

## **SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP**

**Monday 1st December, 2025**

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

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

External Members: Ms. L. Euler, BHSCT  
Mr. L. Gunn, NIHE;  
Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council;  
Rev. G. Kennedy, Faith Representative;  
Superintendent A. Hagan  
Ms. T. Mimna, Executive Office;  
Ms. A. Roberts, 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. E. Kennedy, Project Officer (Good Relations);  
Ms. V. Postle, Project Officer (Good Relations); and  
Mrs. S. Steele, Members' Services and Digital Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillor Smyth and Ms. B. Arthurs, Ms. C. Guinness, Mr. M. McBride, Dr. Wasif Naeem and Mr. G. Walker.

### **Change in Membership**

The Partnership was advised that Ms. N. Creagh had replaced Mr. P. Anderson as the Department for Communities representative on the Partnership. The Chairperson asked that the Partnership's thanks be recorded to Mr. Anderson for his valuable contribution during his time on the Partnership.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 10th November 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 21st November.

### **Declarations of Interest**

The Chairperson declared an interest in agenda Item 4, Community Recovery Update, in that an organisation with which he was associated, the West Belfast Partnership, was in receipt of funding. As the organisation was not being considered for funding, he was not required to leave the meeting.

The Chairperson also declared an interest, along with Councillor I. McLaughlin, Ms. Roberts and Ms. Irwin, under Item 6, Local Community Action Plan – Mobilisation Update, in that they were associated with organisations delivering projects under the terms of the PEACEPLUS Programme. As the report did not become subject to debate or discussion, the Members were not required to leave the meeting.

### **Presentation from Reconnected Belfast PEACEPLUS Project**

(Mr. D. Logan, Senior Programme Delivery Manager and Mrs. B Coyle attended in connection with this agenda item).

The Senior Programme Delivery presented the Partnership with an overview of the Reconnected Belfast Project.

He provided detail in respect of the submission of the PEACEPLUS bid and the funding that had been secured of 13.5m for capital works and the animation of the Waterworks and Alexandra Park. He also provided an overview of the numerous engagement sessions that had been held to date and advised that engagement was ongoing.

The officer advised the Partnership that the vision for Alexandra Park and Waterworks Park was to:

*'build on their unique natural and cultural significance to be cohesive places where biodiversity thrives, people from all communities are supported and proposer through leisure and recreational activities, and the parks become exemplar city green spaces for Belfast and Northern Ireland.'*

He took the Members through the guiding principles and drew their attention to the masterplan and concept designs along with the proposed programming once complete.

The officer concluded by advising that the planning process was ongoing. The Stage 4 Design Team had been appointed, and engagement was ongoing with the City and Neighbourhood Services Department, the Waterworks and Alexandra Park Stakeholder Group, Queens University Belfast Centre for Public Health and Planning and the Department of Justice (DoJ).

The Members discussed the challenges associated with the removal of the interface barrier and the role of the DoJ, along with the importance of community consultation, the need for agreement from the stakeholders and proper animation of the space. The officer advised that the Council was currently waiting to hear back from the DoJ regarding funding.

The Chairperson thanked the officer for attending the meeting and the Partnership noted the information which had been provided.

### **Members' Update**

Ms. White provided the Partnership with an overview on the work of the British Red Cross and the challenges faced by the organisation.

This included detail in respect of orientation/integration support, casework support, the distribution of funding, family reunion support, refugee resettlement, mental health and wellbeing support as well as the provision of weekly social integration activities in central

Belfast. She explained that the work also included Thematic work such as Policy Research Advocacy and the membership on various subgroups, including TEO RRI (Race Relations and Integration) – Racial Equality Subgroup and VCS Refugee Integration Subgroup.

She then provided an overview of some of the challenges faced, as follows:

- Change in Family Reunion Policy for sponsors with protection – pause on family reunion visa applications Appendix family reunion: caseworker guidance - GOV.UK Number of single asylum applicants with no pathway to reunite with families- causing anxiety and continued high number of singles not settled with families. Negative impact for integration- community cohesion;
- Move on period for those granted protection changed from 56 to 28 days- limited time to move on from asylum support- limited support from Home Office Asylum Move on Office- restricted to Belfast. Increase risk of homelessness/destitution given the reduced move on period; and
- NIHE Homelessness Policy change- Full Duty Applicant criteria appears to have changed recently although NIHE has not responded to enquires to confirm such. Housing Rights have approached NIHE and a response is pending. The sector has seen some refugees without access to Public Housing assistance. Potential increase in street homelessness as most newly granted refugees will not have deposit/guarantor to access private sector housing. Increase in pressure to access support services.

She concluded by advising that social integration activities had now moved to the city centre, these were held every Wednesday afternoon at the Food Stock Community Hub. She advised that 4 new volunteers with lived experience of forced migration/displacement would be joining the team soon and it was anticipated that these additional resources would help with the provision of the services.

The Chairperson thanked Ms. White for her update.

Discussion ensued regarding housing matters, specifically access to housing and community safety issues, during which it was agreed that it would be helpful if a representative from the NIHEs 'Housing for All Team' would attend a future meeting to discuss and update on these matters. It was also suggested that it would be useful to hear from a member of staff from their Good Relations Section and for an update to be provided at a future meeting on the internal review processes being undertaken by the NIHE in regard to legislation requirements.

Several Members highlighted the success of the specialist housing officers that had been appointed in the North and West of the City, particularly in dealing with community safety challenges, and endorsed this approach being rolled out in South and East Belfast.

Rev. Kennedy referred to the fact that the faith representative on the Partnership was a rotating position annually, he stated that in an attempt for the faith sector to be closer aligned on common themes throughout the city that representatives from the 4 main Churches had agreed to meet to try and encourage a joined-up approach to Good Relations issues. The group would be co-ordinated by the Rev Karen Campbell, the representatives were keen to try and identify common themes from the Churches and ways that they could work together to try and address issues, such as race relations in the city, he stated that he looked forward to

updating the Partnership. He also took to opportunity to remind the Members about the forthcoming 4Corners Festival which was scheduled for 30th January – 8th February 2026 and encouraged the Members to get involved as there would be a focus on race relations at some of the sessions, more information was available [here](#)

The Partnership noted the update and agreed to hear from representatives from the NIHE to provide updates at future meetings of the Partnership.

