Audit of Good Relations need within Belfast City Council

Final Report

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1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Introduction

Belfast City Council commissioned SJC Consultancy to undertake an audit of good relations needs in the Belfast City Council electoral area and to use the findings and recommendations of the audit to identify key areas of work that should be included in a Belfast City Council Good Relations Action Plan 2017-2018.

1.2 Methodology

The audit employed the following range of methods to engage with stakeholders and identify the key good relations needs in Belfast.

- 92 responses were received from the online survey which used the new Belfast City Council consultation platform, citizen space.
- 39 individuals took part in stakeholder interviews and focus groups.
- 46 individuals attended a public engagement event on 22 November at Girdwood Community Hub.
- 20 individuals attended a co-design workshop to identify approaches to issues raised through the audit.

In total up to 197 stakeholders took part in the audit. The findings from this exercise were analysed in conjunction with other research and relevant policy to identify key issues and develop recommendations.

1.3 Key Issues

Defining good relations

The legal context of good relations comes from Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 which states that in addition to statutory equality duties: “Public Authorities are also required to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, and racial group.”

Equality of opportunity and good relations are framing themes across all NI Executive strategies, development plans and delivery actions.

Belfast City Council defines good relations as: “Promoting better relationships between people from different political, religious and racial backgrounds, tackling sectarianism and racism and promoting cultural diversity.”

T:BUC District Council Good Relations Programme

Belfast City Council is a key delivery agent for Central Government good relations work, through the District Council’s Good Relations Programme (DCGRP), funded by the Executive Office (TEO). This programme of work is delivered in the context of the Together; Building a United Community (TBUC) strategy, which outlines how Government, community and individuals will work together to build a united community and achieve change against the following key priorities:

- Our children and young people;
- Our shared community;
- Our safe community; and
- Our cultural expression.
The Council’s future Good Relations Action Plan will align to these principles and priorities, with actions and programmes developed to achieve the vision within this strategy.

Belfast City Council submits a Good Relations Action plan to TEO on an annual basis to secure funding for good relations activity. This plan must be needs based and there is a requirement on council to carry out an audit of good relations need in Belfast every three years. The findings of this audit will be used to develop the DCGRP Action plan for 2017/18.

The budget for the current DCGRP is £684,025. TEO provides 75% funding towards salaries and administration and programme/project costs along with 25% match funding from the council. Programme costs are aligned to the four TBUC themes. Each theme includes a significant allocation for grant aid that is delivered through the small grants programme i.e. 36% of the total budget is awarded to community/voluntary groups.

**Belfast Conversation and the Belfast Agenda**

Good relations was ranked as one of the top issues and a key priority by respondents as part of the Belfast Conversation – the council’s community planning engagement programme. In particular, issues related to interfaces/peace walls, attitudes towards tolerance and respect, symbols and issues of identity, and the need for shared space were mentioned the most by respondents.

The feedback from the Belfast Conversation and existing performance data and research has been used to develop the Belfast Agenda – community plan. Equality and good relations is one of the shared values that has shaped the development of the Belfast Agenda and will inform its delivery. One of the key outcomes of the agenda is the creation of a city that is welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive for all. Good relations projects and activities funded under the DCGRP will directly align to the outcomes of the Belfast Agenda in order to achieve the 2025 Vision for Belfast.

The Belfast Agenda is now opened for consultation from 15 December 2016 and will close on 9 March 2017. The findings and recommendations contained in this good relations audit will also feed into the consultation on the Belfast Agenda as many of the issues require strategic responses at a citywide level.

### 1.4 Key Findings

The main strategic issues emerging from the audit are provided below, and include recommendations for the future delivery and promotion of good relations.

**Top three - actions contributing to good relations**

1. Improving understanding and awareness through education/dialogue.
2. Use of cultural activities (art, sport, music, events) to bring people together.
3. Targeted cross community/cross cultural activities.

**Top three - issues that cause poor relations and create tensions between communities**

1. Unresolved issues (the past, marches, flags and emblems).
2. Negative political environment/lack of political leadership.
3. Segregated working and living.

**Top three - barriers to developing good relations**
1. Fear of intimidation or attack.
2. Social deprivation and poverty.
3. Lack of groups wishing to engage.
4. Largely segregated schools.

1.5 Key findings – TBUC themes

1.5.1 Our Children & Young People

Aim: To continue to improve attitudes amongst our young people and to build a community where they can play a full and active role in building Good Relations.

Outcomes:
- Improved attitudes between young people from different backgrounds.
- Young people engaged in bringing the community together.

Audit Findings:
- According to the Northern Ireland Young Life and Times Survey (YLT) survey, there was a general increase in respondents who think that relationships between young people from different backgrounds have improved. However, there has been a decline in how relationships have been perceived in recent years, highlighting the need for continued work to improve attitudes and relations between children and young people from different backgrounds. Furthermore, views towards ethnic minority communities, while remaining lower than desirable, show continuous improvement, highlighting the need for continued work to improve attitudes towards people from ethnic minority backgrounds.

- The Kids’ Life and Times (KLT) survey also indicates that children in Northern Ireland were divided in terms of religion, highlighting the need for early intervention activities.

- Key stakeholders emphasised the need for early intervention initiatives and ongoing age appropriate projects that help children and young people develop meaningful relationships with peers from a different community background. School based projects, particularly during transition phases, were noted as an effective means of developing positive attitudes.

Recommendations:
- Although the Council does not have a statutory remit for direct provision with children and young people, it provides a range of services through various departments and should continue to develop relationships internally and with other agencies to delivery good relations initiatives.

- Continue to build on the DiverseCity events which are targeted towards young people and aim to support children and young people to learn more about the culture and traditions of other communities living in Belfast.

- Continue to work in schools on projects that tackle racism and sectarianism amongst young people.

- Given the significance of children and young people in the delivery of good relations outcomes, consideration should be given to enhancing the good relations outcomes achieved through the Youth Forum. This will not only provide a useful insight for the delivery of good relations but will also provide participating young people with the opportunity to engage in decision making processes and have a direct influence in programme delivery.
The Good Relations Action Plan should link with the proposed activities under the PEACE IV programme, highlighted in the Belfast Agenda (which aims to delivery programmes to over 4,000 children and young people) and work to complement this work in order to focus on a particular area and/or issue to generate a greater impact and value for money.

1.5.2  Our Shared Community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aim:</th>
<th>to create a community where division does not restrict the life opportunities of individuals and where all areas are open and accessible to all.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Outcomes: | • Increased use of shared space and services (e.g. leisure centres, shopping centres, education, and housing).  
• Shared space is accessible to all. |

Audit Findings:

- Based on the YLT survey, it is evident that there are issues surrounding the extent to which young people perceive leisure centres, parks, libraries and shopping centres in their area to be ‘shared and open’ to both Protestants and Catholics. In Belfast, this issue is particularly apparent, highlighting the need for activities promoting increased use of shared space in Belfast.

- Key stakeholders raised a number of issues with regard to this theme, namely: the perceived disparity of shared space with investment concentrated in some areas and that Belfast does not become a dual city signified by areas of affluence and areas of deprivation; issues with regard to interfaces and barriers to sharing; lack of connectivity across Belfast; and the need for greater social cohesion and inclusion.

- The Innovation Factory and Girdwood Community Hub were noted by stakeholders as positive examples of shared/open spaces.

Recommendations:

- The Good Relations Action Plan should align to commitments under the Programme for Government, relevant to this theme the action to deliver a programme of local neighbourhood schemes and capital/public realm/environmental improvement schemes which will enhance public spaces, creating high quality multi-use places that are in every sense ‘shared spaces’. Local authorities are highlighted as key delivery partners for this element in the Programme for Government.

- There is a role for the GRU to work with internal Council departments to consider mechanisms to maximise the good relations outcomes of any capital projects that are being developed by the Council and enhance links with good relations staff, for example Urban Villages projects funded as part of the TBUC strategy.

- The Good Relations Action Plan and associated projects under the DCGRP should link with the Belfast Agenda’s proposed Shared Space Programme and the adoption of a ‘Good Relations and Shared Space Policy’ to ensure that good relations is a key consideration in ‘Community Planning’ and the ‘Local Development Plan’, thereby generating greater usage of new and existing shared spaces by all communities.

- Good relations should also be considered in the context of the Belfast Agenda’s wider regeneration and investment outcomes i.e. the Council will ‘drive the physical and cultural regeneration of the city centre’ and is ‘committed to encouraging city centre living and creating a vibrant, well-connected environment for people to enjoy’ as well as supporting the economic growth and connectivity of surrounding neighborhoods. This is
linked to the Council and the Department for Communities joint City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy.

- Furthermore, it is important that synergies are created with NIHE as part of the Community Cohesion ‘building good relations through housing’ strategy (2015-2020), which aims to create a common vision and sense of belonging for everyone.

- Based on the above, it is clear that Good Relations is and should continue to be a key feature in all council-led policy and implementation programmes.

- Belfast City Council and other stakeholders should consider enhanced engagement with local community in the development of new shared spaces, involving input from the GRU at an early stage to advise of issues and develop programmes, where required. This will enhance the likelihood of shared space outcomes.

- Deliver projects that will develop shared space in identified areas. Consider opportunities for the GRU to develop the use of council leisure and community centres as shared spaces.

- Consider projects to promote the use of shared spaces and enhance opportunities for children and young people to access shared spaces such as leisure centres.

### 1.5.3 Our Safe Community

**Aim:** to create a community where everyone feels safe in moving around and where life choices are not inhibited by fears around safety.

**Outcomes:**
- Reduce the prevalence of hate crime and intimidation.
- A community where places and spaces are safe for all.

**Audit Findings:**

- Fear of intimidation or attack was reported as the main barrier to developing good relations by online survey respondents.

- 41% of respondents to the online survey agreed that it is ‘absolutely essential’ that the council continue work on *Transforming aggressive murals* followed by 28% who agreed it was ‘very important’. Furthermore, 48% agreed that it was ‘absolutely essential’ that the council continue interventions around interface areas, followed by 31% who agreed it was ‘very important’.

- Key stakeholders highlighted that hate crime and intimidation is evident across Belfast and there is a perception that racism is increasing at a citywide level. Segregated housing and education and prevalence of territorial markings and aggressive murals were raised as issues that create and sustain divisions.

- The view of a majority of respondents was that community planning is critical to ‘unlocking’ interfaces and the planning function has the potential to have a positive impact on interface transformation and good relations. Respondents reported that they would welcome more innovative and creative ways of engaging local interface communities.

**Recommendations:**

- Continue and enhance working relationships with the PCSP to deliver approaches that reduce hate crime and intimidation.
• Continue to provide support for transforming aggressive murals and support for interface communities to develop relationships and engage in dialogue around the transformation of interfaces.

• Prioritise engagement with communities living at interfaces /peace walls to support the development of cross community relationships and networks and continue links with PCSPs to develop this work.

• Details relating to the council’s proposed 'Interfaces programme’ within the Belfast Agenda needs to be developed. It is important that linkages between the Good Relations Action Plan and Community Planning are made to maximise the benefits of such a programme. It is also imperative to continue to engage in partnership working with DoJ to advance the reduction in interfaces.

• Consider opportunities for social enterprise and social innovation in the development of shared spaces. Support increased capacity of community groups to avail of opportunities under the Department for Communities Community Asset Transfer policy, which provides for a change in management and/or ownership of land or buildings, from public bodies to communities.

1.5.4 Our Cultural Expression

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aim:</th>
<th>to create a community which promotes mutual respect and understanding, is strengthened by its diversity, and where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outcomes:</td>
<td>• Increased sense of community belonging (widens contribution beyond community background).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Cultural diversity is celebrated.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Audit Findings:

• According to the NILT survey, the majority of people believe that the culture and traditions of the Catholic community, the Protestant community and different minority ethnic groups adds to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society.

• 67% of Catholics and 69% of Protestants think that their cultural identity is respected by society – highlighting the need for further promotion of cultural and greater tolerance and mutual respect for different cultural identity.

