

SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

Monday 9th March, 2026

MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

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

External Members: Ms. B. Arthurs, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Mr. L. Gunn, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;
Dr. W. Naeem, Interfaith Forum;
Ms. T. Mimna, Executive Office;
Ms. A. Roberts, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Ms. I. Sherry, Community and Voluntary Sector; and
Ms. B. NiBhriain, Department for Communities

In attendance: Mr. G. McCartney, Good Relations Manager
Ms. D. McKinney, PEACE Programme Manager;
Ms. L. Dolan, Acting Senior Good Relations Officer;
Mr. D. Robinson, Acting Senior Good Relations Officer;
Ms. J. Bradley, PEACEPLUS Project Officer;
Ms. E. Kennedy, Project Officer (Good Relations); and
Mr. A. McMullan, Members' Services and Digital Support Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman Copeland and External Members Ms. N. Creagh, Mr. J. Donnelly, Mr. A. Hagan, Rev. G Kennedy, Mr. M. McBride and Ms. A White.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 9th February 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 20th February.

Declarations of Interest

Councillors Duffy and I. McLaughlin and Ms. B. Arthurs, Ms. A Roberts and Ms. I Sherry declared an interest under item 5a, Thriving and Peaceful Communities Thematic Update, in that they were associated with those organisations delivering projects under the PEACEPLUS Programme.

Dr. W. Naeem declared an interest under item 5b, Celebrating Cultures and Diversity Thematic Update, in that he was associated with those organisations delivering projects under the PEACEPLUS Programme.

Councillor I. McLaughlin also declared an interest under item 4, Girdwood 10 Year Update, in that he was a board member of the Girdwood Community Trust and of the Girdwood Community Forum.

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.

Presentation from Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Mr. Gunn informed the Partnership that his presentation would be rescheduled to a future date and would focus on the current Housing For All initiatives underway in partnership with Housing Associations throughout the city.

Councillor I. McLaughlin requested that Mr Gunn's presentation include an update on the status of housing solutions in the city. Councillor McLaughlin suggested that it would be useful to receive an update on the latest figures on housing solutions, points allocation, wait times, staffing numbers and the delivery of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's service plan.

Members Update

The Good Relations Manager informed the Partnership that, further to discussion at the February, 2026 meeting, he had drafted a timetable showing when each of the various sectors represented on the Partnership would make presentations to future meetings and that this timetable would be circulated to the Members.

He confirmed that Ms. A M. White would present an update on the work of the British Red Cross to the May meeting of the Shared City Partnership.

Mr. Gunn advised that the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's funding streams for next year had recently opened and applications were welcome for their Community Involvement Grants and Community Cohesion Grants.

Mr. Gunn undertook to update the Partnership on developments regarding those grants.

Girdwood 10 Year Review

The Partnership considered the following report:

- 1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues**
- 1.1 To outline proposed Ten-year review of Girdwood Community Hub.**
- 2.0 Recommendation**
- 2.1 That Members recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that they note and agree the approach outlined in the contents of the report.**

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Background

The Girdwood Concept Plan was published in May 2012. This was successful in attaining funding through the European Territorial Co-operation Objective PEACE III Programme 2007-2013, Priority 2: Contributing to a Shared Society - Theme 1: Creating Shared Public Spaces. The Girdwood Community Hub Official launch took place in Crumlin Road Gaol 10 April 2014 and subsequently opened January 2016. Members of the Girdwood Community Forum feel it is important to evaluate the impacts of Girdwood Community Hub and the surrounding site, ten years on since its opening in 2016.

3.2 Detail

Officers would propose the review of Girdwood Community Hub would be carried out by an independent facilitator and would include the following: -

1. Undertake a comprehensive review of the impact of the Girdwood Community Hub and the impact on peace and reconciliations objectives in keeping with the original SEUPB objectives, the TEO's T:BUC Strategy, the Belfast Agenda, the Programme for Government, DfC Urban Regeneration Policy Framework and other related central government Strategies and Plans.
2. Highlight the challenges and benefits that have been presented since work began on the site, including community infrastructure, capacity, governance, physical, covid pandemic and ensuing economic climate.
3. Review of current projects and programmes which take place within Girdwood Community Hub quantifying the impact on Good Relations and look at the future potential of the site with cognisance of the future Leisure Transformation Programme which has been agreed for the site.
4. Develop recommendations for further enhancing and promoting good relations within the local area and beyond, in keeping with the premise that Girdwood Hub is a Legacy Peace III project and in its design it to promote shared space.

