

## **SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP**

**Monday 6th October, 2025**

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

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

External Members: Ms. B. Arthurs, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Ms. L. Euler, BHSCT;  
Mr. L. Gunn, NIHE;  
Mr. A. Hagan, Police Service of Northern Ireland;  
Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council;  
Rev. G. Kennedy, Faith Representative;  
Ms. A. Roberts, 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. D. McKinney, PEACE Programme Manager;  
Mr. D. Robinson, Acting Senior Good Relations Officer;  
Ms. L. Dolan, Acting Senior Good Relations Officer;  
Ms. L. Holmes, Community Engagement Officer, Girdwood;  
Ms. E. Kennedy, Project Officer (Good Relations); and  
Mr. A. McMullan, Members' Services and Digital Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

An apology was reported on behalf of Councillor Smyth.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 8th September were taken as read and signed as correct, subject to an amendment to show that Ms. B. Arthurs had been in attendance at that meeting. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 19th September.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Duffy, Ms. Arthurs and Ms. Roberts declared interests under Item 3c, Community Recovery Fund and Item 4b, PEACEPLUS Thriving and Peaceful Communities Thematic Update, in that they were associated with organisations delivering projects under the Community Recovery Fund and the PEACEPLUS Programme. As the reports did not become subject to debate or discussion, the Members were not required to leave the meeting.

### **Presentation – Girdwood Community Hub**

The Community Engagement Officer provided the Partnership with a presentation on the work of Girdwood Community Hub. She outlined its vision to be an internationally recognised centre for peace and reconciliation promoting good relations and equality.

She also highlighted the programme of diverse events held at the Hub, including children's summer schemes, living history and diversity awareness sessions, seniors' tea dances and the Girdwood 4 All Brighter Nights Project and Sunday League football.

The Partnership paid tribute to the work undertaken by the Community Engagement Officer and her predecessors and commended her dedication to the role.

Noted.

### **Good Relations Action Plan Quarter Two Update**

The Acting Senior Good Relations Officer provided the Partnership with an update on the delivery of the Council's Good Relations Action Plan during the 2025-2026 quarter two financial period.

He reported that, out of a total budget of £600,000, £468,862.20 was available for the funding of projects and that £271,990.67 had already been allocated during the 2025-2026 quarter one financial period, with a further £88,716.67 allocated in quarter two.

He reminded the Partnership that the Council had, in July 2025, received from The Executive Office an additional £20,000 towards funding for projects and that a further £27,000 was granted in September specifically to address issues around racial tension.

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

### **TEO Additional Funding Application and Allocation**

The Partnership considered the following report:

#### **1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Issues**

- 1.1 To inform members about the availability of an additional 27k TEO funding through projects aligned with the aims and objectives of the Community Recovery Fund, and to seek approval for the proposed application and allocation of these funds to the Good Relations Action Plan - BCC5 Minority Ethnic Equality and Inclusion Programme.**

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Members are requested to note the contents of the report and approve the proposed application outlined in Appendix 1, along with the allocation of an additional £27,000 in TEO funding to the**

next two eligible applications received following the Community Recovery Fund – Open Call.

It is recommended that this funding be assigned to the Good Relations Action Plan, specifically aligning funds under BCC5 Minority Ethnic Equality and Inclusion Programme. Furthermore, members are asked to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (SP&R) that they acknowledge the report and approve both the application and the funding allocation as detailed.

### **3.0 Main report**

- 3.1 Together, these three projects—community dialogue, intercultural engagement, and crisis preparedness—form a comprehensive strategy to address racial tensions and promote social cohesion across Belfast. Each initiative aligns with the T:BUC strategy and the BCC Good Relations Action Plan, offering measurable impact TBUC Evaluation and Monitoring.

### **3.2 Community Dialogue and Hate Crime Awareness (Refuge Language)**

#### **Aim**

To rebuild trust and foster social cohesion between local residents and migrant communities in Belfast following the 2024 race riots, through inclusive dialogue, education, and community engagement.