• Less than a third of adults (27%) felt like they have an influence when it comes to any of the local decisions made in their neighbourhood, and less than a quarter (22%) to the decisions made in Northern Ireland. For young people, these proportions were much lower (9% and 7%, respectively), highlighting the need for increased citizenship programmes, especially involving young people.

• Key stakeholders indicated a disconnection within the PUL community and a perception of reduced engagement.

• Mixed opinions were offered with regard to the Bonfire Management Programme and whether the provision of financial incentives for bonfire celebrations from the council was appropriate and if these events actually contributed to good relations. The funding however was also seen to act as a lever to address issues such as environmental and community safety concerns and as a way of engaging with communities to support more inclusive and family orientated and culturally symbolic events.

• Stakeholders believed that using the medium of the arts can be powerful and positive, exposing people to various perspectives/imagery can give rise to better engagement and relations.

Recommendations:
• The council to reaffirm its commitment to promoting positive cultural expression and the inclusion of all communities in events.

• Continue to provide training to increase awareness of the benefits of cultural diversity.

• Consider mechanisms, in partnership with other relevant organisations, to deliver good relations programmes that highlight the role of civic leadership in fostering relationships between people of different backgrounds and the benefits of good relations to the city of Belfast.

• Consider targeted engagement with PUL community that will promote inclusion and develop relationships within that community and with others from different backgrounds to further support positive cultural expression.

• Continue to support the inclusion of new communities into Belfast and develop their capacity to create social bonds and connections and to participate locally.

• The Good Relations Action Plan and associated projects under the DCGRP should link with the Belfast Agenda’s proposed Cultural and Arts Strategy and the commitments made under the Racial Equality Strategy 2015-2015.

1.6 Key findings – Strategic and Operational considerations

Promotion of good relations
The majority of respondents (51%) rated the council as ‘good’ (40%) or very good (11%), a further 29% rated the council as ‘adequate’ (29%) when asked to describe the council’s promotion and delivery of good relations. The results and stakeholder feedback highlight the need to enhance the effectiveness of internal and external communications.

Delivery of good relations
The Shared City Partnership is a working group of Belfast City Council which makes recommendations on good relations issues in the city to council. It is comprised of political and external representatives and considers approaches to issues of good relations, sectarianism, racism and cultural diversity. The partnership allows for discussion on sensitive issues and adds external voices which can inform the development of approaches.

At present there are seven members of staff in the Good Relations Unit (GRU) who lead delivery on the DCGRP. In addition to direct programme delivery and ongoing community engagement, the GROs also administer three funds in two grant tranches each year (four separate exercises). This involves considerable time in supporting the development of applications, assessing and moderating applications and evaluating grants.

The areas of work currently undertaken by the Good Relations Unit that were identified as most essential by audit respondents were:
1. Interventions around interface areas.
2. Support for migrant, minority, refugee and asylum seeking communities.
3. Community engagement in good relations issues.

Partnership Working
The majority (83%) of respondents identified Belfast City Council as having a ‘key role’ in the promotion and delivery of good relations. Youth organisations (82%) and community organisations (77%) also rank highly as having a key role.
The council are engaged in a number of strategic linkages, for example, a number of assessment panels relating to the award of various grants and is also represented at a number of boards within TEO. Council regularly liaises with the Department of Justice (DoJ) and the International Fund for Ireland (IFI) in relation to work with interface communities and is a member of the Interfaces Strategic Board.

There are also strategic links in relation to the implementation of the Racial Equality Strategy and work with CRC on the Decade of Centenaries events. In addition, the Unit has been involved in the development of a range of the Peace IV project proposals; this will help to avoid duplication and overlap in service provision.

**Recommendations:**

These relate to strategic issues where the Shared City Partnership should seek to influence on good relations issues:

- Develop a communication strategy that communicates good relations messages to internal and external audiences. This should include definition, terminology, impact and best practice.

- Consider the development of the identity of the Shared City Partnership as a body that promotes good relations across the city. The Partnership should review its membership and operation to ensure that it maximises its role in developing responses to contentious issues. This should include a renewed emphasis on the role of the Chair and Vice chair as good relations ‘champions’ across Belfast.

- Consider longer term, strategic funding approaches which move away from the current model of four funds administered every six months.

- Consider ‘flagship’ projects that will have maximum impact in terms of raising awareness of good relations across the city.

- The need for partnership working to address outcomes is clear, with existing partnerships and various levels of collaboration already evident. To fully embrace the Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) model will require a more involved form of partnership working in order to meet the outcomes set in the TBUC strategy.

- Given the priority of good relations, as per feedback from stakeholders to the Belfast Conversation, and the impact of ‘poor relations’, it would be useful if good relations targets featured more prominently in the Belfast Agenda. Furthermore, the terminology ‘community relations’ is used in the Belfast Agenda with respect to ‘good relations’ issue. It is important that the council and the Belfast Agenda use a consistent approach to terminology. Good Relations is the term more widely used and if the council wish to promote a consistent message there is a need to used consistent terminology – this will have a greater impact on the promotion of good relations within the council’s internal structures and staff and external stakeholders.
2 INTRODUCTION & APPROACH

2.1 Introduction

Belfast City Council commissioned SJC Consultancy to undertake an audit of good relations needs in the Belfast City Council electoral area and to use the findings and recommendations of the audit to identify key areas of work that should be included in a Belfast City Council Good Relations Action Plan 2017-20218.

The findings from this audit and subsequent recommendations for the action plan will be used to drawdown funding from the Executive Office (TEO), under the District Council Good Relations Programme (DCGRP).

2.2 Definition of Good Relations

The legal context of Good Relations comes from Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 which states that in addition to statutory equality duties: “Public Authorities are also required to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, and racial group.”

Neither ‘good relations’ nor ‘promoting good relations’ is defined in legislation; however, the Equality Commission has developed the following working definition of good relations: “The growth of relationships and structures for Northern Ireland that acknowledge the religious, political and racial context of this society, and that seek to promote respect, equity and trust, and embrace diversity in all its forms”

Belfast City Council defines good relations as: “Promoting better relationships between people from different political, religious and racial backgrounds, tackling sectarianism and racism and promoting cultural diversity.”

2.3 Terms of Reference

The council last carried out an audit of good relations need in 2011 which was updated in 2014 to include information on the new areas that were joining Belfast City Council as part of Local Government Reform. These audits identified key good relations issues, recommended appropriate actions and informed the development of subsequent Good Relations Action Plans. The council is required to undertake an independent audit of current good relations needs every three years in order to inform future action plans.

Terms of reference:

- Undertake an audit of current good relations needs within the city:
  - To examine how the changing environment at a strategic, policy and political level may impact upon the development of the programme in line with the Governmental ‘Together: Building a United Community’ (T:BUC) Strategy themes, linking these within the Council’s strategic themes with particular reference to the emerging Belfast Agenda (community plan).
  - Provide an assessment of the effectiveness of the current Programme in meeting the outcomes set by the Executive Office (TEO).
  - To examine to what extent the expectations of the funder (TEO) and partners on the Shared City Partnership have been met through the leadership, development and delivery of the Programme.

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- Provide an assessment of the current and emerging good relations needs from both a citywide and neighbourhood level.

- Provide recommendations, where appropriate, to Belfast City Council regarding any amendments to the Programme which may be required to best meet good relations outcomes.

- Use the findings and recommendations of the audit to identify key areas of work that should be included in a Belfast City Council Good Relations Action Plan for 2017 – 2018.

2.4 Our Approach

The audit employed the following range of methods to engage with stakeholders and identify the key good relations needs in Belfast.

- 92 responses were received from the online survey which used the new Belfast City Council consultation platform, citizen space.

- 39 individuals took part in stakeholder interviews and focus groups.

- 46 individuals attended a public engagement event on 22 November at Girdwood Community Hub.

- 20 individuals attended a co-design workshop to identify approaches to issues raised through the audit.

In total up to 197 stakeholders took part in the audit. The findings from this exercise were analysed in conjunction with other research and relevant policy to identify key issues and develop recommendations.

The views are wide-ranging and represent over 150 unique individuals and 64 unique organisations from all sectors: statutory, public, community/voluntary and the private sector. Those that contributed to the research represent the views of: children and young people, arts sector, sporting organisations, women’s groups, political ex-prisoners, faith groups, organisation representing asylum seekers and refugees, as well as community development organisations from across Belfast. Appendix 1 lists all the organisations that contributed to the research.

For ease of analysis and reference, findings from the qualitative research have been quantified (where possible) to gain an understanding of the extent to which themes are common. The proportions used to quantify responses are described using the following terms:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>No. of individuals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Almost/nearly all</td>
<td>91%-99%</td>
<td>95-104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most</td>
<td>75%-90%</td>
<td>79-103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A majority</td>
<td>50%-74%</td>
<td>53-78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A significant minority</td>
<td>30%-49%</td>
<td>32-52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A minority</td>
<td>10%-29%</td>
<td>11-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A few/a small number</td>
<td>less than 10%</td>
<td>1-10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The online survey data has been analysed and relevant cross-tabs and coding of open-ended responses undertaken. It is important to note that the responses to the audit reflect respondents’ perceptions only. Key findings and commentary are summarised throughout the report and the full analysis can be found in Appendix II.
2.5 Report Structure

The report is structured as follows:

- Chapter 3: Strategic Context
- Chapter 4: Socio-Economic & Good Relations Context
- Chapter 5: District Council Good Relations Programme
- Chapter 6: Key Findings - Our Children & Young People
- Chapter 7: Key Findings - Our Shared Community
- Chapter 8: Key Findings - Our Safe Community
- Chapter 9: Key Findings - Our Cultural Expression
- Chapter 10: Promotion of Good Relations
- Chapter 11: Partnership Working
- Chapter 12: Concluding Comments & Recommendations
3 STRATEGIC CONTEXT

3.1 Introduction

This section provides a description of the strategy and policy context in which good relations operates, enhancing our understanding of how the changing environment at a strategic, policy and political level may impact upon the development of the programme in line with the Governmental T:BUC themes.

3.2 Regional Strategic Context

3.2.1 Programme for Government (2016 – 2021)

The Programme for Government (PfG) is the highest level strategic document of the Northern Ireland Executive – setting out the priorities that it will pursue in the current Assembly mandate, and the most significant actions it will take to address them. The PfG purpose is “Improving wellbeing for all - by tackling disadvantage and driving economic growth.”

The PfG contains 14 strategic outcomes and 48 indicators which, taken together, set a clear direction of travel and enable continuous improvement on the essential components of societal wellbeing.

1. We prosper through a strong, competitive, regionally balanced economy.
2. We live and work sustainably – protecting the environment.
3. We have a more equal society.
4. We enjoy long, healthy, active lives.
5. We are an innovative, creative society where people can fulfil their potential.
6. We have more people working in better jobs.
7. We have a safe community where we respect the law and each other.
8. We care for others and we help those in need.
9. We are a shared society that respects diversity.
10. We are a confident, welcoming, outward-looking society.
11. We have high quality public services.
12. We have created a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest.
13. We connect people and opportunities through our infrastructure.
14. We give our children and young people the best start in life.

Key note:
Equality of opportunity and good relations are framing themes across all Executive strategies, development plans and delivery actions. The Executive also ‘commit to promoting good relations’.

PfG outcomes with a specific reference to good relations and good relations indicators include:

- Outcome 7: We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other.
  - % of the population who believe their cultural identity is respected by society

- Outcome 9: We are a shared society that respects diversity.
- % who think all leisure centres, parks, libraries and shopping centres in their areas are ‘shared and open’ to both Protestants and Catholics.
- % of the population who believe their cultural identity is respected by society.

Outcome 10: We are a confident, welcoming, outward-looking society.
- % of the population who believe their cultural identity is respected by society.

The development of ‘A Respect Index’ is proposed under the PfG to measure indicators ‘% who think leisure centres, parks, libraries and shopping centres in their areas are "shared and open" to both Protestants and Catholics’ and ‘% the population who believe their cultural identity is respected by society.