The above will require the following: -

- To undertake a review of the outcomes of the Girdwood Community Hub using statistical and qualitative methodologies.
- Consult with Council Officers and Elected Members, Girdwood Forum Members as well as a range of other statutory and voluntary stakeholders to explore the issues within the remit of this research to generate thought, input and recommendations.
- Use the findings and recommendations of the review to identify actions that could be taken to further meet the aims and objectives of the which promote and enhance and promote good relations within the local area and beyond, in keeping with the premise that Girdwood Community Hub is a Legacy Peace III project promoting shared space.
- Identify opportunities for the continued use of the Girdwood Community Hub taking cognisance of the newly agreed Leisure Transformation Programme for the site at Girdwood.
- Report regularly on the progress of the review to the Council and if required to Girdwood Community Forum and/or relevant subgroup.

3.4 Financial and Resource Implications

All costs within the District Council's Good Relations Action Plan are covered within existing agreed budgets.

3.5 Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

All activity within the District Council's Good Relations Action Plan seek to improve Good Relations between people from different political, religious, and racial backgrounds.

The Partnership recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the report and agree the approach outlined therein.

PEACEPLUS Belfast Local Community Action Plan
Secretariat Update

The Partnership considered the following report:

1.0 Purpose of Report

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

2.0 Recommendations

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

3.0 Main report

3.1 Mobilisation Contract Awards and Procurement

The Secretariat continue to support the mobilisation of the Action Plan through procurements and stakeholder engagement for the Community Regeneration and Transformation theme, as well as monitoring and reporting of project delivery as outlined in each of the Thematic Reports.

3.2 Exchange Rate Fluctuations

Options to manage the exchange rate fluctuations for the Action Plan, and 1.4 Reconnected Belfast are progressing, with discussions with an external FX (exchange rate) hedging company and Council's Financial Accountants

Members are requested to note that given the complexity in managing the exchange rate fluctuations, the Programme Board has recommended that the issue is escalated to the Council's Financial Oversight Committee.

3.3 Claims and Reporting

Total expenditure across the PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan, up to Period 8 (31 Dec 25) is approx £1.8m relating to contract initiation, management and administration payments to delivery partners, and staff costs.

The value of claims to be submitted to SEUPB for reimbursement totals £1,770,853. The variance relates to non-claimable expenditure which will be met by the deferred income, and as such there will be no cost to Council.

3.4

Claim Period	Salaries	O&A	External Expertise and Services	Total
1 – Jan to Mar 2024	£18,207.81	£2,731.17		£20,938.98
2 – Apr to Jun 2024	£25,957.06	£3,893.56		£29,850.62
3 – Jul to Sep 2024	£92,346.64	£13,852.00		£106,198.64
4 – Oct to Dec 2024	£123,671.07	£18,550.66		£142,221.73
5 – Jan to Mar 2025	£164,379.03	£24,656.85		£189,035.88
6 – Apr to Jun 2025	£175,895.86	£26,384.38	£184,266.89	£386,547.13
7 – July to Sept 2025	£165,500.18	£24,825.03	£378,654.10	£568,979.31
8 – Oct to Dec 2025	£154,509.41	£23,176.41	£149,395.12	£327,080.94
Total to date Jan 2024 -Dec 2025	£920,467.06	£138,070.06	£712,316.11	£1,770,853.23

Members are advised that Period 1-3 claims and reporting have been formally submitted on the JeMS system, with Periods 1-2 fully verified by KPMG, and all expenditure declared eligible. The Period 4-7 claims and reports will be submitted by 31 March 2026 and Period 8 submitted by 30 April 2026, as agreed by SEUPB, considering current resource pressures.

Forecasting

- 3.5 Members are referred to the SEUPB Memo in Appendix I Project performance targets which outlines the detail on expenditure targets, claim submission targets, quarterly forecasting process; and the procedure for non-attainment of targets, including the decommitment of funding.

Officers have been liaising closely with SEUPB on expenditure forecasts, which will form the basis of the expenditure targets. It should be noted that the forecasts are based on a range of assumptions including the achievement of targets.

The Partnership is requested to note that given the risk to Council, the Programme Board has recommended that correspondence is issued to SEUPB regarding the assumptions relating to the achievement of the Expenditure Performance Targets.

