

SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

Monday 12th January, 2026

MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

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

External Members: Ms. L. Euler, BHSCT; Mr. J. Donnelly, Community and Voluntary Sector; Mr. M. McBride, Education Authority; Mr. L. Gunn, NIHE; Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council; Ms. T. Mimna, Executive Office; 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. E. Kennedy, Project Officer (Good Relations); Ms. N. Lynch (Good Relations); Ms. L. Holmes, Community Engagement Officer; Mr. P. Osbourne (Rubicon Consulting); and Mr. A. McMullan, Members' Services and Digital Support Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman Copeland, Councillor Smyth and Independent Members Ms. B. Arthurs. Rev. G. Kennedy and Mr. W. Naeem.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 1st December 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 19th December.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Duffy, Mr. J. Donnelly and Ms. A. Roberts declared an interest under item 4, Thriving and Peaceful Communities Thematic Update and item 4a, Celebrating Cultures and Diversity Thematic Update in that they were associated with those organisations delivering projects under the PEACEPLUS Programme.

It was noted that, as those items did not become subject to debate or discussion, the Members were not required to leave from the meeting whilst the matters were under consideration.

Good Relations Action Plan Quarter 3 Update

The Acting Senior Good Relations Officer, Mr. Robinson, provided the Partnership with an update on the delivery of the Council's Good Relations Action Plan during Quarter 3, which covered the period October to December 2025.

He reminded Members that the total value of the Action Plan, as agreed by the Partnership in December, 2024 was £600,000, and the total available for programmes was £448,862.20. This was 75% funded by The Executive Office. Of this amount, £271,990.67 was allocated to a range of projects in Quarter 1. A further £88,716.67 was allocated in Quarter 2 and £65,350.66 during Quarter 3.

A summary progress update on activity and funding allocations is below:

Code	Key Priority	Project Summary	Budget	Progress Quarter 3	Q3 allocation
BCC1	All 4 themes – projects will be aligned to relevant theme	Good Relations Small Grants Prog Criteria focusing on the 4 T:BUC themes and providing opportunities for organisations across Belfast to engage in activities which promote Good Relations.	£160,000	48 projects awarded letters of offer in Q1 continuing to be delivered.	£0
BCC2	Cultural expression	St Patrick's Day Civic Events programme to embed Good Relations Outcomes into events marking the celebration of Saint Patrick's Day.	£20,000	Programme agreed to support an inclusive carnival parade in March 2026	£20,000
BCC3	Cultural expression	Positive Cultural Expression Programme – to facilitate the positive expression of cultural heritage through the provision of bonfire beacons on the 11 July.	£40,000	All activity delivered in Q2.	£0
BCC4	Shared Community	Civic Engagement and Learning Programme To develop and deliver a range of programmes of events and training on good relations/diversity issues.	£20,000	Good Relations Strategy Consultation SCP review event December Migrant Forum meeting Belfast Islamic Centre training prog Regional Shared Learning event	£321.33 £766.33 £500.00 £400.00 £213.00 Total: £2,200.66

BCC5	Shared Community	Minority Ethnic Equality and Inclusion Programme To facilitate partnership working on the inclusion and participation of new communities. This programme will build on this engagement and continue to support initiatives that seek to support the integration and inclusion of all Communities, through good relations related projects as well as supporting advice giving organisations.	£70,000	Somali Association project support	£300
BCC6	Safe Community	Interface Engagement Programme Work with a range of internal and external stakeholders to identify strategic projects that will: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. develop and deliver a city-wide initiative on anti-sectarianism and anti-racism to include other agencies and government 2. support progress towards the softening, transformation and/or removal of interface barriers. 	£70,000	EBCDA Consultation programme with Inner East Forum. 16 Christmas Interface events prog: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lower Oldpark Community Association - Greater Village Regeneration Trust - Forthspring Intercommunity Group - Duncairn Community Partnership - North Belfast Interface Network - TAHMI/Our Club, Our Community - Glenbank Community Association - Suffolk Events Circle - Shankill Women's Centre - Short Strand Community Forum - Southcity Resource and Development Centre - Suffolk Children's Project 	£3,000 £22,350

