

SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

Wednesday 6th May, 2026

MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

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

External Members: Ms. B. Arthurs, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Ms. L. Euler, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;
Mr. L. Gunn, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;
Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council;
Mr. M. McBride, Education Authority;
Ms. T. Mimna, Executive Office;
Mr. W. Naeem, Interfaith Forum;
Ms. I. Sherry, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Mr. G. Walker, Community and Voluntary Sector; and
Ms. A. M. White, British Red Cross.

In attendance: Mr. G. McCartney, Good Relations Manager
Ms. L. Dolan, Acting Senior Good Relations Officer;
Mr. D. Robinson, Acting Senior Good Relations Officer;
Ms. R. Erskine, Project Manager
Ms. N. Lynch, Good Relations Officer;
Ms. F. McIntyre, Project Officer (Good Relations);
Mr. A. McMullan, Members' Services and Digital Support Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman S. Copeland, Councillor B. Smyth and Independent Members Ms. N. Creagh, Mr. J. Donnelly, Supt. A. Hagan, Rev. G. Kennedy and Ms. A. Roberts.

Apologies were also received from Mr. J. Girvan, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services, and from Ms. D. McKinney, PEACE Programme Manager, for their inability to attend the meeting.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 13th April 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 24th April.

Declarations of Interest

Ms. White declared an interest under item 4, Asylum Funding Update in that she was employed by an organisation which could apply for funding under that scheme.

Councillor Duffy, Ms. Arthurs and Ms. Sherry declared an interest under item 6a, Thriving and Peaceful Communities, in that they were associated with those organisations delivering projects under the PEACEPLUS Programme.

Councillor Abernethy and Mr. Naeem declared an interest under item 6b, Celebrating Cultures and Diversity Thematic Update in that they were associated with organisations delivering projects under the PEACEPLUS Programme.

Councillor Abernethy also declared an interest under item 6a, Thriving and Peaceful Communities, in that his family member was participating in a project delivered under the PEACEPLUS Programme.

As those items did not become subject to debate or discussion, the Members were not required to leave the meeting.

Members Update

Presentation from British Red Cross

Ms. White provided the Partnership with an overview of the refugee support services offered by the British Red Cross and highlighted the challenges facing the sector.

Following discussion Ms. White informed the Partnership that the Red Cross had found that community engagement was the most effective method in dispelling misconceptions surrounding asylum seekers and agreed that there was more work to be undertaken by a range of organisations to tackle that issue.

Noted.

Good Relations Action Plan Interfaces Programme 2026/2027

The Acting Senior Good Relations Officer reported that a funding stream with a value of £70,000 under the Interfaces Engagement Programme was to launch in the summer of 2026. To ensure that groups operating and delivering work at interface areas were prioritised, it was proposed that a select list of groups be invited to apply through a closed call for that funding.

After discussion Mr. Robinson invited members of the Partnership to provide feedback on the list of groups and on the current application criteria.

The Partnership agreed the proposed approach and recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the contents of the report and agree the proposed approach.

Asylum Funding Update

Ms. Dolan reminded the Partnership that The Executive Office had previously allocated Asylum Dispersal Funding to the Council to support the delivery of services to people in the asylum process and to assist with their integration and inclusion.

She advised that The Executive Office had subsequently offered the Council an additional £593,903 to fund the three proposals adopted by the Shared City Partnership at its December, 2025 meeting, namely:

- Specialised advice service and interagency hub clinics;
- Community capacity-building and training programme; and
- An open call with a value of £20,000 for funded projects.

The Good Relations Manager advised that, should the open call be oversubscribed and the quality of the applications be acceptable, additional applications could be funded through BCC5 of the Good Relations Action Plan.

The Partnership noted the contents of the report.

TEO Framework for Race Relations consultation – BCC Response

Ms. Lynch presented the Council's response to consultation on The Executive Office's Draft Race Relations Framework.

