

## SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

Monday 9th February, 2026

### MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

Members present: Councillor I. McLaughlin (Deputy Chairperson); and Alderman Copeland, Councillors Abernethy and Lyons.

External Members: Ms. B. Arthurs, Community and Voluntary Sector; Ms. A. Roberts, Community and Voluntary Sector; Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council; Mr. A. Hagan, PSNI; Mr. G. Walker, Community and Voluntary Sector; Ms. N. Creagh, Department for Communities; Ms. T. Mimna, Executive Office; and Ms. A. M. White, British Red Cross.

In attendance: Mr. G. McCartney, Good Relations Manager  
Ms. D. McKinney, PEACE Programme Manager;  
Ms. L. Dolan, Acting Senior Good Relations Officer;  
Ms. E. Kennedy, Project Officer (Good Relations);  
Ms. N. Lynch (Good Relations);  
Mr. I. Eguaogie (Belfast City of Sanctuary);  
Mr J. O'Neill (Belfast City of Sanctuary);  
Ms. T. Olatunbosun (Belfast City of Sanctuary);  
Mr. A. Shyju (Sanctuary Network);  
Mr. G. Tubritt (Ballynafeigh Community Development Association)  
Mr. A. McMullan, Members' Services and Digital Support Officer.

#### Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillor J. Duffy (Chairperson), Mr J. Donnelly, Mr. L. Gunn and Mr J Girvan.

#### Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 12th January 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 23rd January.

#### Declarations of Interest

Ms. Roberts declared an interest under item 6a, Celebrating Cultures and Diversity Thematic Update, in that she was associated with those organisations delivering projects under the PEACEPLUS Programme.

Ms. Arthurs declared an interest under item 4, Community Recovery Fund Update, and item 6, Thriving and Peaceful Communities Thematic Update, in that she was 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 the meeting whilst the matters were under consideration.

### **Presentations**

#### **Presentation from City of Sanctuary**

A number of Members thanked Belfast City of Sanctuary for their presentation and paid tribute to the work undertaken by the organisation.

Following discussion the Good Relations Manager undertook to submit a report to a future meeting of the Partnership to outline how the Council could further contribute, along with Belfast City of Sanctuary, to the development of Belfast as an inclusive and welcoming city for all.

Noted.

### **Members Update**

Ms. White suggested that the focus of the Members' Update section of the agenda could be rotated amongst the different sectors represented on the Partnership, with each sector assigned a meeting at which to present an update. Ms. White offered to make a presentation in June 2026 to mark Refugee Week.

The Good Relations Manager informed the Partnership that Mr. Gunn would provide an update from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive at the next meeting of the Partnership. He also reported that he intended to schedule presentations from the various PEACEPLUS projects on a regular basis.

He suggested that, should Members become aware of developments within their sectors which had good relations or peace and reconciliation implications, they should bring those issues to the Partnership's attention through the regular Members' Updates to identify opportunities to work together to minimise or mitigate the impact of those issues.

### **Community Recovery Fund Update**

Ms. Kennedy, Good Relations Project Officer, updated the Partnership on the status of the Community Recovery Fund which was intended to support areas impacted by the public disorder in the summer of 2024.

She reported that the Fund currently supported 25 projects with 6 of those projects due to complete in March 2026 and the remainder availing of an extension to September 2026.

Those projects were:

<b>Community Recovery Funding</b>	<b>Status Update</b>
CRF001- <b>SNO Engagement Programme</b>	Amount Awarded: £15,000 Completion date: Sept 2026
CRF002 – Integration and Inclusion – <b>Wheelworks</b>	Amount Awarded: £29,400 Completion date: Sept 2026
CRF003 – Community Centres – <b>26 Council, 6 Independent</b>	Amount Awarded: £29,000 Completion date: Sept 2026
CRF004 – Challenging the Narrative – <b>Edie Shillue Consulting</b>	Amount Awarded: £29,800 Completion date: Sept 2026
CRF005 – <b>Schools of Sanctuary</b>	Amount Awarded: £20,000 Completion date: June 2026
CRF006 – <b>BCC Economic Development</b>	Amount Awarded: £20,000 Completion date: Sept 2026
CRF007 – WULO <b>LORAG</b>	Amount Awarded: £15,000 Completion date: Sept 2026
CRF007 – WULO <b>Forward South Partnership</b>	Amount Awarded: £15,000 Completion date: Sept 2026
CRF007 – Interagency <b>LORAG</b>	Amount Awarded: £5,000 Completion date: Sept 2026
CRF008a – Area based Consortiums (N) <b>Greater Shankill Alternatives</b>	Amount Awarded: £39,500 Completion date: March 2026
CRF008a – Area based Consortiums (S) <b>Belfast Bands Forum</b>	Amount Awarded: £40,000 Completion date: Sept 2026
CRF008a – Area based Consortiums (W) <b>Blackie River</b>	Amount Awarded: £40,000 Completion date: Sept 2026
CRF008a – Area based Consortiums (E) <b>East Belfast Alternatives</b>	Amount Awarded: £39,400 Completion date: Sept 2026
CRF008b – Open Call <b>Annadale and Haywood Residents Association</b>	Amount Awarded: £18,400 Completion date: Sept 2026
CRF008b – Open Call <b>Voicing the Void</b>	Amount Awarded: £19,600 Completion date: Sept 2026
CRF008b – Open Call <b>Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum</b>	Amount Awarded: £11,900 Completion date: March 2026
CRF008b – Open Call <b>Upper Anderstown Community Forum</b>	Amount Awarded: £7,150 Completion date: March 2026
CRF008b – Open Call <b>Dreamscheme NI</b>	Amount Awarded: £8,160 Completion date: Sept 2026
CRF008b – Open Call <b>NI Food to Go</b>	Amount Awarded: £16,400 Completion date: Sept 2026
CRF008b – Open Call <b>West Belfast Partnership Board</b>	Amount Awarded: £16,000 Completion date: Sept 2026
CRF008b – Open Call <b>NI Somali Association</b>	Amount Awarded: £11,385 Completion date: Sept 2026
CRF008b – Open Call <b>Markets Development Association</b>	Amount Awarded: £16,000 Completion date: Sept 2026
CRF008b – Open Call <b>Rosario Youth Club</b>	Amount Awarded: £17,268.44 Completion date: March 2026
CRF008b – Open Call <b>Feile an Phobail</b>	Amount Awarded: £18,500 Completion date: March 2026
CRF009 – PCSP <b>Hate Crime Prevention Programme</b>	Amount Awarded: £15,000 Completion date: Sept 2026

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 Partnership considered the following report:

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

**The purpose of this report is to provide Shared City Partnership members with an update on the mobilisation of PEACEPLUS Belfast Local Community Action Plan (LCAP).**

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

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

#### **3.0 Main report**

##### **3.1 Mobilisation**

**Mobilisation of the Action Plan, including the contract awards and procurements are outlined in each of the Thematic Reports**

##### **3.2 Financial Controller**

**Formal contracting of KPMG as the Financial Controller for the verification and certification of PEACEPLUS claims has now been completed.**

**The Period 1 claim has been submitted on the JEMS system and verification by KPMG is progressing.**

##### **3.3 Advance**

**As reported in January 2026, the first advance payment of €1.5m has been received by Council. The Partnership is requested to note that the €/£ exchange rate, transferred at £1,300,841.21, which is variance of £3,506.62 from the €1.15 submission rate. The variance will be met by the office and administration budget.**

**Options on managing the exchange rate fluctuations are progressing with internal Management Accounts and external transaction providers.**

### **3.4 Claims and Reporting**

The value of claims to be submitted to SEUPB for reimbursement totals £1,633,006.35 (€1,877,957.30 approx.)

The Partnership is requested to note that Claims for Period 1-5 (Jan 2024-Mar 2025) have been collated on to the JeMS system and will be formally submitted on a phased basis. Collation of information to support expenditure for Claim Periods 6-8 (Jan-Dec 2025) has commenced and will be submitted once verification and feedback for Claims 1-4 has been received from KPMG.

Project reports for Period 1-6 (Jan 2024-Jun 2025) have been submitted on JeMS, and SEUPB has reviewed and requested amends, such as removing the reference of exchange rate fluctuations as an issue / risk within the problems section and the upload of evidence of participant completion.