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upper Springfield Development Trust - Suffolk Residents Association 	
					Total: £25,350
BCC7	Children & Young people	<p>Shared Education Schools Programme</p> <p>This initiative will be delivered in partnership with Education Authority and will focus on developing the Pupil Voice in Shared Education Partnerships.</p> <p>4 Post-Primary Shared Education Partnerships (220 pupils) will be recruited onto the programme.</p> <p>The purpose of the programme is to engage pupils from different communities in a range of Pupil Voice Programmes that seek to explore sensitive and controversial issues through a variety of engagement sessions.</p>	£20,000	<p>2 projects are being delivered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Good Relations Week: Shared Education Day in the Crown Plaza Hotel on Thursday 16th October. 2. Pupil Voice Event: This will be delivered in February/ March 2026. Politics will deliver a programme of learning pupils and staff from post-primary settings in conversations relating to sensitive and controversial issues such as racism, hate crime, sectarianism, etc. 	<p>£0</p> <p>Total: £0</p>
BCC 8	All 4 themes – projects will be aligned to relevant theme	<p>Strategic Connections and Support Programme</p> <p>The aim of the Programme is to target resources through a Strategic Connections and Support Programme distributed on a themed basis for localised programmes, events and activities – across the City.</p>	£48,862.20	<p>10 year Girdwood Review</p> <p>Race Relations training and engagement by Tel Mama to be delivered in 2026.</p>	<p>£7,500</p> <p>£10,000</p> <p>Total: £17,500</p>
				Quarter 1 allocation	£271,990.67
				Quarter 2 allocation	£88,716.67
				Quarter 3 allocation	£65,350.66
				Quarter 4 allocation	
			£448,862.20	Total allocation	£426,058.00

The Acting Senior Good Relations Officer reported that an additional £47,000 was received from The Executive Office to fund projects which specifically addressed issues around racial tensions, and a further £12,700 was awarded in December, 2025 which would be allocated to the Beacons Programme. Those additional awards were 100% funded by The Executive Office and were reported on separately. This brought the total amount of available support for programmes to £508,562.20.

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

Local Community Action Plan Secretariat Update

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

She highlighted that a recent request from the Council to the Special European Union Programmes Body (SEUPB) for an advance of 20% was reduced to approximately 13%. This was based on expenditure to date, claims timeline and the level of Council reserves. She noted that the first advance payment of €1.5m had been received by the Council with the remaining €750k expected to be transferred once the first four claims had been submitted.

As delivery of the Local Community Action Plan had progressed, the need for flexibility and tolerances in relation to project targets and deliverables was identified, with several projects requesting to realign targets and payment schedules largely due to participant retention issues.

Members noted the detailed process for project flexibility and tolerances that had been developed with variances approved by the Project Manager, Programme Manager, Good Relations Manager or the PEACEPLUS Programme Board and those decisions reported back to the Shared City Partnership.

The newly developed tolerance and flexibility process would focus on:

- The realignment of participant targets within specific phases as outlined in the payments schedule;
- Participants per activity/cohort; and
- Community background percentage split targets.

The Peace Programmes Manager reported that following a number of resignations the Council's PEACEPLUS Team staffing structure was currently under review and that recruitment exercises would be undertaken once the review had been completed.

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

Thriving and Peaceful Communities Thematic Update

The Partnership considered the following report:

1.0 Purpose of Report

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

2.0 Recommendations

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

3.0 Main report

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).

Project delivery is continuing with the OCN Level 2 in Community Development course completed in November 2025 with 17 learners completing the course. The Course #2intake will begin in January 2026, running until end of April 2026 with 24 learners are registered. The first Citywide non accredited training session focussing on Facilitation Skills took place 11 December 2025 with 19 registered to attend.

Members are requested to note that the Programme Board agreed to a phased approach to the development of the Community Capacity Building Forum, aligned with the phased recruitment and development of the Local Community Empowerment Programmes (LCEPs), and to reduce the frequency of Forum meetings from bi-monthly to quarterly, on the basis there is no impact to contact hours.

