English language training facilities or to develop new ones*
- *A diverse section of the local community in the Ards Borough has expressed a desire to be involved in ongoing support for migrant workers. The Ards Intercultural Forum may consider ways of maximising this interest into developing a formal network of interested people, many of whom have direct involvement with members of minority ethnic communities through work and school as well as religious and social activities.*¹⁸

The Bangladeshi Community is a growing ethnic minority sector within the cluster. Representatives of the community can provide evidence of racial and physical assaults, hostility and abuse and ongoing anti-social behaviour targeted at individuals, families and property. Many of these attacks are under reported to the PSNI for various reasons, including fear of recrimination or due to language barriers. These attacks are not restricted to one aspect of Northern Ireland's main traditions, with reports of occurrences of intimidation across the cluster. In Ards, for example, a Mosque/community centre, funded by private contributions from the Bangladeshi Community, was targeted by arsonists and as a result has been closed for almost two years and ongoing attacks on the property are continuing. The end result is that families living across the cluster have no community or faith facility, with families feeling too isolated or disengaged to access public community facilities.

Language barriers also in general, limit access to services and contribute to a lack of integration with the indigenous population, particularly for housewives and those with dependants. Issues relating to language barriers also impact on other ethnic minorities and migrant workers. Efforts to provide language support have had limited success, mainly due to access and time tabling issues, with the majority of the male population being employed in catering services and working long, unsociable hours on low pay. Low income also contributes to associated mental health issues, mainly amongst women and this is exacerbated by language barriers when seeking support from GPs or

¹⁸Ards Ethnic Minority Mapping Report March 2007

the sections of the Health Service. Low pay and a lack of understanding of Muslim traditions also add to incidents of bullying at schools, despite the fact that many of these young people are second generation Bangladeshi's.

Whilst it has been reported that support has been made available through Councils and particularly the Good Relations Sections, there is still a general lack of support from the public sector i.e. support workers to assist with the growing safety, health, education and youth issues faced by the growing community.

Of the 222 participants in the Down District Mapping Study 104 (46.6%) were Polish. The study concluded that there was a "*growing ethnic minority and migrant worker population perceived but with an inability to quantify numbers, type or degree of needs*" and that there was "*a strong perception that prejudice will significantly increase against ethnic minority population*".

The Down Migrant workers Report made the following recommendations:

- *The local press should be utilised more regularly to communicate with migrant workers. A section in the local press dedicated to migrants would be an advantage.*
- *Setting up of a migrant workers forum utilising existing contacts and new contacts born from this research who will be prepared to disseminate information through the migrant communities*
- *The Diversity in Action Forum should seek more informal contact with migrant workers and possibly invite a number of possible community leaders to unite with the forum*
- *The information leaflet should be addressed in varying ways;*
 - *The languages it is available in should be reviewed in accordance with the findings of this research*
 - *Changes to the content of the leaflet should be made to include the information identified by migrant workers as important*
 - *The marketing of the leaflet should be investigated so that it is placed to have the maximum impact possible and covering as wide an area as possible*
- *Identification and promotion of English language classes*
- *Have a migrant workers event to promote the need for migrants in the area. The event should be aimed at migrant workers, employers and nationals of the Down district.*

The need for targeted intervention to address language barriers has been supported by representatives of the Polish community, through recent consultation, to inform this Plan.

North Down Borough Council's Good Relations Audit 2007 found "*Ethnic minorities regarded citizenship issues such as inclusion and participation in*

civic life as increasingly important, beyond being invited to play music, dance or cook."

A number of programmes have been delivered by voluntary agencies such as CAB to support and assist ethnic minorities and migrant workers, with basic needs such as form filling and housing issues. Local networks and Councils community workers promote integration and provide support. Language classes and training is also available through SERC. However, it is difficult to implement a co-ordinated approach of support for the sector, within North Down in the absence of quantifiable data on the scope and needs of this section of the community.

4.5 Factors which will have the greatest impact on the Plan

The key issues identified within this plan have taken into account demographic and deprivation findings, the findings and recommendations of key strategic plans and reports, feedback from a 12 week consultation process and has considered the contribution of the Plan to the **cross cutting themes** of the programme, namely;

- **Cross border co-operation** – the Peace Partnership must ensure that 30% of the overall area allocation must contribute to cross border activity (see attached Action Plan). Communities within the cluster have a recent evidence of initiating cross border contacts and with the assistance of the County Councils it is anticipated that examples of best practice can be supported and expanded across the cluster, within the context of this Plan. The resources allocated to the strategic priorities which will support cross border linkages therefore total the 30% requirement for the cluster.
- North Down Borough Council, as the led Authority for the cluster has met with County Council officials on a number of occasions in order to contribute to the development of the Louth Peace Plan and to consider possible areas, themes or linkages where cross border work can be developed. Whilst, the Louth Peace Plan is not yet in the public domain and as yet the Peace Partnership is unable to identify with any measure of certainty what can be progress under cross border priorities a number of positive aspects for further investigation or action have been identified:
 - The Peace Partnership and Louth County Council are committed to exploring cross border linkages during the rollout of the programme.
 - There are a number of aspects of the Louth Plan which are common with the North Down Plan and which offer opportunities for further exploration e.g. capacity building, themed cross border initiatives, peace building and leadership and tackling racism
 - The consultation process in both the cluster area and in the County Council identified the communities aspiration to further investigate and engage in cross community and cross border activities and programmes.

