

SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

Monday 13th April, 2026

MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

Members present: Councillor J. Duffy (Chairperson); and Alderman Copeland, Councillors Abernethy, I. McLaughlin and D Lyons.

External Members: Ms. B. Arthurs, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Ms. N. Creagh, Department for Communities;
Ms. L. Euler, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;
Mr. L. Gunn, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;
Rev. G. Kennedy, Faith Sector;
Ms. T. Mimna, Executive Office;
Ms. I. Sherry, Community and Voluntary Sector; and
Ms. A. M. White, British Red Cross.

In attendance: Mr. J. Girvan, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services;
Mr. G. McCartney, Good Relations Manager
Ms. D. McKinney, PEACE Programme Manager;
Ms. L. Dolan, Acting Senior Good Relations Officer;
Mr. D. Robinson, Acting Senior Good Relations Officer;
Ms. D. Long, Good Relations Officer;
Ms. N. Lynch, Good Relations Officer;
Ms. E. Kennedy, Project Officer (Good Relations);
Ms. F. McIntyre, Project Officer (Good Relations);
Ms. G. Mullin, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;
Mr. A. McMullan, Members' Services and Digital Support Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillor B. Smyth and Independent Members Mr. J. Donnelly, Supt. A. Hagan and Ms. A. Roberts.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 9th March were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 20th March.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Duffy and Ms. Arthurs also declared an interest under item 4, Community Recovery Fund, in that they were associated with those organisations delivering projects under the PEACEPLUS Programme.

Councillor Duffy also declared an interest under item 5, PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan Secretariat Update, in that he was associated with those organisations delivering projects under the PEACEPLUS Programme.

Councillors Duffy and Abernethy and Ms. Arthurs and Ms. Sherry declared an interest under item 5a, Thriving and Peaceful Communities Thematic Update, in that they were associated with those organisations delivering projects under the PEACEPLUS Programme.

Revised Schedule of Meetings

The Partnership agreed that its meetings would be held at 1:30pm on the following dates:

Wednesday 6th May;
Wednesday 3rd June;
Wednesday 5th August;
Wednesday 2nd September;
Wednesday 7th October;
Wednesday 4th November; and
Wednesday 9th December.

Members Update

Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Ms. Mullin provided the Partnership with an overview of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's Housing For All Shared Housing Programme.

Following discussion Ms. Mullin informed the Partnership that the Housing Executive was undertaking research on data supplied from Department for Infrastructure archives to develop their delivery of the programme and to and improve measurability of its outcomes and impacts.

Mr Gunn confirmed that the Housing Executive was reviewing its housing allocations systems which would include looking at intimidation points and the banding system. He undertook to provide an update on Primary Social Needs to a future meeting of the Partnership.

The Partnership thanked Ms. Mullin for her presentation.

Noted.

Good Relations Q4 Update

Mr. Robinson provided the Partnership with an update on the delivery of the Council's Good Relations Action Plan during the 2025-2026 Quarter 4 period.

He reminded Members that The Executive Office awarded the Council £180,000, in addition to the £12,700 awarded in December 2025, which would be used to offset the Council's costs in delivering the Beacons programme as well as contributing to salary and administrative costs associated with the delivery of the Good Relations Programme.

These new awards, added to the original £600,000 and previous additional awards of £20,000 and £27,000, brought the total value of the Good Relations Action Plan to £839,700. While the initial £600,000 was awarded at 75% and matched with 25%

by the Council, all of the additional in-year awards are 100% funded by The Executive Office.