#### **Objectives**

- Deliver weekly community conversation classes that facilitate structured discussions on culture, identity, and integration.
- Promote mutual understanding and empathy between local and migrant populations through shared activities and storytelling.
- Recruit and train volunteers to facilitate conversation sessions and support intercultural dialogue.
- Leverage existing community infrastructure to ensure cost-effective delivery and sustainability.
- Provide hate crime awareness training to 120 refugees and asylum seekers to improve recognition, reporting, and response.
- Increase participants' confidence and safety by equipping them with knowledge of their rights and support systems.
- Collaborate with GEMS (South Belfast) and 174 Trust (North Belfast) to ensure geographic coverage and community buy-in.
- Align with the T:BUC strategy and Belfast City Council's Good Relations Action Plan to reinforce policy coherence and shared goals.

Funding requested: £13,943.75

## **2. Intercultural Family Engagement (Whiterock Children and Family Centre)**

### **3.3 Aim**

To foster meaningful cross-community relationships between women from host and migrant backgrounds through inclusive, skill-based cookery sessions that promote cultural exchange, mutual respect, and community cohesion.

#### **Objectives**

- Deliver three four-week cookery courses that encourage participants to share recipes, culinary traditions, and personal stories in a welcoming group setting.
- Provide on-site childcare during all sessions to ensure accessibility for parents, particularly those who might face barriers to participation.
- Facilitate intercultural dialogue and bonding through collaborative cooking activities that highlight diversity and shared experiences.
- Organize a joint celebratory trip at the end of the programme to reinforce connections and celebrate the achievements of participants.
- Utilise existing kitchen facilities and group-based delivery methods to ensure cost-effectiveness and sustainability.
- Support the T:BUC strategy by creating safe, shared spaces that promote mutual understanding and respect between communities.
- Advance the Good Relations Action Plan by strengthening neighbourhood ties through inclusive, family-friendly engagement.

Funding requested: £3,262.00

## **3. Proposed Contingency - Belfast City Council – Good Relations - Reserve for Emergency Response**

- 3.4** To strengthen capacity for rapid intervention during future emergencies, Belfast City Council proposes that we reserve £9,794.25 contingency reserve. This fund will be strictly ring-fenced for genuine crisis situations and will not be used for routine expenditure.

The reserve is intended to support immediate action in scenarios such as:

- Safeguarding vulnerable communities
- Responding to racially motivated incidents

- **Addressing threats to public safety and cohesion**

**This proactive measure reflects hard-earned lessons from the 2024 race riots and recent episodes of vigilante activity, which have contributed to heightened fear and insecurity among ethnic minority residents.**

**Contingency allocation: £9,794.25**

#### **4.0 Evaluation and Monitoring Reporting Requirements**

**All projects and submissions are required to include TBUC Monitoring Forms, which should reflect alignment with the aims and objectives of the Community Recovery Fund.**

After discussion, the Good Relations Manager confirmed that the proposed contingency fund would be made available for projects and not to individuals, should the contingency fund not be accessed during this financial year, the budget would be reprofiled.

The Partnership noted the contents of the report and approved the application as set out in the appendix. It also approved the allocation of an additional £27,000 in TEO funding to the next two eligible applications received following the Community Recovery Fund – Open Call and recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the report and approve both the application and the funding allocation.

### **Community Recovery Fund**

The Partnership considered the following report:

#### **1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Issues**

- 1.1 To provide an update on the status and progress of the Community Recovery Fund, previously approved by Council.**

#### **2.0 Main report**

##### **Background**

- 2.1 The Deputy Prime Minister of the UK established a Community Recovery Fund to support areas impacted by the public disorder that occurred between July and August 2024, including Belfast. The funds were allocated to the Department of Finance to assist the most affected communities. In Belfast, the City Council's Good Relations Unit, with cross-departmental support, has been responsible for managing the local implementation of this support.**

**The Community Recovery Fund was delivered through a cross-departmental approach approved and agreed by Council. This involved close collaboration between Officer across internal departments particularly across Neighbourhood Services and external community partners. Neighbourhood Integration**

Managers led the engagement on consortium bids, ensuring that each project was tailored to meet the specific needs of local areas across the city. Community Development teams also played a vital role by designing inclusive events at community centres that celebrate the city's diversity.

In response to the public disorder during July and August 2024, the Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) implemented targeted in-house initiatives. At the same time, the Good Relations Team oversaw the quotation process and open call for applications. This process revealed the exceptional quality of submissions and showcased the inspiring anti-racism work happening throughout Belfast—initiatives that can now be supported through this funding stream and the opportunities it provides.