- **Equality** – the Partnership will observe the legal requirements of Section 75 and will seek to demonstrate the best practice in programme design and delivery. The Plan has also undergone an equality impact assessment (attached Appendix XXVII) carried out by the lead Authority in the cluster.
- **Sustainable development** - As the Peace III Programme is likely to be the final Peace Programme it is essential that the work supported under Priority 1.1 is sustainable in its widest sense. It is anticipated by the Peace Partnership that the aims of the programme will be mainstreamed, like complementary policies such as Good Relations and Equality. This overarching strategy will benefit from the added value of complementary programmes, such as Good Relations and Re-imaging. In addition to the funding committed by each of the Councils of the cluster to enable the delivery of the programme, it is anticipated that other sources of funding will be levered to add value to the implementation of the Plan.
- **Impact on poverty** – as evidenced in this Plan communities that have been most affected by the conflict are also affected in deprivation terms. By addressing the factors that isolate and marginalize communities and individuals, support will also address factors that contribute to poverty. TSN areas are one of a range of target areas, which will benefit from this Peace Plan.
- **Partnership** – the implementation of this plan will depend on successful partnership working at a range of levels. The Peace Partnership will operate within strict operational guidelines to ensure that transparent and effective partnership working will enable the successful implementation of this plan. The benefits of partnership working will also be encouraged throughout the cluster, to encourage and enable ownership, community planning principles and to build relations at a local level.

The **STEEPLE model** has been proposed as the model to be used by the Partnership to prioritise the main sectarian and racism issues for the cluster as outlined in the needs section above.

The main **social** issues affecting the cluster are:

- There are significant numbers of displaced people living in segregated communities across the cluster. More needs to be done to encourage and facilitate mixed communities.
- There is a significant variation in the capacity of communities across the cluster. More support is required to enable parity between communities.

- There is anecdotal evidence of significant numbers of non-nationals residing and working in the cluster area. More research needs to be carried out to quantify and map the sector.
- There is anecdotal evidence that non-nationals require support to access public services. More research needs to be carried out to identify the needs of the sector
- Evidence suggests that there is significant prejudice within some communities and especially amongst young people in relation to the ethnic minority community. More support is required to address this trend.

The main **technological** issues affecting the cluster are:

- There is significant opposition to the Peace II Programme within some communities. Improved communication and the implementation of an effective communications plan, could encourage the participation of citizens in peace building.
- Access to services is an issue for those living in rural communities. More need to be done to improve citizens access to services by taking advantage of technological advances.
- Engagement could be improved to facilitate ongoing and meaningful consultation and engagement. The use of web-based consultation tools should be investigated.
- There is a significant view that training and learning is not flexible enough to meet the needs of some groups. More flexible learning and training, provided on an outreach basis, to meet the needs of both the indigenous and ethnic minority communities.

The main **environmental** issues affecting the cluster are physical manifestations of the conflict, which are most prevalent in TSN areas and include;

- Paramilitary murals
 - Bonfires
 - Sectarian memorials
 - Sectarian flags/emblems

More support is required locally to promote the acceptance of neutral and shared space. Models of best practice should be investigated.

The **economic** issues affecting the cluster are summarised in the table at Appendix XXV and in section 4 of this document. The maps at Appendix XVIII depict the clusters most deprived areas (new TSN, Noble), based on the top 25% in the indicators;

- Economic deprivation
- Income deprivation
- Unemployment deprivation
- Proximity to Services deprivation
- Health Deprivation
- The Living Environment
- Anti-social Behaviour

There are significant demographic differences between the three Council areas and whilst these present a number of challenges they also offer significant opportunities, arising from the current **political** climate, primarily:

- There is evidence that a number of communities are beginning to work on a collaborative basis. Opportunities exist to further support intra community working.
- There is evidence to suggest that communities are increasingly exploring opportunities for cross community working. This should be supported to enhance sustainable cross community relations and increased mutual understanding.
- There is evidence to suggest that communities are increasingly exploring opportunities for cross border working. This should be supported to enhance sustainable cross border linkages.