Noted.

### **Community Recovery Fund Update**

The Partnership considered the undernoted 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**

##### **2.1 Background**

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 – Safer Neighbourhood Officer Community**  
**Engagement Project**

This project is delivering strong progress in supporting communities affected by the 2024 public disorder by enhancing safety, reducing harm, and fostering social cohesion across Belfast. Through the deployment of Safer Neighbourhood Officers (SNOs), it addresses antisocial behaviour and hate crimes while promoting inclusion via community engagement, events, and leadership workshops. A particular focus is placed on ethnic minority, migrant, and refugee communities, with collaboration among local partners helping to build trust and resilience.

SNOs are now actively engaging with a range of ethnic minority organisations including Diverse Youth NI, City of Sanctuary, Belfast Islamic Centre, and EMSONI, and have participated in community events such as the Refugee Picnic. With recent changes to SNO work patterns, there is increased potential to connect with more groups and attend further events, strengthening relationships and expanding the project's reach. Together, these efforts are contributing to safer neighbourhoods and a more inclusive, cohesive Belfast.

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

The programme is designed to promote diversity awareness, challenge stereotypes and misinformation, and support integration within communities. It engages teachers, Boards of Governors, community youth leaders, and young people, equipping them with practical tools to foster inclusion and counter hate. Core elements include training programmes, interactive toolkits, workshops, and youth-led initiatives, with content focused on understanding prejudice, developing critical thinking, building cultural awareness, preventing hate crime, and strengthening relationships. Overall, the programme seeks to create cohesive, informed, and inclusive communities through education and engagement. Progress to date has been very positive. The toolkit is being developed by artists and co-designed with young people from schools and community groups including Blessed Trinity, St Dominics, Donegall Pass Youth Group, and Diverse Youth NI. Feedback from these sessions has been used to finalise the toolkit, ensuring it reflects the voices and experiences of those involved. Wheelworks are now preparing to engage with Schools of Sanctuary, where they will deliver a three-hour twilight workshop on using the toolkit—demonstrating excellent collaboration between two CRF-funded programmes and further strengthening the impact of this initiative.

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

The Community Development Department has been allocated funds to deliver local neighbourhood projects across both Council-run and independent community centres in Belfast. Progress to date has been encouraging. Of the 26 Council-run community centres, 16 have already advanced their projects, delivering a wide range of initiatives from crafting classes to cultural competency training. All six independent community centres have successfully concluded their programmes, and the first monitoring and evaluation forms received highlight very positive outcomes. Together, these efforts are strengthening inclusion, building community connections, and showcasing the value of collaborative neighbourhood development.

**2.5 CRF004**  
**Challenging the Narrative**

Edie Shillue Consulting was awarded the contract for *Challenging the Narrative*. The initiative will deliver eight workshops, with two held in each area of Belfast, aimed at training key groups on migration and integration. With strong migrant-led input, the programme focuses on reducing hate and misinformation while building understanding and cohesion across communities.

Progress to date has been very positive. Six sessions have already been completed, with a further three planned for early 2026. In addition, work is underway to develop a training booklet to complement the workshops, ensuring participants have practical resources to support ongoing learning and engagement. Together, these efforts highlight the programme's success in fostering inclusion and challenging harmful narratives.

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

The project aims to expand Schools of Sanctuary across South and North Belfast, particularly in areas impacted by racism. Its purpose is to promote social cohesion by making schools more welcoming for refugees and asylum seekers. School communities are supported in adopting inclusive practices and anti-racism education, while the initiative also strengthens partnerships with local stakeholders and provides leadership training. Family support services, including multilingual clinics, further aid integration and positive community relations.

The programme is progressing well, with 14 schools identified and completing their introductory sessions this month. Each of these schools will be buddied with schools that have already achieved School of Sanctuary status, ensuring peer learning and shared best practice. In addition, schools will benefit from the training

toolkit developed by Wheelworks, providing practical resources to embed inclusive approaches and enhance the impact of the initiative.

**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. This project is progressing well and meeting all targets to date.

**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, again the project is progressing well and meeting all targets to date.

**CRF008b - Focused Consortium Projects**

**3.0 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. This project is progressing well and has helped deescalate issues which have arisen within the community.

### **3.1 South Belfast Consortium – A Celebration of Cultural Diversity**

In November 2025, the South Belfast consortium was awarded to the Belfast Bands Forum, with the project now set to begin. The programme sets out a connected series of initiatives designed to strengthen community leadership, promote inclusion, and rebuild trust following the racist hate crime and public disorder that took place in Sandy Row and the Village during the summer of 2024.

- Central to the work is a Community Leadership and Conflict Management Training programme that will create a network of 24 accredited local leaders, drawn from bands, youth groups, and community networks, who will be trained in de-escalation, communication, and inclusion. These leaders will be equipped to mediate conflict, safeguard public spaces, and respond confidently to emerging tensions, ensuring resilience within local communities.
- School and Community Outreach and Tuition Projects will provide creative, educational, and intercultural learning opportunities in schools and youth clubs across South Belfast, including those serving families in Sandy Row and the Village. Through music-making, storytelling, and shared cultural education, children from diverse backgrounds including newcomer and minority ethnic pupils, will gain greater understanding of each other's traditions, building empathy, confidence, and respect from an early age.
- The programme will culminate in *Sounds of Tradition – A Celebration of Cultural Diversity*, a civic event showcasing local and Commonwealth cultures through music, dance, and food, reinforcing the message that Belfast's diversity is its strength.

Together, these initiatives form a comprehensive response to the 2024 unrest, safeguarding communities, preventing future disorder, and rebuilding social trust through education, dialogue, and shared cultural celebration. The combined programme aims to leave a lasting legacy of peacebuilding, integration, and shared pride in the Sandy Row and Village communities.