The following summary progress update on activity and allocations was presented to the Partnership:

Code	Project Summary	Budget	Progress in Quarter 4	Total allocated
BCC1	Good Relations Small Grants Programme.	£160,000	Projects awarded funding in Q1 continuing	£0
BCC2	St Patrick's Day Civic Events programme	£20,000	Activity delivered in March 2026	£0
BCC3	Positive Cultural Expression Programme	£40,000	All activity delivered in Q2.	£0
BCC4	Civic Engagement and Learning Programme	£20,000	March Migrant Forum meeting plus staff training initiatives.	£3,504
BCC5	Minority Ethnic Equality and Inclusion Programme	£70,000	Contribution to IWD event	£700
BCC6	Interface Engagement programme	£70,000	IWD interface project	£3,950
BCC7	Shared Education Schools Programme	£20,000	Activities being delivered in Q4	£0
BCC 8	Strategic Connections and Support Programme	£48,862.20	2 initiatives supported	£0
	TOTAL	£448,862.20		£8,154

Mr. Robinson highlighted that delivery of the Action Plan during this period had been achieved with some underspend resulting from two projects not proceeding. He confirmed that the Council would request that this and any further underspend be reallocated into the programme's core administration costs.

Community Recovery Fund

Ms. Kennedy provided the Partnership with an update on the Community Recovery Fund which was introduced to support those areas of the city impacted by the public disorder in the summer of 2024.

She reported that the Council continued to oversee 21 active projects, with four having completed delivery and entered the monitoring, evaluation and vouching phases. It was anticipated that 18 of these projects would be completed within the original delivery timeframe of September 2026, with the remaining three having requested a further extension until the same date of September 2026.

She further reported that a further two organisations had requested additional funding to extend their projects until September 2026 and the Council was awaiting their formal proposals. It was recommended that SCP agree the programme and approach detailed in the report for these programmes.

The Partnership noted the update and recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee also note the contents of the report.

PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan Secretariat Update

The Partnership considered the following report:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Shared City Partnership members with an update on the mobilisation of PEACEPLUS Belfast Local Community Action Plan (LCAP).

2.0 Recommendations

Members are requested to note the contents of the report and recommend that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee also note the contents of the report.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Mobilisation Contract Awards and Procurement

The Secretariat continue to support the mobilisation of the Action Plan through procurements and stakeholder engagement for the Community Regeneration and Transformation theme.

The monitoring of implementation and results across the Thriving and Peaceful Communities and Celebrating Culture and Diversity theme is ongoing, as outlined in each of the Thematic Reports.

3.2 Financial Controller

The verification control work of PEACEPLUS expenditure reports by KPMG is ongoing. Responses to clarifications for Claim Periods (P) 1-5 have been completed, with all expenditure deemed eligible.

Officers will liaise with SEUPB and KPMG on extending the 5 day response timeframe for clarifications, where necessary.

3.3 Claims and Reporting

As reported in March 2026, the total expenditure across the PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan, up to Period 8 (31

Dec 25) is £1.8m approximately, with the value of claims submitted to SEUPB at £1.77m approximately.

As referred at 3.2 above expenditure for Period 1-5 has been fully verified. Reimbursement of the £488K has progressed. The exchange rate fluctuation associated with the reimbursement will be reported to members in April 2026.

Verification control work of Period 6 expenditure (£386.5K) is currently underway.

Members are advised that SEUPB requested that all retrospective reports and claims up to Period 8 (Oct-Dec 25) are submitted on the JeMS system by 31 March 2026, which has been achieved. The change in the submission timeframe added to work pressures across the team.

3.4 Forecasting and Expenditure Targets

As reported in March 2026, the Programme Board advised that formal correspondence should be issued to SEUPB regarding the assumptions relating to the achievement of the Expenditure Performance Targets, which is currently being progressed.

Members are requested to note that further correspondence has been received from SEUPB detailing Council's Spend Targets and requesting Council's acceptance of the targets.

It should be noted that the expenditure forecasts submitted in December 2025 will unfortunately not be achieved due the level of project performance, longer procurement and contract award processes, outstanding invoices as well as resourcing pressures.

Revised forecasting submitted to SEUPB for March 2026, highlighted a shortfall against the December 2025 forecasts of approx. £477K for Period 9 (January-March 2026), £200K for Period 10 (April-June 2026), and additional spend for Period 11 (July-September 2026), of £37K and Period 12 (October-December 2026) of £360K. The revised forecasts were submitted SEUPB by 31 March 2026.