**2.2     Community Recovery Fund Update**  
**Appendix 1 – Detailed Community Recovery Report**  
**CRF001 – PCSP - Safer Neighbourhood Officer**  
**Community Engagement Project**

This project supports communities affected by the 2024 public disorder by enhancing safety, reducing harm, and fostering social cohesion across Belfast. It deploys Safer Neighbourhood Officers, addresses antisocial behaviour and hate crimes, and promotes inclusion through community engagement, events, and leadership workshops. Special focus is given to ethnic minority, migrant, and refugee communities, with strong collaboration among local partners to build trust and resilience.

**2.3     CRF002 - Integration and Inclusion**  
**Awarded to: Wheelworks**

The programme aims to promote diversity awareness, challenge stereotypes and misinformation, and support integration within communities. It targets teachers, Boards of Governors, community youth leaders, and young people, equipping them with tools to foster inclusion and counter hate. Key components include training programmes, interactive toolkits, workshops, and youth-led initiatives. The content focuses on understanding prejudice, critical thinking, cultural awareness, hate crime prevention, and relationship-building. Overall, it seeks to build cohesive, informed, and inclusive communities through education and engagement.

**2.4     CRF003**  
**Belfast City Council Community Centre**  
**Programme – Reaching Out**

Funds have been allocated to the Community Development Department, who are currently planning local neighbourhood projects across both Council-run and independent community centres in Belfast. These initiatives and projects will be supported

by a comprehensive communication campaign on the Belfast City Council website to promote inclusion and celebrate community engagement across all diverse communities.

**2.5 CRF004 - Challenging the Narrative**

Funds have been allocated for "*Challenging the Narrative*", a Belfast-based programme to be delivered by March 2026. There will be a total of 8 workshops, 2 within each area of Belfast and the aims is to train key groups on migration and integration, with migrant-led input and a focus on reducing hate and misinformation.

**2.6 CRF005 - Expansion of Schools of Sanctuary**

The project aims to expand Schools of Sanctuary in South and North Belfast, especially in areas impacted by racism. It promotes social cohesion by making schools more welcoming for refugees and asylum seekers. School communities will be supported in adopting inclusive practices and anti-racism education. The initiative also builds partnerships with local stakeholders and offers leadership training. Family support services, including multilingual clinics, will aid integration and community relations.

**2.7 CRF006 – Belfast City Council, Economic Development – Business Mentoring, Engagement, and Integration Programme**

The initiative aims to boost enterprise and business growth in the WULO area using £20,000 from the Community Recovery Fund. It focuses on engaging the community, promoting entrepreneurship, and supporting existing businesses through drop-in sessions, promotional outreach, and tailored resources, ensuring inclusive access to mentoring and development programs.

**2.8 CRF007 - WULO – LORAG Engaged Citizens**

The Engaged Citizens project fosters community cohesion and trust in Belfast's Wider University and Lower Ormeau area. It supports those affected by hate crime through inclusive dialogue and cultural celebration. Residents are trained as ambassadors to welcome newcomers and counter harmful narratives. Creative programs and exhibitions highlight shared identities and experiences. The project partners with local groups to ensure sustainable, community-led solutions.

**2.9 WULO - Forward South Creating a shared vision through building a Shared Space**

This project, led by Forward South Partnership, aims to build community cohesion and resilience in South Belfast in response to recent racist hate crimes. It will include storytelling workshops,

community dialogues, and discussions with unionist women to address prejudice and misinformation. Activities will take place in an inclusive space supporting services like the Roma Support Hub, with a focus on engaging minoritised and migrant communities through culturally sensitive programming and translation support. The goal is to foster trust, counter disinformation, and promote a shared, inclusive future.

**2.10 CRF008b - Focused Consortium Projects**

**North Belfast - Greater Shankill Alternatives –  
Community Navigator Support Programme**

To support migrant and ethnic minority communities, a Community Navigator will link newcomers to vital services. Workshops and outreach will promote inclusion, safety, and awareness of rights. Hate crime prevention materials and youth engagement will help reduce tensions. Collaboration with local agencies will strengthen community ties and amplify lived experiences.

**2.11 South Belfast Consortium - Application is still pending.**

Engagement has taken place with groups within South Belfast to develop projects that could be submitted in the near future to deliver on the aims and objectives of the Community Recovery Fund. Specifically positive engagement has taken place with Windsor Women's Centre, Belfast South Community Resources and Belfast bands Forum. Officers are working with said groups to align potential projects with the CRF and an update on any successful awards will be notified to the Partnership once made.

