

A grayscale photograph of St. Paul's Cathedral in London, featuring its iconic dome and classical architecture. The image is used as a background for a document cover. A vertical white line is positioned to the left of the main title.

GOOD
RELATIONS
AUDIT,
STRATEGY AND
ACTION PLANS
2025-2028

Shared City Partnership

An abstract illustration featuring three stylized figures in a creative environment. On the left, a person with teal hair and a beard sits on a stack of books, holding a blue pen. In the center, a person with dark skin and blue hair stands, gesturing with their hands. On the right, a person with dark skin and long dark hair sits on a green cushion, wearing an orange patterned shirt and reaching towards a blue grid. The background is filled with various geometric shapes like triangles, circles, and squares in colors like teal, orange, and blue. A large orange lightbulb is positioned near the top right. A dark grey rectangular area serves as a backdrop for the text.

TEAM

- Bethany Waterhouse-Bradley
- Denise Wright
- Lucy Michael
- Peter Osborne

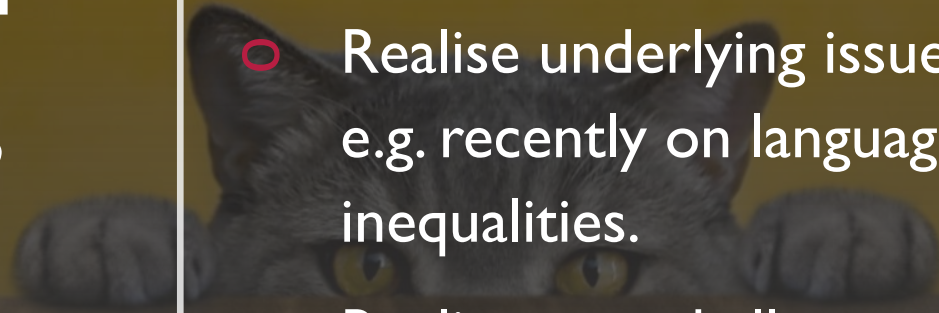
A photograph of a dirt path in a forest, covered with fallen yellow and brown leaves. The path is flanked by trees with green foliage. The image is used as a background for the text.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY GOOD RELATIONS?

- T:BUC being reviewed by TEO – consistent with TEO/T:BUC.
 - Achieved a lot – Belfast CC done a lot.
 - Embraces s75(2) – relevance to other equality groups?
 - There are needs that unite communities across the city.
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- Is it time to reflect and think again about how we do GR? Is it time to go Beyond Relationship Building?

CONSISTENCY AND CHALLENGES?

- So much good work being undertaken.
- Consistency with initiatives on GR, race equality, environment, socio-economic need, Belfast Agenda, PEACEPLUS and many others.
- Realise the importance of Belfast CC as largest Council with significant spend and influence.
- Realise underlying issues that still need addressed – e.g. recently on language, racism, cultural comfort, inequalities.
- Realise new challenges such as social media and cultural influences from outside.
- How do we recognise these things but shift a paradigm in how we address Good Relations?





WHAT QUESTIONS DO WE NEED TO ASK WHEN WE SAY BEYOND GOOD RELATIONS?

- Can we take the existence of relationships across communities as reasonably strong?
- Nearly 30 years after ceasefires, should we still talk about peace, or do we talk more about outcomes in the next iteration of the process?
- If we can't leave communities behind because they have nowhere to go, what can we do with them?
- Does a focus on 'traditional' issues sometimes mean less focus on others e.g. inequalities and socio-economic needs?
- How do communities address GR without losing focus on the needs they have in common?

WHAT ROLE FOR SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP?

- Question is broader than role in developing this strategy – what role do you play/should play with BCC?
- Who leads the GR agenda in Belfast, the biggest city in a region that is praised around the world for its approach to conflict management?
- Indicative report by early June – can we have a session with you then?
- Can we input with your stakeholders – party groups, community stakeholders, existing events?



GET IN TOUCH

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- Do the survey please and circulate to others.