The Period 7 (Jul-Sept 25) project report has been compiled on to JeMS, however submission is being held pending the learning and amends from the Period 6 reporting period. The Period 8 report is due 31 January 2026, however members should note that due to staff pressures this may be delayed to mid-February 2026.

### **3.5 Forecasting**

The Board is advised that expenditure forecasting has been submitted to SEUPB, and discussions have been held with SEUPB to agree spend targets. Officers are liaising with SEUPB to confirm quarterly spend target.

Members should note that expenditure forecasting is required to be submitted to SEUPB every quarter, March, June, Sept and December.

### **3.6 Assurance Audit**

Members are referred to the draft AGRS Assurance Audit Report, Appendix I, which evaluated the effectiveness of governance, risk management and control processes of both PEACEPLUS projects, 1.1 Local Action Plan and 1.4 Reconnected Belfast.

The report outlines an assurance rating of Substantial, which reflect that controls have been evaluated as adequate, appropriate and effective to provide reasonable assurance that risks are being managed and objectives met in line with the terms and conditions of the letters of offer.

### **3.7 Monitoring and Evaluation**

Projects continue to progress towards achievement of their targets and evidence this via the Monitoring and Evaluation System and detailed in the Thematic Reports.

Due to resource pressures, the update of the Performance Dashboard has been paused. A further update will be presented at the March 2026 meeting.

Interim arrangements for troubleshooting and technical support have been agreed internally

### **3.8 Staffing**

The new Project Support Officer started on 19 January 2026, and the new Project Officer, is due to commence on 2 March 2026.

As reported in January 2026, there are significant resource pressures within the team five vacant posts. Recruitment for a new Project Manager is due to open on 5 February 2026, and the appointment of the reserve candidate for the Finance and Claims Support Assistant is progressing.

### **3.9 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 31 December 2025 is approx. £1.63m.

### **3.10 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 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 (WBPPB), Falls Community Council (FCC), Greater Shankill Partnership (GSP) and Marrowbone Community Association (MCA).

The first Citywide non accredited training session on Facilitation Skills was delivered on 11 December 2025, and due to high demand two more sessions are planned for January 2026.

The OCN intake (Course #2) with 24 learners registered is to begin in January 2026, running until end of April 2026. The next Citywide Forum Meeting is scheduled for 14 January 2026. The second Citywide networking event is planned for 18 February 2026 with the theme of Inclusive Community Development.

Baselining is continuing for the Local Community Empowerment Plans (LCEPs) including LCEP 08 (Balmoral/Botanic) LCEP 09 (Lisnasharragh/Ormiston/Titanic), LCEP 02 (Blackmountain), LCEP 04 (Court) and LCEP 01 (Court).

Officers are reviewing recently submitted M&E as part of Oct-Dec quarterly reporting.

Two quarterly payments that had been in arrears due to issues aligning their M&E for those periods with BCC system requirements have now been paid to NICVA, with 117 registrations were verified.

**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.

As reported in January 2026, delivery is due to commence in all 4 project areas (North, West, Shankill and East) within this quarter. Local Working Group meetings are ongoing, and the City-Wide Shared Learning Group and Peer Support Group are due to have their first meetings this month.

The Programme Oversight Group (POG) Terms of Reference has now been agreed, which will enable the change request to amend the membership target of the Programme Oversight Group (POG), and realign the targets into local activity targets, to be finalised. Members are reminded that delegated authority is in place for the Good Relations Manager and Programme Manager to approve this change request and an update will be provided next month.

The completion of the POG change request will enable the Payment Schedule to be finalised and the Phase 1 payment to be progressed.

#### **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 previously reported, Year 1 delivery has completed, and M&E requirements have been fulfilled and Phase 2b payment is complete.

The project is now planning delivery for 2026, with delivery to commence in April 2026.

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 is ongoing 4 sessions completed during December 2025 these included: inclusive environment session, good relations, social action activity and Christmas celebration event which was a full group outing. A further 6 sessions have taken place in Hazelwood Integrated College which included: community development – peace art project, my community background, social action planning and needs assessment draft.

The cross border residential with the community group participants is planned for 24th-25th January 2026.