**2.12 West Belfast - Blackie River - Newcomer Family Liaison Project**

This initiative aims to support and integrate migrant communities in West Belfast, especially those impacted by the racist hate crime and unrest of July–August 2024. It seeks to foster social cohesion and rebuild trust among migrant, refugee, asylum-seeking, and host communities in the Greater Falls area. By addressing root causes of tension through proactive engagement, the project hopes to prevent future disorder. Key actions include hiring a part-time Liaison Officer, distributing welcome packs, and serving as a bridge between new families and local services.

**2.13 East Belfast - East Belfast Alternatives - Connswater  
Community Recovery Project**

This initiative fosters healing and unity in East Belfast by bridging divides between host and migrant communities. Through dialogue, cultural exchange, and youth engagement, it addresses the root causes of unrest. It empowers minority leaders, promotes trust in public services, and strengthens community networks.



## **2.14 CRF008 – Open Call**

Please refer to Appendix 1 for a detailed progress report on the delivery of the Community Recovery Fund.

## **2.15 CRF009 – Hate Crime Hardship Programme Belfast City Council – PCSP**

The initiative aims to provide practical support to victims of hate crime through the Belfast PCSP's Home Security Service. It is developing sensitive referral pathways with partners like PCSP, PSNI, and Bryson to ensure victims receive both emotional support and home safety measures. Key community groups involved include Association Darfur NI, Afghan Community, and NI Somali Association, among others. This collaborative effort seeks to enhance personal safety and foster trust within diverse communities.

## **3.0 Financial and Resource Implications**

3.1 The proposals in this report are 100% funded through Community Recovery Fund.

## **4.0 Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Implications**

These proposals have strong good relations outcomes and complement the work being delivered through the Council's Good Relations Action Plan and the Belfast Agenda.

## **5.0 Evaluation and Monitoring Reporting Requirements**

Internal projects are required to submit Belfast City Council Evaluation and Monitoring Forms. These forms must clearly demonstrate alignment with the aims and objectives of the Community Recovery Fund.

External projects must provide the following:

- CRF004 and CRF002 required mid-way report
- All other end of project of Belfast City Council evaluation and monitoring form

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

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

The Peace Programme Manager provided the Partnership with an update on the mobilisation of the PEACEPLUS Action Plan.

She reported that the Special European Union Programmes Body (SEUPB) had confirmed that all pre contract checks had been completed and the Action Plan had been formally contracted on the JeMS system which would enable development costs to be released and advance requests to be progressed.

The Partnership was reminded that a further three-month administrative extension was required to aid in the submission of financial controller costs. A request for this extension had been agreed by SEUPB. The PEACEPLUS Programme Manager also highlighted that Council officers would be required to facilitate the control work and that costs would not be reimbursed from the programme.

It was reported that the self-declaration assessment of CCD4 - Ex Politically Motivated Prisoners had been finalised and that the contract was progressing to award. Also, that the tendering process for CCD5 Lot 1 – Multiculturalism to Interculturism had closed but the evaluation process had not resulted in an appointment. The next steps to mobilise the project was under review.

The PEACEPLUS Programme Manager advised the Partnership that Design Teams had been appointed for each of the capital projects. Collins Roulston had been appointed for CRT2 (Annadale), CRT3 (Distillery St), CRT4 (Access to the Hills) and CRT5 (Sanctuary). The Design Team appointed for the LGBTQIA+ hub project was Taggarts. Pre-Start meetings had taken place and the timeframe for delivery was being confirmed with Project Steering Groups meetings taking place during September and October 2025.

She reported that planning for the procurement of the animation activity for each of the projects was underway. A Pre Market Engagement event covering all the projects was scheduled for 7th October 2025 at the Markets Community Centre. She highlighted that the value of the animation contracts, approximately £86,000, was below the threshold and to uphold SEUPB procurement requirements of advertising in both jurisdictions would be advertised on e-sourcing, -e-tenders.ie and OJEU.

She reported that advice on cross community cohorts had been issued to delivery partners and that further delivery partner training on compliance, monitoring and evaluation, communications, finance and procurement had taken place on 28th August 2025 which had been well received.

The PEACEPLUS Programme Manager advised that responses to questions raised during the Due Diligence Review had been received from SEUPB and KPMG and these would be retained for audit and verification purposes.

