



PEACEPLUS
Northern Ireland - Ireland

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Project Governance

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Project Governance Summary

Fermanagh & Omagh District Council (Lead Partner) and partner organisations are responsible for the delivery of the RESTART Project. For the project to be successful, decisions must be made at the right time and at the right level of authority for the project, this requires a well-defined and active governance structure.

The defined process is intended to benefit the project by:

- Ensuring decisions are made timely at the appropriate level.
- Providing strategic leadership and direction.
- Fostering a culture of accountability and transparency.
- Providing oversight and guidance to improve the potential for success.
- Ensure benefit realisation is achieved.

To do this, there must be a documented, structured approach to decision-making. This governance document sets out that process.

Version History

Version and Date	New in this version
Version 1 – June 2026	Original

1. Introduction

The Letter of Offer and the RESTART Partnership Agreement set out the legal framework for the fulfilment of the Letter of Offer by FODC as the Lead Partner and the five partners.

This document details the governance employed by Fermanagh and Omagh District Council (FODC) in undertaking its responsibilities as Lead Partner for the RESTART project.

2. Project Background

The project targets the regeneration of a rural micro region which straddles the border consisting of part of counties Fermanagh, Cavan and Monaghan.

The towns of Newtownbutler, Clones and Belturbet have been selected as the locations where investment will be made in the form of capital investment and targeted programmes. The area has suffered disproportionately from impact of partition and the Troubles. The region once consisted of bustling market towns that acted as focal point and economic and social hub for its hinterland now suffers from chronic dereliction and vacancy. Despite investments by successive PEACE programmes in some parts of the micro region the area still lags considerably behind all other parts of the three-council area in terms of economic activity, services provision, opportunities for its young people and quality of life for its residents.

3. Project Details

RESTART is an investment of €8.4 million under Investment Area 4.2 - Rural Regeneration and Social Inclusion - of the PEACEPLUS programme. The project, aptly named RESTART, an acronym for Rural Economic & Social Transformation And Resilience Transition Together, will see significant strategic investment in the towns of Newtownbutler, Clones and Belturbet. The project is supported by PEACEPLUS, a programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

Lead Partner	Fermanagh and Omagh District Council
Local Authority Partners	Cavan County Council Monaghan County Council
NGOs	Clones Family Resource Centre Erne East Community Partnership Limited Clones Erne East Community Sports Facility Management Company
Budget	€8.4 million
Duration	36 months
Start Date	1 September 2025
End Date	31 August 2028

The project entails seven distinct yet interlinked work packages:

Work Package 1 - Social Inclusion Programme

Delivery Lead: Clones Family Resource Centre and Erne East Community Partnership

Key activities:

- Community development and capacity building
- Social enterprise establishment and resilience programme
- Healthy Home initiative
- Men's Shed Programme
- Hen's Shed Programme
- New Communities Programme
- Shared Heritage/Shared Culture Programme

Work Package 2 – Rural Regeneration Programme

Delivery Lead: Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

Key activities:

- Vacancy and dereliction audit
- Guide to town regeneration and development
- Regeneration plans/concept proposals (30 properties)
- Support to vacant property owners

Work Package 3 – Sport Recreation & Wellbeing Building Relationships

Delivery Lead: Clones Erne East Community Sports Facility Management Company

Key activities:

- Sensory club
- Promoting minority sports
- Parents and Toddlers
- Sport for All
- Sport for Peace
- Cross border health and wellbeing seminars
- Youth Community Sports Leadership Programme

Work Package 4: Newtownbutler Community Hub

Delivery Lead: Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

Development of former PSNI Station as a community facility to include light industrial workspace units, community gym, multi purpose space.

Work Package 5: Clones Canal Stores Hub

Delivery Lead: Monaghan County Council

Redevelopment of former canal workers cottage at Ulster Canal Stores, Clones to cater for expansion of Meals on Wheels service and community space.

Work Package 6: Belturbet Community and Enterprise Hub

Delivery Lead: Cavan County Council

Development of vacant property to provide multi purpose youth space, gallery & art space and remote working office space.

Work Package 7: Cross Border Youth Programme

Delivery Lead: Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

Cross border community project for young people to build their personal resilience and explore identity through arts and outdoor activities.

4. Governance Structure

As lead partner Fermanagh and Omagh District Council has overall responsibility for the implementation of the project as detailed in the Letter of Offer and the RESTART Partnership Agreement.