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

The social action project proposal is currently under review. Streetbeat have outlined in the proposal that participants actively engaging in the PEACEPLUS programme will plan and deliver a 3-week programme to an identified group within the North/West Belfast area. The programme will focus on addressing issues related to sectarianism, racism, cultural diversity and exclusion within the community. The need for this project was identified by participants during a social action planning session.

This first cohort is due to complete in February 2026. The Phase 2a payment is currently being progressed.

**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).

26 participants continue to be actively engaging in the project in line with the project target. The group have now completed the ILM leadership training and have also completed the workshops on Myth Busting – Mental Health; Reporting hate crime; Domestic violence and good relations.

Preparations for the international residential visit to Bosnia & Herzegovina scheduled for 16th-19th February 2026 have commenced. Flights, transport from Belfast to Dublin airport and insurances have been confirmed. Members are requested to the challenging process in securing travel visas for some participants, which required them to visit the Home Office in London. There have been additional costs incurred as a result of this requirement.

GEMS NI will progress to the Phase 2a payment and quarterly payment based on M&E upload and alignment.

**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):**  
14 of 17 participants from the Ulster University are now actively participating and have completed: OCN Level 1 – Diversity Within Society, British Dodgeball – Coaching Award, Emergency First Aid at Work and Safeguarding Certificates. Further sessions included: shadow coaching

**with pillar 2 participants, sports session of fundamental skill and good practice of coaching, mentoring and OCN.**

**A second cohort of 17 of 29 participants from St Marys College are now actively participating and have achieved the OCN Level 1. Participants have continued to complete the OCN and First Aid qualification with Pro Paramedics.**

**Activity for Pillar 2 sports sessions (11-16-year-olds) is ongoing with 226 participants currently engaged across the schools, as outlined below**

- **Nettlefield PS / Pillar 2 (53 participants) Twinned with St Matthews PS & Harding PS) – 13 sessions delivered to date.**
- **St Matthews PS: Pillar 2 (34 participants) Twinned with Nettlefield PS & Harding PS) – 14 sessions delivered to date.**
- **Harding PS / Pillar 2 (28 participants) Twinned with St Matthews PS & Nettlefield PS) – 13 sessions delivered to date.**
- **St Annes PS– Pillar 2 (27 participants) Twinned with Knockbreda – 10 sessions to date**
- **Knockbreda– Pillar 2 (15 participants) Twinned with St Annes – 12 sessions.**
- **St Joesphs PS Pillar 2 (49 participants) Twinned with Black Mountain PS) – 14 sessions delivered to date.**
- **Black Mountain PS Pillar 2 (20 participants) Twinned with St Joesphs PS – 8 sessions completed to date**

**Pillar 3 - Two Pillar 3 participants have secured part-time employment with Sport Changes Life and will complete NCC qualifications, due to commence January 2026.**

**Pillar 4 - Research framework was completed by UUJ and will consist of focus groups and surveys for Pillar 1 participants. Attitudinal change surveys will be assessed for Pillar 2 participants for the final paper.**

**Two employability fairs are scheduled for January 2026 at UUB and another at ACN to promote opportunities within the sport sector for job roles and volunteering.**

### **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 is progressing with 271 participants registered to date, exceeding current target of 225. 58 participants have completed to date, a shortfall of 49 participants against current targets.

As previously reported, while recruitment and initial engagement have been strong, progression through both strands leading to the achievement of a digital badge has been lower than anticipated. To address this, the Delivery Partner has been actively supporting participants to reengage, including accommodating missed classes where possible and signposting participants to alternative sessions or locations to support completion. These actions are ongoing and are expected to support improved completion rates going forward.

The Delivery Partner is confident of meeting their Phase 2b target of a total of 184 participants (cumulative) by the end of March 2026.

Engagement is city-wide, with particularly strong participation in South Belfast, and post attitudinal survey responses range from 74% - 100% across all 9 questions.

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

MayWe's Phase 2a deliverables are now fully complete and the payment has now been processed. Officers also resolved M&E upload technical issues and M&E has been submitted and verified to support the quarterly report.

*Project 1: Polyphonic*

To date 106 participants are recruited, with 78 actively participating of a target of 140 (+51 since last report). Area-based capacity building sessions are continuing, and a 2-day intensive block of capacity building sessions were delivered on 10-11 January 2026 for newly recruited participants. These participants will join the area groups to begin the skills sessions and art piece development. All area groups also took part in a study trip and masterclass at Brassneck Theatre.