The consultation sought views on a proposed strategic vision and on four key outcomes, namely: the elimination of racial inequality; combatting racism and race hate crime; equality of service; and community cohesion. The consultation also invited feedback on nine key interventions and proposals for the governance and monitoring arrangements to oversee the delivery of the framework.

Among the key recommendations suggested by the Council in its response were:

- That proposed interventions are developed to be more strategic, ambitious and cross-departmental, with an explicit focus on addressing structural inequalities.
- Alignment of the framework with existing strategies and commitments, to avoid duplication and ensure racial equality is embedded across all policy agendas.
- A clear commitment from departments to review and act on the structural factors driving racial inequality across education, employment, health and justice.
- Improved data, evidence and understanding, with the Executive Office taking a lead role in issuing guidance and setting standards for data collection across public bodies.
- Building capacity across public sector organisations through interventions that develop the competence of public bodies and departments to implement racial equality consistently and effectively.
- Strengthening the voluntary and community sector through long-term investment rather than short-term or project-based funding, supported by meaningful partnerships between the Executive and the sector.
- Improved access to justice and accountability, with stronger interventions focused on potential perpetrators and on addressing the fear and isolation experienced by many minority ethnic communities.
- A commitment to measurement and continuous improvement, including a review of existing thematic groups (such as the Race Equality Subgroup and other strategic delivery structures), to ensure meaningful involvement, representation and co-design with those who have lived experience.

The Partnership noted the report and recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee also note the report and agree the response be submitted to tThe Executive Office.

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 themes are as outlined in the Thematic Reports.

3.2 Financial Controller

Members are advised that the verification process to date has been relatively smooth, and clarifications have been responded to within the 5 day timeframe.

KPMG verification control work of expenditure for Claims 1-6 has been completed, with reimbursement of £874,636.49, as detailed in the table at 3.4 below. The Period 6 verification control included 5 procurement exercises, which were deemed compliant and fully eligible.

KPMG invoices for the verification costs, based on actual time spent on the control work, are to be submitted.

3.3 Claims and Reporting

Programme expenditure, up to Period 9 (31 Mar 26), totals £2.1m approx, with Office & Administration costs resulting in

a total claim value of £2.3m, detailed by budget line as follows:

Incurring Expenditure1 January 2024 to 31 March 2026	Value
Salaries	£1,053,298.75
External Expertise Services (EES / Contract Payments)	£1,055,785.07
Infrastructure and Works (Capital)	£64,300.00
Equipment	£0.00
Total Expenditure	£2,173,383.81
Office & Administration (15% Overhead on Salary Costs)	£157,994.81
OVERALL TOTAL	£2,331,378.63

- 3.4 The Partnership is requested to note that expenditure not eligible for claiming from SEUPB is approx £69.5k. This expenditure relates to internal services, catering, venue hire and employee insurance and will be offset by the deferred income from the Office and Administration.

Claims up to Period 8, values as detailed in the table below, have been submitted to SEUPB and preparation for the submission of the Period 9 report and expenditure is progressing

Claim Period	Total	Verification Status
1 Jan – Mar 2024	£20,938.98	Fully Eligible & reimbursed
2 Apr – Jun 2024	£29,850.62	Fully Eligible & reimbursed
3 Jul – Sept 2024	£106,198.64	Fully Eligible & reimbursed
4 Oct- Dec 2024	£142,221.73	Fully Eligible & reimbursed
5 Jan – Mar 2025	£189,035.88	Fully Eligible & reimbursed
6 Apr – Jun 2025	£386,390.64	Fully Eligible & reimbursed
Total Reimbursed	£874,636.49	
7 Jul – Sept 2025	£568,565.25	KPMG Control commenced
8 Oct - Dec 2025	£328,380.94	Awaiting KPMG Control
9 Jan – Mar 2026 Approx	£559,795.95	Indicative Submission Values
Total	£2,331,378.63	

3.5 Exchange Rate Fluctuations

To date the cost to Council due to exchange rate fluctuations for claims 1-5 is £9,390.51 approx, as outlined in the table below. The variance will be offset by the deferred income from the office and administration budget.