**3.2 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. The NFLP continues to make excellent progress. To date, they have engaged with over 50 families, receiving highly positive feedback on our support and services. In response to requests from families, they are now arranging homework assistance to help overcome language barriers and ensure children can thrive academically. They are currently in the process of distributing 50 air fryers as part of their welcoming packs, further enhancing the practical support we provide to new arrivals.

In addition, they have established a strong working relationship with MEARS Housing, who will be sharing data to help them identify and reach families most in need of assistance. This collaboration will enable them to extend their impact and ensure resources are directed where they are most required.

**3.3 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. The project is progressing well to date.

**3.4 CRF008  
Open Call**

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

**3.5 CRF009 – Hate Crime Hardship Programme  
Belfast City Council**

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.**

### **3.6 Financial and Resource Implications**

**The proposals in this report are 100% funded through Community Recovery Fund. CRF funded projects have been offered project extensions until 31st August 2026.**

### **3.7 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.**

### **4.0 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 – both have been provided and are satisfactory**
- **All other end of project of Belfast City Council evaluation and monitoring form**

Following a query from Ms. AM White regarding the distribution of welcome packs, it was agreed that officers would liaise with the Member directly to clarify that no overlap in the provision of support was occurring with other organisations in the sector.

The Good Relations Manager advised the Partnership that there was an underspend in the programme of approximately £30,000. He also highlighted that following the work on CRF004 there might be the need for resources and asked the Members to consider this when agreeing the reallocation of the monies.

The Partnership agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that:

- the underspend be assigned to the area-based consortia and wider university and lower Ormeau area, with officers progressing on this basis, subject to satisfactory review, evaluation and proposal;
- if required, be permitted to factor in funding from the underspends for resources to CRF004; and
- a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Partnership to provide more detail in respect of what data was being shared with Mears.

### **Asylum Dispersal Funding**

The Project Officer reminded the Members that, since 2023, the Executive Office had provided the Council with Asylum Dispersal Funding to support the delivery of services for people in the asylum process and to assist with their integration and inclusion.

Funding had been fully allocated for the current financial year, supporting nine projects through an open call and two larger-scale projects through a public tender process, however, it was anticipated that further funding would be made available by the Executive Office this year. Given the lead in time required to procure and commission projects, officers had assessed the needs across the city to ensure that, should additional funding be confirmed, projects could be progressed without delay. The Executive Office had advised Councils that future funding should prioritise advice and information hub-type activities for asylum seekers.

The Members were asked to recall from the presentations at November's meeting that two large-scale projects had been commissioned under the current year's asylum dispersal allocation. These included:

- a high-level advice project, delivering in four community organisation settings, across Belfast, providing mobile advice clinics and level 1 immigration advice and casework to people in the asylum process; and
- a training and capacity-building project, aimed at enhancing the expertise and confidence of organisations that had not traditionally worked with asylum seekers, whilst also supporting the development of minority-led organisations.

At that meeting, the Law Centre had highlighted the growing demand from community and voluntary organisations for continued support and training to build capacity in providing advice to asylum seekers and refugees. The International Organisation had also reported significant demand for specialist advice provision, noting the need for services that extended beyond basic signposting. In addition, engagement with partner organisations had indicated that these approaches were delivering a positive impact, and it was felt that the focus on capacity building and delivering advice in new settings across Belfast was creating a level of sustainability. It was therefore proposed that, should further funding become available, the Council would maintain this approach around delivering high quality advice and investing in the capacity of organisations, this would also align with the outworkings and discussion arising from the Good Relations Audit.

The Partnership recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agree:

- to commission a specialised advice service through a procurement process to deliver high-quality, targeted support for asylum seekers and refugees;
- to commission a Phase 2 of the Capacity-Building Programme through procurement, aimed at strengthening the skills and confidence of community, voluntary, and minority-led organisations; and
- to reserve a portion of funding for an open call, allowing organisations to propose innovative projects for consideration, thereby encouraging a responsiveness to emerging needs.

It was also recommended to note that, in terms of part 1 and 2 of the proposed approach, officers were proposing that programmes would be commissioned for 2 years, with the possibility of an extension of one further year; break clauses would be in place each year which would be based around a satisfactory review and the budget availability.

### **Local Community Action Plan Secretariat Update**

The Partnership considered the undernoted 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 content of the report.

#### **3.0 Main report**

##### **3.1 Mobilisation**

As previously reported, mobilisation of the Action Plan now focuses on the capital and animation elements of the Community Regeneration & Transformation theme, and the Multiculturalism to Interculturalism Lot 1 project.

##### **3.2 Contract Awards and Procurement**

The Board is advised that the CCD5 Lot 1 Multiculturalism to Interculturalism project was re-tendered at the end of October 2025. Members should note that the tender closing date has been extended to 8 December 2025 to maximise response.

##### **3.3 Financial Controller**

The formal Call Off Contract between Belfast City Council and KPMG has been submitted to SEUPB for approval.

##### **3.4 Action Plan Modification – CRT5 Sanctuary Theatre Animation**

Members are requested to note a minor typographical error has been rectified through a formal modification agreed by SEUPB. The project summary contact hours for participants engaged in the CRT5, Sanctuary Theatre animation project was amended from 4 to 3 hours, which aligns with the project narrative. The modification has no impact on the Letter of Offer (LoO).

### 3.5 JeMS Reporting and Claims

The Partnership is reminded that delays in formal contracting on SEUPB's JEMS system and the contracting of a Financial Controller, has led to a backlog of 7 outstanding claims and reports to be submitted on the system. The claims and reporting process comprises of 3 separate elements, and progress of each element is outlined below:

- 1. Partner Reports** include a small amount of narrative on progress of the Action Plan.  
Partner Reports 1 and 2 (1st January 2024 to 30th June 2024) are drafted on the system  
Partner Reports 3 and 4 (1st July 2024 to 30th December 2024) are to be drafted in coming weeks.
- 2. Financial Claims** align with the Partner reports and comprises of expenditure to be claimed and supporting evidence eg procurement documents.