The Partnership is requested to note that the Programme Board recommended that the Acceptance of the Spend Target Memo is signed by the Chief Executive subject to the assumptions the forecasts are based on.

3.5 Monitoring and Evaluation

Delivery of project activity and progress towards the achievement of participant targets is progressing, as outlined in the Thematic Reports.

Updated monitoring data from delivery partners is currently being finalised, as such an updated Dashboard reflecting deliverables and results to 31 March 2026 (Period 9) will be presented at the next Partnership meeting.

Monitoring system issues are continuing, and weekly troubleshooting meetings are held to address urgent project issues.

Staffing

The Partnership is reminded of the resource pressures within the PEACEPLUS team due to 4 vacancies and maternity leave.

A new Project Manager has been appointed and commenced on 30 March 2026.

The recruitment exercise for the business-critical Monitoring and Data Analyst resulted in no appointment and has been readvertised. Appointment of the Finance and Claims Support Assistant was also unsuccessful.

Recruitment for a new Project Support Officer, who has moved internally, is also being progressed.

The Partnership will be updated of the outcome of recruitment efforts for all roles in due course.

3.7 Financial and Resource Implications

All expenditure associated with the PEACEPLUS Action Plan is reimbursed by SEUPB and is eligible from 1 January 2024. As referenced at 3.5 above, PEACEPLUS claimable expenditure to 31 December 2025 is approx. £1.771m.

3.8 Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

The PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan has been screened for equality, good relations, and rural needs assessment, and has been screened out.

The Partnership noted the contents of the report and recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee also note the contents of the report.

Thriving and Peaceful Communities Thematic Update

The Partnership considered the following report:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide the Shared City Partnership with a progress update on projects within the Thriving and Peaceful Communities (TPC) Theme of the PEACEPLUS Belfast Local Community Action Plan (LCAP).

2.0 Recommendations

Members are requested to note the contents of the report and recommend that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the contents of the report.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Project Delivery

An overview of project progress within the TPC theme is outlined below.

TPC 1 Community Empowerment – Lead Delivery Partner NICVA

Project Partners: Forward South Partnership (FSP), East Belfast Community Development Agency (EBCDA), West Belfast Partnership Board (WBPB), Falls Community Council (FCC), Greater Shankill Partnership (GSP) and Marrowbone Community Association (MCA).

181 participants are actively participating in the project and 94 have completed activity from an overall target of 1000.

Delivery of the Cohort 1 L2 OCN in Community Development (17 participants) has been completed and participants have received accreditation from OCN, with varying levels of contact hours achieved. The SCP is requested to note that the Programme Board agreed to delegate authority for the Good Relations Manager and the Programmes Manager to review and authorise the level of contact hours achieved for this cohort, ensuring achievement of the minimum contact hours and in line with the previously agreed tolerances.

Cohort 2 (21 participants) is continuing to engage in the L2 OCN in Community Development.

A second Citywide networking event took place during February with 75 people attending. The citywide Capacity Building Forum also convened and considered feedback from the networking event and upcoming non-accredited training.

Baselining is now completed for Local Community Empowerment Programme (LCEP) 01 (Court), with baseline reports to be submitted to Council. Delivery of sessions are continuing for LCEPs 02 (Blackmountain), 08 (Balmoral/Botanic), and 09 (Lisnasharragh/Ormiston/ Titanic), to brainstorm and refine action plans including social action project proposals.

Upcoming activity includes a further Citywide Capacity Building Forum, East/West Best Practice Visit to Connswater Greenway and City Cemetery, and Non accredited training – Developing Cases for Support and Funding Applications.

Officers are continuing to liaise with NICVA on the M&E requirements to ensure data integrity and to update mechanisms for easier reporting across NICVA's CRM system and the PEACEPLUS M&E system.