Local Community Empowerment Plans (LCEPs) Stage 1: Baseline continues for LCEP 08 (Balmoral/Botanic, led by FSP) LCEP 09 (Lisnasharragh/Ormiston/Titanic, led by

EBCDA), LCEP 02 (Blackmountain, led by FCC), LCEP 04 (Court, led by FCC) and LCEP 01 (Court, led by GSP).

Technical issues aligning TPC1 M&E data to BCC's monitoring requirements are progressing.

3.3

TPC 2 Health & Wellbeing - Lead Delivery Partner Ashton
Project Partners: Shankill Partnership Board, East Belfast Community Development Agency, West Belfast Partnership Board, & North Belfast Community Partnership.

The Partnership is advised that change control process for Additional Facilitators as previously reported will no longer be progressing, as the Delivery Partner confirmed that the Healthy Living Centres, will be putting measures in place to increase their capacity to deliver the required project targets. On this basis delivery of activity can now commence, and a realigned implementation plan has been received to reflect an updated delivery timeframe.

The second change request to amend the membership target of the Programme Oversight Group (POG), and realign the targets into local activity targets, is ongoing and an update will be provided in due course.

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.

Delivery of project activity for 2025 has been completed with 411 participants completing the project.

Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) has been a key focus during this period to ensure the alignment of all data is accurate and fulfils the requirements to progress Phase 2b payment.

Planning for mobilising 2026 activity is progressing.

3.5

Lot 2: 12–15 year olds (Intermediate) - Lead Delivery Partner Active Communities Network (ACN)
Project Partners: Ledley Hall Boys & Girls Club, Lagmore and Rosario Youth.

Delivery of activity for Cohort 2 of 100 participants involving community groups and schools has been progressing. 40 participants in North; 15 in South; 25 in East and 20 in West Belfast. Community groups have completed single identity, and 3 twinning sessions and the schools' group has completed the personal identity session.

The Partnership should note that the proposal submitted by ACN to replace the cross border residential activity with a

day trip has been reverted to the Delivery Partner to outline how they will meet the tender specification requirement, their submission and the project requirement for cross border activity to be delivered as outlined in the action plan.

Members should also note that ACN has requested to realign their payment schedule to include completers only and remove registered and actively participating within the phase payments. The proposed realignment has been submitted with an updated implementation plan, and officers are currently reviewing the detail.

M&E training was provided by the PEACEPLUS team on 10 December 2025 with 2 ACN staff members attending, for both projects being delivered by ACN.

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

Final participant numbers for the first cohort have been confirmed as 41 young people registered and actively participating, from a target of 48 people

The Partnership is requested to note that the participant shortfall of 7 participants will be realigned to the next phase, increasing the target to be achieved to 79.

25 young people and 4 staff members travelled to Poland for the international residential. Feedback from the international residential has been positive, and the young people have become very supportive of each other, which would not have happened without PEACEPLUS.

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 project launch event took place on 27 November 2025 attended by the Vice Chair of the Partnership. 26 participants are actively engaging in the project and have commenced ILM leadership training.

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 education (16–18-year-olds) - 41 participants currently engaged from St Mary's Grammar School and Ulster University Belfast with 11 sessions completed to

date. Participants continue to complete the OCN qualification in Diversity at St Mary's and have progress to their First Aid training, which should be completed in December 2025. UUB participants continue to work towards their coaching and leadership training.

Pillar 2 sports sessions (11-16-year-olds) groups: 295 participants are currently engaged across 7 schools and 1 community project. 55 sessions have been completed across the following schools: 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 (North).

Delivery of activities is centred on building confidence, leadership, and resilience through sport, delivered via both primary school and community-based sessions. Activities include: multisport e.g. basketball, rugby, football, netball, team games, groupwork, health and wellbeing exercises.

Pillar 3 (16-18 year olds) 2 participants are currently actively participating. NCB qualifications are due to be delivered January/February 2026. Participants are receiving mentoring, volunteering within local sports settings, and continuing to develop as emerging coaches.

Pillar 4 Research activity is ongoing, focusing on evaluating the impact and effectiveness of the programme across the 3 main engagement pillars and the consortium model.