3.6 Assurance Audit

Members are advised that the AGRS Assurance Audit, as reported in last meeting has been finalised. The executive summary of the report will be included in the AGRS update to the Audit Assurance Board and Audit & Risk Panel in March 2026.

3.7 Monitoring & Evaluation

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

The Partnership is referred to Appendix II – Performance Dashboard, which outlines that 14 projects are delivering activity, engaging 2,512 participants and 1,203 have completed activity.

Monitoring system issues and urgent project queries are continuing to be address via weekly troubleshooting meetings.

3.8 Staffing

Two new members of staff joined the team, Project Support Officer and Project Officer.

Recruitment for both the Project Manager and the Monitoring and Data Analyst posts is ongoing. Recruitment for the Finance and Claims Support Assistant is due to be advertised on 19 March 2026.

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 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).

Two further citywide non accredited Facilitation Skills sessions were delivered on 15 January 2026 with 18 completers. Delivery of the OCN intake (Course #2) with 22 learners has commenced and will run until April 2026. The next Citywide Forum Meeting was re-scheduled to 4 February 2026, and the second Citywide networking event on Inclusive Community Development took place on 18 February 2026. Cllr Abernethy represented the Partnership at the event.

Baselining has been completed for the Local Community Empowerment Plans (LCEPs) in LCEP 08 (Balmoral/ Botanic), LCEP 09 (Lisnasharragh/ Ormiston/ Titanic), and LCEP 02 (Blackmountain) and the next stage has commenced. Baselining is ongoing for LCEP 01 (Court).

Officers are finalising the verification of monitoring data submitted for Oct-Dec 25. Members should note that NICVA's monitoring is complicated by participant categories with different attendance requirements. Ensuring compatibility across NICVA's CRM system and the BCC

system has increased NICVA staff time for technical troubleshooting and to ensure data is being captured and analysed correctly.

- 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.

Delivery has commenced in January for both the Men and Women's cohorts, and a Men's Health Fair was held in January in East Belfast. Project meetings are ongoing within the localities, and the first Citywide Shared Learning Group meeting took place on 19th January. Citywide mapping of services activity is ongoing.

Final approval of the change request to reduce participants numbers in the Programme Oversight Group (POG) and increase participation in the wider programme has been finalised. This enabled the Phase 1 Contract Initiation payment to be processed.

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.

The delivery partner is planning delivery of activity during Apr, May June 2026, as well as Summer Academies. The focus of delivery will be via schools in West and Shankill areas, with a minimum of 6 school partnerships, 1 community programme, 2 Digital Arts Academies and 2 Arts Academies, which should enable the achievement of the 600 participants Year 2 target.

Subject to uptake, there are also options for further school delivery Sept – Dec 2026 and Digital and Arts Academies at Halloween.

- 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 Cohort 2 engaging 100 participants from community groups in South, East and West Belfast as well as schools in North Belfast has been progressing. To date 45 sessions of activity has been delivered, and the Cohort should complete all activity and contact hours by February 2026. Planning for delivery of future cohorts is also progressing.

The planning of cross border residential activity, particularly with school groups, is challenging. Members are requested to note that a preliminary proposal to replace the residential with 2 cross border day trips was discussed with SEUPB. However, they advised that delivery should be as outlined in the Action Plan, and any divergence would require a formal SEUPB change request to be progressed.

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

41 young people from Cohort 1 have completed the required 80 contact hours, and activity concluded with a social action project in which the young people shared their learning and experience of the project with their peers.

Promotion and recruitment for the next Cohort is currently progressing via engagement with schools and youth groups.

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).

Delivery of activity is ongoing, with the 26 participants continue to be actively engaging in the project. During February 2026, the participants attended sessions at Clifton House, City Hall and a residential briefing.

The international residential to Sarajevo has progressed, the participants attended the Centre for Peace & Reconciliation Studies and presented their social action project. A Council plaque has been provided for the youth people to present to the Centre.

The Delivery Partner has reiterated the complexity, bureaucracy and increased costs associated with delivering the international residential visit.

Planning for the promotion and recruitment of Cohort 2 is underway.

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.

Delivery of project activity across the 4 pillars is progressing:

Pillar 1 coach education (16–18-year-olds): Ulster University Belfast (UUB) and St Mary’s College. 31 participants are now actively participating and have completed: OCN Level 1 – Diversity Within Society, Dodgeball, Safeguarding and First Aid.

Confirmation on the cross community engagement of the groups is to be provided by the Delivery Partner.