*Project 2: Creative Exchange*

To date 63 participants are recruited, with 61 actively participating of a target of 140 (+38 since last report). The North group have completed all 6 sessions and East and West have completed 5/6. South delivery has not started, a group has now been secured to begin in January 2026.

Projects 1 and 2 are attending the Mentoring Day on 24 January 2025 with representatives from the creative arts and

media sector to discuss career pathways with participants and produce a personalised career pack.

***Project 5: Media Production***

The project is fully recruited with 21 participants recruited of whom 18 are actively participating. Skills sessions continue with Participants continue to attend different activities that Projects 1 & 2 are engaged in to capture footage and content for the newsletter, socials and documentary.

The volunteer group is progressing with 4 participants from each of Project 1 and 2 recruited to collaborate/assist in operations for festivals/ events over the period of their engagement. The first festival the participants will volunteer with is Imagine Festival in March 2026. Imagine Festival and Volunteer Now are joining the Mentoring Day to provide an induction for the volunteer group.

Members are reminded that the programme is designed for participants to be engaged for 18 months and as such there are no completed participants at this stage.

**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 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 agreed

- **CCD1 Interfaith and Belief**  
To amend the learning resources and engagement with participants to include Key Stage 3 / Year 10 pupils
- **CCD2 Community Connections**  
the 3 Welcome Hub locations as Morton, Horn Drive and Cregagh Community Centres

recommend that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agree the above recommendations and 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

54 participants are now registered across the steering groups for Stream 1, 2 and 3, against a target of 70 Stream 1 – 24 (30) participants; Stream 2 – 12 (20) participants Stream 3 – 18 (20) participants

Corrymeela continue to use a range of recruitment methods to ensure target is achieved.

Stream 1: Outreach Education element 1x co-design session completed during December 2025. Members are advised that this element continues to be behind schedule by more than 4 months. There have been several issues identified including the suitability of learning resources and access to KS4/5 pupils due to exam timeframes and the limited space for non-curriculum activities. As such, Corrymeela has submitted a change request to amend Stream 1 delivery to include pupils/participants from KS3, with a focus on engagement with year 10 pupils in schools.

The change request has been considered by the Programme Board, and it is recommended that as the SCP agreed this change on the basis that does not contravene the tender requirements and the programme manual criteria.

**Stream 2: Welcoming Programme.** The online survey is being finalised and is due to be issued imminently.

**Stream 3:** 1 co-design sessions has taken place and a festival focussing St Brigid's Day and Jewish Tu B'Shevat is being delivered on 1 February 2026.

**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 4 sessions having taken place. Other strands of the project are running slightly behind due to some recruitment and implementation delays, which this has delayed the Phase 2a payment.

11 participants are verified as registered and actively participating, and this is 110 participants short of the Phase 2a target of 121 participants registered and actively participating.

Strand 1 Mentors, and Strand 2 Facilitators are due to commence this month, and Strand 3 Connectors and Strand 4 Welcome Hubs are due to be in place by mid-February, it is therefore anticipated that all Phase 2a targets will be met by end of February.

#### **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.

As reported in January 2026, the Programme Board requested clarity on the 3 Welcome Hub (WH) locations, Morton, Horn Drive and Cregagh, around the minority ethnic populations in the proposed locations and the achievement of targets.

Further information was provided on the locations, accessibility, availability of space, usage of space by minority ethnic groups and census figures, as well as encouraging usage of the spaces by new users.

The Programme Board considered the additional information and the approach, and agreed the Welcome Hub locations as outlined above. The Programme Board recommend that the Shared City Partnership also agree the Welcome Hub locations.

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

Strand 1 Co-ordination and Strand 2 Strategic Planning currently have 16 out of a target of 25 participants (combined) registered and actively participating. Members should note that a change request is being finalised which will enable wider parameters for recruitment to both these strands.

Strand 3 comms activity is ongoing, and receipt of a substantial comms strategy will complete targets for the Phase 2a payment. Strand 5 research is underway with survey launched in December 2025 receiving 400 out of the 500 target responses to date.

The project held a very successful launch event on Friday 9 January 2026 in the MAC, with 100 participants attending, which exceed the target of 50 meaningful participants attending this event.