FODC has identified the Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) and the Project Sponsor (PS) who have responsibility for ensuring that RESTART project meets its objectives and delivers the projected benefits of the capital and programme elements.

4.1 RESTART Project Board

The RESTART Project Board provides strategic oversight, governance, and accountability for the implementation of the PEACEPLUS funded project, ensuring compliance with EU PEACEPLUS Programme regulations, cross-border cooperation principles, and project objectives.

The Board operates in accordance with:

- PEACEPLUS Programme regulations
- Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) requirements
- RESTART Letter of Offer
- RESTART Partnership Agreement
- Applicable national legislation in both jurisdictions
- Public procurement and state aid rules (where applicable)
- Equality, human rights, and good relations legislation

4.2 RESTART Project Board Responsibilities

1. Strategic Oversight of Project Delivery

- Review and understand the approved project application, work plan, and budget.
- Monitor progress against agreed milestones, outputs, outcomes, and performance indicators.
- Ensure delivery remains aligned with PEACEPLUS objectives and funding conditions.
- Review regular performance, financial, and risk reports.

2. Monitoring Factors Affecting Delivery

- Identify internal and external factors that may impact successful project implementation.
- Monitor risks, including operational, financial, reputational, political, and cross-border risks.
- Ensure appropriate mitigation measures are implemented in a timely manner.
- Take corrective action or escalate issues where necessary.

3. Stakeholder Engagement & Relationship Brokerage

- Actively support and strengthen relationships with key stakeholders, including:
 - Project partners
 - Community groups
 - Funder
 - Cross-border networks
- Facilitate collaboration and resolve partnership challenges where required.
- Champion the project's objectives within their respective networks and jurisdictions.

4. Broader Strategic Awareness

- Maintain awareness of the wider political, social, and economic context in both jurisdictions.
- Consider how external developments (policy changes, funding shifts, community tensions, etc.) may affect the project.
- Ensure the project remains responsive, relevant, and aligned with broader peacebuilding and reconciliation priorities.

The Board does not manage day-to-day operations, which are delegated to the partner organisations and the RESTART Project Manager.

4.3 RESTART Project Board Membership

The RESTART Project Board is composed of two representatives from each partner organisation, along with one representative from SEUPB and one from each of the two accountable departments. Partner organisations have discretion over whom they nominate to the Board. It is recommended that at least one nominee is an officer with a strong working knowledge of the RESTART project and its delivery status, who can actively contribute to discussions and has the authority to make decisions.

To support effective decision-making, all project partners should be represented at meetings. From time to time, additional individuals may be invited to attend in order to provide specialist information or expertise to inform the Board's decisions.

As per the Letter of Offer SEUPB, The Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and The Department of Rural and Community Development, as accountable departments reserve the right to a place on the RESTART Project Board.

Associate Partners not having any budgetary or reporting responsibilities do not sit on the Project Board. They may on occasion attend meetings by invitation.

Role on the Board	Title	Name
Project Partner	Fermanagh and Omagh District Council	John Boyle (Senior Responsible Officer)
Project Partner	Fermanagh and Omagh District Council	Helen Sheils (Project Sponsor)
Project Partner	Cavan County Council	Brendan Jennings
Project Partner	Cavan County Council	John Donohoe
Project Partner	Monaghan County Council	Nial O'Connor
Project Partner	Monaghan County Council	Matthew Lambe
Project Partner	Erne East Community Partnership Ltd (Oak Healthy Living Centre)	Micheál Mowen
Project Partner	Erne East Community Partnership Ltd (Oak Healthy Living Centre)	Nominated Representative
Project Partner	Clones Family Resource Centre Ltd	Patricia Flanagan
Project Partner	Clones Family Resource Centre Ltd	Nominated Representative
Project Partner	Clones Erne East Community Sports Facility Management Company Limited (PEACELINK)	Nominated Representative
Project Partner	Clones Erne East Community Sports Facility Management Company Limited (PEACELINK)	Olga Reilly
Funding Body	Special EU Programme Board	Nominated Representative – Elaine Farmer
Accountable Department	The Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs	Nominated Representative
Programme Officer*	RESTART Project Manager	Carol Follis

*Attending in reporting capacity only

4.4 RESTART Project Board Meetings

The Board will meet quarterly (in person or online) with the provision for additional meetings as required at the discretion of the SRO. The Board will be chaired by the Project SRO with FODC providing the secretariat function. The RO will chair meetings in the absence of the Project SRO. The agenda and meeting papers will be distributed via email at least 3 working days prior to the next scheduled meeting. Agreed actions will be recorded in the meeting minutes which will be formally approved at the subsequent meeting or by email should this be required.