Income	Remittance Value€	Following Exchange Rate £	£ / € Exchange Rate	£ Value at 1.15 Planning Rate	Variance Cost to Council
Lump Sum Preparation	€100,000.00	£85,836.91	1.16500	£86,956.52	£1,119.61
Advance	€1,500,000.00	£1,300,841.21	1.15310	£1,304,347.83	£3,506.62
				Claim £ Value	
Claims 1 – 5	€561,025.25	£483,481.57	1.16039	£488,245.85	£4,764.28
Claim 6	€443,159.32		Exchange Rate to be confirmed	£386,390.64	
Totals	€2,604,184.57	£1,870,159.69		£3,162,887.03	£9,390.51

Options for managing the exchange rate risk are ongoing with Council's Management Accounts.

The Partnership is requested to note that the second and final instalment of the advance, €750,000 is now payable following the submission, verification and reimbursement of Periods 1-4 claims. Officers are considering the exchange rate risk before progressing the request to SEUPB.

3.6 Forecasting and Expenditure Targets

As previously reported, SEUPB has requested formal acceptance of the expenditure targets for the Action Plan. It should be noted that the targets are forecasts based on a range of assumptions. Whilst acceptance is being progressed, the assumptions have been clearly outlined to SEUPB in the Acceptance Memo, as per Appendix I.

3.7 Monitoring and Evaluation

Delivery of project activity and progress towards the achievement of participant targets is underway.

As of 14 April 2026, 3,020 participants were registered to projects, with 1,874 completed the required activity/contact hours. Further data analysis and impact of the Programme is outlined in Appendix II Performance Dashboard.

Monitoring system issues continue to be address at the weekly troubleshooting meetings.

3.8 PEACEPLUS Additional Funding Opportunities

Members are advised that SEUPB informed Council in April 2026 of a Programme wide underspend, which could potentially be decommitted by the EU. SEUPB invited all Councils to submit proposals for funding of activity to be delivered during summer 2026 and claimed by September / October 2026. Project proposals should link to the existing Local PEACEPLUS Action Plan, as any additional agreed

proposal will require a modification to the current Local Action Plan Letter of Offer.

Given the truncated timeline potential proposals that meet the above parameters were identified as:

- Fleadh Cheoil 2026 Programme
- Forth Meadow Greenway Signage
- Positive Cultural Expression (Beacons)
- 2 Royal Avenue

The Partnership is requested to note that given the urgency for proposals, a report was submitted and agreed by the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee in April 2026, for the proposals, as above, to be submitted to SEUPB for additional funding in the region of £2-3 million.

The proposals are currently being compiled and are due to be submitted to SEUPB imminently.

Members should note that SEUPB indicated that the level of participation will be proportion / reasonable, and that compliance with programme requirements is required, although in some instances, it may be lighter touch.

3.9 Staffing

As previously reported significant resource pressures within the PEACEPLUS team are continuing, due to 4 staff vacancies, and maternity leave.

Interviews for the Monitoring and Data Analyst are scheduled for 30 April 2026. Timeframes for the recruitment of the Finance and Data Support and Project Support Officer are being confirmed, advertising is scheduled for end of May 2026 with interviews late June 2026.

Further recruitment remains on hold pending consideration by Continuous Improvement.

4.0 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.

4.1 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

Project Delivery

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

3.1 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 currently has approximately 250 registered participants, with 150 achieved from a target of 1000.

A Best Practice Visit, facilitated by Eastside Greenways to CS Lewis Square took place in March 2026 with 16 participants in attendance.

Delivery of the Cohort 2 L2 OCN in Community Development (21 participants from 15 organisations) has commenced with 8 sessions delivered to date. Non accredited training sessions included 'developing a strong case for funding applications.

The Partnership is reminded that Officers continue to liaise closely with NICVA on the M&E requirements to ensure data integrity and to update mechanisms for reporting across NICVA's CRM system and the PEACEPLUS M&E system. The update on the system is required to enable the level of contact hours to be agreed and verified.