The Partnership was reminded that the revised KPMG proposal for management verification services for the PEACEPLUS Action Plan of £162,395 had been agreed by the Programme Board and that the key steps to progressing the contracting process had been continuing, with an Application for Approbation of an External Controller having been submitted to SEUPB for agreement.

The Members noted that a request to SEUPB for an assurance on meeting costs higher than SEUPB's guidance (£35K), referred to previous correspondence issued by the Body. As such, the Members noted that the application would include the below caveat:

*It is noted that SEUPB's MA memo of 14 May 2025 is applicable to this Controller contract, extract of the assurance by SEUPB to cover the extra controller cost is below:*

**For projects that do not fall within 3.2 Thematic Area: If a Contractor proposes an amount for external verification that the project wishes to accept but does not have adequate budget for, the project should be aware that SEUPB has undertaken efforts to ensure that the project will not result in financial loss due to the overspend. SEUPB will engage steering committees to secure additional funding as required to avoid adverse impacts on delivery.**

### **Finance and Claims**

The Programme Manager reported that the claims position remained as previously reported with spend of approximately £1.1m. Preparation for the submission of claims was progressing and the first claim would be formally submitted once the Financial Controller was contracted.

She advised that the new PEACEPLUS Project Support Officer was scheduled to commence on 7th October 2025. Recruitment of the Project Officer was progressing. She reported that the Monitoring and Data Analyst had taken up a new position within the Council in September, however, due to the critical nature of the monitoring work, it had been agreed that the officer would continue to provide support for PEACEPLUS one day per week until November. A recruitment timeline for the post was being confirmed with Human Resources.

The Partnership noted that the International Day of Peace event had taken place on 22nd September 2025 at the City Hall, the event had been well attended and received.

The Partnership noted the contents of the report and confirmed agreement of the administrative extension to 30th September 2028 and recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the contents of the report and agree the administrative extension to 30th September 2028.

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

The Partnership considered the following report:

#### **1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 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. 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).

An information session for the OCN Level 2 in Community Development with 17 participants are registered to attend the first course in September 2025.

Four Local Community Empowerment Plans (LCEPs) are due to commence between October and December 2025.

The Advisory Forum, to oversee the project will consider the Terms of Reference and membership, particularly elected member involvement. Members are advised that the TOR aims to include one elected member for each of Belfast's DEAs. Further information and an invitation to participate on the Forum will be circulated to via the SCP in October 2025.

#### **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 Board and the Local Working Group meetings are ongoing. The first meeting of the City-Wide Shared Learning Group took place on 8 September 2025.

Delivery of activity for the first cohort of participants is due to be commence in October 2025.

Members are requested to note that two change requests to include delivery by facilitators and to amend membership of the Programme Oversight Group are currently being considered by PEACEPLUS officers and the Programme Board, with a further update to be provided to the Partnership in November 2025.

An outstanding contract initiation action is being finalised which will enable approval of the Phase 1 payment.

A project launch event is scheduled for Tuesday 14 October 2025 at 10.00 am in Belfast City Hall, an invitation has been issued to the Lord Mayors office and the Shared City Partnership Vice Chair has been invited to speak at the launch.

### **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.

During July and August 2025, 157 participants were engaged in PEACEPLUS activity which included exploring culture and identity through:

- 3 x Digital Art Academies at Girdwood Community Hub
- 2 x Art academies at Avoniel Centre
- 1 x Community programme - Kids Together at Black Mountain Shared space

A review of monitoring data and analysis of data / performance indicators are progressing, which should enable completion of Phase 2a targets and release the payment.

### **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.

As reported in September 2025, 70 participants, across all partner organisations, are actively engaged in the project, with 59 contact hours delivered to date.

All participants have completed their young leadership award and took part in a cross border residential at Carlingford Activity Centre and planned their social action project. It is envisaged the social action project will be confirmed in September 2025

Alignment of the project's monitoring data is underway to confirm achievement of the Phase 2a targets and release payment.

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

The number of participants registered and actively engaging in the programme has increased slightly to 48, with all participants data recorded on the M&E system.

Participant groups from Street Beat North/West, YEHA North and YEHA West jointly completed a one night NI residential and

engaged in leadership workshops, cross community engagement and relationship building.

The YEHA North group is progressing to stage 2 activity which includes diversity/equality training and preparation for the international residential.

