

SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

Wednesday 12th June 3rd June, 2026

SPECIAL MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

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

External Members: Ms. B. Arthurs, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Ms. N. Creagh, Department for Communities;
Supt. A. Hagan, PSNI;
Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council;
Rev. G. Kennedy, Faith Sector;
Ms. E. Thompson, NIHE;
Mr. JP. Sukumaran, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Mr. G. Walker, Community and Voluntary Sector; and
Ms. A. M. White, British Red Cross.

In attendance: Mr. J. Girvan, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services;
Mr. G. McCartney, Good Relations Manager
Ms. D. McKinney, Peace Programme Manager;
Ms. D. Long, Good Relations Officer
Ms. N. Lynch, Good Relations Officer;
Ms. F. McIntyre, Project Officer (Good Relations)
Ms. L. Comerton, Belfast Chamber;
Mr. E. Graham, Interfaith Forum;
Mr. A. Wilson, Education Authority; and
Mr. A. McMullan, Members' Services and Digital Support Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported from Councillor Smyth and from Independent Members Ms. L. Euler, Mr P. Mackel, and Ms. A. Roberts.

Community Disorder

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services updated the Partnership on the Council's response to the recent community disorder.

The Members of the Partnership also reported on the work the various sectors they represented had been undertaking and discussed the actions which should be implemented in response to the ongoing disorder. These were:

1. The need for a communications piece from the PSNI;
2. To invite the Mears Group to attend a meeting of the Shared City Partnership to discuss its obligations and responsibilities;
3. The need for the Community Sector to be represented at the Community Cohesion Group, in addition to Voluntary Sector groups;
4. The need for PSNI accountability, particularly around online incitement to hatred;

5. The need to determine what happens with those on Working Visas with no recourse to public funds and ensure that the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's Interim Duty is stood up in relation to private rentals;
6. The need for a review of the Civil Contingency Plans to be undertaken and disseminated; and
7. That opportunities for community members to meet local leaders and share positive messages of unity would help reduce fear, reassure families overseas, and reinforce Northern Ireland's reputation as a welcoming, inclusive, and diverse society

Noted.

Chairperson