Activity for Pillar 2 sports sessions (11-16-year-olds) is ongoing with 300 participants currently engaged across 7 schools and community groups, as detailed in February 2026 report.

Pillar 3 – An employment fair took place on 23 January 2026 at UUB to recruit participants for Pillar 1 to then progress on to Pillar 3.

Pillar 4 - Research framework focusing on evaluating the impact across the 3 main pillars is progressing. The Delivery Partner is to provide the Terms of Reference for the research

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.

The project has seen 2 new cohorts commence in January 2026, 1 cohort is focusing on vocational language for retail and customer services, and the other is focusing on general customer services language skills.

To date 295 participants have been recruited onto the project, which exceeds the current targets. A total of 72 participants (cumulative) has achieved the meaningful contact hours required across both strands. This is 39% progress towards the next phased target of 184 participants to be achieved by March 2026. With a number of cohorts anticipated to be complete by then, this target should be met.

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

Project activity is progressing well, with 240 participants across 3 of 5 sub projects recruited and 206 actively participating of total 496 target. The required reporting requirements have been met, which enable processing of the quarterly management and admin fee.

Project 1: Polyphonic (155 participants recruited, with 126 actively participating) Target 120

Joint art sessions began in January 2026 to create ‘Echoes and Embers’ artwork, which focuses on Music & Dance, with themes of folklore and mythology, fairytales and feminism being explored. These joint art sessions will continue weekly, building momentum towards the first local showcase event on 22 March 2026 at Chultúrlann, followed by the citywide showcase on 28 March 2026 at the MAC Theatre.

The groups have also started developing their Social Action Project, which will take the form of a digital art project, which will be integrated into their live performance and promoted across digital platforms.

Members should note that whilst Project 1’s overall participant target (120) has been reached, there is a minor variation in area participant levels. Following extensive efforts to engage groups in West Belfast a group of 9 participants has been formed in this area, which is lower than the anticipated target of 30. The participants are engaging in paired sessions and completing single-group capacity building sessions but as the project progresses it is more difficult for late-recruited participants to complete the required activity and meet hours targets.

Project 2: Suitcases & Skies (64 participants recruited, 62 actively participating) Target 120

The sub project launched, and co-design and social action activity planning was held on 23 January 2026. Participants agreed “Suitcases & Skies” as the focus of the project, based on Graphic Design & Drama, telling the story of discovering cultures as you travel and the cultural pieces you take with you. The group also agreed a Social Action Project to create a Jenga puzzle that comes together to show the diverse community of people and culture that makes up the city of Belfast. There will be one large piece that will act as an installation moving across the city, and smaller versions of the created installation will be distributed to participant groups and community organisations for public viewing and use. Joint area (East / West) art sessions commenced on 26 January 2026 at Lagan

Village Youth and Community Group. Recruitment issues for South are now alleviated with approx. 22 participants now engaged in sessions starting February 2026.

Members should note that the subprojects are required to pair different area groups. Project 1 had paired groups in East and West (E&W) with North and South (N&S) groups. Project 2, engages groups with additional needs that have fixed schedules, and the area pairing are also E&W and N&S. Future sub projects will endeavour to pair different area groups.

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 has completed all 6 sessions and East and West have completed 5/6. A South Belfast group has now been recruited, and activity is to commence.

Projects 1 and 2 attended a Mentoring Day on 24 January 2026 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 (21 participants recruited, 18 actively participating) Target 16

Activity to capture footage and content is progressing. Members are requested to note that whilst Project 5 is fully recruited although there is a lower number of participants of a PUL background (16%) against the target (30%). Participants from Project 5 continually engage with the other sub projects, and as such cross community contact is continuing.

Overall, the project is on target to achieve the community background requirements, with 32% of participants from a PUL background, which aligns with SEUPB's requirement.

3.11 Thriving and Peaceful Communities Thematic Steering Group

The quarterly TPS Thematic Steering Group took place on 4 February 2026, in Council Offices.

Representatives from all Delivery Partners for the 9 projects attended the meeting. Council advised of the new Programme Manual, progress toward introducing a Communications Checklist, reporting to SEUPB and the Financial Controller approach.

Discussions focused on delivery progress, and issues identified included monitoring and reporting, such as proxy measures and payments. A number of opportunities for collaboration were identified which the Delivery Partners agreed to progress.