**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

As reported in January 2026, the contract initiation phase is being finalised. Officers continue to work closely the Delivery Partner on the alignment of the condensed implementation plan with the payment schedule.

Delivery planning has been ongoing during this period, with recruitment due to commence January 2026 and a low key launch event planned for March 2025.

**CCD5 From Multiculturalism to Interculturalism**

**3.6 Lot 1 – Language and Cultural Access**

As previously reported, the tender closed on 8 December 2025 and the assessment process is ongoing, with clarifications submitted to the bidder.

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

The project's steering group is in place and are progressing with the design of the activity programme. Options for further cultural spaces have been discussed with MayWe and will be progressed, with an update to the Council in due course.

Members are requested to note the onboarding of these final 4 spaces will be realigned into the next payment phase as it was stipulated in the tender that the deadline for all spaces to be signed up was the end of Year 1 (July 2026).

A realigned implementation plan accounting for this has been requested from MayWe.

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

The Phase 1 contract initiation phase has now been completed, and the payment is now being progressed following agreement of the revised project payment schedule. Quarterly payments are in arrears due to the delay in completing the contract initiation phase.

The project is continuing with delivery in line with the agreed implementation plan, including the Flagship Events and Musical Fusions steering groups and the mentoring programme.

Officers have now addressed some technical issues that had prevented the submission of the quarterly report and the quarterly contract management meeting is scheduled for late January 2026, which will confirm the progress of delivery.

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

Project Partners: Cairde na Cille, Kabosh Theatre

The delivery of Year 1 activity is complete and monitoring and evaluation data and information is currently being verified and will be reported to the SCP on completion of the full M&E review.

Concept plans for Year 2 programme of Events and Tours are being reviewed by officers, with Year 2 Burial Traditions concept plan due in February 2026. Year 2 Events are due to commence in March 2026, Tours to commence in April 2026 and Burial Traditions Workshops/Events to commence in June 2026. The second cohort of Tour Guide OCN is due to start in February 2026 and the second co-created theatre piece is to be delivered in March 2026. It is envisaged the theatre activity will focus on East Belfast.

Members are requested to note that a change to the delivery approach for the Faith-based Trail project has been agreed via delegated authority from the Programme Board. The change request will replace the AR element of the ‘Faith in Focus’ walking trail with an immersive trail, which will involve art installations, interactive lights, motion sensors, QR code passport, digital souvenirs, as well as a digital map and microsite.

**As part of the Faith-based Trail project, the schools group will begin the first series of educational trips to faith centres for the co-designed faith trail at the end of January 2026. The school co-design workshops are currently being scheduled for completion before Easter.**

**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 agreed:

- to amend the learning resources and engagement with participants to include Key Stage 3/Year 10 pupils as outlined at paragraph 3.2 in the report;
- to confirm the three Welcome Hub locations as Morton, Horn Drive and Cregagh Community Centres as outlined at paragraph 3.3 in the report; and
- to recommend that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the contents of the report and agree to the above recommendations.

**Community Regeneration and Transformation Thematic Update**

The Peace Programmes Manager updated the Partnership on the delivery of the Community Regeneration and Transformation theme of the PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan.

She highlighted that the design teams for all of the capital projects had now been appointed and were progressing to the final design and planning stage.

She reported that stakeholders in the LGBTQIA+ Hub project had raised concerns surrounding rent affordability and the impact of delayed Phase 2 works would have on their ability to fully relocate to the premises.

The Peace Programmes Manager advised the Partnership that the Council had been preparing for the upcoming community consultations on the Distillery Street Project and on the opening of the interface.

She reported that further route-planning and exploration of options on the Access to the Hills project with community stakeholders was ongoing, with stakeholders preferring to locate the route through Ligoniel Dams rather than the original Wolfhill Road route due to safety concerns. The procurement exercises for both the Access to the Hills and the Sanctuary Theatre projects were ongoing.

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

**Any Other Business**

The Deputy Chairperson and the Good Relations Manager welcomed Ms. Lynch to her first meeting of the Shared City Partnership.

**Date of Next Meeting**

The Deputy Chairperson reminded the Partnership that the next meeting would be held at 1:30pm on Monday 9th March.

Chairperson