PfG actions – with a specific link to Good Relations – these actions are common to Outcome 7, Outcome 9 and Outcome 10.
- Continue to facilitate integrated education including through consideration of the recommendations from the Review of Integrated Education.
- Encourage, facilitate and promote shared education to ensure all young people have the opportunity to learn together.
- Develop cross-Executive action plans including on hate crime and other community safety issues.
- Develop the concept of place based approach to tackling crime which promotes collective efficacy and builds upon work of Policing and Community Safety Partnerships and the local community planning process.
- Deliver an Executive Action Plan for tackling paramilitary activity, criminality and organised crime.
- Deliver a programme of local neighbourhood schemes and public realm/environmental improvement schemes which will enhance our public spaces, creating high quality multi-use places that are in every sense “shared spaces”.
- Strengthen our racial equality legislation.
- Review opportunities and challenges for developing and mainstreaming a Respect Agenda.
- Support the work of the Commission on Flags, Identity, Culture and Tradition.
- Continue work to resolve the outstanding issues relating to the legacy of the past.
- Continue to deliver the Together: Building a United Community Strategy, focusing on the seven headline actions.
- Develop a programme of financial incentives using funding available through the Fresh Start agreement to incentivise the development of more mixed-tenure housing, mixed-use sites underpinned by a shared ethos.

The outcomes set within the PfG have been developed using an Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) approach.

The OBA model\(^2\) starts with a focus on outcomes rather than processes and provides a framework for planning and performance managing services. The model has been used as a way of structuring planning to improve outcomes for whole populations and for improving services. Key features of OBA include:

- population accountability, which is about improving outcomes for a particular population within a defined geographical area; and

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\(^2\) Friedman, Mark ‘Trying Hard is Not Good Enough’ (2000)
- performance accountability, which is about the performance of a service and improving outcomes for a defined group of service users.

A second key feature of OBA is the use of performance management categories which distinguish between:

- How much did we do? (Quantity) (Input) e.g. No. of participants.
- How well did we do it? (Quality) (Input) e.g. % participants completing programmed.
- Is anyone better off as a result? (Effect) (Output) e.g. % participants placed into employment.

The structure provided by OBA provides individuals, teams and groups of stakeholders with a framework for thinking about, and planning action, to improve outcomes.

3.2.2 Together Building a United Community

In May 2013, the Office of First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) - now called “The Executive Office” (TEO) - published ‘Together: Building a United Community’ (T:BUC), Government’s Strategy which reflects the Executive’s commitment to improving good relations and continuing the journey towards a more united and shared society. This includes an improvement in the relations between the two main communities, as well as having a positive influence on good relations generally including relations between and within minority ethnic communities.

The Strategy is intended to impact on society as a whole and the overall outcome is:

“A united community, based on equality of opportunity, the desirability of good relations and reconciliation - one which is strengthened by its diversity, where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced and where everyone can live, learn, work and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance

Belfast City Council’s Good Relations work reflects the Northern Ireland executive’s commitment to building a united community through its five main aims:

- **Our Children and Young People** - to continue to improve attitudes amongst our young people and to build a community where they can play a full and active role in building Good Relations;
- **Our Shared Community** - to create a community where division does not restrict the life opportunities of individuals and where all areas are open and accessible to all;
- **Our Safe Community** - to create a community where everyone feels safe in moving around and where life choices are not inhibited by fears around safety;
- **Our Cultural Expression** - to create a community which promotes mutual respect and understanding, is strengthened by its diversity, and where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced; and
- **Supporting Programme Actions** - to develop support programmes, at both Council and community level, to increase and improve leadership, capacity, organisation and capital building skills in order to support Good Relations.
Table 3.1: T:BUC Priority Areas and Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Priority 1: Our Children &amp; Young People</th>
<th>Key Priority 2: Our Shared Community</th>
<th>Key Priority 3: Our Safe Community</th>
<th>Key Priority 4: Our Cultural Expression</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outcome 1.1:</strong> Improved attitudes between young people from different backgrounds.</td>
<td><strong>Outcome 2.1:</strong> Increased use of shared space and services (e.g. leisure centres, shopping centres, education, and housing).</td>
<td><strong>Outcome 3.1:</strong> Reduce the prevalence of hate crime and intimidation.</td>
<td><strong>Outcome 4.1:</strong> Increased sense of community belonging (widens contribution beyond community background).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project level outcomes:</td>
<td>Project level outcomes:</td>
<td>Project level outcomes:</td>
<td>Project level outcomes:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Increase in the number of participants who are more favourable towards people from the Catholic community.</td>
<td>- Increase in the percentage of participants who feel comfortable socialising in a shared space or space they would not traditionally visit. An increase in the percentage of participants who feel comfortable attending a sporting event regularly that is associated with another community background.</td>
<td>- Increase in the percentage of participants who feel safe going to events held in for example, an Orange Hall, a GAA club, a Protestant secondary school, a Catholic secondary school.</td>
<td>- A decrease in the number of participants who felt intimidated by republican/loyalist murals, kerb paintings or flags in the last year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Increase in the number of participants who are more favourable towards people from the Protestant Community.</td>
<td>- Increase in percentage of people who consider the area they live as welcoming to all communities.</td>
<td>- Increase in the percentage of participants who would prefer to work in a mixed religion workplace.</td>
<td>- Increase in the percentage of participants who feel safe socialising in a mixed religion background.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Increase in the number of participants who are more favourable towards people from an ethnic minority background.</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Increase in the percentage of participants who would prefer to live in a mixed religion neighbourhood.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome 1.2: Young people engaged in bringing the community together.</th>
<th>Outcome 2.2: Shared Space is accessible to all.</th>
<th>Outcome 3.2: A community where places and spaces are safe for all.</th>
<th>Outcome 4.2: Cultural diversity is celebrated.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project level outcomes</td>
<td>Project level outcomes</td>
<td>Project level outcomes</td>
<td>Project level outcomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Increase in the percentage of young people who regularly socialise or play sport with people from a different religious community.</td>
<td>- Increase in the percentage who think that leisure centres, parks, libraries and shopping centre in their area are shared and open to both Protestant and Catholics.</td>
<td>- Increase in the percentage of participants who see town centres as safe and welcoming places for people from all walks of life.</td>
<td>- Increase in the percentage who think that the culture and traditions of the Catholic Community add to the richness and diversity of NI.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Increase in the percentage of participants who would prefer to live in a mixed religion neighbourhood.</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Increase in the percentage who think that the culture and traditions of the Protestant Community add to the richness and diversity of NI.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Increase in the percentage of participants who would prefer to work in a mixed religion workplace.</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Increase in the percentage who think that the culture and traditions of the Minority Ethnic Community add to the richness and diversity of NI.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Increase in the percentage of participants who would prefer to send their children to a school with children of mixed religion.</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Increase in the percentage of Protestants who think that their cultural identity is respected by society.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Increase in the percentage of Catholics who think that their cultural identity is respected by society.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The DCGRP is delivered in the context of the T:BUC strategy. Belfast City Council’s future Good Relations Action Plan will be required to be aligned to these principles and priorities, with actions and programmes developed to achieve the vision within this strategy.
3.2.3 *The Racial Equality Strategy 2015 - 2025*

The Racial Equality Strategy establishes a framework for action by Government departments (and others): to tackle racial inequalities and to open up opportunity for all; to eradicate racism and hate crime; and along with the TBUC strategy, to promote good race relations and social cohesion. The vision is:

“A society which is strengthened by its ethnic diversity, where we can live together free from racism, racial inequality and unlawful racial discrimination, where we share a common sense of belonging and where human rights and equality are enjoyed by all”

This vision is supported by seven key shared aims, namely:

- **Elimination of racial inequality**: To eliminate racial inequalities and promote equality of opportunity in all aspects of economic, social, cultural, political and public life, for people of different ethnic backgrounds.

- **Combating racism and hate crime**: To combat racism and race hate and to provide effective protection against all manifestations of racism and racist crime. To provide redress and to have a victim-centred approach.

- **Equality of service provision**: To ensure that people from a minority ethnic background access and benefit equally from all public services.

- **Participation**: To increase the participation, representation and sense of “belonging” of people from minority ethnic backgrounds in all aspects of public, political, economic, social and cultural life.

- **Social cohesion**: To strengthen social relations and interactions between people of different faiths and cultural backgrounds, both long standing within Northern Ireland and recent arrivals to these shores.

- **Capacity building**: To support minority ethnic communities in developing leadership and collective capacity at local and regional level.

- **Cultural identity**: To safeguard people’s rights to maintain their cultural identity and to pass it on to subsequent generations.

Mainstreaming involves the incorporation of racial equality considerations into all policies, programmes, practices and decision making so that at every stage of development and implementation, an analysis is made of the effects on different racial groups and appropriate action taken. Crucially, it involves each organisation and each part of that organisation accepting responsibility for promoting equal opportunity and challenging racism.

Belfast City Council must consider the above in the development of a future Good Relations Action Plan and create synergies and linkages with the Racial Equality Subgroup.
3.2.4 **Department of Justice – Community Safety Strategy**


The overall aim of the strategy, as is to help build:
- Safer communities, with lower levels of crime and anti-social behaviour;
- Shared communities, where each person’s rights are respected in a shared and cohesive community; and
- Confident communities, where people feel safe and have confidence in the agencies that serve them.

The strategy contributes to the Programme for Government priority to create safer communities and aligns with a wide range of Executive policies and strategies around issues such as good relations, neighbourhood renewal, children and young people, and alcohol and drugs.

The Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) are central to delivering community safety locally, and work with communities to deliver local solutions, to make people feel safer and ensure that the voices of local people on community safety are heard.

Belfast City Council continues to work closely with their local PCSPs to deliver their good relations plan.

### 3.3 Local Strategic Context

#### 3.3.1 *The Belfast Conversation* and *The Belfast Agenda* – Community Planning

The Belfast Conversation is the term used to describe Belfast City Council’s community planning engagement programme which involved extensive and wide-ranging consultation³ with local people to capture views on their concerns and aspirations for Belfast.

Importantly, ‘good relations’ was ranked as one of the top issues and a key priority by respondents. In particular, issues related to interfaces/peace walls, attitudes towards tolerance and respect, symbols and issues of identity, and the need for shared space were mentioned the most by respondents.

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**Key note**

**Findings relevant to good relations:**

**Belfast (the present day)**
- Respondents reported the following when asked ‘What don’t you like about Belfast (the present day)?’
  - Segregation and division and ongoing legacy issues such as interfaces/peace walls and murals.
  - Incidents of intolerance towards people based on their religion, race, disability or sexual orientation.

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³ The conversation consisted of a series of facilitated public workshops held at four local venues across the city and an additional equalities workshop in City Hall, along with workshops for young people and older people. An online questionnaire was available on the council website. Approximately 650 people contributed to the conversation (c300 people attended the events, whilst 301 surveys, including 54 partial surveys were returned online). In total, 6,762 comments from the conversation and online survey were collated and there was considerable convergence across participants and across consultation mechanisms regarding their aspirations and concerns for Belfast.
Belfast (2030) vision for the future

‘Good relations’ is a top priority. People said they would like to see issues addressed including removal of interfaces/peace walls, concerns around symbols and expressing cultural identity, more shared space.

The following good relations themes emerged when respondents were asked ‘what would you like Belfast to be like in 2030:

- A peaceful and shared city.
- A welcoming, caring and compassionate city.
- A vibrant and culturally diverse city, where everyone is respected and treated equally.
- A clean, healthy and safe city where everyone has access to good housing, quality green spaces, services and facilities that enable them to be happy, safe and active.

Belfast (2016-2020) shorter term priorities

The following good relations themes emerged when respondents were asked to identify shorter term priorities for the Council to focus on first as a means of creating the vision for the future 2030 vision.

Suggested priorities relating to good relations include:

- Division, good relations and legacy of conflict (one of the top 3 priorities).
- Participation and engagement.
- Green spaces and better places.

The feedback from the Belfast Conversation, along with previous feedback (over the last two years, more than 2,000 people contributed) and existing performance data and research has been used to develop the Belfast Agenda. The Belfast Agenda is now opened for consultation from 15 December 2016 and will close on 9 March 2017.