The TPC Thematic Risk Register was reviewed, and no new risks were identified or required escalation. The need to manage risks and categories was highlighted.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 13 May 2026 at 10.00am, and Active Communities Network kindly offered 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.

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

Celebrating Cultures and Diversity Thematic Update

The Partnership considered the following report:

1.0 Purpose of Report

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

2.0 Recommendations

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

3.0 Main report

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

56 participants are now registered, with 50 people actively participating across the 3 Streams.

Stream 1: Outreach Education element 2 co-design session on the education resources took place during January 2026. Engagement with schools on the roll out of awareness sessions are progressing. It is envisaged that pilot sessions will be delivered in March 2026. A schedule for delivery of the sessions is being compiled, until finalised, the project is still considered as behind schedule.

Stream 2: Unity and Welcoming Programme, the online survey to map the welcome, care and social action work provided by faith and belief groups across the city has been finalised and opened early February 2026.

Stream 3: Co design sessions on celebrating faith and belief festivals are continuing. The celebration of St Brigid's Day and the Jewish Tu B'Shevat festival took place on 1 February 2026 and culminated in the planting of a tree at Annadale. A further festival on Muslim, Christian and Ba'Hai faith is planned for mid-March 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

The Delivery Partner continues to face difficulties with recruitment which is impacting the delivery of project targets. To date 17% of the Phase 2a (Oct 2025) target of 121 participants registered and actively participating has been met.

However, some progress has been made with the first cohort for Strand 2 Facilitators activity commenced with 10 participants completing stage 1 of training and some initial participants registered for Strand 4 Welcome Hubs. It is envisaged that with all Welcome Hub locations now being approved, this will enable an increase in participant registration for this activity.

Officers are working closely with the delivery partner, although the realignment of targets may be required. Members should note that the delivery partner has advised of organisational funding difficulties and the impact on PEACEPLUS project delivery is being monitored.

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

Project delivery across Strand 1 Co-ordination and Strand 2 Strategic Planning is progressing. The change request to enable wider parameters for recruitment to both these strands has been agreed and will enable further participation. Strand 3 comms activity is ongoing. Officers are progressing a detailed project update from the delivery partner.

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

Community engagement has commenced with 41 registrations across the different project elements.

Confirmation on the content and duration of the counselling and advice training is being progressed with SEUPB.

An informal project launch via a photo opportunity is taking place on 5 March 2026 at St Comgalls. Representatives from the Partnership have been invited to attend.

CCD5 From Multiculturalism to Interculturalism

3.6 Lot 1 – Language and Cultural Access

The assessment process is ongoing with clarifications being sought from the bidders.

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

11 participants are registered to the project Steering Group, and the second Steering Group meeting took place in January 2026.

The first collaborative project, development of a Come On Over Brand Design and Style Guide is continuing. A facilitated workshop on Dealing with Difficult Situations & De-escalation was delivered.

Members are requested to note that staff / volunteers from Eastside Partnership's heritage programme, based at Templemore Baths are involved in the Cultural Spaces project. Although the staff / volunteers are not associated with Council.

The first Cultural Spaces Capacity Building workshop focusing on unconscious bias, language exchange, programming and

community relations, intergenerational dialogue and mental health and isolation will be hosted by Templemore Baths in March 2026. The first Grassroots Capacity Building workshop 'Branching Out' will involve food, language, arts and crafts and will be hosted by An Chultúrlann in March 2026.

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

44 participants are registered to the project in the Mentors/Mentees Programme, Flagship Events Steering Group and Musical Fusions Steering Group.

The Mentoring Programme continued in January with 3 sessions delivered with Wayne Denner (cyber security and digital marketing) and Anne McMurray (leadership). Sessions in March/April delivered by Sarah Travers will focus on communications, media engagement and crisis communications.

The Phase 1 contract initiation payment and Jul-Sep 2025 quarterly management fee have now been progressed. Oct-Dec Quarterly report and M&E are being finalised with the delivery partner.

Members are requested to note that the delivery partner has submitted proposed Festivals & Flagship Events to be delivered through the project. On considering the proposal, the Programme Board has requested further information on the events is provided to ensure complementarity with other similar events. As such the Partnership will be updated in due course.

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

Officers continue to liaise with the delivery partner to finalise and verify the monitoring data. The results of Y1 participation and completion will be reported to members in March 2026.