3.3 TPC 2 Health & Wellbeing - Lead Delivery Partner Ashton

Project Partners: Shankill Partnership Board, East Belfast Community Development Agency, West Belfast Partnership Board, & North Belfast Community Partnership.

Delivery has commenced in January for both the Men and Women's cohorts, and a Men's Health Fair was held in January in East Belfast. Project meetings are ongoing within the localities, and the first Citywide Shared Learning Group meeting took place on 19th January. Citywide mapping of services activity is ongoing.

Final approval of the change request to reduce participants numbers in the Programme Oversight Group (POG) and increase participation in the wider programme has been finalised, which enabled release of the Phase 1 Contract Initiation payment.

A total of 215 participants is registered to Men's Cohorts within the February reporting period across East Belfast (50), West Belfast (25), North Belfast (55) and the Greater Shankill (80). It was also reported that participants have achieved the required contact hours

within the Women's Cohort (38) and Men's cohort (55) in North Belfast, and 90 wider participants attended a Men's Health Fair on 28 January 2026 in East Belfast.

On this basis the level of reported achievement is 465 participants registered and 233 completed. Members should note that M&E data is to be uploaded and verified

The Partnership is also requested to note that a request to extend the Areas of Interest and Influence is currently being finalised, and which will required SEUPB approval. Officers are currently liaising with Ashton to finalise the detail and enable flexibility of delivery in line with the current processes.

3.4 TPC 3 Youth Empowerment, Inspiring Future Belfast

Lot 1: 9–12 year olds (Juniors) - Lead Delivery Partner Giga Training

Project Partner BEAM Creative Network.

The delivery partner is continuing to plan for delivery of Year 2 activity via schools in West and Shankill Areas, with 6 school partnerships, a community programme and 2 Digital and 2 Arts Academies.

Delivery of activity will progress in April – June 2026, which is line with the agreed implementation plan.

3.5 Lot 2: 12–15 year olds (Intermediate) - Lead Delivery Partner Active Communities Network (ACN) Project

Partners: Ledley Hall Boys & Girls Club, Lagmore and Rosario Youth.

Delivery of activity including cross border study visits and residentials for Cohort 2 (100 participants) is being finalising. One cross community group was unable to attend the residential activity due to an unforeseen issue; therefore, a further residential is being planned.

M&E data for the completed participants indicates that 97 young people will complete the required activity and contract hours.

As reported in March 2026, the delivery partner had experienced challenges in the delivery of residential activity with the schools' groups. Members are requested to note that following discussion with SEUPB, it was agreed that 2 cross border day trips could replace the residential in this instance. The two trips are being delivered during March 2026.

Planning for the recruitment of the next participant cohort (73) is underway and will progress further after Easter (April 2026).

The Partnership should also note that the Delivery Partner continues to highlight issues associated with delivering residential activity including the availability of venues, accommodation and transport costs as well as safeguarding issues. On this basis the Delivery Partner is considering a change request.

3.6 Lot 3: 16–18 year olds (Seniors) - Lead Delivery Partner Streetbeat Youth Project
Project Partner YEHA (Youth Educational Health Advice).

Delivery of Year 2 / Cohort 2 leadership sessions are progressing engaging 70 young people across 5 groups. An outdoor adventure day bringing all the groups today is planned for 2 April 2026. M&E data for Cohort 2 is currently being confirmed.

Members should note that following completion of Cohort 1 activity, 9 young people have progressed on to volunteering activity, additional to the project requirements, which clearly outlines the positive impact the project has had on their confidence, self-esteem and personal development.

3.7 Lot 4: 19-25 years olds (Young adults) – Lead Partner GEMS NI
Project Partners: Diverse Youth NI (DYNI), Training Network for Women (TWN).

A residential debrief and employability sessions for Cohort 1 participants (26) are scheduled for March / April 2026.

Following the international residential to the Centre for Peacebuilding in Sarajevo, some participants are exploring an internship with the Centre. A reflection and celebration event for the participants is being progressed for 16 April 2026.