The key components are detailed below, the 2035 vision statement, the eight shared values, the five long-term outcome statements, ambitious short-term priorities and population level indicators. For the purpose of this report, a specific reference is made to the links with good relations.

Overview

The Belfast Agenda is an ambitious plan by the Council to make Belfast a better place to work and live and to drive forward economic activity through an integrated, inter-agency approach to neighbourhood regeneration and investment projects. For example, the Belfast Agenda hopes to bring 50,000 new jobs, £1 billion of foreign direct investment, increase the number of residents by 70,000, reduce the life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived areas by 50%, and aims to ensure that by 2035 every young person leaving school will have a destination that fulfils their potential. Importantly, the Belfast Agenda also includes hopes to enhance good relations across the city and develop vibrant communities and neighborhoods.

2035 Vision for Belfast

“Belfast will be a city re-imagined. A great place to live for everyone. It will energise and drive a successful economy where everyone can reach their potential. Beautiful, well connected and culturally vibrant, it will be a city shared and loved by its people and admired around the world. It will be a producer of and magnet for talent, investment, innovation and creativity - a compassionate place where people create value and are valued.”

Eight shared values are outlined within the Belfast Agenda, including ‘Equality and Good Relations’:
1. A focus on outcomes for people.
2. Partnerships for collaborative gain.
3. **Equality and Good Relations.**
4. Inclusiveness, care and compassion.
5. Sustainable development and respect for our environment.
6. Resilience for the future.
7. Innovative, people-centred design and delivery.

**Long-term outcomes that we want for Belfast 2035**

Five key outcomes are outlined within the Belfast Agenda, the one most relevant to Good Relations is ‘Belfast is a welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive city for all’:

1. Everyone in Belfast benefits from a thriving and prosperous economy.
2. **Belfast is a welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive city for all.**
3. Everyone in Belfast fulfils their potential.
4. Everyone in Belfast experiences good health and wellbeing.
5. Belfast is a vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally friendly city.

**Ambitions that we want to achieve by 2035**

- Our city is home to an additional 70,000 new residents.
- Our urban economy supports 50,000 more jobs.
- There will be a 50 per cent reduction in the life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived neighbourhoods.
- Every young person leaving school has a destination that fulfils their potential.

**Priorities that we should be focusing on for the next 4 years**

Four short-term priorities have been identified for the period 2017-2020; the one most relevant to Good Relations is ‘Living here’.

1. Growing the economy.
2. **Living here.**
3. City development.

**Key Note:**
The Belfast Agenda adopts a positive approach and language throughout, with reference to ‘re-imagining our city’ and ‘the city is resurgent and re-energised’ and ‘building upon our strong foundations’ and ‘removing the barriers that prevent people from fulfilling their potential’. It is noted that ‘division and segregation continue to put a brake on the potential of many people and communities’ supporting the need for continued good relations work.

Good Relations is factored in the Belfast’s Agenda’s as one of the **shared values** (i.e. Equality and Good
Relations); one of the **long-term outcomes** (i.e. By 2035, Belfast will be a place where everyone will continue to feel welcome and safe and will be treated fairly with equality and respect in a city that values diversity and encourages civic participation); and one of the **short-term priorities** (i.e. Living here).

**Priorities** under ‘Living here’ include:
- Improve neighbourhoods.
- Improve the city living experience.
- Improve community relations*.
- Reduce life inequalities.
- Enable active, healthy and empowered citizens.
- Provide fit-for-purpose city services.
- Support and care for people who face multiple challenges.
- Support younger and older people.

**Ambitions** under the ‘Living here’ priority are:
- Deliver £1 billion of physical investment in our neighbourhoods;
- Deliver 1,800 social housing units;
- Invest £1 million in communities to drive social innovation;
- Ensure 4,000 young people participate in shared city programmes;
- Make progress towards our 2035 ambition of 50 per cent reduction in the life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived neighbourhoods; and
- Make progress towards reducing the number of interface barriers.

**Workstreams** under the ‘Living here’ priority are:
1. Design an integrated, inter-agency approach to neighbourhood regeneration and maximise the impact of local assets and investment.
2. Design and deliver a fully integrated, inter-agency approach to early intervention, including early years support and family programmes.
3. Deliver a city and neighbourhood Community Safety programme.
4. Ensure an age-friendly Belfast.
5. Design and deliver Belfast City Shared Space, Peace IV and Interfaces programmes.
6. Deliver an integrated cultural and arts strategy.
7. Design and deliver an integrated city programme to address health inequalities, including enhancing mental wellbeing and reducing social isolation.
8. Maximise the benefit of our natural and built environment.
9. Use social innovation to unlock service transformation.
10. Supporting children and young people to fulfil their potential.

**Population Indicators** impacting on Good Relations are:
- Number of victims of any crime.
- Number of hate-motivated crimes.
- Proportion of people who feel safe.
- Number of anti-social behaviour incidents.
Recommendations

Given the priority of good relations, as per feedback from stakeholders to the Belfast Conversation, and the impact of ‘poor relations’, it would be useful if good relations targets featured more prominently in the Belfast Agenda.

Furthermore, the terminology ‘community relations’ is used in the Belfast Agenda with respect to ‘good relations’ issue. It is important that the council and the Belfast Agenda use a consistent approach to terminology. Good Relations is the term more widely used and if the council wish to promote a consistent message there is a need to used consistent terminology – this will have a greater impact on the promotion of good relations within the council’s internal structures and staff and external stakeholders.

The findings and recommendations contained in the good relations audit will be fed into the consultation on the Belfast Agenda as many of the issues require strategic responses at a citywide level.

3.3.2 PEACE IV Programme

The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) is responsible for managing the PEACE IV Programme which has been designed to support peace and reconciliation in the Border Region of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

The Programme was initially created in 1995 as a direct result of the EU’s desire to make a positive response to the paramilitary ceasefires of 1994. Whilst significant progress has been made since then, there remains a need to improve cross-community relations and where possible further integrate divided communities. The new programming period for 2014-2020 provides opportunity for continued EU assistance to help address the peace and reconciliation needs of the region.

The following four priority themes have been identified for the PEACE IV Programme: Shared education; Children and young people; Shared spaces and services; and Building positive relations.

The focus of the Belfast PEACE IV Plan is on the themes of children and young people, shared spaces and services, and building positive relations. The priority theme of shared education will not be implemented through the Belfast Peace IV Plan but rather through shared partnerships between schools in Northern Ireland and schools in the Border counties of Republic of Ireland.

Good relations officers have been involved in the development of a range of the Peace IV projects proposals; this will help to avoid duplication and overlaps in service provision.
4 SOCIO-ECONOMIC & GOOD RELATIONS CONTEXT

4.1 Introduction

The baseline position is presented using the following sources and available key data sets for the year 2015. The data has been disaggregated and analysed at a Belfast City Council local government district level, where available:

- Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA)
- Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Services (NINIS)
- Northern Ireland Good Relations Indicators: Annual Update (2016)
- Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey (NILTS) (2015)
  - 1,130 adults completed questionnaires (21% (n=237) of respondents live in Belfast).
- Northern Ireland Young Life and Times Survey (YLT) (2015)
  - 1,156 young people completed questionnaires (11%, (n=129) of respondents live in Belfast)
- The Kids’ Life and Times survey (KLT) (2014)
  - 4,757 children (Year 7 children aged 10-11 years)

4.2 Belfast – Socio economic context

4.2.1 New Council Boundary

In 2008, the Northern Ireland Assembly approved the reform of Local Government. The change moved Local Government from the 26 current Local Government Districts (LGD1992) to 11 new Districts (LGD2014), as well as making changes to the powers of Local Government.

The geographical changes were initiated through the Local Government (Boundaries) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and the new council became operational in April 2015.

In Belfast, the city boundary expanded to take in around 53,000 additional residents, 21,000 households and 1,000 business premises. The new areas were formerly parts of Lisburn City Council, Castlereagh Borough Council and North Down Borough Council i.e. the following areas have been transferred to the new Belfast City Council area:

- Former Castlereagh Borough Area (38% of Castlereagh’s population transferred to Belfast): Ballyhanwood, Beechill, Belvoir, Cregagh, Downshire, Drumbo, Galwally, Gilnahirk, Glencregagh, Hillfoot, Lisanasharragh, Lower Braniel, Merok, Minnowburn, Newtownbreda, Tullycarnet, Upper Braniel, Wynchurch.
- Former Lisburn City Area (21% of Lisburn’s population transferred to Belfast): Colin Glen, Derriaghy, Dunmurry, Kilwee, Lagmore, Seymour Hill, Twinbrook, Poleglass.
- North Down (only around 160 households).

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7 of the 10 most deprived wards in Northern Ireland are in Belfast. 39% of children and 22% of people aged 60 and over are affected by income deprivation. This has a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of residents.

### 4.2.2 Demography

The estimated population of Belfast LGD at 30 June 2015 was **338,907** (18.3% of total NI population), of which 163,622 (48.3%) were male and 175,285 (51.7%) were female. This was made up of:

- **66,581** children aged 0-15 years (20% of total population in Belfast);
- **122,942** people aged 16-39 years (36%);
- **100,076** people aged 40-64 years (30%); and
- **49,308** people 65 years and older (14%).

Between 2005 and 2015 the population of Belfast LGD increased by **13,424** people or **4.1**%.

### 4.2.3 Ethnicity, Identity, Language and Religion

On Census Day 27th March 2011, in Belfast LGD (2014), considering the resident population:

- **3.23%** were from an ethnic minority population and the remaining **96.77%** were white (including Irish Traveller).
- **48.82%** belong to or were brought up in the Catholic religion and **42.47%** belong to or were brought up in a ‘Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)’ religion.
- **43.32%** indicated that they had a British national identity, **35.10%** had an Irish national identity and **26.92%** had a Northern Irish national identity **(NB. Respondents could indicate more than one national identity)**.

### 4.2.4 Economic Activity

- Belfast’s economy supports nearly a third (30%) of all jobs in NI. The city contributes to over a quarter (28%) of the region’s productivity.
- 66% of the population are of working age i.e. aged between 16 and 64 years (68% in NI).
- 68% (3,526) of school-leavers went on to further or higher education. 28% of the working age population has a university degree or higher. The two universities in the city have 45,000 students, whilst the Belfast Metropolitan College serves 20,000 students each year.
- Belfast’s economy supports over 210,000 jobs, 92% of which are in the services sector. 31% are in the public sector.
- Belfast’s Knowledge economy is growing quickly. Its creative industries sector is the fourth fastest growing in the UK, with 1,646 businesses supporting 11,545 jobs.
- Belfast has been named the most business friendly city of its size in Europe for two years running by FDI (foreign direct investment) Intelligence Magazine, which is part of the Financial Times Group.
4.3 Good Relations Context

An Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) approach requires an examination of baseline data and the story behind trends. In terms of a historical baseline, it is important to consider data tracking good relations indicators. For example, the figure below presents diagrammatically the perceptions of relations between Protestants and Catholics.

Whilst the general trend is moving in a positive direction, the graph below demonstrates that events can result in changing perceptions, such as the 2012 Flag Protest which negatively altered perceptions. How issues such as these are addressed and the positive messages delivered by relevant stakeholders will contribute towards ‘turning the curve’ to a more positive position.

Figure 4.1: Trends in perceptions

![Trends in perceptions graph]

Source: Northern Ireland Good Relations Indicators: Annual Update (2016)

Key statistics from the 2015 NI Life and Times Survey are presented below, with reference to findings disaggregated at a Belfast Local Government District (LGD) level in cases where significant differences are found when compared to the rest of NI. Statistics for the whole of NI are also provided for completeness (Please refer to Appendix III for relevant cross tabs).

- 44% of respondents in Belfast agreed that relations between Protestants and Catholics are ‘better’ than they were 5 years ago, compared to 54% for the rest of NI (NI overall, 52%).
- 46% of respondents in Belfast ‘strongly disagree’ that Northern Ireland is a place free from displays of sectarian aggression, compared to 32% for the rest of NI (NI overall, 35%).
- 24% of respondents in Belfast agreed that there has been a time in the last year when they personally felt *intimidated* by loyalist murals, kerb paintings, or flags, compared to 12% for the rest of NI (NI overall, 15%).
In addition, 34% of respondents in Belfast agreed that there has been a time in the last year when they personally felt annoyed by loyalist murals, kerb paintings, or flags, compared to 21% for the rest of NI (NI overall, 23%).

