

## **SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP**

**Monday 4th August, 2025**

### **MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP**

Members present: Councillor J. Duffy (Chairperson);  
and Councillors Abernethy and I. McLaughlin.

External Members: Mr. J. Donnelly, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Ms. C. Guinness, Belfast Chamber;  
Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council;  
Rev. G. Kennedy, Faith Representative;  
Fr. M. Magill, outgoing Faith Representative;  
Ms. T. Mimna, Executive Office;  
Mr. G. Walker, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Mr. A. M. White, British Red Cross.

In attendance: Ms. D. McKinney, PEACE Programme Manager;  
Mr. D. Robinson, Acting Senior Good Relations Officer;  
Ms. M. Watson-Holmes, Good Relations Officer; and  
Mrs. L. McLornan, Committee Services Officer.

#### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported from Councillor Smyth, Mr. P. Anderson, Mr. W. Naeem and Ms. B. Arthurs.

A Member reiterated that another reminder should be sent to the PSNI regarding the importance of its attendance at the Partnership meetings.

#### **Welcome**

The Chair welcomed the new Faith representative, Rev. Graeme Kennedy, who was taking over from Fr. Martin Magill. The Chair thanked Fr. Magill for all of his input over the last year.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 9th June 2025 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 June 2025.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

Mr. J. Donnelly, declared an interest in item 5b, PEACEPLUS - Thriving and Peaceful Communities Thematic Update, in that he worked for the Active Communities Network which was the Lead Delivery Partner for "Youth Empowerment, Inspiring Future Belfast, Lot 2" and "Sport for Peace".

Councillor Duffy declared an interest in the same item, in that he was a Member of the West Belfast Partnership Board, which was a project partner under “Community Empowerment”.

As Item 5b did not relate to any financial decision, nor enter debate, the aforementioned Members did not leave the meeting.

### **Presentation - Education Authority PEACEPLUS Project ASPIRE**

The Chairperson welcomed Ms. J. Simms, Education Authority (EA), who outlined the PEACEPLUS project “Advancing Shared Partnerships through Inclusive Relationships in Education” (ASPIRE).

The Partnership was reminded that the EA was bound by the Shared Education Act (2016), the purpose of which was to:

- a) deliver educational benefits to children and young persons;
- b) to promote the efficient and effective use of resources;
- c) to promote equality of opportunity;
- d) to promote good relations; and
- e) to promote respect for identity, diversity and community cohesion.

Ms. Simms explained that the ASPIRE project fitted in under the thematic area of “Empowering and Investing in Our Young People”. The four key themes within the programme were:

- a laser sharp focus on Peace Building and Reconciliation;
- a focus on achieving more together;
- exploring personal and shared experiences; and
- embedding system wide networks and connections.

The aims of the programme were to secure high-quality outcomes for pupils North and South and building educator capacity; to establish processes to enable the effective sharing at system and partnership level and building cohesive communities which respected all cultures and identities.

ASPIRE was open to primary and secondary schools in Northern Ireland and six border counties (Louth, Monaghan, Leitrim, Donegal, Cavan and Sligo). Schools had to identify between one and three other schools to work in partnership with for the school year, delivering 30 hours of shared education to funded pupils.

She outlined that, to date, over 24,000 pupils had participated, around 80% of which were of primary school age. She highlighted that the primary age group were ideal candidates as their timetables were more flexible than older students who had exams to prepare for. For the upcoming 2025/26 academic year, over 28,600 pupils had been approved to participate from over 574 schools and settings. Within the Belfast area, 44 schools/settings were involved, including 14 Controlled schools, 14 Maintained schools, 6 Voluntary, 5 Other Maintained, 3 Grant Maintained Integrated, 1 Controlled Integrated and 1 Private.

She highlighted that, during Good Relations Week, the EA would be hosting a Shared Education Day, on 16th October 2025, and would welcome working in partnership with the Council regarding a venue for the event.

In response to a Member's question, she emphasised that the programme was not just about creating contact between young people. She explained that the aim was to spark real engagement between the schools and pupils to deliver a broader curriculum covering history and politics together. She reiterated that the third phase of the programme would be to work with the parents of the students.

In response to a further Member's question, the Senior Good Relations Officer added that, at a recent Good Relations event, 93% of the young people indicated that they had not participated in a similar event before. He emphasised that the teacher-learning aspect had been highlighted and that it was important to facilitate the teachers to have the difficult conversations with the students, about identity, for example.