Members are requested to note that ACN have requested to realign their payment schedule to include completers only and remove registered and actively participating within the phase payments. The proposed realignment has been submitted with an updated implementation plan, which is currently under review.

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.

Programme delivery has progressed steadily, with 14 active cohorts continuing to move through their sessions despite attendance challenges across several groups.

The Delivery Partner (DP) has actively managed these issues through follow-up and flexible scheduling, helping to

maintain momentum. Strong engagement remains evident in some cohorts, particularly those nearing completion.

The focus for the DP is supporting reengagement, completing outstanding Strand 2 activities, and ensuring each cohort remains on track against projected timelines and completing the required 36 hours across both strands. No new cohorts are due to commence until January 2026.

Members should note that a change request to realign targets, to help rectify a current and projected shortfall in achieved participant targets has now been approved. 271 participants have registered to date (exceeding the target of 225), and 33 participants have completed to date (exceeding the revised target of 27).

Engagement is city-wide, with particularly strong participation in South Belfast, and post attitudinal survey responses range from 72% - 100%, which exceeds the 70% threshold.

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

Project 1: Polyphonic

To date 39 participants are recruited with 27 actively participating. Capacity building sessions are continuing, with 8 sessions delivered for area groups in each of North, South, East.

Project 2: Creative Exchange

To date, 38 participants are recruited and actively participating in capacity building sessions. Work is ongoing to confirm the South Group and capacity building sessions have been postponed.

Project 5: Media Production

The project is fully recruited with 19 participants recruited of whom 16 are continuing to actively participate in skills sessions. Participants attended the Project 1 launch event on 6 November 2025 to capture footage for the documentary film and content for socials and newsletter.

Planning for the volunteer group is progressing with 4 participants from each of Project 1 and 2 to collaborate/assist in operations for festivals/ events over the period of their engagement.

Delays in achieving deliverables have impacted the issue of the payments. Members are requested to note that a realigned implementation plan to bring the project on track with the next phase targets and payment by March 2026 is

progressing. Officers have also been liaising with MayWe to resolve issue with M&E data.

Planning for the mentoring element is progressing with an open day event to take place in January 2026 with representatives from the creative arts and media sector to discuss career pathways with participants.

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 also note the contents of the report.

Celebrating Cultures and Diversity Thematic Update

The Partnership considered the following report:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide the Shared City Partnership with a progress update on projects within the Celebrating Cultures and Diversity (CCD) Theme of the PEACEPLUS Belfast Local Community Action Plan (LCAP).

2.0 Recommendations

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

Participants (49) are now registered across the steering groups for Stream 1, 2 and 3, although the project remains approximately 4 months behind schedule. Officers are continuing to work with the Delivery Partner to bring the project back on track.

Stream 1: Outreach Education element 1x co-design session completed during November 2025. Issues identified affecting the development of the youth awareness resources relate to buy-in from schools and youth organisations.

Stream 2: Welcoming Programme, a consultation on the draft online survey was complete on 3 December 2025. It is anticipated the online survey will be distributed from 5 – 31 January 2026. Plans for site visits and community showcases are progressing with locations being identified. The Delivery Partner estimates this element will be on track by February 2026.

Stream 3: Interfaith walking tour is now complete. A festival is planned to take place in January 2026 to mark Christmas as observed in Orthodox tradition and another festival on 1 February 2026 to celebrate St Brigid's Day.

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

Strand 1 Leadership & Mentoring sessions are progressing with 3 sessions having taken place. Other strands of the project are running slightly behind due to some recruitment and implementation delays. Members should note that one Cultural Facilitator cohort (Strand 2, Cohort 1) has been deemed ineligible as the community background does not meet the requirements for joint working. The delivery partner is liaising with their partners to rectify this, and delivery of this Strand has been paused until the cohort is compliant.

A revised timeframe for some of the delayed activity has been requested.

Strand 4 Welcome Hub Locations

Members are reminded that the project requires 3 Belfast Welcome Hubs to be established through council community spaces, and Morton was approved as a pilot location, pending a full proposal.