As reported in March 2026, the issue of travel documentation checks is being progressed by the DP with the Aviation Authority to ensure the safeguarding of participants.

Recruitment planning of 40 participants for Cohort 2 is underway, and it is envisaged activity will commence in April/May 2026, with an international residential to the Basque region in September/October 2026.

3.8 TPC 4 Sport for Peace - Lead Delivery Partner Active Communities Network

Project Partners: Sport Changes Life Foundation, PeacePlayers NI and Community Sports Network.

Delivery of activity with Cohort 2 participants across the pillars is progressing.

31 Participants from St Mary's and Ulster University continue to engage in Pillar 1 coach education (16–18-year-olds). Members are requested to note that the shortfall of 14 participants of the 45 target will be made up by September 2026. The Delivery Partner is also considering requesting a realignment of targets and payments.

The delivery of Pillar 2 cross community sports sessions (11-16-year-olds) with 300 participants (Cohort 2) is ongoing.

Recruitment of participants for Cohort 3 community groups is underway, with imminent registration from St Malachys and Albert Foundry group.

Delivery of Pillar 3 mentoring element for Cohort 2 is underway with 4 participants actively engaged.

The Terms of Reference for the Pillar4 research has been provided and is being reviewed by officers.

3.9 TPC 5 Employability Language Up – Lead Delivery Partner People1st

Project Partners: Belfast City Mission, Conway Education, Donegall Pass, Fane Street Primary, Food Stock, Footprints, Holy Rosary Primary, Mears, Refuge Language, Russian Speaking Community, Street Soccer NI, The Suitcase Project, Wee Chicks, Windsor Women's Centre.

During the reporting period, 1 cohort has completed Strand 1 vocational language activity and 2 new cohorts focussing on Hospitality and Catering & Construction have commenced.

To date 339 participants have been recruited onto the project, which exceeds the current recruitment target and a total of 75 participants (cumulative) have achieved the meaningful contact hours required across both strands. This represents 41% progress towards the phased target of 184 participants (March 2026). Members should note it is likely there will be a delay in the DP achieving the target.

Engagement is city-wide, with particularly strong participation in South Belfast, and post attitudinal survey responses range from 83% - 100% across all 9 questions.

3.10 TPC 6 Arts Across the Genres – Delivery Partner MayWe

Project Partners: BEAM Creative Network

Project activity is progressing with 235 participants actively participating in 3 sub projects (1, 2 and 5) from a total target of 496.

Project 1: Polyphonic (133 actively participating) Target 120

Joint art sessions across area groups are continuing and the Echoes and Embers showcase events took place on 22 and 28 March 2026. The social action digital art project was integrated into live performances and will also be adapted for use across social media and digital platforms to extend Echoes & Embers' reach and impact beyond the live events. All deliverables (capacity building, joint art sessions, site visits, mentoring, artwork development, social action and showcases) are being finalised.

Project 2: Suitcases & Skies (84 actively participating) Target 120

Area recruitment for South Belfast groups has been completed with Sona and ETC Morton Community Centre (NIHSC Trust)) engaged. Joint art sessions will continue until the final rehearsals at end of April 2026, and showcases are scheduled for mid-May at Chultúrlann and the Ulster Hall. The site visit took place at the Ulster Hall which enabled participants to get familiarised with the main theatre, backstage areas, green/dressing rooms and mobile accessibility needs. An art masterclass centring on the role of arts and crafts in set design followed.

Additional training for auxiliary roles such as tech, sound, lighting and stage management, has been offered, to build confidence and address the needs of participants. The DP has offered substantially more engagement hours (50) than the minimum hours to participants (36).

Members are requested to note that the 4 short site visits have been combined into a site visit and art masterclass. This revised delivery approach has enabled engagement and been more manageable with the groups with additional needs. This combined approach is under consideration for future cohorts.

Project 5: Media Production (21 participants recruited, 18 actively participating) Target 16

Participants continue to attend activity being delivered through subprojects 1 & 2 to capture footage and content for the newsletter, socials and documentary. Participants have been reviewing documentary footage to look closer at plotlines and storyboarding as the final performances approach.