The Review of Public Administration (RPA) has indicated that the future Councils will be reduced in number. However, this does not preclude self-defined clusters of mutual interest forming to progress area specific issues. The Councils within this cluster will collaborate on the implementation of this Peace Plan until 2010, after which the Plan will be revised to coincide with the new Council areas. Until such time the Partnership will develop a strong and working relationship between Councils areas of predominantly different community backgrounds. **Legal** issues regarding the implementation of the Programme within the cluster area outlined in Section 9 of this Plan

As public bodies Local Authorities are expected to embrace the highest ethical and moral standards in all that they do. Local authorities are not only expected to follow the letter of the law, but to uphold the spirit of the law by having policies and practices that are beyond reproach. In addition, Councils are also expected to target resources at those in most need within society. The Councils and Partnership will therefore be supporting **ethical** initiatives, which impact on poverty and promote equality of opportunity and mutual understanding.

5. Area SWOT analysis

The following SWOT analysis provides an internal and external analysis of the area in relation to the objectives of Theme 1.1. The SWOT specifically focuses on issues, which potentially affect both positively and negatively on the implementation of the Peace Plan for the cluster area.

Table 14. SWOT Analysis for the Cluster

Strengths – Internal	Weaknesses – Internal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils are well perceived as promoters of good community relations and community support. • Demographic mix of the three Council areas. • Willingness of other providers to work collaboratively with Councils • Well-developed existing partnerships • Councils have good working relationships with community and voluntary groups. • Evidence of some progress on the flags, emblems and murals issues in each Council area. • Most people do not want sectarian flags and emblems in their areas. • Existence of inter-agency forums on ethnic minorities and migrant workers. • Welcome information exists for ethnic minorities and migrant workers through the CSPs. • Very few incidents of racism • Previous experience of delivering EU and other funding programmes with the appropriate monitoring and audit procedures. • Experience of working within regional networks such as SEED and East Border Region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religious or political background affects where many people live socialise or work within the Council areas. • Minority populations exist with the potential for marginalisation. • Elements of disadvantage in key wards and Output Areas, including a number of Output Areas in the top 10% most disadvantaged in Northern Ireland • Limited resources for the resourcing of each Councils Good Relations and Community Support functions. • Limited civic leadership within a number of communities • Capacity of elected members and officers to adequately contribute in the new Council/RPA environment. • Anti-social behaviour • Community capacity within the Protestant/Unionist/Loyalist community, and identifying and dealing with minority community marginalisation. • Perceived lack of commitment by some to community relations. • Difficulty in addressing 'hard issues' between key players, and within the voluntary and community sector, and statutory agencies. • Growing ethnic minority and migrant worker population perceived, but with an inability to quantify numbers, type or degree of needs. • Lack of information, knowledge and liaison exists with ethnic minority and migrant worker populations. • Multiple demands for partnership working within a limited pool of resources. • There is a limited history of cross-border working within some areas.

Opportunities – External	Threats – External
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for cross community working within the cluster area ▪ Potential for greater inclusion and engagement with minority ethnic groupings • Potential for enhanced leadership and community planning within the three Council areas. • Building on the strengths and successes of existing commitments, including the delivery of good relations and community support. • Political representatives being seen to promote working across the political divide/across new geography. • Increase focus on addressing 'hard issues' – sectional flags, emblems and memorials. • Most people do not want sectional flags and emblems in their areas. • Focusing funding on locally identified sectarianism and racism issues. • Opportunities to share best practice and implement in wider area. • Local devolved administration • Significantly improved community relations and reduced inter communal violence. • Predicted growth in the Northern Ireland economy. • Increased ethnic and cultural diversity. • Review of Public Administration and centrality of A Shared Future • Opportunities to share learning in the field of conflict transformation with other regions emerging from conflict. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased demands on public expenditure • Remains a highly segregated society with ongoing intra and inter community tensions. • Increase of reported hate incidents to the PSNI relating to racial and sectarian incident (although reporting may have improved rather than there being an increase in the actual number of incidents). • Strong perception that prejudice will significantly increase against the ethnic minority populations. • Lack of information on and understanding of sectarianism and racism issues. • Northern Ireland-wide political opinion influencing local attitudes. • Lack of willingness by communities to look past their own issues. • Lack of understanding of other communities/ issues. • Availability of funding. • Cynicism and apathy. • Sectional celebrations associated with each tradition. • Party politics. • 'Rights' culture within each tradition. • Anti-social behaviour • Fear of status-quo changing.

The SWOT analysis was developed by the Steering Group of key personnel from each of the three Councils. The SWOT is an analysis of the cluster grouping, rather than the specific individual Councils within it and was developed to analyse the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) facing the cluster when developing and implementing the Peace Plan. The analysis also identifies the needs of the area.

5.1 A Summary of the Needs of the Cluster

Significant progress has been evidenced with the establishment of a devolved government and resulting from programmes and initiatives such as Peace I and II and the implementation of Good Relations, Community Support Plans, District Policing Partnerships and Community Safety Partnerships.

However, due to the cyclical nature of sustainable community development and capacity building, continued efforts are required to ensure that communities are adequately resourced, on an ongoing basis, to ensure they have the ability in the long term to deal with more complex and sensitive issues such as racism and sectarianism. Many of the cluster's communities engage in a range of, sometimes limited, cross community and cross border activities. To address the issues around conflict resolution and cultural expression, deep-rooted cultural issues, views and aspirations which have remained largely unresearched and essentially unaddressed, need focused attention (despite a number of flagship cross border projects facilitated by membership of the East Border Region). Through the Peace III Programme the Partnership will encourage and facilitate cross community and cross border linkages and networks to achieve its vision for the cluster area and provide the necessary training and ongoing support to sustain this work.