**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).**

The lead delivery partner has agreed Memorandum of Understanding and Service Level Agreements with sub partners, and clarifications from the contract initiation continued to be progressed.

Project activity is commencing, and GEMS NI aim to recruit 26 participants by end September 2025. Discussion with 3 organisations in Spain to explore the residential element of the programme are progressing

All clarifications from contract initiation have been completed with the formal contract issued week commencing 8 September 2025, receipt of the signed contract will release the initial payment.

**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.**

Pillar 1 coach training mop up sessions are to be completed by September 2025 to ensure the qualification achievement of both groups (Malone College & Bryson).

Two participants have progressed to Young Leaders Pillar 3 and are supporting delivery of Pillar 2 community activity as part of their leadership development. A second cross border event was completed with Bryson hosting a group from Kildare.

Pillar 2 community activity delivery continues with eight citywide groups facilitated by: John Paul youth club, Rossa GAC, Norman Whiteside Boy's Group, Belfast Knights, Ledley Hall, St Malachy's youth club.

Members are requested to note that monitoring verification confirmed 81 registrations, rather than 95 as previously reported, although the delivery partner has advised that additional registrations are to be input on to the Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) system. Alignment of monitoring date will enable targets to be confirmed for Phase 2a and payment progressed.

Recruitment for new cohorts for coach training (Pillar 1) and Community Activity (Pillar 2) is underway.

Members are requested to note upcoming project events include:

- **PLUS Sport Programme launch on 24 October 2025, 10:00am-12:00pm in Avoniel Leisure Centre.**
- **Best Practice Event – 26 September 2025, 12:00-1:30pm at Quaker House, Fredrick Street, Belfast. This event will highlight strong partnerships within third sector S4D, share success stories and recognise how a collective effort can drive our work forward.**

### **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.**

**Vocational training for 10 cohorts engaging 158 participants is progressing, as per Table 1 below. 21 participants have completed the minimum hours, however, at this stage only 5 participants are deemed achieved due to specified contact hours for each strand of activity. As such members are advised that flexibility across strands for contact hours for the initial cohorts will be required. Further detail is being confirmed, and report will be submitted for agreement by the Programme Board and Shared City Partnership.**

**Members should also note an ongoing risk of participants unable to complete the required hours due to appointments with the Home Office or relocations.**

**Table1: TPC5 Employability Language Up – Cohorts and Vocational Training**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Lead Partner</b>	<b>Strand 1: Vocational Training Focus</b>	<b>Strand 2: Community Integration Activities</b>
<b>Cohorts completed</b>			
<b>Cohort 4</b>	<b>Street Soccer NI</b>	<b>Construction</b>	<b>Mix of vocational talks about the construction industry with an onsite tour and completing of CSR cards at R&amp;A Consulting</b>

Cohort 7	Conway Education	Admin and Employability	Library and leisure centre visits, art therapy and guest speakers from Kings trust and People 1st.
<b>Cohorts and activity progressing</b>			
Cohort 1	Donegall Pass Comm Forum	Hospitality	Healthy Eating Course – Airfryer
Cohort 2	Donegall Pass Comm Forum	Focus on Customer Services	Titanic Museum
Cohort 3	Donegall Pass Comm Forum	Customer Service	Titanic Museum
Cohort 5	Mixed Recruitment	Retail	Working together to create job adverts, CV building and mock interview workshops
Cohort 6	Suitcase Project	Health and Social Care	Interview workshops
Cohort 8	Anaxa / mixed recruitment	Admin and Employability	Co-design to take place to determine this
Cohort 9	Anaxa / mixed recruitment	Admin and Employability	Co-design to take place to determine this
Cohort 10	Mixed Recruitment	Retail	Co-design to take place to determine this

### 3.10 **TPC 6 Arts Across the Genres – Delivery Partner Maywe** Project Partners: BEAM Creative Network

The Lead Delivery Partner, Maywe has advised that GIGA Training has withdrawn as a sub-project partner. As such, all five sub-projects will be redistributed across MayWe and BEAM Creative Network. Members should note that Maywe has confirmed there is no impact on contractual targets.

As previously reported, capacity building sessions for Project 1 (PolyPhonic) will begin late September and October 2025, with sessions scheduled in Girdwood (North), Accidental Theatre (South), Portview/ Banana Block (East), Brassneck and Black Mountain Shared Space (West). 80 people have expressed interest, and targeted recruitment through creative arts groups and schools. is continuing.