The SRO as Chair is responsible for the management of the meeting and the accurate recording of the decisions taken, and, where appropriate, that the views of individual organisations have been considered.

A quorum of SRO/RO and at least one representative from each of the Project Partners is required.

For each meeting the agenda includes:

- 1) Welcome and Apologies
- 2) Conflict of Interest
- 3) Agree Minutes and Actions of Previous Meetings
- 4) Matters Arising (not covered in the agenda)
- 5) Project Updates
 - i. Governance
 - ii. Capital
 - iii. Programme
- 6) Finance/Claims
- 7) Monitoring and Evaluation
- 8) Risk Register
- 9) AOB
- 10) Date and time of next meeting

The RESTART Project Board will be supported by three specific working groups

1. RESTART Capital Working Group
2. RESTART Programme Working Group
3. RESTART Associate Partner Reference Group

4.5 RESTART Capital Working Group

The RESTART Capital Working Group is established to oversee and support the planning, development, and delivery of the three capital elements in Newtownbutler, Clones and Belturbet.

The Capital Working Group provides technical oversight, monitors progress, manages risk, and makes recommendations to the Project Board to ensure the capital elements are delivered:

- On time
- Within budget
- In compliance with funding conditions
- In accordance with procurement and regulatory requirements

The Capital Working Group is a sub-committee of the Project Board established to oversee and support the planning, development and delivery of the three capital elements. It operates under delegated authority from the Project Board making recommendations to the Project Board where formal approval is required.

Each Council is responsible for the execution of their capital element and will progress delivery as per the approved application form and the Letter of Offer.

The Councils each operate a robust internal project governance process covering planning & design, procurement, financial oversight, delivery & performance and risk management. The Capital Working Group does not replace this internal function but allows a platform for officers from each of the Councils to come together to share information – successes and challenges to benefit of all parties.

The Capital Working Group will meet quarterly a minimum of two weeks in advance of the Project Board meeting and will follow a similar agenda as the Project Board. The Working Group will be chaired by the Project RO with FODC providing the secretariat function. The Capital Working Group is tasked with preparing a written update report to be presented to the Project Board. Additional meetings can be called at the request of any of the three Councils as required. Each Partner must be represented to meet the quorum. Agreed actions will be recorded in the meeting minutes which will be formally approved at the subsequent meeting or by email should this be required.

The meeting will be chaired by the Project Sponsor with RESTART Project Manager providing the secretariat function. Meetings will take place in person or on line.

The Group may be dissolved by the Project Board upon project completion.

Role on the Working Group	Organisation	Name
Project Partner	Fermanagh and Omagh District Council	Helen Sheils (Project Sponsor)
Project Partner	Fermanagh and Omagh District Council	Ronan McSherry
Project Partner	Fermanagh and Omagh District Council	Mark Leavey
Project Partner	Cavan County Council	Martin Quigley
Project Partner	Cavan County Council	Ciaran Fitzpatrick
Project Partner	Monaghan County Council	Nial O'Connor
Project Partner	Monaghan County Council	Matthew Lambe
Funding Body	Special EU Programme Board	Nominated Representative – Eamon Gallogly
Funding Body	Special EU Programme Board	Nominated Representative – Elaine Farmer
Programme Officer*	RESTART Project Manager	Carol Follis
Programme Officer*	RESTART Border Towns Regeneration Officer	TBC on appointment

**Attending in reporting capacity only*

4.6 RESTART Programme Working Group

The RESTART Programme Working Group is established to oversee and support the planning, development, and delivery of the suite of community programmes to be delivered across Newtownbutler, Clones and Belturbet.

The Programme Working Group ensures that programme delivery:

- Aligns with the approved funding application
- Meets agreed outputs, outcomes, and indicators
- Complies with SEUPB and PEACEPLUS requirements
- Promotes cross-border cooperation, reconciliation, and inclusion
- Delivers measurable peacebuilding impact

The Programme Working Group is a sub-committee of the Project Board established to oversee and support the planning, development and delivery of the suite of programmes across the three areas. It operates under delegated authority from the Project Board making recommendations to the Project Board where formal approval is required.

Each Community Partner is responsible for the execution of their programme elements and will progress delivery as per the approved application form and the Letter of Offer. The Partners each have extensive experience in project management and operate robust project management governance process covering programme planning, financial oversight, monitoring & evaluation and risk management. The Programme Working Group is a platform to share best practice, consistency in delivery, sharing information and solution finding as required.