The Partnership is currently investigating potential linkages and networking opportunities with Louth County Council and other County Councils, based on the needs established within this Plan. Communities have identified the need to continue to provide this type of support under Peace III, especially when the role of communities is paramount to a successful community planning model.

Facilitating cross community contact was seen as a potentially important enabling role for Council, including accessing cross community good practice outside the Borough.¹⁹

The Councils within the cluster have no interfaces or peace walls, but they are often characterised by single identity communities. In particular the largely loyalist communities of North Down and Ards and by both loyalist/unionist and nationalist communities of Down District display, at specific times of the year, visible and physical manifestations of the Troubles, namely flags, emblems, murals and memorials. There has been significant progress in some communities, which has seen the removal or replacement murals and a reduction in the numbers of bonfires. Opportunities exist within the Programme for the Peace Partnership and communities to share experience and best practice which exists to expand this work across the cluster. Feedback also suggests that removal of the physical manifestations of the conflict is one of the priorities, which could be supported across the cluster in

¹⁹ North Down Good Relations Audit 2007

the immediate future. A concentrated programme of publicity describing the successes within the programme in the cluster area would positively contribute to an improved external perception of the cluster area.

*"Single identity work was still needed in the Borough, especially in Loyalist areas of social need where more visible manifestations of the conflict were still evident."*²⁰

Due to the recent expansion of the EU into Eastern Europe a significant number of migrant workers have moved into the area, from principally Poland and Latvia as well as other Eastern European Countries. In a time of high employment, tensions, which may arise have so far been low key. However, evidence shows that incidents are becoming more frequent and also that ethnocentrism and xenophobia have the same source as religious intolerance. Therefore, the Partnership will tackle these issues by applying the same principles of social inclusion, tolerance, acceptance and mutual understanding. There is recognition that further research needs to be carried out to assess the numbers of and the needs of non-nationals within the cluster, to encourage integration. Evidence suggests that there is significant prejudice within some communities and especially amongst young people in relation to the ethnic minority community. More flexible support is required, due to work and family pressures, including language classes needs to be provided to facilitate the integration of non-nationals, along with training for both migrant workers and the indigenous community.

Issues relating to deprivation, the demarcation of territory, isolation and marginalisation are detrimental to the economic growth of communities. Councils and other public bodies are expected to target resources to areas and sectors which are most deprived within our communities, to address this imbalance. The assessment criteria for the Peace III Programme will also ensure that EU support benefits these vulnerable areas and sectors across the cluster.

There has been a significant improvement in the information and communications technologies (ICT) available for mobilising resources effectively. This offers opportunities to disseminate information more effectively and efficiently and improve consultation and ultimately assist Councils to deliver effective services through a community planning approach. ICT also enables flexible training and learning to be provided on an outreach basis, which could be utilised to address the language barriers faced by non-nationals.

²⁰ North Down Good Relations Audit 2007

6. Vision, Aims and Objectives

6.1 Peace III Vision for the Cluster

The Peace III Vision for the cluster area of North Down, Ards and Down District has been based on consultation with key stakeholders including a representative Shadow Partnership for the cluster and can be time driven, broadly, as follows:

By 2010 to have increased community capacity, leadership and partnership working, which will lead to inclusive, meaningful and, sustainable cross community and cross border development and dialogue.

By 2013 to have challenged attitudes towards sectarianism and racism by, sustaining meaningful community, cross-community and cross-border initiatives that have improved trust and tolerance.

By 2016 to be working towards the achievement of a vibrant and sustainable society, which is inclusive and tolerant, largely free from all racism, racial inequality and discrimination and promotes and supports equality of opportunity for all aspects of life.

6.2 Aims for the cluster

This is an overarching Strategic Peace Plan for the North Down, Ards and Down District Councils, which has two main aims:

- Building Positive Relations at the local level
- Acknowledging and dealing with the past

The broad objectives for the cluster have been identified as a result of recent consultation carried out by each of the Councils for the development of their Good Relations Strategies and feedback from recent consultation on the draft Peace Plan. This Peace Plan and each Councils Good Relations Strategies are therefore complementary strategies. Peace III resources will not duplicate activity, which is supported by each of the Councils in the delivery of their Good Relations Strategies at a local level, instead it will complement and add value to each Strategy.