Claims Expenditure 1 to 4 (1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024) are drafted on the system. Supporting evidence is to be uploaded over the coming weeks.

SEUPB has agreed that 4 partner reports and claims should be built on the system and submitted in phases once the Financial Controller is contracted. This will allow for claims to be checked, and any clarifications or lessons learned from previous claims be implemented before the next partner report is submitted.

On this basis, the submission deadlines for the first partner reports are fluid and will depend on when the previous report has been reviewed, and feedback received.

- 3. Project Content Reports** include substantial narrative on project progress, including reporting on Horizontal Principles, Target Groups, project activities and deliverables. A timeframe for submission has been agreed with the SEUPB, as follows:

Project Reports 1 to 3 (1st January 2024 to 30th September 2024) – submitted.

Project Reports 4 and 5 (1st October 2024 to 31st March 2025) – being drafted and due for submission by 14th November 2025.

Project Reports 6 and 7 (1st April to 30th September 2025) – due for submission by 12th December 2025.

Project Content Report 8, 1st October to 31st December 2025 is to be submitted by 28th January 2026. This will bring Council on track and in line with the Programme Manual which requests

Project Content Reports are submitted 28 days after the end of the reporting period.

### **3.6 Communications Process – Delivery partner approvals**

The Partnership is advised that a communications checklist is being introduced for delivery partners to complete, when submitting communications materials for approval. The aim of the checklist is to reduce the number of compliance errors before communications material is submitted to Council, and to increase the knowledge and understanding Delivery Partners on the communications regulations.

### **3.7 Flexibility and Tolerances**

As members are aware each project within the Action Plan has distinct KPI targets, deliverables, activities, cohorts and participant numbers which contribute cumulatively to the overall Programme deliverables.

As recently reported, there have been several project requests to realign targets and payment schedules, mainly due to participant retention issues.

Officers approached the SEUPB to discuss project tolerances within participant numbers and contact hours. SEUPB advised that attrition rates for participant contact hours were not permitted within the call document and as such projects must complete what was outlined in the application and Action Plan. It was noted there is a degree of flexibility for participant contact hours within Council's Action Plan, and SEUPB advised that Council should manage the tolerances in line with the application and internal procedures.

A detailed process on project tolerances is currently being developed, and will be submitted for approval by the Board in early 2026.

Members are requested to note that, as an interim measure, the Programme Board agreed to delegate authority to the Good Relations Manager and Programme Manager to consider requests to realign targets and payment schedules and consider contact hour tolerances within 10% of the required hours. It should be noted tolerances to contact hours will not fall below the minimum contact hours of each project.

### **3.8 Assurance Audit**

As previously reported, clarifications for the AGRS audit have been provided and the audit report including recommendations are due in November 2025. The audit report and recommendations will be reported through the PEACEPLUS Governance structure.

### **3.9 Staffing**

Members are advised of resource pressures within the PEACEPLUS team, with three vacancies and an officer on long term sickness absence.

The Project Officer post was re-advertised on 6th November 2025, with interviews scheduled for 4/5 December 2025. Recruitment for a new Project Support Officer is progressing via the reserve list.

Recruitment for a Monitoring and Data Analyst was unsuccessful and a timeline for reissue of the post is being finalised.

### **3.10 Financial and Resource Implications**

All expenditure associated with the PEACEPLUS Action Plan is reimbursed by SEUPB and is eligible from 1 January 2024. As previously reported referenced at 3.6 above, PEACEPLUS claimable expenditure to 30 September 2025 is approx. £1.44m.

### **3.11 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.

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

The Partnership considered the following report:

### **1.0 Purpose of Report**

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

### **2.0 Recommendations**

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

### **3.0 Main report**

#### **3.1 Project Delivery**

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

#### **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).

Delivery of 4 sessions of the OCN Level 2 in Community Development progressed during October 2025 with 17 participants from 15 organisations. The sessions focused on community learning for social change and understanding and engaging communities. the OCN course will run until the end of November 2025 and is the first of six courses that will be delivered over the lifetime of the programme.

Local Community Empowerment Plans (LCEPs) have commenced in South Belfast with Stage 1 baselining for LCEP 08 (Balmoral/Botanic, led by FSP) and in for LCEP 09 (Lisnasharragh/Ormiston/Titanic, led by EBCDA).

Discussions on the composition and membership of the City-wide Capacity Building Forum are ongoing, and the Partnership will be updated with any recommendations arising. Members should note that a phased approach to recruitment to the Forum, aligned with recruitment to the LCEPs may be taken forward.

The first Citywide non accredited training session will focus on Facilitation Skills and is planned for December 2025.

NICVA has reported circa 100 wider participants completing target hours. Technical issues relating to NICVA's CRM have been ongoing since July, and some evidence of M&E data has been provided but it has required further cleansing to enable upload onto the BCC system, in line with Programme monitoring requirements. This data upload is due imminently.

#### **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.

Members are advised that the two change control processes reported last month, (i) Additional Facilitators, and (ii) Membership of the Programme Oversight Group (POG), are



ongoing. The delivery partner noted that if approval was received in November 2025, then delivery would likely commence in January 2025.

Due to the delay in completion of Phase 1 and ongoing clarifications required in relation to an Additional Facilitators approval process, which are delaying the commencement of cohort delivery, a meeting was convened on 6 November 2025 to review project implementation with all key individuals involved with the project. A number of actions were agreed to help create a pathway to commencement of delivery.

A further meeting with the delivery partner on progress is being arranged.

### **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.

As reported in October 2025, 411 participants have completed the project. A key focus during this period has been the accuracy of all Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) and KPI data on the system. Giga has agreed to consider their approach to data gathering/entry to streamline this process moving forward. Giga have also agreed to ensure alignment of KPI's with project content delivery and the development of a young person friendly attitudinal survey is under considered. This is in response to some attitudinal survey questions responses not achieving the 70% baseline.

Giga and partner BEAM Creative have met to plan for project delivery in 2026.