A further Member stated that plenty of challenges remained decades after the Peace Agreement and that parental involvement and facilitating teachers with the appropriate tools to have those conversations was crucial.

The Chairperson thanked Ms. Simms for her presentation and she retired from the meeting.

### **Good Relations - Quarter 1 Update**

The Senior Good Relations Officer provided the Partnership with an update on the delivery of the Good Relations Action Plan for the first quarter, covering April to June 2025. He reminded the Members that the Council received 75% of the funding from The Executive Office (TEO) for the delivery of its Action Plan.

The current Action Plan had been agreed by the Partnership in December 2024 and was subsequently submitted to TEO. The total value of the Action Plan was £600,000, with £450,000 being provided by The Executive Office. That was a reduction of £50,000 from what had been requested.

At its May meeting, the Partnership had agreed to proceed with the Action Plan and in particular, to not reduce the costs allocated for programme. As such the total available for programmes in the Action Plan was £448,862.20.

He provided a summary progress update on activity and allocations during Q1:

<b>Code</b>	<b>Project Summary</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Progress in Quarter 1</b>	<b>Total allocated</b>
BCC1	Good Relations Small Grants Programme.	<b>£160,000</b>	48 projects awarded funding for Good Relations projects. See appendix 1.	<b>£170,945.41</b>
BCC2	St Patrick's Day Civic Events programme	<b>£20,000</b>	No activity in Quarter 1.	<b>£0</b>
BCC3	Positive Cultural Expression Programme	<b>£40,000</b>	Beacon Programme ongoing. 18 sites identified and being prepared.	<b>£0</b>
BCC4	Civic Engagement and Learning Programme	<b>£20,000</b>	June Migrant Forum meeting. Day of Reflection delivered	<b>£6,303.26</b>

			Refugee Week events delivered	
BCC5	Minority Ethnic Equality and Inclusion Programme	<b>£70,000</b>	5 projects allocated funding	<b>£66,472.00</b>
BCC7	Interface Engagement programme	<b>£70,000</b>	5 projects allocated funding	<b>£28,270.00</b>
BCC7	Shared Education Schools Programme	<b>£20,000</b>	Programme planning for delivery in Q3.	<b>£0</b>
BCC 8	Strategic Connections and Support Programme	<b>£48,862.20</b>	No activity in Q1	<b>£0</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£448,862.20</b>		<b>£271,990.67</b>

Further to the above, the Council received a further £20,000 from TEO, subject to an application, following the recent upsurge in racist attacks. There had been a very short turnaround time for the application, which had been issued on 3rd July and had to be returned by 8th July. The Good Relations Manager had therefore agreed with the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Partnership to submit a citywide proposal which was the next ranked in the open call for the Community Recovery Fund.

The Partnership was advised that Diverse Youth would therefore be funded through the additional funding to progress the “No Room for Hate” project which offered a unique and urgent solution. By working in North, South, East, and West Belfast, it brought together young people across racial and cultural lines to engage in shared learning, storytelling, public art, and community leadership. The programme built both individual resilience and collective solidarity. Through Respect Circles, Hate Crime Literacy Labs, and peer-led campaigns, participants would gain the confidence and tools to become “Respect Ambassadors”—active upstanders who could safely confront hate, support peers, and spark change.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it would note the contents of the report including the allocation of £170,945.41 in grants through the Good Relations Small Grant Scheme.

### **Forth Meadow Community Greenway Signage**

The Programme Manager provided the Partnership with an update on the PEACE IV Local Action Plan – Shared Spaces & Service Project, the Forth Meadow Community Greenway.

She reminded the Partnership that the installation of signage for the Forth Meadow Community Greenway had been subject to agreement by the Council on the dual language approach. Following the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee’s agreement on the language approach for the Greenway, in November 2024, a workplan and signage programme for the installation had been compiled.

The programme comprised of 7 Beacons, 20 Interpretative panels, 35 Wayfinding and directional signs and Thermoplastic markers. The Members were advised that discussion on the installation of thermoplastic markers was ongoing, due to vandalism, complaints and issues.

A review of the Forth Meadow “Proud of our Past, Confident for the Future” publication was underway to verify the wording for the interpretative panels. Costs would be met by the Council’s PEACE IV contingency fund and officers were liaising with contractors to confirm the

installation of bases, electrical connections and signage installation costs. It was noted that the interpretative panels might be subject to available budget.