The Partnership is requested to note that the Programme Board considered the proposal for the 3 Community Connections Welcome Hubs as Morton, Horn Drive and Cregagh Community

Centres. It was noted there had been extensive engagement with Council officers regarding the locations and after consideration the Programme Board reverted the proposal to the delivery partner for further detail on the achievement of targets.

Concerns were also raised regarding potential risks of hate crime and racial motivated incidents, and the delivery partner has developed a risk management plan which is currently being reviewed.

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

Social media platforms for the project are now live and generating connections and interest in the project. The first Strand 2 Strategic Planning session, with 11 participants, has been delivered, facilitated by Collaboration Ireland and a Belfast sector mapping exercise is ongoing. Strand 3 Research has also commenced, and 19 participants are registered under Strand 1 Coordination.

The change requests for the Strand 1 & 2 Steering Group & Strategic Planning Membership and realigned Implementation Plan/Gantt Chart and Payment Schedule are awaiting further information

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

The contract initiation phase is progressing. Officers have been working closely with the Delivery Partner on the alignment of the condensed implementation plan with the payment schedule.

CCD5 From Multiculturalism to Interculturalism

3.6 **Lot 1 – Language and Cultural Access**
The re-issued tender closed on 8 December 2025 and submissions are currently being assessed.

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

The first Steering Group meeting took place on 20 November 2025 with members from 6 venues in attendance. The Group agreed the terms of reference, identified grassroots groups for the capacity building programmes, and discussed ideas for the

collaborative project. The next steering group meeting is scheduled for late January 2026 to finalise/ agree themes for training and confirm which grassroots groups will be involved.

Members are reminded that the cultural spaces now on board are:

- The MAC
- Banana Block
- Belfast Intercultural
- Romanian Community
- An Droichead
- Eastside Partnership- Templemore Baths
- St Comgall's
- Discover Ulster-Scots Centre
- An Chultúrlann

The project requirements include the involvement of Irish, and Ulster-Scots Learning Centres, Orange Halls and Ethnic Minority Centres. To date the Belfast Orange Hall, Clifton Street, Museum of Orange Heritage and NI War Memorial Museum have been approached without success. The Delivery Partner has requested support from Council in facilitating introductions with cultural spaces where there is a gap in uptake. The matter will also be discussed at the next CCD Thematic Steering Group in February 2026.

Members should note that the project will begin with a minimum of 6 cultural spaces, with 6 to be further recruited by end of Year 1, in agreement with Council. Officers are also evaluating other deliverables that can progress without all cultural spaces yet on board

A press release to mark the launch of the programme is to be released shortly and further programme comms to be set up including a webpage and social channels.

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

Delivery of the mentoring strand has progressed with two leadership development sessions focused on self-awareness and leading others. Further sessions to be delivered in 2026 include exploring digital change, managing harmful posts, and navigating online platforms; Other sessions will develop sector-wide leadership, influence, network-building and strengthen mentoring practice and collaboration.

A programme webpage, socials posts and press release were finalised for issue over November 2025 focusing on the launch of the mentoring strand. A full programme launch is being planned for February 2026.

Members are advised that the change request for participant number receiving OCN accreditation has been confirmed as 60

participants, reduced from 84. This was agreed on the basis that all training requirements will be met, and that the accreditation was not a requirement for the project.

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

OCN Level 2 Tour Guiding lessons will complete in January 2026 with a new intake due to begin in early 2026: 45 applications were received, and 11 places have been assigned, meeting the overall 20 participant target.

Members are advised that a change request to amend the delivery approach for the Faith-based Trail element to remove the augmented reality (AR) element of the project is under consideration via delegated authority to the PEACEPLUS Programme Manager and Good Relations Manager. Subject to meeting compliance requirements, the outcome will be reported to the Partnership is due course.

Tours delivery and the Burial Traditions Programme has completed for Year 1 and events delivery for Year 1 completed at the end of 2025 with a Victorian Heritage Weekend at Belmont Park and St Mark's Church over November 2025 and Christmas events in Riddell's Warehouse in December 2025. Year 2 concept planning for these strands is underway with project planning to be presented to BCC in the New Year for agreement.