Concept plans for Year 2 programme of Events and Tours and the Burial Traditions Programme (as outlined in Appendix I) have been reviewed in terms of engagement hours/ participant numbers. Members are requested to note the extensive programme of events. It should also be noted that two burial grounds (Ballynahatty and Shankill) are repeated from Year 1, due to a significant Health & Safety risk at Knock and Ballyahaghan .

3.10 Celebrating Cultures and Diversity (CCD) Thematic Steering Group

The quarterly CCD Thematic Steering Group took place on 3 February 2026, hosted by MayWe. 6 delivery partner organisations (of 8) were represented at the meeting.

Following requests processes have been developed to help delivery partner's share PEACEPLUS related activity and opportunities for collaboration with each other, as follows:

- **Delivery Partner Directory:** to enable delivery partners to share information about their organisations services to assist in source services or promoting further collaboration.
- **Activity Log:** to enable delivery partners to share upcoming PEACEPLUS events and activities for the purpose of highlighting opportunities and recruitment.

The Thematic risk register was reviewed, and whilst no new risks were added or escalated risk ratings changed from fair to good and 2 risks were rated poor, as below.

Poor Risk 1: Financial. Budget and cashflow constraints. Monitoring evidence requirements and system errors are causing delay in payment approval and that alignment of payments with targets can slow down payments.

Poor Risk 2: Compliance, conditions of funding, and monitoring and evaluation: PEACEPLUS systems creating delays. Long approval timeframes and their impacts, particularly around communication approvals, were highlighted.

Concerns regarding assigning a proxy community background were also outlined.

Members should note that officers are putting in place relevant mitigations to address the risks, including a Comms Compliance Checklist and M&E system troubleshooting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 5th May 2026 at 10am in Council offices.

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.

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 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:

Delivery of the capital element of the project remains on schedule. Stakeholders have agreed the designs and the project is now progressing to technical design.

Further work is progressing in relation to (1) the establishment of the cooperative and the (2) agreement of the rent. The Stakeholder Steering Group is progressing these matters in parallel with the design development.

The stakeholder groups involved wish to occupy the front portion of the building (Phase 2) however this sits outside the scope of the PEACEPLUS project and will have no impact delivery of the capital works or animation elements.

Members are reminded that animation activity is to be delivered via enhanced service provision on the site, with no specific budget assigned. Although, it should be noted that

delivery of some animation activity outside of the building may be required to meet participant targets. Once the detail is confirmed, an update will be provided to members.

3.3 CRT2: Annadale:

Annadale Stakeholder Meeting is scheduled for 25 February 2026, and an Internal Steering Group meeting is scheduled for early March 2026.

Implementation of animation activity is progressing; it is anticipated that the event management training for local groups / participants will be delivered by 31 March 2026.

Preparation of quotation documents for provision of skills development to deliver environmental activities and play sessions, detached youth work and an events programme are being finalised.

3.4 CRT3: Distillery Street:

Consultation on the project designs, via online and community sessions, is progressing. Whilst the online consultation has opened, there are some community concerns regarding opening the interface. A site meeting with elected members and community representatives took place on 17 February 2026. Further community consultation sessions are currently being planned.

As previously reported, procurement documentation for the animation programme is under development. The tender release will be aligned to finalising the designs and community consultation. As such the tender issue may be delayed until April 2026.

3.5 CRT4: Access to the Hills:

Project design is continuing. The next Stakeholder Steering Group meeting is scheduled for 12 March 2026.

The Animation programme procurement documents are now live on eSourcing, with the contract anticipated to be in place in April 2026.

3.6 CRT5: Sanctuary Theatre

Develop of designs and the capital elements have progressed to RIBA stage 3, and the project remains on track. The next design team meeting is to be held 24 February 2026.

The Animation tender consensus panel was held 10 February 2026, with clarifications issued to bidders. The

timeframe for the contract award remains on track for March 2026.

3.7 Governance update

The Programme Manager and Programme Delivery Manager continue to liaise on project progress. Dates for the next Capital Project Board meeting is being finalised.

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 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 Chairperson welcomed Ms. I. Sherry to her first meeting of the Partnership and Ms. J. Bradley, who had recently joined the Council's PEACEPLUS Team.

Date of Next Meeting

The Chairperson reminded the Partnership that the next meeting would be held at 1:30pm on Monday 13th April.

The Chairperson advised the members of the Partnership that requests had been received to reschedule future meetings of the Shared City Partnership to Wednesdays and that a list of proposed new dates would be circulated for consideration.

Chairperson