- 43% of respondents in Belfast stated that if they had a choice, they would prefer to live in a neighbourhood with people of only their own religion, compared to 16% for the rest of NI (NI overall, 21%).

- 52% of respondents in Belfast agreed that if they had a choice they would prefer a mixed-religion neighbourhood, compared to 76% for the rest of NI (NI overall, 71%).

- 46% of respondents in Belfast reported ‘yes, definitely’ when asked if the neighbourhood where they live, is a place where they feel they can be open about their own cultural identity, compared to 56% for the rest of NI (NI overall, 53%).

- 61% of respondents in Belfast either strongly agreed (10%) or agreed (51%) that they feel that their own cultural identity is respected by society, compared to 66% for the rest of NI (NI overall, 65%).

- 43% of respondents in Belfast reported ‘yes, definitely’ when asked if they feel a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood, compared to 55% for the rest of NI (NI overall, 52%).

- Only 10% of respondents in Belfast and 9% for the rest of NI agreed that ‘yes, definitely’ they feel that they have an influence when it comes to any of the local decisions made around their area.

- Only one-third (33%) of respondents in Belfast (NILT) think that ‘yes, definitely’ leisure centres are ‘shared and open’ to both Protestants and Catholics, compared to 79% for the rest of NI (NI overall, 69%).

- 49% of respondents in Belfast ‘agree strongly’ (7%) or ‘agree’ (42%) that towns and city centres in Northern Ireland are safe and welcoming places for people of all walks of life, compared to 59% for the rest of NI (NI overall, 57%).

- Half (50%) of respondents in Belfast agreed that there is ‘more now’ when ask if there is generally more racial prejudice in Northern Ireland now than there was 5 years ago, compared to 37% for the rest of NI (NI overall, 40%). In addition, 38% of respondents in Belfast stated that there will be ‘more in 5 years’ time’ when asks about the amount of racial prejudice in NI in 5 years times compared with now, compared to 31% for the rest of NI (NI overall, 32%).

- The following factors can influence the extent of good relations in terms of respect, reconciliation and shared space:
  - Political and civic leadership;
  - Political stability and confidence in our political institutions;
  - Public discourse and the tone of language used in debate;
  - Education and awareness of other groups;
  - Tackling stereotypes and myths;
  - Dialogue and open discussion about the past;
  - Contact and interaction;
  - Social and cultural participation;
  - Segregation in housing and education;
  - Community confidence and capability;
  - Educational underachievement and economic inactivity;
  - Paramilitarism;
  - Perceptions of safety; and
  - Location and design of spaces.
In each of the relevant sections throughout the report (Section 5-8), baseline data is presented under each of the TBUC themes, with a focus on Belfast LGD (where available):

### 4.3.1 Audit Findings

In considering Belfast as a city, respondents to the online survey were asked to identify *the top three most positive things that contribute to good relations*. Of the 92 respondents, a total of 256 comments were provided. A number of common themes emerged, which are presented below:

**Table 4.1: 'Positive things that contribute to good relations’**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Positive things that contribute to good relations</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improving understanding and awareness through education /dialogue</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of cultural activities (art, sport, music, events) to bring people together</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Targeted cross community activities</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive political environment/Proactive political and civic leadership</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A focus on wider acceptance of diversity</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shared spaces</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Addressing physical barriers that cause segregation</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive media portrayal</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated education</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving economic and social wellbeing</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A selection of quotes is provided below to illustrate responses provided:

“Providing the opportunity for increased dialogue and contact between communities to support creative and innovative approaches to dealing with contentious issues”

“The opportunity to have dialogue or projects with other groups from different backgrounds in a safe space that allows all sides to have greater understanding of our lives, views, cultures and identities”

“Opportunities for people to mix and socialise, including young people i.e. Belfast Mela, Arts Festival”

“More events that all can participate in that have no political or sectarian connotations i.e. Tall ships etc.”

“Being able to come together to celebrate what Belfast has to offer, culture, music, art, business, talent.”

“Investing in our young people to develop positive relations - creating the next generation of baggage free leaders”

“Providing time, space and resources to explore identity in its multifaceted ways’

“Politicians and those in positions of authority showing good example by their words actions and deeds”

“Peaceful communities working together in a shared space”

“Removal of paramilitary murals and physical interfaces”
“Getting the good news stories out there in the public domain”

“Supporting opportunities for culture to be expressed in a creative, non-threatening, and empowering way”

Respondents were also asked to identify ‘the three biggest issues that cause poor relations and create tensions between communities?’

Of the 92 respondents, 263 comments were provided. A number of common themes emerged, which are presented below:

Table 4.2: ‘Biggest issues that cause poor relations and create tensions’

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unresolved issues (the past, marches, flags and emblems)</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative political environment/lack of political leadership</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Segregated working and living</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sectarianism/Us v them</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative media portrayal/mis information</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of education and understanding of diversity</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disengaged communities</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socio economic issues</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing paramilitary influence</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mistrust</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Segregated education</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A selection of quotes is provided below to illustrate responses provided:

“Even though the Good Friday Agreement was signed in 1998 there remains recognition that some people, particularly the youth living in these areas continue to be particularly impacted by the detrimental effects of poverty. For many of them Peace as of yet has not delivered any benefits”

“Political figures making sectarian comments and bickering in public, leading to a justification of race hate and sectarian behaviour among sections of the community”

“Loss of traditional employment routes, high unemployment and low levels of aspiration”

The top three barriers to developing good relations, as identified by the online survey respondents (Figure 4.2), are ‘fear of intimidation or attack’, followed by ‘social deprivation and poverty’. A joint third ranking was reported in relation to ‘lack of groups wishing to engage’ and ‘largely segregated schools’ ranked jointly third.
The online survey also highlighted the perception of respondents in terms of the levels of sectarianism and racism at a citywide level, reflecting…

- High levels of levels of sectarianism at a citywide level (47% high, 19% very high)
- In the last year levels of sectarianism have remained the same (54%) or increased (32%)
- High levels of levels of racism at a citywide level (45% high, 13% very high)
- In the last year levels of racism have increased (52%) or remained the same (36%)

The following presents the findings from the various stakeholder engagement sessions relating to key issues and barriers to good relations.

**A divided city – attitudes/institutions/walls**

- Almost twenty years on from the signing of the Good Friday Agreement, Belfast (as well as other parts of the Northern Ireland) remains divided.
- Despite emerging from conflict, Belfast is still regarded as polarised and segregation is evident – interfaces/peace walls, flags, emblems, marches are all identifiers of a segregated and divided Belfast. ‘Government departments acknowledge that division is the issue and challenge that affects Belfast and the need for partnership working to address challenges collectively. “We still have 88 ‘peace’ walls with little change to the indices on good relations. The targets set to remove interfaces by 2023 will be difficult to meet if agencies work in isolation”.
- Intra- and inter-community tensions remain evident. It was suggested that there is a continuing need for intra-community engagement initiatives as a pre-requisite to inter-community engagement given that tensions and divisions exist within communities as well as between communities.
• The majority of people still live in segregated housing and send their children to segregated schools. “We are still a society where things are still territorially marked”. It was noted that few options exist for people who want to share and socialise in neighbourhoods.

Disconnect from the peace process

• It was asserted that many people living in Belfast have not felt any benefit of the peace process, with no connections with their neighbouring community. Therefore, good relations, economic and social and cultural benefits (i.e. development of the city centre and new cultural facilities) have not permeated to everyone. There is still a proportion of the population that have not felt any advantage of peace.

Disconnection and withdrawal of PUL community

• Key stakeholders indicated a disconnection within the PUL community and a perception of reduced engagement

• It was also suggested that there is a need to equip politicians with the skills and support to engage in a conversation within their own communities, particularly around parades. Additionally within Republicanism there is a lack of engagement and a limited facility to work with those regarded as dissidents.

Social needs hamper progress to a shared society

• Throughout the surveys and consultations the issue that emerged was that of social needs, particularly poverty and deprivation within working class communities. Having a profound impact on peoples’ lives, poverty affects the ability to become mobilised and engage in good relations. “How can we expect people who are on the bread line to engage and travel (perhaps even walk) to flagship centres such as Girdwood and other transformed centres for leisure facilities when their immediate concern is fulfilling needs such as food and shelter?”
5 DISTRICT COUNCIL GOOD RELATIONS PROGRAMME

5.1 Introduction

Belfast City Council submits an annual action plan to the Executive Office (TEO) for the delivery of activity to meet good relations outcomes across Belfast. These outcomes are aligned to the T:BUC good relations strategy and are delivered through the District Council Good Relations Programme (DCGRP).

5.2 Budget & Programme Activity

5.2.1 DCGRP Budget

Funding of over approximately £3m is awarded to the 11 new district councils for the delivery of good relations work under the TBUC strategy. In addition, councils contribute match matching of £1m from their own resources, making the overall programme worth £4m in 2015-16. TEO awarded approximately 17% of this total budget to Belfast City Council, representing the largest contribution to a council.

A breakdown of funding for Belfast City Council’s DCGRP for the period 2016-17 is provided below. As per the letter of offer, TEO provides 75% funding towards salaries and administration and programme/project costs along with 25% match funding from the council.

Table 5.1: Budget: Good Relations Programme – 2016/17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligible Items</th>
<th>TEO funding allocation</th>
<th>Council - match funding</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and Administration</td>
<td>£188,019.08</td>
<td>£128,254.77</td>
<td>£316,273.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme / project costs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children and Young People</td>
<td>£325,000.00</td>
<td>£42,751.59</td>
<td>£367,751.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Shared Community</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Safe Community</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Cultural Expression</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme Support</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>£513,019.08</td>
<td>£171,006.36</td>
<td>£684,025.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each theme includes a significant allocation for grant aid that is delivered through the small grants programme i.e. 36% (£247,322) of the total budget is awarded to community/voluntary groups. The majority of the budget is allocated to Programme Support (38%), followed by the theme ‘Our Cultural Expression’ (20%).

The findings from this audit and subsequent recommendations for the action plan will be used to drawdown funding from TEO, under the DCGRP.
5.2.2 **DCGRP Activity 2016/17**

The table below outlines:

- The four T:BUC themes under which activity is delivered.
- Aim for each theme.
- Good relations needs identified through the last audit.
- Current projects that are being delivered under each theme.

Where another organisation is referenced, they are the delivery agent for a particular piece of work and have been appointed through a procurement/quotation exercise.