The Phase 2a payment for achievement of deliverables has been processed. The project is progressing towards Phase 2b payment upon completion of all M&E alignment and analysis of KPI data.

#### **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 realigned Phase 1 target of 70 participants have now completed Cohort 1 and attitudinal surveys with an average positive response of 86%.

Social action activity was delivered w/c 27 October 2025. Key themes were poverty, homelessness & period poverty, approximately 400 items were distributed to: Ballynafeigh Community Association, Welcome Centre, Women's Aid and Community Associations including Archway Youth Club,

Shaftesbury Community Hub, Cregagh Youth Centre and Holy Family Youth Club.

As recommended by the Programme Board, officers within Belfast Health Development Unit and the Policing & Community Safety Partnership were informed of the project, and leaflets provided by BHDU were included in the period poverty packs.

ACN and partners have been actively recruiting during this period focussing on schools delivery in North Belfast, with Rosario, Ledley Hall and Lagmore Youth having a youth and community focus in South, East and West Belfast. 60 young people from the youth and community sector and 50 young people from schools have signed up to the project, the participant registrations are to be uploaded to Council's M&E system.

Members are requested to note that ACN has submitted a proposal relating to the increase in costs for cross border residential activity and have proposed the delivery of a NI residential or a cross-border day trip with participants. The proposal is currently under review by Officers in compliance with Programme regulations.

The Board is requested to note there has been a staff restructure within ACN, with new staff members appointed to the management of Lot 2 and a new staff member appointed to the M&E admin post.

The realigned targets for Phase 2a have been achieved and been approved.

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

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

Participant numbers are varying, as a further 3 participants have disengaged due to school workload. As such, 42 young people are now registered and actively participating, with 23 young people having completed the required minimum 80 meaningful contact hours.

All participants have been progressing through the Diversity & Good Relations OCN which is due to complete before Christmas.

The international residential to Poland took place 10 November – 13 November 2025, with 26 young people and 4 staff members. The participants have now completed stage one of the project and are progressing with Stage 2, which includes the delivery of OCN Level 2 Diversity and Good Relations.

Delivery of activity is progressing towards Phase 2a and quarter 2 payment on completion of all M&E alignment.

**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).**

Recruitment has been ongoing with 26 participants now signed up activity commenced on 6 November 2025. Participant registration data is to be uploaded to Council's M&E system.

TWN has now confirmed ILM modules for delivery to ensure the inclusion of the 25 year age group.

GEMS NI continue to develop links in Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Basque region of Spain to explore the development of the international residential element of the programme.

The project launch event is planned for 27 November 2025 at 6:00pm in Training for Women Network's premises.

The Phase 1 contract initiation payment is now complete.

**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.**

New participant groups for Pillar 1 coach education (16–18-year-olds) are progressing with 41 participants currently engaged from St Mary's Grammar School and Ulster University Belfast. Participant registration data is to be uploaded to Council's M&E system.

Participants have commenced the OCNNI qualification in Diversity at St Mary's, coaching and leadership training at UUB. First Aid training was delivered on 7 November 2025 for UUB participants.

A key focus for the coaches is to complete Pillar 1 pre baseline assessments for use in the Pillar 4 research element.

Pillar 2 sports sessions (11-16-year-olds) groups: 290 participants are currently engaged across 7 schools and 1 community project: Nettlefield PS (East), St Matthew's PS (East), Harding Memorial PS (East), St Anne's PS (East), Knockbreda School PS (East), Black Mountain School PS (West), St Joseph's School PS (West), Bridge n Divide Project (North)

Delivery of activities are centred on building confidence, leadership, and resilience through sport, delivered via both primary school and community-based sessions. The needs of the young people in these communities are high and opportunities to try new sports and activities is a key focus.

Members are requested to note that the payment schedule will likely require realignment to reflect the level of achievement for phase 2a. This is currently under review by Officers.

The Board is requested to note there has been a staff restructure within ACN, with new staff members appointed to the management of the Sport for Peace project and a new staff member has been appointed to the M&E admin post.

The project will progress towards Phase 2a and quarter 2 payment on completion of all M&E alignment.

**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.

264 participants have been registered to date, which is 117% of the overall target for the end of the current reporting period. A total of 31 people has completed the required 36 hours across both strands of the project to date, with digital badges issued. Engagement is city-wide, with particularly strong participation in South Belfast and feedback from participants has been positive as evidenced by the post project surveys.

Four new cohorts commenced delivery, with Strand 1 (Vocational Language Courses) focusing on Construction, Health and Social Care, and Customer Service. New partnerships were also developed with Springvale Learning and Fane Street, which will enhance the referral and delivery network. A total of 56 new participants were registered across the cohorts.

In total, 4 participants achieved the required 36 hours across both strands, which is below the target, and follow-up actions are being implemented to identify barriers to completion and improve engagement and retention.

Strand 2 activities have included group discussions, employability workshops, air fryer courses, a walk around Queens University and practical integration sessions designed to build confidence and communication.

As reported last month, a change request was due to be submitted to reflect the realignment of targets, to help rectify a current and projected shortfall in achieved participant targets. This change request has now been received and is under review. The Programme Board and Partnership will be notified of the outcome.

No new cohorts are due to commence in November 2025 as the delivery partner is putting all efforts into the current cohorts

completing the required 36 hours across both strands. Attendance challenges are being managed proactively through learner follow-up and scheduling of adjustments.

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

Project activity now progressing with 96 participants registered and logged to the project database, with 81 actively participating.

#### **Project 1: Polyphonic**

39 participants are now recruited of whom 27 are actively participating, and capacity building sessions have continued with 7 sessions delivered for area groups. Capacity building sessions have focused on Making Music and Art with Meaning, Using Creativity to Deal with Social Issues, Unlocking Confidence through Creativity and Bringing Your Ideas to Life.

Recruitment is continuing with a focus on West Belfast community groups following dropout of West area participants.

Additional sessions have been scheduled for January 2026 to provide additional hours if a further intake is needed post-Christmas.

The co-design and launch event took place on 6 November 2025 where participants will begin to co-design and event-plan for their joint artworks and showcase.