Initial Faith-based Trail activity is now due to commence early 2026 with schools' educational trips to the faith centres to begin the story collection process, collecting oral histories, personal testimonies, and cultural narratives to then use for content development in the Spring 2026.

3.10 Financial and Resource Implications

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

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 also note the contents of the report.

Community Regeneration and Transformation 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 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 and Animation Update

As previously reported, the design teams for all projects have been appointed.

3.2 CRT1: LGBTQIA+ Hub:

The site visit by the Design Team has been completed and M&E (Mechanical & Engineering) Assessments have been progressed.

Workshops with the Design Team and Community stakeholders on concept designs have been progressing, and detailed design phase will commence in January 2026.

Members are reminded that the legal status for tenant organisations is to be aligned closely with the animation element. Further discussions with legal on suitable options on a legal agreement will be progressed in early 2026.

3.3 CRT2: Annadale:

Designs, including the pitch are currently being worked up to planning stage. The tender play equipment list to inform design and play audit has been provided to the Design Team. Relevant surveys including topographical and underground utilities have been commissioned and ground boring for the surveys has been completed.

A stakeholder meeting took place on 17 November 2025 to introduce the Design Team and provide an update on project timelines. Key discussion points included:

- 1- Pitch funding –Council is actively seeking funding for the pitch and the pitch design will be part of the planning application.
- 2- Increased communication with the community, particularly those not attached to a community group.
- 3- Further discussions regarding the bonfire and construction timeline need to be considered.

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

Procurement for preliminary animation activity (event management training) is being progressed, and it is envisaged a supplier to be in place to begin delivery in February 2026.

3.4 CRT3: Distillery Street:

Design discussions are progressing with the stakeholders and design team. As previously reported, procurement for animation will be progressed early January 2026 with delivery commencing in May 2026.

3.5 CRT4: Access to the Hills:

Members are reminded that following a site visit, the potential requirement for a major planning application was highlighted as a significant risk to project delivery. Discussions and scoping of the routes are ongoing, and the possibility of a phased approach is being considered, similar to Forth Meadow Community Greenway.

The Steering Group meeting with the Design Team took place on 26 November 2025 and discussions included the route and proposed design and exploring a route through Ligoniel Dams as an alternative to the northern Ligoniel/Wolfhill Rd, as it could be potentially safer. Topographical surveys for specific sections were carried out in December 2025 and liaison with Nature Towns & Cities Funding project is also to be considered.

Procurement for animation activity is expected to progress in January 2026. Updated timeframes for design and construction will be included in the tender documents for the animation programme.

3.6 CRT5: Sanctuary Theatre:

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

Procurement for the animation element of the project has commenced with the tender opening on Tuesday 2 December 2025, closing on Monday 12 January 2026 and the contract award anticipated for March 2026.

3.7 Governance update

The Programme Manager continues to liaise with the Programme Delivery Manager to progress the actions from the Capital Project Board, which are summarised 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.

The next Capital Project Board meeting is to be arranged for mid-January 2026.

3.8 Financial and Resource Implications

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

3.9 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 Peace Programmes Manager reminded Members that the proposed budgets had been submitted to SEUPB three years ago and confirmed that any potential savings from the use of Council property rather than private land in the Access to the Hills project would likely need to be realigned to cover any shortfall due to price increases since then.

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

Good Relations Audit, Strategy and Action Plan Workshop

Mr. Osbourne presented an overview of the Draft Good Relations Strategy, the Draft Good Relations Audit and the Draft 2026/2027 Good Relations Action Plan to the Partnership.

Following discussion, the Partnership noted the contents of the report and recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that they also note the

contents of the report, agreed the contents of the new Good Relations Audit and 2026/2027 Good Relations Action Plan for issue to The Executive Office, and approved the Good Relations Strategy to undergo a public consultation exercise via the Council's Your Say Platform. It was also agreed that the Partnership would hold a further consultation session on 4th February to further consider the Draft Good Relations Strategy.

Date of Next Meeting

The Partnership was reminded that the next meeting was scheduled to take place on Monday 9th February.

Chairperson