The partnership was advised that the development of the three properties at Fernhill House, situated at the Glencairn section of the Greenway, were at Stage 1 on the Capital Programme, with approval for feasibility works. A structural survey of all the buildings had been completed in June 2025 and the consultant's report was due in the next few weeks. It would provide clarification on the safety works required to allow safe access for a detailed building condition survey of the three properties.

The next steps were to identify costs for the safety works and to seek approval to proceed, our consultants would liaise with the Historical Environment Division of the Department of Communities prior to any works being undertaken. Once the costs were established, the Council would be approaching the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Architectural Heritage Fund for funding of the capital works.

She stated that, as reported in June 2025, all claims had been reimbursed by SEUPB. However, formal programme closure had been paused, pending clarity from SEUPB regarding the financial correction applied to the Artworks contract.

All PEACE IV related costs had been reimbursed through the programme, with expenditure across the Programme totaling £12.9m, with claims of approximately £12.9m reimbursed to date.

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

### **Peace Plus BCC Local Action Plan Update**

#### **Local Community Action Plan (LCAP) Mobilisation Update**

The Peace Programmes Manager provided the Partnership with an update on the mobilisation of PEACEPLUS Belfast Local Community Peace Action Plan (LCAP).

She outlined that the Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) between the Council and SEUPB had been agreed and returned to SEUPB and that formal contracting was progressing. The modification for an extension request, to June 2028, was currently being compiled and would be submitted to SEUPB for approval.

The Members were advised that contracts had been awarded for the delivery of projects, as follows:

- TPC3 Lot 4 Youth Empowerment had been awarded to GEMS NI and
- CCD5 Lot 2 Multiculturalism to Interculturalism to Maywe.

She highlighted that the assessment of "CCD 4 Ex politically motivated prisoners" was being finalised, and the tender for CCD5 Lot 1 "Multiculturalism to Interculturalism" had both been extended and would remain open until 15th August, 2025.

The Partnership was reminded that Invitations to Tender (ITT) for Integrated Consultancy Services (Design Teams) for all Community Regeneration and Transformation (CRT) capital projects had closed, with responses received for all projects. An evaluation of

each of the submissions was progressing, and Design Team appointments were estimated for August 2025.

Stakeholder engagement for each project was continuing with Steering Group meetings planned for August and September 2025 to coincide with the appointment of the design team.

The Programmes Manager explained that KPMG's proposal for the delivery of management verification services for the PEACEPLUS Action Plan had been received. The proposal outlined 548 days up to December 2027 at a cost of approx £235K. The cost was considerably more than SEUPB's initial guidance of £39K. To confirm reasonableness of input days and value for money, the Programme Board conducted a detailed due diligence review which had been submitted to both SEUPB and KPMG for response and discussions were ongoing.

The Partnership was advised that the July Programme Board had requested that the Council would submit an alternative proposal to KPMG for consideration. In the event that an agreement of input days and costs was not reached with KPMG, and in line with the SEUPB framework and procedure, an approach to the next supplier on the framework would be made.

The Partnership was requested to note that an event to mark the International Day of Peace, on Monday 22nd September, 2025, was being planned at City Hall. The event would focus on the United Nations 2025 theme of End Racism, Build Peace. The proposed content of the event would feature the lived experience of the migrant journey, a video from delivery partners on how the theme was reflected in PEACEPLUS projects, digital myth busting element, a consultation aspect and a call to action on how attendees pledged to continue a legacy of peace. The consultation element would fulfil the Letter of Offer requirement for the Council to undertake an annual public consultation on PEACEPLUS. The event would also provide the opportunity to promote PEACEPLUS projects.

Members were advised that the call to action/pledge would create a live peace tree, from the Council's one million trees initiative, which would subsequently be planted along the Access to the Hills project. A formal invitation would be issued to Members once all details were confirmed.

The Partnership was advised that 2 PEACEPLUS staff, the Project Officer and a Project Support Officer, had been appointed to other roles within the Council. The appointment of a new Project Support Officer was progressing, and a recruitment timeframe for the Project Officer was being confirmed.