#### **Project 2: Creative Exchange**

38 participants are recruited, and actively participating and creative arts and wellbeing are progressing. North, East and West participants are all confirmed, and capacity building sessions have started in East and West, with North sessions commencing on 6 November 2025. Work is ongoing to confirm the South Group, and sessions will begin in Mid-November 2025 until January 2026. Capacity building sessions focus on Who We Are, Colour and Celebration, Nature and Calm, Symbols and Stories, Patterns and Connections and Expression and Celebration.

#### **Project 5: Media Production**

The project is fully recruited with 19 participants recruited of whom 16 are actively participating. Capacity Building sessions have been completed, and skills sessions continue in November 2025.

Participants continue to attend and capture imagery and video of Project 1 and 2 sessions for the documentary film and content for socials and newsletter.

**3.11 TPC Thematic Steering Group**

The quarterly TPC Thematic Steering Group took place on 5 November 2025 in NICVA's Offices. Seven delivery partners were represented at the meeting, with two apologies.

A Theme update was provided, it was highlighted 5 of the 9 projects have inputted data to the M&E system. Some partners outlined they were having difficulty using the system, however, were being supported by the PEACEPLUS team to address these, and other projects are in the recruitment phase.

Opportunities for collaboration were identified between delivery partners; it was agreed that project related activity will be circulated through the TSG distribution list as members agreed to share contact details.

An issues log developed following the last TSG meeting, was reviewed and members agreed with the actions assigned to each issue. It was agreed that two issues: community background target achievement and participant retention across strands were closed as they are included in the TSG risk register. Please see Appendix 1 for TSG Issues Log

All thematic risks are reading as fair or good and no issues were identified for escalation to the Programme Board.

The next meeting is taking place on 4 February 2025 and Ashton Community Trust has agreed to host the meeting.

**3.12 Financial and Resource Implications**

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

**3.13 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.

At the request of the Chairperson, it was agreed that an e-mail would be circulated to the Partnership to provide clarity on the cross-community background targets in respect of the delivery partners.

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

## **Celebrating Culture 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 note the contents of the report.

### **3.0 Main report**

#### **3.1 Project Delivery**

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

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

Corrymeela continue to develop and strengthen relationships with key faith representatives across Belfast attending meetings with key individuals/organisations and mosques and synagogues.

Recruitment is ongoing across the three key streams. Three online information sessions have been delivered with 60+ individuals expressing an interest. 36 participants are now registered from across the city, north, south, east and west, and from a variety of religions including Buddhist, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Baha’i, Quaker, Protestant and Sikh.

Four co-design sessions are planned for across the 3 streams.

Stream 1: The Reference Team is developed with members from a variety of religions, including Protestant & Interfaith, Muslim, Jewish, Roman Catholic, Hindu and Humanist, to provide expertise on the development of the youth education resources to be delivered to young people in schools and youth settings.

Stream 2: The three Capacity Building sessions are now complete  
Stream 3: The Interfaith Walking City Pilot Tour will take place on 9 November 2025.

Members are advised that delivery is behind schedule by approximately 4 months, due to the recruitment of a project

manager and the challenging external factors within this sector. Officers are working closely with the Delivery Partner, through the monthly contract meeting and supplementary meetings on the realignment of Phase 2a and Phase 2b.

**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**

As reported in October 2025, work is ongoing with council officers and the delivery partner to confirm Welcome Hub locations within 3 council community spaces. Following agreement in principle to Morton CC as the pilot location, it is anticipated that a full report with all 3 locations confirmed will be provided in December 2025.

Onboarding activities are ongoing for Cohort 1 (Leadership & Mentoring) and Cohort 2 (Facilitators). 28 Eol's were received for Cohort 1 and 20 Eol's for Cohort 2.

Participant activity for Cohort 1 commenced on 7 November 2025, and participant data is to be uploaded w.

Strand 3 recruitment is due to commenced w/c 16th November 2025 and welcome hub recruitment to commence by end of November 2025.

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

Members are requested to note that rebranding of the project, Out Connections Belfast, has been approved.

A strategic planning partner, Collaboration Ireland, has been appointed to progress the Strand 2 Strategic Planning element of the project. The launch conference, originally scheduled for 14 November 2025 has been postponed and will now take place in January 2026.

Other activity being progressed includes research scoping, development of comms strategy, and initial scoping for design phase of research strand.

Members are requested to note that two issues were highlighted that require urgent change requests, as follows:

**1- Strand 1 & 2 Steering Group & Strategic Planning Membership**

To widen the membership of the Project Steering Group and Strategic Planning activity, to increase diversity and representation of the sector by allowing service users to



participate in these activities. There is no impact to the target of 25 participants across the 2 strands.

2- **Realigned Implementation Plan/Gantt Chart and Payment Schedule.**

- To realign some activity targets for Strand 2 (strategic planning), Strand 5 (research) and Strand 7 (conferences) due to delays in staff recruitment. There is no impact to deliverables, or the project completion date.

The Partnership is requested to note that the Programme Board delegated authority for the Good Relations Manager and PEACEPLUS Programme Manager, to consider and approve the change request, subject to meeting compliance requirements, with further detail and the outcome reported to the Programme Board and the Shared City Partnership.

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

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

The Contract Initiation meeting has taken place, and Initiation actions and start-up detail are to be progressed during the first monthly management meeting, which is scheduled for 17 November 2025.

3.6 **CCD5 From Multiculturalism to Interculturalism**

**Lot 1 – Language and Cultural Access**

The tender was re-released on 24 October 2025 and was due close on 24 November 2025. The Partnership is requested to note that the closing date has been extended to 8 December 2025 to maximise response opportunities.

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

The project's initiation phase is progressing towards completion. Branding for the project has been approved as Come On Over - Bringing People and Places Together Through Culture.

Members are advised that some cultural spaces have withdrawn, and participation of new venues is now confirmed (in bold) as below.