Project 5, Creative Xchange has completed recruitment and registration. It will also hold capacity building and skills sessions in September 2025 and will deliver photo shoots at other project activity.

Project 2 has groups confirmed for recruitment (MENCAP, NOW, Harberton, Black Box, Kids Together). Capacity building sessions are to commence from October 2025.

**3.11 TPC Thematic Steering Group**

Members are requested to note that the quarterly TPC Thematic Steering Group took place on 4 September 2025. Seven delivery partners were represented at the meeting.

Collaboration and links between Youth Empowerment Lot 2 and Lot 3 then further progression to Youth Empowerment Lot 4 were discussed.

Some delivery partners highlighted the issue of price increases since submission dates particularly in transport and accommodation costs, which may impact residential activity.

It was noted there are synergies across all the themes and an action identified from the meeting is to share information on Theme 1 - CCD and Theme 3 - CRT.

All thematic risks were reviewed as good or fair and no issues for escalation were identified.

The next meeting is taking place on Tuesday 4 November 2025 and NICVA has agreed to host the meeting.

**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** Members were advised that the Terms of Reference for the TCP1 Forum aimed to include two representatives from each of the Local Community Empowerment Plan (LCEP) areas to form part of the LCEP Forum. It was envisaged that elected member representation might be required on the LCEP Forum at a later stage.

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

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

### **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, agree flexibility on the split of the 24 mentors/mentees for CCD5 Lot 2 up to 75% for mentors, and recommend that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agree the recommendation above and 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

Recruitment is ongoing for the three Steering Groups, and two online information sessions have been provided for the 30 people expressing an interest in the project. The project continues to engage with key faith representatives across Belfast.

A Reference Team is being created which will provide expertise on the development of the youth education resources to be delivered to young people in schools and youth setting as part of Stream 1.

An interfaith walking tour of Belfast City Centre is planned to take place in November 2025 as one of the events to be delivered in Stream 3.

The first contract initiation payment for the project has been processed.

#### **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

Initial project mobilisation is ongoing. Preparation work for the delivery of participant activities is continuing in line with the implementation plan. Outline training plans for each strand are being finalised following the design workshops that took place in July and August 2025

Proposed locations for Strand 4 Welcome Hub are being finalised, and further details will be submitted to the Programme Board and Partnership for review and approval.

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

Due to the later start date of the project and a delay in appointment of the project team, members are requested to note that the Delivery Partner has advised that delivery is approximately 1 month behind schedule.

Two of the three project staff are now in post, with the remaining postholder in place by the end of September 2025. The Project Steering Group will be initiated by the end of September 2025 and a project launch event is being planned for October 2005.

The Project Manager is liaising closely with the Delivery Partner to bring project delivery back on track.

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

Clarifications identified in relation to GDPR checks by IGU, continue to be addressed with Procurement and the bidder. GDPR policies have been resubmitted, and the contract award process is now progressing.

**3.6 CCD5 From Multiculturalism to Interculturalism**

**Lot 1 – Language and Cultural Access**

Members are advised that the tender closed and following evaluation no contract can be progressed. Officers are considering the next steps and will seek guidance from SEUPB and Procurement. A further update will be provided to members in due course.

**3.7 Lot 2 – Cultural Spaces Lead Delivery Partner: MayWe**

MayWe is progressing with project set-up and finalising project planning documents.

As previously reported additional cultural spaces are to be agreed by Council. These cultural spaces will form the basis for participants for the Steering Group, the Steering Group Capacity

Building Programme and the Capacity Building for Grassroots groups linked to the cultural spaces.

To ensure that all requirements regarding geographical participation and thematic focus are met, feedback on the proposed spaces has been provided by the Project Manager and Programme Manager. A final list is to be submitted for agreement by the Programme Board and the Partnership.

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

As previously reported, there are issues regarding the mentoring aspects of the project. A proposal to vary the split between the 24 mentors/mentees and provide flexibility is under consideration. Given, the overall number of participants and contact hours achieved within this element will not be affected the Programme Board agreed to 75% flexibility for mentors (9) and delegated authority to the Project Manager and the Programme Manager, to further consider the request. As such the Programme Board recommends that members agree this proposal.