It was reported that the expenditure incurred for the Action Plan to 30th June, 2025, (Claim Periods 1-6) totaled £968,485, which included staff costs and contract initiation payments to several delivery partners. Preparation for the submission of claims 1-6 was progressing. The Members were requested to note that the Programme Board had agreed that a phased approach to claims submission should be progressed given the new Financial Controller arrangement and to minimise the risk to the Council.

During discussion, a Member requested that the Council's Communications Team promote the International Day of Peace.

After discussion, the Partnership recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee would note the contents of the report.

## **Thriving and Peaceful Communities Thematic Update**

(The Chairperson and Mr. J. Donnelly declared an interest in this item but as the discussion did not enter into any financial matters/decisions, they did not leave the meeting).

The Partnership considered the undernoted 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 Peace 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**

Projects and Delivery partners are at various stages of implementation, and confirmation of delivery approaches have been submitted. An overview of project progress within the TPC theme is outlined below:

#### **3.2 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).

The project launched with a city-wide networking event on 24 June 2025 attended by 96 representatives from diverse organisations including: VCSE sector, local government and the Civil Service. Planning for delivery of activity is progressing.

The Partnership is requested to note that the Programme Board agreed an operational change request to amend the participant category for 120 participants participating in the OCN Level 2 Award in Community Development from the Wider to the Core participant category.

This change will increase the number of Core participants who are engaged for 30 hours from 200 to 320 and reduce the number of Wider participants engaged for 6 hours from 800 to 680.

The participant category change will enable those completing the OCN to be signposted to other wider activities once the accredited training is completed, thereby enabling progression and the application of skills and learning.

Members should note there is no change to the overall participant target of 1,000, contract budget or timeframe. Approval of the change by SEUPB is being progressing.

### **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.

The project is at the early stages of mobilisation. The Programme Oversight Group is being developed with two preliminary meetings having taken place to establish key stakeholders and help the ongoing development of this group. Local Working Groups are being established with the Terms of Reference (TOR) currently in review.

The initial draft of the mapping of service provision is underway and recruitment for the first participants for Take 5 and Good Relations activity will take place by September 2025.

A project launch event is being scheduled for September/October 2025, and contract initiation process is progressing

### **TPC 3 Youth Empowerment, Inspiring Future Belfast**

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

**Project Partner** BEAM Creative Network.

Three Digital Arts Academy programmes in schools are now complete and have included delivery in:

- Loughview Primary School – 59 young people complete.
- Cranmore Primary School – 29 young people complete.
- Forge Integrated Primary School – 58 young people complete.

Project activity included: celebrating difference, cultural diversity, embracing diversity, animation, personal identity, comic designs, photography, drama and online safety.

146 participants have achieved the required 24 contact hours, 108 of these have been uploaded to the Council's M&E system, and registrations for the remaining 38 are to be provided.



**Planned activity over the summer months includes:**

- **7 Digital Arts Academies to be delivered in Girdwood Community Hub.**
- **4 Art & Drama Academies to be delivered in Avoniel Leisure Centre.**

**Phase 1 contract initiation payment is complete, and the Phase 2a target of 100 participants has been achieved.**

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

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

**The Contract initiation phase is complete, and project activity has commenced, including individual group sessions and visits to each of the project partners' venues been progressing.**

**Members are advised that ACN had advised that R City Youth is no longer able to be a sub-partner within the project. ACN proposes to increase the KPIs across other partners to ensure the geographic and community background requirements are achieved. However, it should be noted that the withdrawal of sub-partner has impacted the initial participant target. To date, 70 participants are registered and actively participating, with 9 sessions and 27 contact hours, As such, it should be noted that a minor realignment of phased targets and payments is being made to reflect the level of achievement.**

**3.6 Lot 3: 16–18 year olds (Seniors) - Lead Delivery Partner Streetbeat Youth Project**

**Project Partner YEHA (Youth Educational Health Advice).**

**Project activity has been progressing with five groups engaging 61 participants registered and actively participating in sessions including: team building, building positive relationships, social and personal development.**

**Monitoring data shows the geographic spread of participation as Streetbeat and YEHA North (10 participants), Streetbeat and YEHA West (31 participants), East (10 participants), Rosario South (2 participants), and 8 participants from the existing groups are located outside the Belfast boundary. It should be noted that participants outside the Council's boundary will be kept to a minimum, and are by exception and agreement with Council**

**The Street Beat and YEHA groups have engaged in day/group trips, including hill walking in Newry, bowling, mini golf, Lisburn**

half marathon. Streetbeat East group activity commenced on 7 July 2025.