Originally in bid:	Now confirmed:
The MAC	The MAC
Banana Block	Banana Block
Belfast Intercultural Romanian Community	Belfast Intercultural Romanian Community
An Droichead	An Droichead

Lyric	Eastside Visitor Centre
ASCONI	St Comgall's
	Discover Ulster-Scots Centre
	An Chultúrlann

Officers have considered the cultural spaces and can advise that the venues meet the tender requirements and criteria for participation.

A further 4 venues are to be recruited to reach 12 cultural spaces' target however the activity can commence with a minimum of 6, as specified in the tender. Staff/volunteers from each of these have been confirmed as recruited onto the project steering group and these cultural spaces will also form the basis for the steering group capacity building programme and capacity building for grassroots groups linked to the cultural spaces. The first steering group meeting is scheduled for 20 November 2025.

Project planning documents are being finalised as part of the Phase 1 milestones.

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

The Councils' M&E data shows 11 participants recruited of whom 4 actively participating.

The Mentoring Programme commenced on 22 October 2025 with an induction event. The first capacity building session for mentors from the festivals sector took place on 6 November 2025 and focussed on Challenges and Opportunities of social media, Digital Marketing Strategy and Cyber Security. The next session will focus on leadership. A next Flagship Steering Group meeting is planned for 25 November 2025.

The delivery partner has advised that needs analysis for the mentor/ mentee element highlighted that OCN accreditation is not required for some participants. Initial discussions indicate that participants achieving OCN accreditation will reduce from 84 to 66 across the Festivals and Flagship Events project. Further information is being sought from the delivery partner.

Members are requested to note that the Programme Board agreed to delegate authority to the Good Relations Manager and Peace Programmes Manager to consider and agree the request with a further report and outcome to the Programme Board and the Shared City Partnership.

The Board is advised that the Flagship Steering Group has identified the 6 events for inclusion in the Flagship Event Small co-designed animation activity, which are currently being considered by Officers.

A press launch and media release for the Mentoring Programme, Flagship strand, and Capacity Building Programme is being planned for late November 2025.

The project implementation plan/ payment schedule is being finalised which will complete Phase 1 Contract Initiation and Planning documentation.

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

Delivery of the OCN Level 2 Tour Guiding classroom-based lessons continues in Belfast Met. For the Civic Voices Theatre Programme, the first workshop programme (North Belfast cohort) has been completed, and its performance took place 30th October at Duncairn Arts Centre. As part of the Burial Traditions Programme, workshops and animation events were delivered at Shankill Graveyard and Giant's Ring.

Planning and concept development for the Faith-based Trail Programme also took place with activity due to commence in November 2025. Planning has commenced for Phase 2 concept plans for Events, Tours & Burial Traditions Programme.

**3.10 CCD Thematic Steering Group**

The quarterly CCD Thematic Steering Group took place on 4th November 2025 in GEMS NI Offices.

All seven delivery partners within this theme were represented. Opportunities for collaboration were identified and a process is being developed for communicating project related activity, such as launch events, conferences, and opportunities for participants progression from one project to another, throughout the groups within the thematic area.

It was also identified that each organisation has services, over and above PEACEPLUS activity, that other groups could potentially use within their projects, such as provision of tours, museums, facilitation. A directory will be developed outlining services and products available to procure from each organisation.

All thematic risks are reading as fair or good and two issues were raised for escalation as follows:

**Issue 1: M&A supporting evidence requirements.**

Clarification is requested on what supporting evidence should be required for M&A quarterly payment approval. A delivery partner raised concerns that Phased Payment evidence was being aligned to these payments and was holding up payments relied on for salaries.

The Programme Manager is liaising with the Project Managers to ensure consistency and clarity on requirements, and this can be communicated to delivery partners.

**Issue 2: Community background terminology**

Concerns that 'catholic, protestant, other' does not truly reflect the nature of community background of many individuals within communities.

Clarification was provided at the meeting that terminology was based on the 2021 Census and SEUPB terminology and are required by the funder, as part of the Letter of Offer. It is proposed that guidance is issued to delivery partners to provide clarity for participants on the terminology, with a recommendation that completion of the questions is facilitated to address concerns and ensure the maximum completion rate.

Please see Appendix 1 for CCD TSG Issues Log.

The next meeting is taking place on Tuesday 4th February 2025 and MayWe have agreed to host the meeting in 2 Royal Avenue.

**3.11 Financial and Resource Implications**

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

**3.12 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.

**Community Regeneration and Transformation 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 an update on delivery of the Community Regeneration and Transformation Theme of the PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan (LCAP).

## **2.0 Recommendations**

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

## **3.0 Main report**

### **3.1 Capital Update – Design**

As previously reported, design teams have been appointed for all 5 CRT projects and meetings with Design teams and each project Steering Groups and stakeholders have now taken place.

### **3.2 Design teams have provided delivery programmes and timelines for each project outlining key steps, such as. planning, tender preparation, contractor procurement, construction. Property & Projects are reviewing the timelines to provide as realistic timeframes as possible. This will enable the finalising of Animation tender documentation aligned with best estimates of capital timelines.**

Members are advised that processes are being developed to manage Compensation Events (CEs). SEUPB has advised that in the interim, any CE's are to be submitted to the JS Case Officer for approval.

A request for additional works in the form of surveys which sit outside of PEACEPLUS scope has been raised through the Council's Finance Working Group/Oversight to ensure there is a financial allocation in place for these works, possible CEs, and/or ineligible spend. This arrange is similar to those agreed for PEACE IV projects including Forth Meadow Community Greenway, Shankill Women's Centre and Black Mountain Shared Space.

### **3.3 Procurement Update - Animation**

Project Managers are progressing tender specification and ITT documentation for each procurement.

Property & Projects and the respective Design Teams have provided an update on expected timeframes for delivery, so this will enable the detail in the animation programme to be finalised and procurement to progress. The Board should note that there may be some slippage from the timelines provided in October's report due to these refreshed best estimates for the capital timelines.

### **3.4 Governance update**

The first meeting of the Capital Project Board took place on 30 October 2025, key points for discussion included governance, terms of reference and membership.