**Table 5.2: Current DCGRP 2016/17**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TBUC theme</th>
<th>BCC Aims</th>
<th>Projects (delivered via grant aid to groups with support from the GRU)</th>
<th>Projects (projects delivered by the council and/or delivery agent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Our Children and Young People** | to continue to improve attitudes amongst our young people and to build a community where they can play a full and active role in building Good Relations | • Improving attitudes amongst young people  
• Tackling racism and sectarianism amongst young people.  
Grant Aid (£52,832):  
• Supporting up to 10 local community and voluntary organisations in developing good relations programmes at neighbourhood level to bring young people together from different backgrounds.  
• Supporting up to 10 local community and voluntary groups involving young people in programmes to promote active citizenship in the context of Good Relations. | Projects (£8,500):  
• Diversify for young people - Programme of events and training to increase awareness of issues around diversity and provide an opportunity to meet and engage with representatives from other faith, ethnic, political and religious backgrounds. (£4k)  
• Project that works with secondary level schools across Belfast to tackle issues of racism and sectarianism through training and mentoring. (Delivery Agent: Community Relations in Schools (CRIS) – £4.5k) |
| **Our Shared Community**          | to create a community where division does not restrict the life opportunities of individuals and where all areas are open and accessible to all | • Provide an outlet for the City to mark the Decade of Centenaries  
• Supporting the inclusion and participation of migrant and minority ethnic communities in the civic life of the City  
• To support the active participation of all communities in the social fabric of Belfast.  
Grant Aid (£61,500):  
• Provide support to migrant and minority ethnic organisations seeking to increase the participation and inclusion of migrant and minority ethnic residents within the community.  
• Deliver a series of projects and events to promote participation of migrant and minority ethnic communities in the public sphere | Projects (£49,000):  
• Decade of Centenaries exhibition and programme of events (£27k)  
• Cultural orientation to increase knowledge of respective cultures amongst new and host communities and support two way process of integration. (Delivery Agent: Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre (BURC) - £15k)  
• Review and reprint the Refugee Transition Guide to provide specialist information for people who have been granted refugee status. (Delivery Agent: Law Centre – £7k) |
| **Our Safe Community**            | to create a community where everyone feels safe in moving around and where life | • Engage with and support communities living at interface barriers.  
Grant Aid (£50,000):  
• Work with up to 10 local groups and organisations to develop engagement programmes, consultation events and Good Relations activities to look at the issue of interface barriers. | Projects (£28,000):  
• Provide support for interface communities to develop relationships and engage in dialogue around the transformation of interfaces (£3k) |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TBUC theme</th>
<th>BCC Aims</th>
<th>Projects (delivered via grant aid to groups with support from the GRU)</th>
<th>Projects (projects delivered by the council and/or delivery agent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>choices are not inhibited by fears around safety</td>
<td>• To reduce physical markings</td>
<td>Grant Aid (£53,000): • Work with up to 10 local groups and organisations to develop engagement programmes, consultation events and Good Relations activities on cultural expression.</td>
<td>• Transformation of aggressive murals (£25k)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Cultural Expression: to create a community which promotes mutual respect and understanding, is strengthened by its diversity, and where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced</td>
<td>• Support local groups in developing local projects to promote positive cultural expression. • Supporting the positive expression of cultural heritage. • Deliver a number of civic events • Promote the inclusion of all communities in events around St. Patrick’s Day. • Support the development of an approach to linguistic diversity in Belfast, specifically focusing on the Irish language and Ulster Scots.</td>
<td>Projects (£90,000): • Deliver a programme on bonfire management – supporting communities to better manage bonfires and transform them into safe, non-contentious events. (£50k) • Diversecity - Programme of events and training to increase awareness of issues around diversity and provide an opportunity to meet and engage with representatives from other faith, ethnic, political and religious backgrounds. (£4k) • St Patrick’s Day Celebration Fund – Deliver a small grants programme to run events in a community setting (£30k) • To develop a programme of events and activities to highlight the linguistic diversity within the City (£2k) • Engage with communities across Belfast to develop proposals on how issues of culture and heritage can be addressed and commemorated in a positive environment. (Delivery Agent: TIDES training - £4k)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Programme</td>
<td>Funding is provided towards the salary costs of officers who lead delivery on the programme.</td>
<td>• Delivery of an Action Plan which is properly resourced with capable and effective staff, to ensure effective delivery, in compliance with the requirements of TEO. • To research and produce a Good Relations Audit that will capture the good relations priorities for the residents of Belfast.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.3 Staffing Arrangements

The Shared City Partnership and the Good Relations Unit (GRU) are responsible for delivering the Good Relations Action Plan and associated DCGRP.

The GRU sits within the City and Neighbourhood services department which is the largest department within Belfast City Council. The Council is currently undergoing restructuring and the final structure has not been finalised. The four other departments are: Chief Executives, Property and Projects, Development and Finance and Resources.
5.3.1 **Shared City Partnership**

The Shared City Partnership is a working group of Belfast City Council which makes recommendations on good relations issues in the city to council. It is comprised of political and external representatives and considers approaches to issues of good relations, sectarianism, racism and cultural diversity.

The partnership allows for discussion on sensitive issues and adds external voices which can inform the development of approaches. It is the only council working group to include external representatives in recognition of the importance of being accountable to, and engaging with the wider community on good relations issues.

The Shared City Partnership recently changed its name from the former Good Relations Partnership, highlighting the wider implications of good relations and focus on creating a shared city ethos - in keeping with the premise of the Belfast Agenda.

**Table 5.3: Shared City Partnership Members**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Councilors</th>
<th>Belfast City Council Members</th>
<th>External Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Councillor Kyle (Chairperson)</td>
<td>Director of City and Neighbourhood Services</td>
<td>Department for Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Progressive Unionist Party)</td>
<td>Good Relations Manager</td>
<td>Northern Ireland Housing Executive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor Attwood (Deputy Chairperson) (Social Democratic and Labour Party)</td>
<td>Senior Good Relations Officer</td>
<td>Belfast Health and Social Care Trust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor Johnston (Ulster Unionist Party)</td>
<td>Lead Operations Officer/Head of Environmental Health</td>
<td>Voluntary/Community Sector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor Sandford (Democratic Unionist Party)</td>
<td>Peace IV Manager</td>
<td>Presbyterian Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor Walsh (Sinn Fein)</td>
<td>Democratic Services Officer</td>
<td>Church of Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Catholic Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Belfast and District Trades Union Council</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Feedback from a range of stakeholders, including existing members of the Shared City Partnership, acknowledged the need for such a partnership in developing responses to good relations issues. Positive feedback was provided in relation to the role and contribution of the Chair and Vice Chair.

It was considered that the partnership structure is helpful as *‘a critical friend’* bringing accountability to what the Council proposes considering all political representatives are in situ. However, the Council has key challenges due to the sensitive nature of good relations work and the fact that it can take time to gain political consensus. A number of issues and related suggestions were put forward to improve the effectiveness of the partnership, namely:

- The systems and partnership meetings have become *‘too formalised’* and *‘regimented’* and as a result are *‘stiffing’* creative thinking and limiting opportunities and space for innovation to improve good relations and to tackle *‘conversations about difficult and sensitive issues’*.

- It was also felt that the partnership would benefit from being refreshed in terms of its membership *‘to get some new and creative voices’* otherwise it will become *‘stagnant’*.

- It was suggested to provide the partnership with a budget to work on innovative approaches and/or to help identify thematic area based interventions. One respondent cited that the partnership should assume the role of a *‘Think Tank’* to generate ideas, discuss some of the hard issues and come up with recommendations.
• The membership should be extended to include wider representation to reflect the profile of Belfast (cited the lack of ethnic minority representation).

• There is an opportunity within the Council as it is restructuring to promote integration and collaborative work, having mechanisms in place to ensure good relations is at the forefront within networks, such as the Shared City Partnership to embed good relations.

• A number of external members felt that the partnership needs to benefit all attendees, not just the council and that a review of the benefits of participation for external members is needed. It was also noted that the council are ‘distributing small pots of money widely’ but there should be a focus on a more strategic approach to achieving outcomes. The focus on an OBA model will aid more effective partnership working and focus on collective outcomes.

5.3.2 Good Relations Unit

Funding is provided towards the salary costs of officers who lead delivery on the DCGRP. At present there are seven members of staff in the Good Relations Unit (GRU) to include: Good Relations Manager; Senior Good Relations Officer (GRO); and three Good Relations Officers (GROs); a Shared City Partnership support officer and Business Support Clerk. The GROs are responsible for:

• **Strand 1: Project delivery:** Responsible for delivering £436,192 worth of projects across each of the four TBUC themes.

• **Strand 2: Small Grants Programme - Grant aid:** Officers administer three funds in two grant rounds each year (four separate exercises) to the value of £247,332. This involves considerable time in supporting the development of applications, assessing and moderating applications and evaluating grants.
  - Tranche 1: Projects operating from April – September i.e. Good Relations Small Grants and Summer intervention Grants.
  - Tranche 2: Projects operating from October – March i.e. Good Relations Small Grants and St Patrick’s Day Celebration Grants.

• **Strand 3: Other – The range of work is extensive but examples include:**
  - Facilitation of Migrant Forum which brings together representatives from migrant, minority ethnic, refugee and asylum seeker communities as well as service providers.
  - Support for key shared space projects such as Girdwood Community Hub and Innovation Factory.
  - Liaison with the Department of Justice (DoJ) and the International Fund for Ireland (IFI) in relation to work with interface communities. Ongoing engagement with community organisations in relation to good relations issues.
  - Provide wider policy support for council departments in relation to good relations linked initiatives.
  - The GRU also play a key role in advising party leaders to develop responses to issues raised through the diversity working group.

There was an overall consensus from stakeholders that the GROs are a highly regarded asset. Respondents recognised the fact that they often have to work within difficult environments.

TEO have increasingly called upon the expertise of the GROs to provide strategic input and co-design of projects, which has been very much welcomed by the funders.
5.3.3 **Small Grants Programme**

Belfast City Council has a total of 13 small grant programmes, which are opened to calls for applications twice a year. It is acknowledged that this is currently under review by the Central Grants Unit (CGU) within the council.

The administration and management of grants was historically managed by the separate units in the Council (e.g. GRU, Community Safety Unit). However, this had the potential for duplication of effort and the potential for inconsistencies of approach to occur across the various units. As a result, the Council formed the CGU in April 2014 to manage all the Council's grants i.e. 19 grants, comprising of 13 small grant programmes.

The aim of the CGU was to simplify the grant application process through standardising systems and applications (where relevant). With the introduction of the CGU, calls for applications are now open and promoted twice a year, rather than each Unit promoting and facilitating separate applications calls. From 2015/16, the CGU moved all applications to an online grants system, with hard copy versions of the application available upon request. For all small grants a total of 851 applications were completed online and 17 completed by hard copy. 35% of all grant applications to the Council are for good relations applications.

Prior to the introduction of the CGU, GROs from the GRU were responsible for all aspects of administering the application process (including eligibility checks etc.). The centralising of grants aimed to remove this administration burden to allow the GRO to act in an advisory capacity by providing guidance to groups on their application and/or project plan, identifying need and ongoing developmental support to groups.

As referenced, GROs administer three of the 13 small grants, twice a year through two grant tranches to the value of £247,332, including:

- **Good Relations Small Grants**: This grant exists to support programmes and projects that involve people in engagement activities on Good Relations themes as per the TBUC strategy (Maximum award: £10,000).

- **St Patrick's Day Celebration Grants**: This grant provides groups with small amounts of funding to run an event in a community setting for St Patrick’s Day celebrations (Maximum award: £1,000).

- **Summer Intervention Grants**: This grant is fully funded by TEO to a maximum sum of £1m per annum and administered by the council to support planned diversionary and youth intervention schemes during times of heightened tension (Maximum award: £5,000). TEO have also awarded the Belfast Education Authority (EA) funding of approximately £300,000 also for the delivery of diversionary activities.
The figure below provides an overview of the application and assessment process using the Summer Intervention grant as an example.

**Figure 5.1: Summer Intervention Grant - Application and Assessment Process**

A number of issues were raised by stakeholders with regard to the effectiveness of the small grants process:

- Whilst the importance of governance and verification processes to ensure accountability and proper use of public monies is not disputed, feedback from stakeholders and GROs highlighted that the process is overly extensive and bureaucratic for both staff and applicants. The figure above illustrates the various stages and assessment for relatively small sums of grants.

- It was also reported that the current structure for grant aid does not lend itself to flexibility or responsiveness.

- It takes up to six/eight weeks to get political approvals through committee structures, to get decisions made and to draw down the funding from TEO. Funding delays and current mechanism creates a lot of pressure on groups. These delays can affect the quality of work delivered.

- The new centralised system under the CGU has meant that some community based groups do not access development support from the GRPs as they did previously because their main engagement is with the CGU.

The following suggestions were made to improve the effectiveness of the programme:
• Delegated authority within Council for attaining approval on grants – particularly for small amounts of money should be reviewed, to achieve a more flexible and responsive scheme.

• For the TEO to ensure timely allocation of funds to the council to be passed onto to groups. The preference for a longer funding cycle was noted, however respondents recognise this is not currently possible due to funding from TEO on an annual basis.

• Allocation of larger grants to a smaller number of groups and/or delivery agents to manage on behalf of the council.

• Movement towards an annual all-encompassing small grants programme, one open/close date - have one pool for all of the good relations grants using one application form.