4.1 Financial and Resource Implications

All expenditure associated with the PEACEPLUS Action Plan is eligible from 1 January 2024.

4.2 Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

The PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan has been screened for equality, good relations and rural needs assessment, and has been screened out.

The Partnership noted the contents of the report and recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee also note the contents of the report.

Celebrating Cultures and Diversity Thematic Update

The Partnership considered the following report:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide the Shared City Partnership with a progress update on projects within the Celebrating Cultures and Diversity (CCD) Theme of the PEACEPLUS Belfast Local Community Action Plan (LCAP).

2.0 Recommendations

Members are requested to note the contents of the report and recommend that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee also note the contents of the report.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Project Delivery

Projects are at various stages of implementation, and an overview of project progress is outlined below.

**3.2 CCD1 – Interfaith and Belief Lead Delivery Partner:
Corrymeela Community**

Consortium Partners: Redeeming Our Communities, Belfast Islamic Centre, NI Inter-Faith Forum

Participant engagement has increased slightly to 58 participants registered, across the 3 Streams of activity. The Delivery Partner continues to engage a range of groups across the city.

Pilot sessions of the Stream 1: Outreach Education resources took place on 7 March 2026. The education resources continue to be refined after the session. 2 interfaith walks/café events took place on 26 and 29 March 2026, a further walking tour is being planned for May 2026. It is envisaged attendees of these events will be recruited to the wider project. Engagement with schools on awareness sessions continues to be planned.

Stream 2: Unity and Welcoming Programme: Mapping of the welcome, care and social action work provided by faith and belief groups is progressing via an online survey, although responses have been limited. Further supplementary research to support the survey is progressing.

Stream 3: Co design sessions on celebrating faith and belief festivals are continuing. A festival event focussing on the fasting and feasting beliefs of the Muslim, Christian, Navratri and Ba’Hai faith took place in March 2026, and was well attended. An outline schedule of faith festivals for 2026 is currently being finalised. The Partnership will be updated in due course.

As reported in March 2026, the project remains behind schedule, and a plan for the delivery of the sessions has been requested.

**3.3 CCD2 – Community Connections Lead Delivery Partner
(DP): GEMS NI**

Consortium Partners: Business in the Community, Belfast City of Sanctuary, Diverse Youth NI, Migrant Centre NI, Ballynafeigh Community Development Association

A further 19 new participants have engaged with the project, and 2 participants reached the required contact hours to be deemed achieved. A total of 65 participants is registered with 40 participants actively participating and 7 have completed the required hours.

To date 33% of the Phase 2a target of 121 participants registered and actively participating has been met.

The Delivery Partner continues to experience recruitment challenges which is impacting upon the delivery of project targets. The complexity of the project, high contact hours (50) and format of Welcome Hubs was acknowledged,

Members are requested to note that progress and performance have been highlighted to the DP, and the project has been flagged in the quarterly risk register as “red” status.

The DP is to provide:

- (i) a realigned implementation plan outlining all key deliverables,
- (ii) an outline of key issues experienced to date, ongoing issues and mitigations being put in place to ensure realigned targets will be met.

The information will be considered by officers and reported further to the Partnership.

3.4 CCD 3 – LGBTQIA+ Community Engagement Project - Lead Delivery Partner: The Rainbow Project Project Partners: Cara Friend, HERe NI

The Partnership is advised that a change request to expand the membership of Strands 1 and 2 to include minority LGBTQIA+ groups. was approved via the Delegated Authority.

Following receipt of outstanding information, a second change request to realign targets and timescales has been received and the change request is under consideration for approval via the same Delegated Authority process. There are currently 25 active participants and 50 achieved participants, which is in line with the realigned targets.

The Co-ordination and Strategic Planning strands of the project have been the main areas of delivery to date, and the Research strand has commenced during March 2026. The Outreach strand is due to commence by the end of April 2026, which will see an increase in registered and achieved participants.