Members are requested to note the key actions that are being progressed, as follows:

- correspondence should be issued to SEUPB (from Director of Neighbourhood Services) regarding representation of SEUPB and CPD on the Capital Project Board.
- the governance model should be reviewed and representation to include relevant CNS officers, and that the approval process is clearly outlined.
- Lines to take should be developed for each project.
- Site visit for the Board should be arranged.

External Project Steering Groups for each project have been established and continue to meet regularly with PMU and PEACEPLUS Officers in attendance.

#### **Capital and Animation updates**

### **3.5 CRT1: LGBTQIA+ Hub**

As previously reported the Mechanical & Engineering Assessments are underway.

Members should note the interdependency of the 2RA ground floor is a key factor in progressing the project, and to date there is no confirmation on plans for the 2RA ground floor. The next steering group meeting is scheduled for 13th November 2025.

Discussions are ongoing regarding legal agreements to ensure delivery of the animation activity through enhanced service provision.

### **3.6 CRT2: Annadale:**

An internal meeting of the Annadale Steering Group took place on 15 October 2025 to discuss project timelines and introduce the Design Team. Discussions included the funding required for the 3G pitch (which is not within the PEACEPLUS funding allocation). Members are requested to note that the pitch will be included in the design masterplan for readiness should funding becoming available.

It was agreed that the scope of the PEACEPLUS project and planning approach was clearly outlined at the Stakeholder Meeting on 17 November 2025. It was also outlined that the site

will be a Council asset subject to booking in line with Council policy was highlighted.

Procurement for preliminary activity (event management training) will be progressed over the coming months for a supplier to be in place to begin delivery in February 2026.

The design and construction timeframes will inform the timeline and delivery of the animation programme and enable procurement to progress.

The next Steering Group meeting is scheduled for 10 December 2025.

**3.7 CRT3: Distillery Street:**

Discussions continue regarding maintenance responsibilities relating to land ownership on the development site.

The issue of the animation tender, due 31 October 2025, has been delayed ensuring alignment with the design team and construction timelines, which are critical. The Board should note that procurement for animation will be progressed w/c 5 January 2026 with delivery commencing in May 2026.

**3.8 CRT4: Access to the Hills:**

Discussions and scoping of the routes are ongoing and the possibility of a phased approach is being considered, similar to Forth Meadow Community Greenway.

It is anticipated that procurement for animation activity will be progressed over the coming months. As noted above, updated timeframes for design and construction will inform the procurement approach for the animation programme. The next steering group meeting is scheduled for 26 November 2025.

**3.9 CRT5: Sanctuary Theatre**

As previously reported, no planning is required for the Sanctuary Theatre capital works.

SEUPB have approved an amendment to correct a typographical error within the minimum contact hours (3 hours) for CRT5 Sanctuary Theatre animation activity.

The updated design and construction timeframes will enable procurement for the animation activity to be finalised and progress by end of November 2025.

### **3.10 Forth Meadow Community Greenway Signage Update**

Members are reminded that installation of signage along Forth Meadow Community Greenway is progressing.

Beacons will be installed January/February 2026 across the Greenway. Interpretative and wayfinding signage is currently out to tender, and it is envisaged that a new signage contractor will be appointed by December 2025.

Members are requested to note that wording for the final panel to be installed outside the new Transport Hub, Grand Central Station, is outlined in Appendix I. The panel wording outlines key locations along the Greenway and will include a map of the Greenway route. The wording has been agreed by Corporate Communications and SEUPB.

Members should also note minor modifications to the titles of two previous agreed narratives as follows:

- 1 - 'Gunning for Victory' to 'Sporting Heroes Victory'
- 2 - 'Bullets to Church Bulletins' to 'Ballygomartin Bulletins'

The content of the narrative remains as agreed, and the title changes better reflect the content and locations.

### **3.11 Financial and Resource Implications**

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

### **3.12 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.

### **Any Other Business**

The Good Relations Manager advised the Partnership that the new Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise Panel had met, and it had agreed to allocate two representatives to the Shared City Partnership, as part of its Community Planning role. The officer reported that Ms. Irene Sherry representing the Ashton Community Trust and JP Sukumaran representing Karma Kalakendram (city-wide) would be invited to all future meetings, if the Partnership agreed the appointments.

The Good Relations Manager advised that, as reported last month, the Social Change Initiative (SCI) was undertaking a pilot programme focusing on building the capacity and



competence of women in the Unionist Community and the organisation had expressed an interest in working with the Council to progress the initiative.

The officer advised that a proposal, valued at just over £7000, had now been received from the SCI which was focused on supporting community activists working in South Belfast. He detailed SCI had been supporting work with community activists working in South Belfast (Donegall Road/Sandy Row/Donegall Pass/Annadale areas) through a partnership with the Forward South Community Partnership. The work was focused on current challenges and opportunities around community cohesion, working through women activists and local stakeholders.

The Good Relations Manager advised that the budget for this was available within the current Good Relations Action Plan.

The proposal was to hold a residential for some 15 women community activists in February 2026 to focus on the following issues:

- to support and develop the needs of women community activists from these areas;
- to identify priority issues that are of concern at local community level both in relation to community needs and future community cohesion; and
- Agree action points that will offer a programme of support and development for local activists to take account of the current needs and changing demographics of the local areas.

The Partnership agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that:

- Ms. I. Sherry and Mr. JP Sukumaran be appointed as external Members to the Shared City Partnership; and
- funding of £7000.00 be granted to the Social Change Initiative to run a residential for women, which would be funded from the current Good Relations Action Plan budget.

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

The Partnership was reminded that the next meeting was scheduled to take place on Monday, 12th January, 2026.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the next meeting of the Partnership would be held at Girdwood and that this would be an in-person meeting only, with lunch provided. The meeting of the Shared City Partnership would take place at 1.30 p.m. and this would be immediately followed by a workshop for Members of the Partnership which would run until 4.30 p.m. to enable the Members to consider the new Good Relations Strategy, Audit and Action Plan.

Chairperson