• Some groups in receipt of small grants are apprehensive of a move towards an annual grants programme, citing that small groups might not be aware of this or if applications are deemed ineligible, resulting in groups not having the opportunity to apply again until the following year. To counter this, it was suggested that rolling ‘micro-grants programme’ be introduced allocating small funds to groups with a much reduced application form and assessment process.

**Recommendations:**

• Move towards more strategic funding and the promotion and delivery of one annual good relations grants programme.
  
  - **Option 1:** Delivery of one ‘Good Relations Grant’ – including larger scale strategic grants:
    
    o To include allocation of funding for smaller grants such as: bonfire management, St Patrick's Day Celebrations Grant and Summer Intervention Grant as part of a wider programme of good relations.

  - **Option 2:** Delivery of one ‘Good Relations Grant’ – including larger scale strategic grants:
    
    o To include allocation of funding for smaller grants such as: bonfire management and St Patrick's Day celebrations only.
    
    o Consider a review of the council’s administrative role in relation to the Summer Intervention Grant given the introduction of the Summer Camp Programme.

• The GRU must ensure that actions and funded projects closely align to the overall TBUC outcomes, as part of an OBA approach. Grant recipients should be selected on the basis of their ability to deliver projects and measure and report on relevant performance indicators to meet the overall outcomes of the DCGRP and TBUC.
5.3.4 **Future Focus / Approaches**

Overwhelming, 97% of the online survey respondents agreed that there remains a need for Belfast City Council to provide ongoing support for good relations.

Feedback was also gained in relation to various strands of activity under the remit of the GRU. Respondents were asked ‘Our Good Relations Unit uses different approaches to promote good relations. How important is it that we continue to provide these resources?’

The three areas that were regarded as ‘absolutely essential’:

- Interventions around interface areas (48%)
- Support for migrant, minority, refugee and asylum seeker communities (45%)
- Community engagement in good relations issues (GROs supporting groups) (42%)

![Figure 5.2: How important is it that we continue to provide these resources?](image)

The three areas regarded as less important by survey respondents are:

- Commemorations (12%).
- St Patrick’s Day celebration grants (12%).
- Summer diversionary programme (18%).
In considering the work of Belfast City Council, respondents were asked to identify ‘Actions that our Good Relations Unit could undertake to address issues which cause poor relations?’

Of the 92 respondents, 248 comments were provided. Answers were coded into the following key groupings:

Table 5.4: Key actions to address issues which cause poor relations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continued investment in effective cross community activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empower communities/improve capability and capacity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focus on addressing unresolved issues (the past, marches, flags and emblems)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invest in shared cultural activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of positive media and communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focus on education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focus on young people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invest in and use shared spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remove physical barriers to integration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support move away from paramilitarism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focus on improved social and economic wellbeing through investment and employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated education</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In terms of ‘other’ actions identified and specific interventions, a series of proposal were presented including:

- Longer term interventions.
- Larger grant schemes.
- Moving away from single identity funding.
- Good relations training for elected members.
- Education for grant funding recipients.
- Spatially focused interventions – interfaces and the areas of highest socio economic need.

A selection of quotes is provided below to illustrate responses provided:

“Develop policies and procedures that are long term and involve decision making processes that involve the participation of the local community, agencies and statutory bodies.”

“Support for community-led informal education and youth development activities, especially through community arts”

“Working with community groups to develop media awareness/promotion for their work so it is recognised and given just as much press time”

“Work with councillors on how best to promote good relations and emphasise how poorly their words and actions are perceived”

“Commit to more designating more derelict land at interfaces into shared spaces”
6 KEY FINDINGS - OUR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

6.1 Introduction

This section outlines the aim and outcomes for ‘Our Children and Young People’ under the TBUC strategy; and the activities currently undertaken by the GRU to meet these outcomes.

The audit findings are also presented, based on a range of stakeholder engagement sessions, which summarise the issues impacting on good relations relating specifically to children and young people; as well as suggested actions and examples of good practice mentioned by respondents.

The section concludes with proposed links between the new Good Relations Action Plan and the recently launched ‘The Belfast Agenda’ (Belfast City Council’s community plan).

6.2 TBUC theme and outcomes

Aim: Our Children and Young People: To continue to improve attitudes amongst our young people and to build a community where they can play a full and active role in building good relations.

- **Outcome 1.1: Improved attitudes between young people from different backgrounds.**
  - Increase in the number of participants who are more favourable towards people from the Catholic community.
  - Increase in the number of participants who are more favourable towards people from the Protestant Community.
  - Increase in the number of participants who are more favourable towards people from an ethnic minority background.

- **Outcome 1.2: Young people engaged in bringing the community together.**
  - Increase in the percentage of young people who regularly socialise or play sport with people from a different religious community.

6.3 Current DCGRP 2016/17

A total of £91,332 has been allocated to deliver activities under the TBUC theme ‘Our Children & Young People’, which represents 13% of the total budget for delivery of the current DCGRP.

The vast majority (91%) of this funding is allocated as grant aid (i.e. £82,832) and the remaining (9%) delivered directly by the GRU (i.e. £8,500) for the following project activities:
Table 6.1: Our Children and Young People: existing projects and funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BCC Aims</th>
<th>Projects (delivered via grant aid to groups with support from the GRU)</th>
<th>Projects (projects delivered by the council and/or delivery agent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Improving attitudes amongst young people.</td>
<td>Grant Aid (£52,832):</td>
<td>Projects (£8,500):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Tackling racism and sectarianism amongst young people.</td>
<td>• Supporting up to 10 local community and voluntary organisations in developing good relations programmes at neighbourhood level to bring young people together from different backgrounds.</td>
<td>• Diversecity for young people - Programme of events and training to increase awareness of issues around diversity and provide an opportunity to meet and engage with representatives from other faith, ethnic, political and religious backgrounds. (£4k)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Supporting up to 10 local community and voluntary groups involving young people in programmes to promote active citizenship in the context of Good Relations.</td>
<td>• Project that works with secondary level schools across Belfast to tackle issues of racism and sectarianism through training and mentoring. (Delivery Agent: Community Relations in Schools (CRIS) – £4.5k)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6.4 Baseline

6.4.1 Key Statistics

Outcome 1: Improved attitudes between young people from different backgrounds.

- There was a general increase in respondents who think that relationships between young people from different backgrounds are better than they were between 1989 and 2007. However, there has been a decline in how relationships have been perceived in recent years. In 2015, 45% of young people from Belfast agree that relations between Protestants and Catholics are ‘better’ than they were 5 years ago (compared to 47% in NI overall, a decrease from 52% in 2014) - highlighting the need for continued work to improve attitudes and relations between children and young people from different backgrounds.

- In Belfast, 76% of young people think that religion will always make a difference to the way people feel about each other in Northern Ireland (78% in NI).

- 42% of young people from Belfast stated ‘very’ or ‘quite favourable’ when asked to describe their attitude towards people from ethnic minority communities. In NI overall, views towards ethnic minority communities, while remaining lower than desirable, show continuous improvement (49% in 2015 compared to 28% in 2005) - highlighting the need for continued work to improve attitudes towards people from ethnic minority backgrounds.

- 42% of children aged 10-11 years (KLT) thought that children in Northern Ireland were divided in terms of religion. Not as many thought that children were divided in terms of their skin colour or the language they speak i.e. 30% - highlighting the need for early intervention activities.

Outcome 2: Young People engaged in bringing the community together

- 61% of young people report regularly socialising or playing sport with people from a different community background. (66% in NI, up by 3 percentage points from last year) - highlighting that social and sporting activities provide an opportunity for relationship building between different communities.

- Over 93% of children are educated in separate schools in Northern Ireland. In the YLT survey, 63% of children from Belfast stated that in the future if they had children of their own, they would prefer them to attend a mixed-religion school (63% in NI overall) – highlighting the desire among children and young people for greater mixing in a school environment.
6.5 Audit Findings

6.5.1 Issues impacting good relations

Current context of a divided society

- According to respondents, there is apathy among young people – with many feeling good relations issues should have been addressed by now, with the conflict not being part of their living memory.

- A significant minority of respondents noted that engagement with people from different community backgrounds does not usually take place until post primary school level or within the workplace. It is important that young people are given opportunities to integrate and to diminish the impact of a divided society.

Youth provision concerns

- In the Youth Sector, a gap exists due to the loss of the programmes Community Relations Equality and Diversity (CRED) and Education for Mutual Understanding (EMU) and the more recent focus on Shared Education in schools rather than youth clubs. The lack of opportunities for young people to engage in general and in particular outside of school was noted by a significant minority of respondents.

- Not all anti-social behaviour can be attributed to good relations. There are wider issues, such as a lack of facilities and opportunities for young people to socialise and/or take an active part in society.

Funding

- Time bound funding does not support strategic planning for agencies involved in support work with young people and children – resulting in continuity issues.

Media/communicating negativity

- It is disappointing that the media do not focus on positive events/work with young people, was expressed by the majority of respondents.

6.5.2 Suggested Actions

Early intervention

- Working with young people from an early age and having (cradle to the grave) programmes that people could engage in, was regarded as important by the majority of respondents to improve attitudes and harness respect.

- Making available tailored programmes to suit all ages and abilities, where there could be lifelong continuity of good relations learning and engagement. It is important that the seed of enhancing respect and mutual understanding is planted early, to enrich lives and provide a sense of communal responsibility/citizenship.

Educational/awareness programmes

- A high degree of consensus was had around the provision of an educational programme that would work with young people to ‘dispel myths’ and improve relationships.

- The creation of more partnerships between schools was viewed as very important by the majority of respondents, indicating that work should begin with children to support and promote respect for diversity.
• Work with young people at the stage of post primary transition was seen as important to develop positive attitudes by a majority of respondents.

• It was noted that there is a need to work with youth practitioners as Belfast City Council and the GRU do not work directly with young people. Youth services, Schools, Sports Clubs, Arts based agencies, Theatre, Music, Faith/Churches and Youth Clubs were all seen as useful channels/vehicles to involve young people.

• Age appropriate programming - a significant minority of respondents reported on their current community work through TBUC, which showed that 9-14 year olds have the most valuable sustainable outcomes. Engagement needs to be split between young people ranging from 9-14 years and 15-18 years to meet real needs and target outcomes.

• Must tackle good relations issues in a positive way so that young people, particularly in working class areas, feel secure and confident in their cultural identity and its expression, to achieve advancement in education, health and employment. According to respondents, good relations is a prerequisite to progress.

• A minority of respondents noted the need to invest in dealing with anti-social behaviour, looking at key influencers/peer pressure, giving young people positive opportunities, linking with partners and community safety departments within/outside the Council.

All year round activities

• Diversionary work with young people was seen as too short term by the majority of respondents, who questioned the value in bringing young people out of their own areas during the summer ‘just in case’ there could be the threat of engagement in anti-social behaviour at interfaces. Work with young people on issues should be undertaken all year round was their conclusion.

Safe places to play/congregate

• The majority of respondents reported that creating shared spaces for young people to congregate is important. This can open channels where there can be an acceptance of difference and provides opportunities for relationship building and dialogue.

Youth led programme

• It was suggested that programmes that involve young people and children in the creation and design phases can have a greater impact on their sense of belonging, confidence, ownership, responsibility, for example: Bonfire Celebrations, Educational and Training events, Supportive Mentoring/Training - advancing job prospects.

Localised interventions

• The need to target and invite the ‘right’ audiences – put on buses to transport people from neighbourhoods to the city centre to maximise the impact of ‘Diversecity’ events. There were a significant majority that suggested running smaller versions of the Diversecity programme at neighbourhood level and/or directly inviting localised groups to specific events – being more targeted in approach.
6.5.3  *Examples of projects that have worked well*

Examples of projects to promote good relations among children and young people

Respondents referenced the below examples of good practice.

**Partnership working**

- The partnership between LORAG and South Belfast was highlighted as an example of project that worked well. This involved a programme of events delivered to young people of school age together with the community, to improve levels of cohesion in the areas surrounding Lower Ormeau and Botanic.