The broad objectives emerging from the needs of the cluster and contributing to the context of the programme and the two key aims, are those which, will best prepare and enable the area to achieve the above vision by 2016. They include;

Aim: Building Positive Relations at a Local Level

Objectives:

- To support community capacity building to facilitate to promote good practice and good relations.
- To promote a community planning model as a vehicle for community engagement and to facilitate effective partnership working across the cluster area.
- To support meaningful and effective partnership working within the cluster area.
- To facilitate sustainable peace building through the provision of training and learning experiences such as; training in mediation and conflict resolution.
- To promote civic leadership, address prejudice among the young in an environment of shared education.
- To promote and encourage the acceptance of cultural diversity.
- To support and enhance service delivery and integration by building positive relationships between service providers and the community.
- To be fully inclusive and engage consistently with hard to reach groups, to ensure the successful delivery of the programme.
- To carry out further research in to the needs of Migrant Workers and Ethnic Minorities and provide support as required.

Aim: Acknowledging and dealing with the past

- To facilitate good community relations in its widest sense between and among the wide range of communities in the cluster area e.g. catholic/protestant, local/outside and migrant workers/ indigenous communities.
- To increase Cross Border engagement and to address the legacy of the conflict.
- To tackle attitudinal sectarianism and racism across the cluster.
- To assist communities in considering and addressing the physical manifestations of the conflict including flags, emblems, murals and memorials

- To supporting victims and survivors where a need is identified.
- To address the various aspects of marginalisation across the cluster area.
- To support progress towards positive mixed neighbourhoods
- To developing and promote shared and neutral space

7. Options and preferred strategies

7.1 Strategic Options

The aim of Priority 1.1 Reconciling Communities is to challenge attitudes towards sectarianism and racism and to support conflict resolution and mediation at the local community level.

The Priority has two key aims:

- Building positive relations at the local level; and
- Acknowledging and dealing with the past.

Based on the information collated in the previous sections of this Plan, the Shadow Partnership has agreed nine strategic priorities for the cluster, which contribute to the overall aim and objectives of the Programme.

Table 15. Building Positive Relations at the local level

Strategic Options	Indicative Actions
Developing Core Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Training for Peace III Partnership ➤ Training for community and civic leaders
Developing Sustainable Communities through Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Baseline Social Attitudinal Survey ➤ Enabling participation ➤ Enhancing social inclusion ➤ Promoting Good Relations ➤ Sustaining community infrastructure ➤ Exploring Single Identity Culture ➤ Single Identity inclusion ➤ Addressing Marginalisation ➤ Promoting Diversity Awareness
Enabling/enhancing Cross Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Enabling/enhancing Cross Community Dialogue and Co-operation
Enabling/enhancing Cross Border linkages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Enabling/enhancing Cross Border dialogue ➤ Enabling/enhancing Cross Border engagement
Tackling Racism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Engaging hard to reach groups ➤ Engaging and supporting Migrant Workers ➤ Engaging and supporting Ethnic Minorities

Supporting representative, inclusive and effective decision making fora.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Enabling and supporting local decision making structures ➤ Enabling local engagement with communities "coming out of conflict" ➤ Enabling local engagement with ethnic communities ➤ Developing and Sharing Best Practice
---	--

Table 16. Acknowledging and dealing with the past.

Strategic Options	Indicative Actions
To Support Conflict Resolution within and between Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Promote Partnership working ➤ Victims Programmes ➤ Cultural Diversity Programmes ➤ Promoting Mediation and dialogue ➤ Address Conflict resolution ➤ Tackle Prejudice
Address the physical manifestations of the conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Removal of Flags, Emblems and Memorials ➤ Removal of Murals ➤ Reduction/Removal of Bonfires ➤ Reduce Sectarian Attacks
Supporting Mixed Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Promoting mixed housing ➤ Supporting mixed housing ➤ Promoting Shared Space

7.3 Prioritisation of Strategic Options

The nine Strategic Priorities above have been categorised as short, medium and longer-term objectives. This categorisation has been based on the following criteria:

Short Term: The Strategic Priorities selected below will build on the activity supported and lessons learned from the Peace I, Peace II and Peace II Extension Programmes. The Strategic Options will provide a strong foundation to enable the very sensitive issues of sectarianism and racism to be tackled at a local level. They will ensure that there is widespread and inclusive engagement across all communities and the partnership and key community leaders are adequately supported and informed to respond to the needs of residents.

Medium Term: Building on sustainable capacity building and cross community activities supported in the short term, the medium term Strategic Priorities focus on addressing the most sensitive issues, including; supporting conflict resolution, addressing physical manifestations of the conflict, tackling racism and establishing/enhancing cross border linkages. This approach recognises the need to build relationships and trust across the three areas in order that we address, acknowledging and deal with the past.

Long Term: In order to work towards the Peace and Reconciliation vision for mixed communities in their fullest sense by 2010, we need to have increased community capacity, leadership and partnership working, enabled inclusive, meaningful and sustainable cross community and cross border development and dialogue, which in turn will lead to reduced levels of sectarianism and racism and enhance associated sustainable community development.

Table 17. Timeframe and Strategic Priorities

Timeframe	Strategic Priorities
Short Term (2007-2008)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing Core Capacity Building • Developing Sustainable Communities through Capacity Building • Enabling/enhancing Cross Community Engagement • Supporting representative, inclusive and effective decision making fora. • Physical manifestations of the conflict
Medium Term (2008-2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To Support Conflict Resolution within and between Communities • Physical manifestations of the conflict • Tackling Racism • Establishing/enhancing Cross Border linkages • Conflict Resolution
Long Term (2010)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting Mixed Communities

It should be recognised that these categories are not mutually exclusive and Strategic Priorities classified as both short and medium term, are likely to be supported throughout the lifetime of the programme, to reflect and address the necessarily changing needs within developing communities. The classification of these Priorities will be reviewed by the 30th September 2008, to ensure they adequately reflect the emerging needs of each Council area and the recommendations of Social Attitudinal Surveys.

8. Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan

8.1 Indicative actions and objectives.

The Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan for the Cluster detailing aims, objectives, indicative allocations, performance indicators and targets is attached at Appendix XIV. The Partnership is committed to revisiting this Action Plan in September 2008 and yearly thereafter to ensure that it meets the changing needs of the area.

8.2 Timeline

The proposed timeline for the appointment of suitable delivery organisations is detailed below. However, it should be noted that this timeline is subject to amendment following final approval of this Peace Plan and pending Guidance from the Managing Authority (SEUPB) regarding support for Small Grants programmes.

Table 18. Timeline to Calls for Applications

Date	Action
6th March 2008	Establishment of Shadow Partnership
6th March 2008	Commencement of Consultation Process
31 st March - 2nd April 2008	Promotional and information events Open Consultation Meetings
31st March 2008	Submission of Draft Peace Plan
June 2008	Open calls for nominees to final Peace Partnership
June 2008	Resubmission of Final Peace Plan
July 2008	Area Allocation awarded Recommendations for nominees to the Peace Partnership
September 2008	Calls for Applications – Phase 1
September 2008	First Review of Peace Plan

8.3 Projected Resource Allocation

The following indicative resource allocation is based on the financial resources required by the cluster to deliver the programme as detailed in this Peace Plan.

In accordance with EU Regulations and targets, funding awarded to successful projects and initiatives will be required to achieve the following annual spend targets.

Table 19. Annual Profile of Spend Targets²¹

Financial Year	Indicative Allocation as% of annual total	Indicative Allocation ²² (£)
2007-2008	33% of total allocation	352,579.24
2008-2009	33% of total allocation	352,579.23
2009-2010	34% of total allocation	363,263.46

In EU Regulations require the cluster area to allocate 30% of the overall allocation under Priority 1.1, to cross border activity. The eligible area for

²¹ Totals include Management Costs

²² The indicative annual allocations will be reduced by management costs totalling 6.1% per annum

cross border activity is defined as the 6 border counties. This target will be achieved through initiatives supported under both a Small Grants Scheme and Strategic Initiatives. The Peace III Partnership may also consider initiatives which support activity and address common priorities within other self-defined cluster areas. Were this is a requirement, it will be defined in a Terms of Reference which outlines the Partnerships requirements (see Section 8.4).

EU Guidance dictates that significant resources should be directed towards strategic initiatives, which will have a long-term impact and benefit. In order to achieve appropriate spend profiles, as defined by the Managing Authority, 80% of resources, £2,378,015.98²³. (2007-2010) or £792,671.99 annually will be ring fenced for such initiatives.

It is anticipated that a Small Grants programme for the cluster will be based on 20% of the area allocation for the period 2007-2010. An indicative total for support under the Small Grants Programme will be £594,504.00²⁴ to 2010 or £198,168.00 annually for three years. The maximum award for the annual Small Grants Scheme will be £10,000.00 and will be allocated by way of the project selection criteria detailed in section 8.4.

Resources allocated to the Action Plan have been done so on an equal basis across the priorities, with the exception of the cross border aspect of the plan. The Partnership recognises that there is further research required to more fully understand the needs of some communities and, whilst the consultation on the draft plan highlighted concern at the level of resources allocated to tackling racism, it would be inappropriate to determine the final resource allocation, at this time, until a clearer assessment of the sectors needs had been made. Previous experiences within the delivery of Peace I and Peace II have highlighted that there can be lower levels of take-up and interest than anticipated, leaving large pots of funding unspent at a late stage. Therefore, the Partnership has taken the pragmatic approach to ring-fence indicative resources for each Priority. These allocations will be reviewed on a regular basis during the lifetime of the programme, to ensure the needs of the cluster area are met.

8.4 Project Selection

Initiatives supported under Priority 1.1 will be consistent with the Priority Themes, indicative actions and objectives outlined in this Peace III Action Plan. The projects supported will be those which encourage building positive relations by enabling cross community contact across the cluster area²⁵.

²³ Excludes management costs

²⁴ Excludes management costs

²⁵ Projects supported must be those which benefit the cluster area of North Down, Ards and Down District.

It is anticipated that the delivery of local, cross community and cross border projects will be through a range of suitable community, voluntary and statutory agencies.

In line with embedding reconciliation into the objectives, the PEACE III Programme will place a strong emphasis on promoting cross-community relations and understanding. Therefore, while single identity work will be eligible under the Programme to build confidence within communities, all projects (including those promoted on a cross-border basis) will be required to identify how they will address sectarian and/or racist behaviour to enable communities to work more effectively together and demonstrate outcomes in terms of good relations and understanding.²⁶

The selection of all projects will be:

- open and transparent
- will comply with procurement guidelines and EU Regulations and
- will reflect the cross cutting themes of the Programme.

The Peace III Partnership will ensure compliance with public procurement regulations and as such, time bound open calls for applications will be the norm. These calls for applications will be advertised;

- On each Councils web-site
- In the local press
- Via local communications and promotional material

Application packs will be collated for each call. The application packs will contain:

- A Terms of Reference for the call (Appendix XX).
- A copy of this Peace Plan
- Any supplementary information as deemed necessary or relevant by the Peace III Partnership

8.5 The Selection Process

The selection of the suitable delivery organisations will follow the Guidance issued by the Programmes Managing Authority. Each application will be initially reviewed by the clusters secretariat, who will ensure the application complies with the agreed terms of reference.

The assessment of applications will be carried out by the Partnerships assessment panel. The selection process will comprise of the following elements:

²⁶ Peace III Operational Programme 2002-2007

Table 20. Weighting of Assessment Criteria

Element	Weighting
Equal Opportunities	10%
Sustainable Development	10%
Efficiency and Effectiveness	20%
Programme & Measure Specific Criteria	60%

8.6 Measure Specific Criteria

Building on the lessons of the Peace II Programme, 60% of the project weighting will be assessed under Measure Specific Criteria, for the cluster. Within the Programme and measure specific criteria, projects and initiatives will be expected to incorporate and specially seek to address the key strands of reconciliation defined by Hamber and Kelly²⁷ which include:

- Building positive relationships;
- Acknowledging and dealing with the past;
- Developing a shared vision of an interdependent and fair society;
- Significant cultural and attitudinal change; and
- Substantial social, economic and political change.

8.7 Target Areas and Groups

The Peace III Programme will focus on peace and reconciliation goals and will contribute to social and economic stability by promoting cohesion between communities. The specific urban and rural areas that will be targeted will include the areas as defined by EU Guidance in Appendix XXIII.

The Peace III Partnership will specifically seek to target groups, which have been most affected by the conflict and experience particular problems of segregation, marginalisation and isolation. These groups are likely to include victims groups and those detailed in Appendix XXIII.

9. Managing the Strategy

The overall management of the Strategy will be the responsibility of the proposed Peace III Partnership representing the cluster area. The Peace III Partnership will be led by the designated Lead Authority for the consortium, North Down Borough Council. NDBC will be appointed under contract by the Managing Authority, SEUPB, to administer the Programme.

²⁷ Hamber, B. and Kelly, G. (2004) A Working Definition of Reconciliation. Occasional paper published by Democratic Dialogue, Belfast.

9.1 Monitoring and evaluation procedures

Robust monitoring and evaluation procedures will be established by the Peace III Partnership including;

- The establishment of a written agreement with NDBC detailing the support and advice to be provided by the Lead Authority.
- Written operating procedures will be established by the Partnership, in accordance with EU Regulations.
- Reporting templates for project promoters will be designed by the Partnership to capture the on-going progress against performance measurement targets. These will be submitted along with regular claims for verification.
- Project specific evaluation may be a requirement of financial support.
- Baseline indicators (see section 9.2) and attitudinal surveys will provide the benchmarks against which the impact of projects will be assessed.

9.2 Measurement of impact

Expected outputs and outcomes under priority 1.1 "*building positive relationships at the local level*" are shown by the targets set against the pre-determined baseline indicators²⁸ for the cluster below. These will have a direct impact on the communities supported through the Programme, with improved levels of trust and tolerance and decreased levels of prejudice.

Table 21. Measurement Indicators for the three year period 2007 – 2010

Output	Result	Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 programmes developed and implemented • 10 events that address sectarianism and racism or deal with conflict resolution • 100 participants attending above events • Community balance of participation in events • 10 of active marginalised and minority groups participating in the programme • 50 of young people participating in the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in attitudes towards cross-community and cross-border activities • In priority communities the proportion of people who have contacts/recognised friends in the other community increases by 10% • No. of sectarian incidents reduced by 10% • No. of racist incidents reduced by 10% • No. of interface incidents reduced (N/a) • Reduction in the visible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved levels of trust and tolerance in supported communities, decreased levels of prejudice • More sustainable, safer, dynamic, cohesive communities

²⁸ Theme 1.1 Building Positive Relations at the Local Level, Guidelines and Assessment Framework, July 2007

programme • 10 of cross-border linkages	manifestations of the troubles 10% • Reduction in the number of peace walls (N/a)	
--	--	--

The Peace III Partnership will use a variety of methods of measurement for each indicator including official government Census and NISRA data, PSNI and NIHE statistics and other quantifiable information. It will also use the results of attitudinal surveys and baseline studies including the clusters Public Consultation exercise, the NI Life & Times Survey and other general monitoring and evaluation data as appropriate. All data will be inputted to the SEUPB database to enable trend information to be captured.

9.3 Capturing Results and Baseline Indicators

Measuring the impact of the programme is a vital part of the monitoring and evaluation process. Whilst previous sections of this Plan have identified the needs of the cluster in relation to sectarianism and racism issues, there has been no local research to draw on in relation to community attitudes or the levels of trust or tolerance of other communities and groupings. Therefore in order to measure the progress that has occurred as a result of the programme it is necessary to establish a baseline from which to draw comparisons at future dates. Therefore social attitudinal studies will be one of the first initiatives to be instigated by the Peace Partnership.

Capturing results will be an essential tool in identifying the types of progress which has been made within the various communities. There are a number of methodologies which can be utilised, depending on the type of initiative and participants/beneficiaries e.g. case studies, longitudinal studies and focus groups. The expertise of appropriate agencies will be employed to advise the Partnership in the scope and manner of such research.

9.4 Reporting and feedback arrangements

Reporting and feedback arrangements will be put in place to ensure that information is disseminated to the following;

- The Managing Authority (SEUPB)
- The three Councils within the Cluster
- The sectors and organisations represented on the Peace Partnership
- The wider community

Reporting and feedback arrangements to the Management Authority will be managed by the Peace Partnership and co-ordinated by the responsible Lead Authority. The Lead Authority will comply with the Managing Authorities requirements as detailed in the Letter of Offer for the cluster area.

Under current legislation, Councils are required to establish a Joint Committee, to ratify decisions made by sub-committees or working groups where elected members do not make up the majority. The Peace III Partnership is such a committee. It was agreed at by the Shadow Partnership on the 20.3.08 that the joint committee is comprised of the full compliment of 9 elected members nominated to the Shadow Partnership along with 3 Social members (to be appointed). In line with legislation the three social members will not have voting rights.

Representative on the Partnership will also be responsible for disseminating information within their sectors. This will be one of the criteria considered when inviting nominations from the community, voluntary and minority ethnic sectors for the final Peace III Partnership. The dissemination of information through out the cluster will also be co-ordinated through a communications strategy designed by the Peace Partnership.

The Peace Partnership will also establish a number of sub-committees to manage the Programme. The committees will include an operational and strategic sub-committee, each with specific roles and responsibilities.²⁹

9.5 Future consultation

Whilst consultation to develop the vision for the cluster and this Peace III Plan has been constrained by the timeframe imposed by the Managing Authority for the submission of the Strategy, the cluster is committed to reviewing the Strategy within six months of submitting the strategy to SEUPB on the 31st March 2008 and thereafter on an annual basis to 2010. The annual review of the Plan will coincide with and complement the annual review of each Councils Good Relations Strategy.

By 2011 a full review of the Peace Plan will take place to reflect the findings of the Review of Public Administration (RPA) and on-going community consultation, based on a community-planning model.

10. Management Implementation Costs

North Down Borough Council (NDBC), as led partner is responsible for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial control is maintained and operated. This system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information, financial regulations, administrative procedures (including segregation of duties) management supervision and a system of delegation and accountability.

²⁹ Roles and responsibilities to be agreed

North Down Borough Council understands that it will be the Lead Authority and as such will make every effort, in partnership with Ards Borough and Down District Councils, to ensure the efficient and transparent administration of the allocation of funds for the region concerned. A full, transparent and collective approach to resource planning and management, using service level agreements and contract driven key performance indicators will be taken in order to ensure effective, efficient and equitable servicing of the Peace Plan.

North Down Borough Council shall allocate a unique expenditure code to Peace III projects in order to ensure that all expenditure relating to the Peace III programme and programme management activities are strictly separate and distinct from any other budget headings.

The management costs detailed in this section of the Plan are based on an assessment of the management and delivery arrangements, as proposed in this document. As such, the costs are subject to amendment following:

- the outcome of ongoing consultation
- approval of the Plan
- final area allocations
- recommendations made by the Joint Technical Support organisations, CRC and Border Action and
- details of the contract (Letter of Offer) to be issued by the Managing Authority

This total cost for managing and administering the programme in year 1 is £77,581.94, which equates to 7.26% of the overall annual allocation for the cluster area (Appendix XXI). Each of the Councils involved in the cluster will contribute equally to the overall cost of implementation, as follows.

Table 22. Council Financial Contributions

Local Authority Area	Financial Contribution (£) Per annum
North Down	9575.08
Ards	9575.08
Down District	9575.08
TOTAL	28,725.24

With Council contributions, the overall cost of management support to be drawn from the area allocation per annum is 6.1%, or £49,000.

Job Descriptions for the secretariat are attached at Appendix XXII.