The DP has met the required deliverables to enable the outstanding Phase 2a payment and the Quarter 4 2025 Management and Administration (M&A) payment to progress. It is anticipated that project requirement and payments will be up to date by April 2026.

3.5 CCD4 – Community Empowerment Ex Politically Motivated Prisoners

**Lead Delivery Partner: Coiste na nIarchimí Project
Partners: Tar Anall, Action for Community Transformation,
Charter NI, and Tar Isteach**

The project launched via a photo opportunity, attended by the Chair of the Partnership, and press release on 5 March 2026.

Community engagement is progressing, with 61 registrations across the Hens Shed, Support Engagement, Storytelling, Counselling, Advice and Welfare training elements. Storytelling narratives are currently being compiled and estimated to be completed by June 2026.

Following confirmation from SEUPB on aspects of delivery, course options for the counselling training are being confirmed.

CCD5 From Multiculturalism to Interculturalism

3.6 Lot 1 – Language and Cultural Access

The assessment process has now concluded and contracting will be progressing to the Contract Award stage.

3.7 Lot 2 – Cultural Spaces (Come On Over) Lead Delivery Partner: MayWe

11 participants are actively participating in the Steering Group, with the first strands of activity designed by the steering group includes capacity building for cultural venues and for grassroots groups scheduled for delivery at the end of March 2026.

Four additional venues are in discussions with MayWe about joining the project and communications have also progressed with a dedicated socials channel established to publicise the project.

3.8 Lot 3 – Festivals and Flagship Events Lead Delivery Partner: Féile an Phobail

42 participants are actively participating in the Mentors/Mentees, Flagship Events Steering Group and Musical Fusions Steering Group elements of the project.

A Musical Fusions steering group focussing on preparatory planning for delivery of the programme in 2027 met in February. Mentoring sessions, scheduled for March/April, will focus on leadership and communications.

Confirmation of the co-designed social action animation activity and clarity regarding the content, PEACEPLUS element, contribution and participant engagement of the first Flagship Event in March 2026 is being progressed

The Flagship Events Capacity Building OCN delivery commenced mid-March 2026. As reported in March 2026, further information on regarding the proposed Festival and Flagships events is being sought, in advance of the next flagship event social action animation activity planned for May 2026 (May Day Festival).

**3.9 Lot 4 – Culture and Shared Built Heritage - Lead Delivery
Partner: Arts Ekta
Project Partners: Cairde na Cille, Kabosh Theatre**

Year 1 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) has been fully verified. Of a target of 625, 408 participants were confirmed to be actively participating while 362 participants completed. Payments for Oct-Dec 2025 quarterly management fee and phase 2b payment have been progressed. The project is comfortably exceeding targets for the phase of delivery.

Cohort 2 of Tour Guide Training commenced their course in February, and workshops have commenced for the Eastside Arts cohort for the 2nd theatre piece. This was showcased in March. Other activity in March included the Faith based trail schools' engagement and co-design work and planning for the third theatre piece in the city centre (Paperclips).

Members are requested to note that participants (20) from Lagan College engaged in the Faith Based Trail are considered as outside of the Belfast Area due to the safeguarding of participants under 18. This number of participants from outside the Belfast area is to the 10% threshold and will be closely monitored by officers.

4.1 Financial and Resource Implications

All expenditure associated with the PEACEPLUS Action Plan is eligible from 1 January 2024.

**4.2 Equality or Good Relations Implications/
Rural Needs Assessment**

The PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan has been screened for equality, good relations and rural needs assessment, and has been screened out.

A member highlighted that the change in approach for Good Relations funding from The Executive Office was impacting the Community and Voluntary Sector in delivering projects.

The Partnership noted the contents of the report and recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee also note the contents of the report.

Community Regeneration and Transformation Thematic Update

The Partnership considered the following report:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide the Shared City Partnership with an update on delivery of the Community Regeneration and Transformation Theme of the PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan (LCAP).