Membership of the steering groups and training plans for the Festivals Cultural Connector (mentoring) element and Flagship Event Capacity Building programmes are being finalised.

A Programme launch and associated comms for the Festivals Cultural Connector (mentoring) element is being planned for October 2025.

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

Delivery has continued over August 2025 with the Tours series: Victorian Maritime Tour, Docklands and Belfast Entries Tour, Heritage Walking Day Tour, Tea Walking Tour, City Centre Walking Tour, Victorian Pubs of Belfast and Docklands & Mary Ann McCracken Walking Tour.

<b>Participating groups to date include:</b>	
<b>Tours Series June</b>	<b>The Heart Project Women's Group, Maureen Sheehan Centre Ligoniel Community Group, Woodstock Road Men's Shed, LORAG.</b>
<b>Event Series June</b>	<b>Forthspring Inter Community Group, Conway Education Centre, Féile an Phobail, Conway Education Centre, Falls</b>

	Residents Association, Greater Shankill Partnership, Greater Village Regeneration Trust.
Event Series July	Windsor Women's Centre, NI Resources Network, Art Route Collective and Oxfam Volunteers, Ashton Women's Centre, Shankill Women's Centre, Bomoko NI.
Burial Traditions Programme June/ July	LORAG, Orangefield Church of Ireland, Giob Gheab Chlannlaithe, Great Victoria Street Baptist Church, Hannahstown community group, St George's Church of Ireland.

Further activity took place on 6 and 7 September 2025 in St Joseph's Church in Sailortown to coincide with the Belfast Maritime Festival. The events include Belfast's Maritime Past (talk), Maritime Print Making Workshop and Sailortown Music Sessions.

The second Steering Group meeting and the commencement of the OCN L2 in Tour Guiding through Belfast Met is also being progressed.

Members should note that the first Burial Traditions animation event at Friars Bush Graveyard due in late August was rescheduled to 20 September 2025 due to facilitator availability.

### **3.10 CCD Thematic Steering Group**

The quarterly CCD Thematic Steering Group took place on 9th September 2025. All 6 awarded contracts within this theme were represented at the meeting. Several opportunities for collaboration were identified at the meeting and an action was agreed for Corrymeela, Féile an Phobail and ArtsEkta to liaise with each other to ensure there is no duplication and to explore collaboration opportunities within the faith-based activities each of the delivery partners are delivering.

All thematic risks are assigned as good or fair and no issues for escalation were identified.

The next meeting is taking place on Tuesday 4th November 2025

### **4.0 Financial and Resource Implications**

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

#### **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 note the contents of the report and agree flexibility on the split of the 24 mentors/mentees.

#### **PEACEPLUS Processes Update**

The PEACEPLUS Programme Manager provided the Partnership with an update on the processes to aid the implementation of the PEACEPLUS Belfast Local Community Peace Action Plan.

She highlighted that a reimbursement of the €100,000 development costs had been received from the SEUPB. The payment was converted to £85,962.35 at the payment date's exchange rate of €1.1633.

The Partnership was reminded that the Action Plan budgets were submitted at a rate of €1.15 and that if that exchange rate had been used an amount of £86,956.52 would have been received instead. Consequently, the exchange rate cost to Council had been £994.17.

The Members noted that this variance could be offset by deferred income and were made aware that budgets might come under pressure due to exchange rate variances.

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

#### **Update from Shared City Partnership Members**

Ms. Roberts updated the Partnership on a recent stakeholder meeting she had attended on interface violence in East Belfast, highlighting the residents' frustrations at lack of resources arising from funding cuts.

Superintendent Hagan advised the Partnership that a substantial proportion of those issues were due to transient youth and were not motivated by sectarianism. He suggested that youth provision services along with intervention and education had been pivotal in tackling these issues and that successful interventions had included signposting and managing behaviours.

In response to a Member's question regarding CCTV monitoring, he described resource issues faced by the PSNI but provided an assurance to the Partnership that during any spike period the monitoring capacity was boosted.

Noted.

#### **Any Other Business**

The Good Relations Manager advised that, following input at the recent Partnership workshop, future Updates from Shared City Partnership Members would be moved to the start

of the agenda and that the notes of that workshop would be presented to the Partnership at its meeting in November.

**Date of Next Meeting**

The Partnership was reminded that the next meeting was scheduled to take place on Monday, 10th November.

Chairperson