The Project launch event is planned for August 2025, and members will be advised of the date once confirmed. The Phase 1 contract initiation is complete.

**3.7 Lot 4: 19-25 years olds (Young adults) – Lead Partner GEMS NI**

**Project Partners: Diverse Youth NI, Training Network for Women.**

The contract initiation meeting took place on 8 July 2025, and GEMS NI and project partners are progressing the actions highlighted during the meeting in preparation for project implementation.

**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.**

The Phase 1 contract initiation is complete, and activity has progressed.

Pillar 1 (16-18 year olds), project activity is nearing completion for with 40 participants from Bryson and Malone College. Participants completed: First Aid, Safeguarding, Sports Practice, inclusive games, Dodgeball level 1, team building activity at Belfast Activity Centre and a cross border celebration event. Participant data is being finalising

Participants are recruited and actively participating in Pillar 2. John Paul youth club (12 participants), Rossa GAC (16 participants), Norman Whiteside Boy's Group (19 participants), Belfast Knights (14 participants), Ledley Hall (15 participants), St Malachy's youth club (19 participants).

Pillar 2 engages 11-16 year olds participants, the project will enable young people to engage better with their community by building their confidence, personal abilities, and core skills, initially engaging in single identity sessions before twinning with groups across Belfast. Two sessions including Introductions & registrations and Team building have been completed.

Pillar 4 research in partnership with UUJ has commenced and the research framework complete. Baselines surveys are being provided to participants in Pillar 1 for completion.

**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.

The Project has completed the contract initiation phase and is in the first stages of delivery.

Six cohorts have been established in partnership with local community groups, and activity is being delivered as follows:

- Cohorts 1-3 – Donegall Pass Community Forum, Donegall Pass
- Cohort 4 – Street Soccer NI, Botanic Avenue
- Cohort 5 – People 1st, Ormeau Road
- Cohort 6 – Suitcase Project, Roslyn Street

65 participants have been registered and are actively engaging in activity. Approx. 23 sessions have been delivered across all cohorts, comprising of both strand 1 (flexible language classes) and co-design elements of strand 2 (community programme of activities). By September 2025, it is scheduled that the project will have several cohorts completing project engagement.

A further 60 participants will be registered and commence activity by August 2025, in partnership with Conway Education and Anaka Women's Collective, with participant recruitment ongoing for future cohorts.

Members should note that further sub project partners may be added as the project delivery progresses, and will be reported to the Partnership, as required.

### **3.10 TPC 6 Arts Across the Genres – Delivery Partner Maywe**

**Project Partners:** Giga Training, BEAM Creative Network

The contract initiation phase is complete, and project delivery has commenced.

Outreach to participant groups across the city is progressing for Project 1, led by BEAM which focuses on Performance Art/ Music & Creative Writing, and Project 5, led by GIGA which will focus on digital media and filmmaking.

An Artistic Director has been appointed to lead Project 1 with Good Relations capacity building sessions planned for September and October 2025. Project 1 and 5's first taster session/ recruitment open days are planned for late July 2025.

Marketing assets, including a press release, a dedicated website and branding are being finalised.

### **Financial & Resource Implications**

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

### **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 recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee would note the contents of the report.

### **Celebrating Culture and Diversity Thematic Update**

The Partnership considered the undernoted 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 Culture and Diversity (CCD) Theme of the PEACEPLUS Belfast Local Community Peace 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**

Delivery partners and projects are at various stages of implementation, and confirmation of delivery approaches have been submitted. An overview of project progress within the CCD theme 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

The Project launch took place in June 2025 and feedback has been positive. Recruitment of a dedicated Programme Manager is underway. The contract initiation phase is nearing completion. Recruitment for steering group participants has commenced

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

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

**The Project is at the early stages of mobilisation, with a scoping exercise underway to identify potential sites for the Welcome Hubs. Recommendations on locations will be reported to the Programme Board for approval and presented to Council. It is envisaged the Project Advisory Group will be established by September 2025.**

**The contract initiation phase is progressing and the recruitment of participants across all strands of activity is scheduled to commence in August/September 2025.**

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

**The contract initiation phase is progressing. The project is at the early stages of mobilisation and is currently recruiting for 3 new project specific roles.**

**Project activity including the establishment of the Steering Group and Strategic Planning Group, and the Research Strand is scheduled to commence in August 2025.**

**3.5 CCD4 – Community Empowerment Ex Politically Motivated Prisoners**

**Assessment clarifications identified continue to be addressed with Procurement and the bidder. Subject to satisfactory responses, it is anticipated that contract award will progress in August 2025.**

**CCD5 From Multiculturalism to Interculturalism**

**3.6 Lot 1 – Language and Cultural Access The public procurement exercise for the project remains open until 1 August 2025, with tender evaluation scheduled for August 2025, and the contract award anticipated for September 2025.**

**3.7 Lot 2 – Cultural Spaces Lead Delivery Partner: MayWe  
The contract for Lot 2 Cultural Spaces has been awarded to MayWe, and contract initiation took place on 24 July 2025.**

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

**Project Partners\*: Belfast International Arts Festival, Arts Ekta, Eastside Arts Festival, Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival (CQAF),**

Beyond Skin, Community Arts Partnership, Reclaim the Night, May Day Festival, Belfast Exposed, Féile na hAbhann, Féile na gCloigíní Gorma, Glór na Mona, Look North Festival, Ashton Community Trust (\*Partners as per the tender submission and final partners are subject to confirmation by the delivery partner)

Project planning is continuing, and the first Flagship Events Steering Group meeting took place during June 2025. The first Musical Fusions Steering Group meeting is planned for August 2025.

Members are requested to note that the Delivery Partner had advised of initial mobilisation challenges given that some partners included in the bid are no longer able to be involved and significant changes in senior staff within the festivals sector is impacting the Festivals Cultural Connector (mentoring) element,

The Delivery Partner is continuing to engage with the sector, including Council's Festival Forum, to address these issues, and appropriate resolutions appear positive.

Members are advised that any proposed project changes will be submitted for consideration by the Programme Board and Shared City Partnership in line with the PEACEPLUS Change Control process.

**3.9 Lot 4 – Culture and Shared Built Heritage Lead Delivery Partner: Arts Ekta**

**Project Partners: Cairde na Cille, Kabosh Theatre**

Project delivery is progressing, with 90 participants registered, of which 84 are actively participating.

The Project Steering Group has been established and delivery of activity commenced in June 2025 with the Discovering Our Roots Heritage Tours programme.

Four Heritage Tour Days: Finding Foundries, Sailortown Secrets, Victorian Maritime Tour and The Poor House Tour were delivered during June 2025 based around Riddel's Warehouse, St. Josephs, Titanic Quarter and Clifton House.

The Rituals of Remembrance Burial Traditions programme also began with three workshops focused on Friar's Bush Graveyard.

Heritage Events in the Old Museum Building, including The Herschel Print Lab, Points Puffs and Petticoats and The History of High Tea were delivered during July 2025.

Planned activity for August 2025, taking place in the Falls Library, includes the Little Palaces Exhibition, Mosaic Memories in Clonard

**Gardens, Tales of Victorian Living (Little Palaces Session) and Angels in Stone.**

**Four further Heritage Tour Days will be delivered in August 2025, and activity planned for September 2025 includes the delivery of Tour Guide training in partnership with Belfast Met, the Civic Voices theatre strand, and the faith-based AR trail programme.**

### **Financial & Resource Implications**

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

### **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 recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee would note the contents of the report.

### **Processes Update**

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

#### **“1.0 Purpose of Report**

**The purpose of this report is to provide the Shared City Partnership with an update on processes to aid the implementation of the PEACEPLUS Belfast Local Community Peace 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 As project delivery progresses discussions are ongoing with SEUPB to finalise formal contracting and ensure appropriate processes are in place to aid effective implementation and ensure compliance with SEUPB requirements.**

#### **3.2 Target Groups**

**The Partnership is requested to note that during the contracting phase, SEUPB reviewed the Target Groups and requested that Council combine some of the target groups to allow for more effective and streamlined reporting.**

Members are referred to Appendix 1; shows the Target Groups as originally presented (Table 1) and the proposed updated structure (Table 2).

This minor operational amendment was considered and agreed by the Programme Board in July 2025. The Partnership is requested to note the updated target group structure, which reduces duplication by combining some of the original target group but does not exclude any groups previously included.

### **3.3 Monitoring and Evaluation System**

The PEACEPLUS M&E System continues to be rolled out to delivery partners. Feedback on the system has been positive, although some delivery partners have required significant support from the PEACEPLUS Monitoring and Data Analyst.

A summary of progress to date shows that:

7 projects have commenced adding participant data  
475 participants have been registered on the system  
157 participants have been marked as having completed their activities / contact hours

All data and supporting evidence is currently being verified by officers.

### **3.4 Cohorts**

The Partnership is reminded that a condition of the PEACEPLUS Letter of Offer is;

‘The community background of each of the Cohorts of participants should be confirmed and not vary from that set out in the application and detailed on Jems. If a variation is necessary, it will be subject to the agreement of SEUPB.’

Cross community splits for each project, based on the project activity and reflective of the Census 2021, were included in the tender specification, and the above condition conveyed to delivery partners at the Contract Initiation process

Clarity has been sought from SEUPB regarding this condition. As single identity activities, which do not incorporate any cross-community and / or cross-border dimension are ineligible, unless previously agreed by Council and the SEUPB, it is vital that project activity at a cohort level includes those from a different community background to ensure eligibility of activity.

As such the Programme Board has recommended that operational guidance is issued to delivery partners advising that:



All approved PEACEPLUS project activity must involve cross community participation.

Delivery partners should aim to achieve the cross community split as reflected in the tender specification within each cohort. Any divergence from the cross community split of the project should be agreed by the Council.

Members are requested to note this guidance, and the process for managing any variations, as follows: Minor variations to the cross community split by individual cohort will be considered and agreed by the PEACEPLUS Project Managers and Programme Manager and reported to the Programme Board and Shared City Partnership. Any significant variations may require a change request to be agreed through the governance structure.

### **3.5 Programme Risk Register**

To aid effective risk management, the PEACEPLUS Programme risk register is reviewed quarterly, and members are referred to Appendix II. Some minor changes have been highlighted, however it should be noted that no additional significant risks have been identified and no individual project risks require escalation at this stage.

#### **Financial & Resource Implications**

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

#### **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.

#### **Appendix I – Target Groups**

**Table 1: Target Groups as submitted**

#	Target Group (organisations and / or individuals)
1	General Public (inc. participants and wider beneficiaries)
2	Disadvantaged Communities (inc. communities with educational underachievement, poor housing, community interfaces, high economic inactivity, youth unemployment, health blackspots)
3	Youth (youth organisations or individuals that have suffered disproportionately from the conflict)
4	LGBTQIA+ community

<b>5</b>	<b>Ethnic Minority Groups (inc. economic migrants, refugees &amp; asylum seekers, newcomer communities)</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Faith and Belief communities</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Ex-politically motivated prisoners</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>High levels of prescription drugs, anti-depressants, inter-generational stagnation, communities with high numbers of suicides</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Those who suffer with long-term mental health and wellbeing</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Disadvantaged communities, in particular women, men, young people, older people, LGBTQIA+ comms, those with a disability &amp; those without, those with dependents &amp; those without, those of different religions, those with different political opinions &amp; ethnic minorities.</b>

**Table 2: Proposed Target groups**

<b>#</b>	<b>Target Group (organisations and / or individuals)</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>General Public (inc. participants and wider beneficiaries and those from faith and belief groups)</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Disadvantaged Communities (including women, men, young people, older people that experience educational underachievement, poor housing, community interfaces, high economic inactivity, youth unemployment.</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Groups with health inequalities including those with high levels of prescription drugs, anti-depressants, inter-generational stagnation, communities with high numbers of suicides, those who suffer with long-term mental health and wellbeing</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Minority Communities including women, men, young people, older people from Minority Ethnic Groups (inc. economic migrants, refugees &amp; asylum seekers, newcomer communities); LGBTQIA+ community, and those from an ex-politically motivated prisoners background”</b>

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

### **Members' Updates**

A Member advised the Partnership of an upcoming event entitled “Re-imagining Peace” which would take place in the City Hall on Monday, 29th September.

A further Member reported that an event marking the International Day of Peace and promoting shared space would be taking place at Alexandra Park on Sunday, 21st September 2025.

Information on both events would be circulated to the Members.

**Date of Next Meeting**

The Partnership was reminded that the next meeting was scheduled to take place on Monday, 8th September.

Chairperson