2.0 Recommendations

Members are requested to note the contents of the report and recommend that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the contents of the report.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Capital and Animation Update

As previously reported, the design teams for all projects have been appointed.

3.2 CRT1: LGBTQIA+ Hub:

The layout and concept designs have been finalised between the design team and the stakeholders. The detailed design phase has now commenced, and that will include progressing through statutory approvals. Planning application is being finalised and submission is imminent.

The groups have now agreed their legal status as a company limited by guarantee and are seeking final approval from their Boards with the intention to establish the company by end March 2026. Early concerns regarding rent affordability these are being worked through with senior staff from Property and Project's Estates Unit.

3.3 CRT2: Annadale:

The project is progressing well, with only a minor delay to the submission of the planning application, it is

anticipated that the application will be submitted by April 2026. Subject to the outcome and duration of the planning process, the capital works are expected to be completed by June 2027.

A project update was provided to the Annadale Stakeholder Steering Group on 25 February 2026. Representatives from the Stakeholder Steering group were invited to the upcoming Event Management Training and were asked to suggest suitable contractors for the initial Annadale Open Space programming work, as part of the project scoping..

Discussions on coordinating further work on site designs and operational use and management of the site took place as part of the Annadale Internal Steering Group on 12 March 2026. The final drawings and site designs are to be shared with the Stakeholder Group.

Officers agreed to align timeline for the Community Events specification with Council's events schedule. Quotation documents for environmental activities, play sessions, detached youth work and the events programme are being finalised, with release expected in April 2026.

Officers continue outreach for participants for the Event Management Training scheduled for late March 2026.

3.4 CRT3: Distillery Street:

An in-person community consultation, in conjunction with the Department of Justice, on the project designs took place in Nubia Street on 2 March 2026. Issues arising from this consultation has been escalated. Further meetings and discussions are being progressed.

Members are requested to note that the issue of the animation tender may be delayed ensuring alignment with the community consultation, finalised designs and the planning application.

3.5 CRT4: Access to the Hills:

Land ownership, the abandonment process for land at Wolfhill Road, and the submission of 3 planning applications for the project were discussed at the Stakeholder Steering Group meeting on 12 March 2026.

Project design is now at RIBA Stage 3. Land ownership agreements, the construction environmental management plan and archaeological surveys are

ongoing which will inform the final designs and enable planning permission to be submitted.

The procurement for animation activity closed on 27 February 2026, and the assessment process is currently ongoing. It is anticipated that the contract will be in place in April 2026.

3.6 CRT5: Sanctuary Theatre

The capital element has progressed to RIBA stage 3 and PQQ documents for the construction contractor are due to be finalised by the end of March 2026.

Submission of the planning application for the signage is also being finalised and submission is imminent. It should be noted that planning will not impact any construction works.

It is estimated that the construction ITT will be issued by end of April 2026.

Members are advised that the contract for delivery of the animation activity has been awarded to the Bright Umbrella Drama Company, and the contract initiation meeting is scheduled for 26th March.

3.7 Governance update

The Programme Manager and Programme Delivery Manager continue to liaise on project progress. Dates for the next Capital Project Board meeting are being finalised, and a request to SEUPB to nominate a representative to the Board is being progressed.

3.8 Financial and Resource Implications

All expenditure associated with the PEACEPLUS Action Plan is eligible from 1 January 2024.

3.9 Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

The PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan has been screened for equality, good relations and rural needs assessment, and has been screened out.

The Partnership noted the contents of the report and recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee also note the contents of the report.

Any Other Business

The Good Relations Manager introduced Ms. Long and Ms. McIntyre, who had recently joined the Good Relations Unit, to the meeting.

He also informed the Partnership that this would be Ms. Kennedy's last meeting before taking maternity leave and the Members wished her well.

Date of Next Meeting

The Chairperson reminded the Partnership that the next meeting would be held at 1:30pm on Wednesday 6th May

Chairperson