Upcoming activity includes a cross border residential, and planning is underway for the third OCN programme scheduled to commence in September 2026.

3.2 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 of activity is progressing, with flexibility of activity across the areas. Currently 251 registered participants and 250 achieved participants verifiable on the Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) system. The Delivery Partner is currently updating the data to align with the reported 465 registered participants, and further verification will then progress.

As reported in April 2026, a request to extend delivery of participants beyond the Areas of Interest (800 participants) and Influence (816 participants), and include District Electoral Area, is currently being progressed.

The Partnership is requested to note that SEUPB has advised that the change will require a formal project modification request,

Clarification on the requirements specified by SEUPB, including the participant targets for each area is being finalised. Once confirmed this will enable the formal modification to be submitted directly to SEUPB for consideration.

3.3 TPC 3 Youth Empowerment, Inspiring Future Belfast

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

Project Partner BEAM Creative Network.

Currently 411 of 1500 participants have achieved the required activity and contact hours.

As reported previously, the delivery partner is continuing to plan for delivery of Year 2 activity via schools in West and Shankill Areas, with six school partnerships, a community programme and two Digital and two Arts Academies scheduled for commencement.

A significant amount of activity and targets will be delivered during the summer with plans being finalised presently.

3.3.2 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.

Monitoring data evidence that 124 participants have completed activity and achieved the required contact hours, from a target of 350.

Engagement of participant groups is ongoing, and delivery of activity sessions are continuing. The day visits initially scheduled for March 2026 took place over the Easter.

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

Participation evidence confirms 41 completing activity from a target of 160.

The Delivery Partner has given a commitment to over recruit to the project during Year 2 to ensure targets are on track.

Year 2 / Cohort 2 leadership sessions are progressing with 70 young people engaged across 5 groups. Monitoring data for this Cohort 2 is currently being verified.

An outdoor adventure day bringing all groups together took place on 2 April 2026.

The Partnership is requested to note that further additionality for participants is being delivered via the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

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

Project Partners: Diverse Youth NI (DYNI), Training Network for Women (TWN).

Monitoring data is currently evidencing 25 of 96 achieved participants, with a target of 40 more participants to be recruited by June 2026.

Cohort 1 participants, that participated in the International residential, completed the Social Action Project “A Wall of Journey” a visual art project depicting the journey the young person has experienced so far. Two site visits to City Hall and Clifton House have also taken place.

Delivery of session on employability/careers guidance have progressed, as well as ongoing recruitment and registration for Cohort 2.

3.4 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 across all pillars for Cohort 2 participants is progressing well, with some groups scheduled to complete activity imminently.

Delivery of Pillar 1 coach education activity at Ulster University Belfast (UUB) and St Marys Grammar School, with 26 participants is now finalising, 17 participants have achieved an OCN Level 1 on Diversity within Society, alongside practical coaching experience through engagement with Pillar 2 participants.

Pillar 1 participants from St Mary's also completed First Aid training and a celebration event, including the presentation of certificates for UUB participants has taken place.

As previously reported, targets were realigned and remain under review.

3.5 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.

84 new participants have been registered bringing the total of registered participants to 355, which exceeds the current registration target of 305. However, completed participation is currently 85 from a target of 184, approx. 46%, due to ongoing attendance and retention issues. The delay in achieving the Phase 2b target, will subsequently impact the expenditure targets.

The Delivery Partner has agreed to increase the recruitment targets for the remainder of the project to offset the attrition levels. Further mitigations have also been proposed, including a reduction in contact hours from 36 to 28 and a realigned implementation plan.

The Partnership is advised that the issues affecting the project were previously highlighted and have also been discussed with SEUPB. The proposed change in contact

hours remains in line with approved project activity within the Local Action Plan and is proportionate and reasonable.