- Positive experiences noted in a Belfast City Council funded summer scheme involving theatre and dance and the exploration of culture for asylum seekers and refugees for 20 children and their families.

- The Community Relations in Schools (CRIS) delivery of training in local schools was reported as a good example by some respondents.

**Equipping Youth Workers – Good Relations Toolkit**

- It was noted that there is staff training on good relations and a toolkit based in all Youth Centres, to promote an open, welcoming and accessible environment.

**Organised Roundtable Discussions**

- Young people led discussions, supporting inter-community exchanges on needs based issues, including all Section 75 groupings was highlighted as a positive practice supporting personal development, building confidence and enhancing good relations.

**Resources for cultural diversity**

- Wheelworks, the Chinese Welfare Association, ArtsEkta and Finaghy Youth Club embarked upon a youth project to create a board game – "Triquetra Union". This cross-cultural youth programme was highlighted as useful model to learn about culture and identity.

**Shared Space provision**

- T13 (‘Urban Sports Park’) based in the Titanic Quarter was also mentioned a good example of youth provision in the city centre.

**Learn from Best Practice Models**

- A significant minority of respondents highlighted the need to take best practice examples from other cities and relate them to local communities, particularly in relation to work with young people and avoiding anti-social behaviour.
6.6 Links with the Belfast Agenda

There is a clear commitment from Belfast City Council with regard to supporting activities with children and young people to promote good relations (see extract from the Belfast Agenda below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Belfast Agenda – Key linkages with ‘Our Children and Young People’</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Young people make up a third of the population of Belfast, making our city one of the youngest in Europe. It is vital that their vision shapes the future. Partners will work to support an integrated approach to better outcomes for children and young people. This will include ensuring young people are listened to and valued and can confidently shape their own futures.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Relevant ambitions under the ‘Living here’ priority:
- Ensure 4,000 young people participate in shared city programmes.

Workstream: Supporting children and young people to fulfil their potential
We are committed to making sure that young people are empowered, safe, happy, achieving at each stage of life and able to play their part in their city and communities.

Workstream: Design and deliver PEACE IV programmes:
We will secure PEACE IV funding to deliver programmes for over 4,000 children and young people.

6.7 Recommendations

- Although the Council does not have a statutory remit for direct provision with children and young people, as a civic leader it recognises its role in supporting children and young people. Council provides a range of services through various departments and should continue to develop relationships internally and with other agencies to deliver good relations initiatives.

- Continue to build on the DiverseCity events which are targeted towards young people and aim to support children and young people to learn more about the culture and traditions of other communities living in Belfast.

- Continue to work in schools on projects that tackle racism and sectarianism amongst young people.

- The only dedicated children and young people resource is the Youth Forum which is made up of 40 young people from communities across Belfast who meet twice a month to examine issues facing young people in Belfast. The forum is a council wide resource and as such as considerable demands placed on gaining the views of members. Given the significance of children and young people in the delivery of good relations outcomes, consideration should be given to enhancing the good relations outcomes achieved through the Youth Forum. This will not only provide a useful insight for the delivery of good relations but will also provide participating young people with the opportunity to engage in decision making processes and have a direct influence in programme delivery.

- The Good Relations Action Plan should link with the proposed activities under the PEACE IV programme, highlighted in the Belfast Agenda (which aims to delivery programmes to over 4,000 children and young people) and work to complement this work in order to focus on a particular area and/or issue to generate a greater impact and value for money.
7 KEY FINDINGS - OUR SHARED COMMUNITY

7.1 Introduction

This section outlines the aim and outcomes for ‘Our Shared Community’ under the TBUC strategy; and the activities currently undertaken by the GRU to meet these outcomes.

The audit findings are also presented, based on a range of stakeholder engagement sessions, which summarise the issues impacting on good relations relating specifically to shared community; as well as suggested actions and examples of good practice mentioned by respondents.

The section concludes with proposed links between the new Good Relations Action Plan and the recently launched ‘The Belfast Agenda’ (Belfast City Council’s community plan).

7.2 TBUC theme and outcomes

**Aim:** Our Shared Community: To create a community where division does not restrict the life opportunities of individuals and where all areas are open and accessible to all.

- **Outcome 2.1: Increased use of shared space and services (e.g. leisure centres, shopping centres, education, and housing).**
  - Increase in the percentage of participants who feel comfortable socialising in a shared space or space they would not traditionally visit.
  - Increase in the percentage of participants who feel comfortable attending a sporting event regularly that is associated with another community background.
  - Increase in percentage of people who consider the area they live as welcoming to all communities.

- **Outcome 2.2: Shared Space is accessible to all.**
  - Increase in the percentage who think that leisure centres, parks, libraries and shopping centre in their area are shared and open to both Protestant and Catholics.
  - Increase in the percentage of participants who would prefer to live in a mixed religion neighbourhood.
  - Increase in the percentage of participants who would prefer to work in a mixed religion workplace.
  - Increase in the percentage of participants who would prefer to send their children to a school with children of mixed religion.
### 7.4 Current DCGRP 2016/17

A total of £110,500 has been allocated to deliver activities under the TBUC theme ‘Our Shared Community’, which represents 16% of the total budget for delivery of the current DCGRP.

56% of this funding is allocated as grant aid (i.e. £61,500) and the remaining (44%) delivered directly by the GRU (i.e. 49,000) for the following project activities:

#### Table 7.1: Our Shared Community: existing projects and funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BCC Aims</th>
<th>Projects (delivered via grant aid to groups with support from the GRU)</th>
<th>Projects (projects delivered by the council and/or delivery agent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Provide an outlet for the City to mark the Decade of Centenaries  
• Supporting the inclusion and participation of migrant and minority ethnic communities in the civic life of the City  
• To support the active participation of all communities in the social fabric of Belfast. | **Grant Aid (£61,500):**  
• Provide support to migrant and minority ethnic organisations seeking to increase the participation and inclusion of migrant and minority ethnic residents within the community.  
• Deliver a series of projects and events to promote participation of migrant and minority ethnic communities in the public sphere | **Projects (£49,000):**  
• Decade of Centenaries exhibition and programme of events (£27k)  
• Cultural orientation to increase knowledge of respective cultures amongst new and host communities and support two way process of integration. (Delivery Agent: BURC - £15k)  
• Review and reprint the Refugee Transition Guide to provide specialist information for people who have been granted refugee status. (Delivery Agent: Law Centre – £7k) |

### 7.5 Baseline

#### 7.5.1 Key Statistics

**Outcome 1: Increased use of shared space and services (e.g. leisure centres, shopping centres, education, and housing).**

- The majority of respondents think that leisure centres, parks, libraries and shopping centres in their area are ‘shared and open’ to both Protestants and Catholics. However, when the results are disaggregated, it is evident that there are issues in Belfast with regard to the perceptions of adults (NILT) and young people (YLT) – **highlighting the need for activities promoting increased use of shared space in Belfast** i.e.
  - Only one-third (33%) of respondents in Belfast (NILT) think that ‘yes, definitely’ leisure centres are ‘shared and open’ to both Protestants and Catholics, compared to 79% for the rest of NI (NI overall, 69%).
  - In Belfast, 38% of young people (YLT) stated ‘yes, definitely’ when asked whether they think leisure centres are ‘shared and open’ to both Protestants and Catholics. This percentage is significantly lower when compared to Northern Ireland overall (70%).
  - In Belfast, 34% of young people stated ‘yes, definitely’ when asked whether they think parks are ‘shared and open’ to both Protestants and Catholics. This percentage is significantly lower when compared to Northern Ireland overall (62%).
  - In Belfast, 47% of young people stated ‘yes, definitely’ when asked whether they think libraries are ‘shared and open’ to both Protestants and Catholics. This percentage is significantly lower when compared to Northern Ireland overall (75%).
In Belfast, 47% of young people stated ‘yes, definitely’ when asked whether they think shops are ‘shared and open’ to both Protestants and Catholics. This percentage is significantly lower when compared to Northern Ireland overall (71%).

- 59% of schools were involved in shared education with another school in the previous year. This is down from 76%.

- Over 93% of children are educated in separate schools in Northern Ireland. In the YLT survey, 63% of children from Belfast stated that in the future if they had children of their own, they would prefer them to attend a mixed-religion school (63% in NI overall) – highlighting the desire among children and young people for increased sharing.

**Outcome 2: Shared Space is accessible to all.**

- 86% of people say that ‘yes, definitely’ or ‘yes, probably’ they can be open about their cultural identity in their neighbourhood, and 83% say the same about their workplace.
  - 46% of respondents in Belfast reported ‘yes, definitely’ when asked if the neighbourhood where they live, is a place where they feel they can be open about their own cultural identity, compared to 56% for the rest of NI (NI overall, 53%).
  - 61% of respondents in Belfast either strongly agreed (10%) or agreed (51%) that they feel that their own cultural identity is respected by society, compared to 66% for the rest of NI (NI overall, 65%).

- 71% of people would prefer to live in a mixed-religion neighbourhood, and 84% would prefer a mixed-religion workplace. 55% would prefer to send their children to a mixed-religion school.
  - 52% of respondents in Belfast agreed that if they had a choice they would prefer a mixed-religion neighbourhood, compared to 76% for the rest of NI (NI overall, 71%).
  - In Belfast, 64% of young people would prefer to live in a mixed-religion neighbourhood (NI, 64%), 79% said that if they were looking for a job, they would prefer a mixed-religion workplace (NI, 79%); and 63% of young people, stated that if they had children they would prefer them to attend a mixed-religion school (NI, 63%).
  - When the views of adults and children are consider with regard to mixed-religion school, there is a greater percentage of children preferring this option for their future generation (63% vs 55%) – suggesting changing attitudes.

### 7.6 Audit Findings

#### 7.6.1 Issues impacting good relations

**Lack of investment outside of city centre**

- The majority of respondents noted a disconnect between the City Centre, which had received investment, to the stark difference of local neighbourhoods, who experienced the harshest realities of the Troubles, in need of investment. Interfaces, walls with murals and flags are a stark difference to the new skyline created in the City Centre which includes the Odyssey and the Waterfront concert hall, the Titanic Museum, and new apartment buildings with offices. It is important that Belfast is not a dual city signified by areas of affluence and areas of deprivation.

**Predominance of single identity areas and service delivery**
Belfast City Council community centres are largely located in single identity areas. There has been an absence of a targeted effort to develop shared space and promote good relations outcomes through routine service delivery. Good relations issues need to be tackled otherwise progress in all those other areas will remain static. Health and wellbeing and quality of life in the city, for the top twenty most deprived areas (which are usually in interface based areas) in Belfast, has not really altered or changed over the past 20 years.

**Connectivity issues**

- Respondents reported a lack of continuous transport links across city, impacting connectivity.

- The majority of respondents focused on the need for an integrated transport system to support movement of people, stating that the current system sustains division.
  - The current metro bus routes mean that people who wish to cross from the North to the East/West involves getting two buses, with the connecting bus in the city centre. This means interaction across the city involves greater time in waiting for buses and expense.
  - Those who have a car can cross the city with ease however there are still issues such as interfaces/peace walls that do not support ease of travel across areas of the city, for example. Springfield Road/Lanark Way interface wall.

**Accessibility issues**

- Access to physical shared spaces is perceived to be lacking for those with disabilities – there is a need for shared space to be accessible to all Section 75 groups including those with a disability.

**Cost is a factor for community groups wanting to engage**

- A significant minority indicated that there is a lack of (free of charge) dedicated physical shared space within communities for groups to deliver their programmes. Cited example of Ballygoland School and its potential as a dedicated community space for all the communities within the Greater Whitewell area. Some advised that increased political support for these facilities is needed.

### 7.6.2 Suggested Actions

**Multi-disciplinary collegiate approach to creating a ‘new Belfast’**

- Most respondents through their various roles spoke of an appetite to create a new joined up way of thinking. A multi-disciplinary forum where all partners/stakeholders are involved in creating and designing a citywide framework for the future of Belfast as a shared city. This would involve all agencies and funders working collegiately, identifying connections, comprehensively looking at the wider impact and in an integrated way.

**Social Inclusion**

- