

<b>Report on</b>	PeacePlus funding call for Clean Air
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	16th January 2025
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Melanie Patterson, Environmental Health Service Manager

<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b>  If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	X

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to update Members and seek approval for the development of a proposal to submit a multi-agency application for PEACEPLUS funding under Theme 6, Investment Area.</p> <p>This focus of this call is: Cross-Border Strategic Planning and Engagement on the Issue of Clean Air.</p> <p>Details of the scheme are as follows:</p> <p><a href="https://www.seupb.eu/peaceplus/overview/themes-and-investment-areas/theme-6/61-strategic-planning-and-engagement-0">https://www.seupb.eu/peaceplus/overview/themes-and-investment-areas/theme-6/61-strategic-planning-and-engagement-0</a></p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	It is anticipated that one project will be funded under this call, and that the project supported will be ready to commence by mid-2025. The project should plan an implementation period of 3.5 years. It is anticipated that the project will have a value up to €6.5million.
2.2	Clean air is vital for human health and the natural environment. Air pollution is a transboundary issue meaning that pollutants generated in one jurisdiction can impact on human health and the environment in a neighbouring jurisdiction through prevailing weather patterns. There are many similarities in home heating, transport and agricultural practices north and south that cause air pollution.
2.3	<p>To better manage clean air/air quality challenges in a North-South context, more information and a better understanding is required on emissions, ambient levels and the formation of secondary air pollutants, and depositions on ecosystems.</p> <p>Any project to be funded under this Clean Air call will be based on the following three broad areas:</p> <p>Area 1. Air pollution from solid fuel burning</p> <p>Area 2. Transport-related air pollution</p> <p>Area 3. Ammonia pollution in agriculture and effects on biodiversity/sensitive ecosystems</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	The financial call is open until 16 January 2025. So, any preparation must commence shortly to ensure a competent project is submitted.

3.2	To submit a competent project the services of a consultant may need to be employed. Funding of this service will be shared among interested All-Island partners and it is anticipated that this will be a financial contribution of no more than £500.
3.3	Mid Ulster District Council Environmental Health Officers currently monitor for some limited air pollutants. This call will utilise the current expertise of those Officers with monitoring, providing advice and guidance on the call.
3.4	SOLACE have considered and approved this approach and it has been agreed that Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council will take a coordinating role on behalf of all 11 councils.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: A revenue budget spend of no more than £500 – can be derived via in year revenue budgets.
	Human: Officer time to take part in the project
	Risk Management: Considered in line with relevant Council policies and procedures.
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.
	Rural Needs Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	Members are asked to approve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the development of a proposal to submit a multi-agency application for PEACEPLUS funding under Theme 6, Investment Area as outlined in section 3.2 of the report.</li> </ul>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	N/A