Members are requested to note that the Programme Board agreed, in principle, to reduce contact hours from 36 to 28, and to delegate authority to the Good Relations Manager and Programme Manager to approve the detailed request in line with the realigned Implementation Plan. Members should note the change request will be confirmed with SEUPB, with a further update to the Partnership.

**3.6 TPC 6 Arts Across the Genres – Delivery Partner MayWe
Project Partners: BEAM Creative Network**

Currently there are 230 participants registered and activity engaging in activity, with 166 of these participants having now achieved the required contact hours.

Project 1: Polyphonic (124 participants achieved) Target 120
All deliverables (capacity building, joint art sessions, site visits, mentoring, artwork development, social action and showcases) were achieved by end of March 2026.

Project 2: Suitcases & Skies (84 actively participating, 38 complete) Target 120

Activity is ongoing before showcases in mid-May at Chultúrlann and the Ulster Hall. The project's focus is on participants with additional needs, several of whom do not want to perform on stage, the project has offered additional training for auxiliary roles such as tech, sound, lighting and stage management.

The Partnership is requested to note, that as previously reported, a combined approach for the 4 site visits has been adopted. Officers have reviewed this approach and can confirm the approach meets the tender specification requirements of 4 site visits across the 4 arts projects. On this basis no change request is required. However, the Delivery Partner has been advised they should maximise opportunities for site visits, where possible.

Project 3: Target 120

Taster session is scheduled for this project, with some recruitment underway.

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

Participants continued to attend Project 1 and 2 activity to capture content for the newsletter, socials and documentary. Participants attended a workshop and masterclass with Neal McClelland and interviewed Niamh Noade Britain's Got Talent Finalist.

4.0 Financial and Resource Implications

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

5.0 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

Project Delivery

Members are reminded that projects are at various stages of implementation, with an overview of progress as outlined below.

3.1 CCD1 – Interfaith and Belief Lead Delivery Partner: Corrymeela Community Consortium Partners: Redeeming Our Communities, Belfast Islamic Centre, NI Inter-Faith Forum

An updated implementation plan with measurable targets for each stream of activity is being prioritised, and activity has progressed as follows:

Stream 1: Outreach education with pilot schools' activity has commenced, and engagement has been encouraging.

Stream 2: Unity and Welcoming Programme, Mapping of the welcome, care and social action work provided by faith and belief groups is progressing through surveys and a volunteer is undertaking dedicated outreach to ensure maximum update of surveys.

Stream 3: Scoping of further faith and belief festivals and events is currently under development.

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

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

To date, 65 participants are actively participating with 10 participants having completed the required contact hours.

It should be noted that whilst registrations and activity are ongoing, the project remains behind schedule.

As reported in April 2026, a realigned implementation plan has now been provided, and clarification on the planned activity is currently being progressed to ensure the achievement of deliverables and results. The project RAG status remains red and will be reviewed on an ongoing basis with further mitigations as necessary

3.3 CCD3 – LGBTQIA+ Community Engagement Project (Out Connections Belfast) Lead Delivery Partner: The Rainbow Project Project Partners: Cara Friend, HERe NI

52 participants have achieved the required contact hours, which is in line with the realigned targets defined in the change request currently under review and previously reported.

Project staff are prioritising the delivery of activities for Strand 1 Coordination, Strand 2 Strategic Planning, and for recruitment and delivery of activities for Strand 4 Outreach and Strand 5 Focus Groups.

The Partnership is requested to note that the delivery partner has recruited an external researcher to analyse the Research survey results and develop the results publication. The publication research findings will be slightly delayed by two months, however there is no impact on the overall delivery phase.

3.4 CCD4 – Community Empowerment Ex Politically Motivated Prisoners Lead Delivery Partner: Coiste Project Partners: Tar Anall, Action for Community Transformation, Charter NI, and Tar Isteach.

The project is progressing, with 96 registrations across the Hens Shed, Support Engagement, Storytelling, Counselling, Advice and Welfare training elements.

Course options for the counselling training, offering a bespoke suite of training opportunities to meet the needs, specialism and current attainment level of the groups/organisations, are currently being finalised. The training will be completed during the lifetime of the project.