The Programme Working Group will meet quarterly a minimum of two weeks in advance of the Project Board meeting and will follow the same agenda as the Project Board. The Working Group will be chaired by the Project RO with FODC providing the secretariat function. The Programme Working Group is tasked with preparing a written update report to be presented to the Project Board. Additional meetings can be called at the request of any of the three Partners as required. Each Partner must be represented to meet the quorum. Agreed actions will be recorded in the meeting minutes which will be formally approved at the subsequent meeting or by email should this be required.

The meeting will be chaired by the Project Sponsor with RESTART Project Manager providing the secretariat function. Meetings will take place in person or on line.

The Group may be dissolved by the Project Board upon project completion.

Role on the Working Group	Title	Name
Project Partner	Fermanagh and Omagh District Council	Helen Sheils (Project Sponsor)
Project Partner	Erne East Community Partnership Ltd (Oak Healthy Living Centre)	Micheál Mowen
Project Partner	Erne East Community Partnership Ltd (Oak Healthy Living Centre)	Nominated Representative
Project Partner	Clones Family Resource Centre Ltd	Patricia Flanagan
Project Partner	Clones Family Resource Centre Ltd	Edgar Flores
Project Partner	Clones Erne East Community Sports Facility Management Company Limited (PEACE LINK)	Nominated Representative
Project Partner	Clones Erne East Community Sports Facility Management Company Limited (PEACE LINK)	Nominated Representative
Funding Body	Special EU Programme Board	Nominated Representative – Elaine Farmer
Project Partner*	Community Support Officer Erne East	Joanne Cunningham
Programme Officer*	RESTART Project Manager	Carol Follis
Programme Officer*	RESTART Border Towns Regeneration Officer	TBC on appointment

*Attending in reporting capacity only

4.7 RESTART Associate Partner Reference Group

The Associate Partner Reference Group supports the delivery and impact of the RESTART project by contributing expertise, networks, facilities, or strategic support but is not a direct financial beneficiary of the funding.

The Associate Partners are integral to the project as they bring extensive community networks, strong stakeholder relationships, and detailed local knowledge across the target areas. Their insight into local contexts, community dynamics, and emerging issues ensures that project activities remain relevant, inclusive, and responsive, while strengthening cross-border collaboration and long-term sustainability.

The Associate Partner Reference Group has a role to:

- Support participant recruitment and community engagement
- Provide specialist expertise or advisory input
- Participate in cross-border collaboration activities
- Promote the project within relevant networks
- Support dissemination and sustainability planning

An informal Associate Partner Reference Group for each area will provide local input and oversight on RESTART activities within their respective areas.

Working with the respective Partners, the RESTART Project Manager will have oversight of arrangements to ensure that Associate Partners are kept informed of project developments, consulted on relevant activities and decisions, and provided with appropriate opportunities to contribute to the successful delivery of the project. This will include regular communications, participation in meetings and events where appropriate, and the sharing of relevant information, progress updates, and outputs

Associate Partners will also be encouraged to actively promote the RESTART project through their networks. This approach will help ensure that local communities, as the ultimate beneficiaries of the project, remain engaged and involved throughout the project lifecycle.

Associate Partners will play an important role in shaping the future governance and management arrangements for the Community Hubs. To support this, they will be encouraged to participate in RESTART programme activities, including the Community Development and Capacity Building Programme and the Social Enterprise Establishment and Resilience Programme. These activities will provide a foundation for collaborative working and consensus-building on future management and operational arrangements.

The RESTART Project Manager will maintain regular communication and engagement with Associate Partners throughout the duration of the project.

Associate Partners	Organisation	Responsible Project Partner
	Clones Development Society	Monaghan County Council
	Cavan County Local Development	Cavan County Council
	Project Belturbet Group	Cavan County Council
	Magheraveely Football Club	Fermanagh and Omagh District Council
	Magheraveely Community Development Association	Fermanagh and Omagh District Council
	Newtownbutler First Fermanagh's GFC	Fermanagh and Omagh District Council
	Newtownbutler Community Association	Fermanagh and Omagh District Council
	Galloon Hall Management Committee	Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

The Group may be dissolved by the Project Board upon project completion.

5. Review

The RESTART Project Governance shall be kept under review throughout the duration of the project. Any revisions or updates shall be at the agreement of the RESTART Project Board and SRO.