The Partnership is requested to note that a historical biography publication was submitted as an alternative to the storytelling element of the project. After consideration of the approach for developing the publication, and liaison with SEUPB, the delivery partner has been advised that publication does not meet the storytelling and PEACEPLUS requirements. A proposal for further storytelling aspect has been requested.

3.5 CCD5 From Multiculturalism to Interculturalism

3.5.1 Lot 1 – Language and Cultural Access

The Partnership is advised that the contract has been awarded to the Ulster Scots Agency, and the contract initiation phase is being progressed.

3.5.2 Lot 2 – Cultural Spaces (Come on Over) Lead Delivery Partner: MayWe

Project activity is now increasing, with 75 participants registered and actively participating, and 10 venues registered, of which 6 are actively participating on the steering group. Discussions are ongoing with four additional venues to participate in the project.

The first activity, capacity building for cultural venues and capacity building for grassroots groups, which was designed by the steering group is now progressing.

3.5.3 Lot 3 – Festivals and Flagship Events Lead Delivery Partner (DP): Féile an Phobail

42 participants are actively participating in the project in the Mentors/Mentees Programme, Flagship Events Steering Group and Musical Fusions Steering Group, from an overall project target of 404.

Members are requested to note that further Festival Event delivery includes a social action activity designed by participants, Don't Just Wear the T-Shirt, will be part of a larger May Day Rally/Festival.

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

Delivery of Phase 2 activity is progressing with Burial Traditions tours, and a Faith Trail event scheduled for April/ May 2026

Cohort 2 for Tour Guide Training is also progressing. Members should note the training was heavily over-subscribed, 75 expressions of interest. The Delivery Partner has developed a strong relationship with Belfast Met, and a further course on Tour Guide Training is being provided by the college.

Further visits and events are planned for Floral Hall, Family Picnic up at zoo as well as the Carnegie Libraries in North and West Belfast

4.0 Financial and Resource Implications

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

**5.0 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.

Community Regeneration and Transformation Thematic Update

Ms. Erskine provided the Partnership with an update on the delivery of the Community Regeneration and Transformation Theme of the PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan.

She reported that the Stage 3 design stage of CRT1: LGBTQIA+ Hub was now completed and that the final designs had been presented to the Stakeholder Group in April. It was expected that construction would start in the autumn as the necessary statutory approvals through the Listed Buildings and Change of Use applications had now been submitted.

She further reported that the planning application for CRT2: Annadale Open Space had been compiled and would be submitted shortly with the capital works expected to be

completed by the summer of 2027. However, she noted that further discussions with the Stakeholder Steering Group were required prior to progressing further animation activity due to the lack of uptake of event management training.

The Project Manager highlighted that the consultation on the preliminary designs for CRT3: Distillery Street had closed and that the Department for Justice, as landowners of the gates and interface barrier, was considering the responses. Further consultation and engagement with members and stakeholders would take place following the Department's determination.

She confirmed that the planning application process for CRT4: Access to the Hills was underway and that the assessment of the animation tender had progressed to the self-declaration stage.

The Partnership noted that a planning application for signage for the CRT5: Sanctuary Theatre site had been submitted and that the procurement documentation to appoint a construction contractor had been issued. Ms. Erskine anticipated that works would commence by September, 2026 and would take approximately 10 months to complete, possibly resulting in a one-month delay in the post construction animation.

A member thanked the officers for the significant amount of work being reported on, particularly when working under the additional pressure of the programme's current vacancies.

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

Councillor McLaughlin informed the Partnership that this would be Mr. Gunn's final meeting of the Shared City Partnership before retiring from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive at the end of the month and thanked him for his attendance and invaluable input over the years.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Gunn for his contributions to the Partnership and wished him well in his retirement.

Date of Next Meeting

The Chairperson reminded the Partnership that the next meeting would be held at 1:30pm on Wednesday 3rd June.

Chairperson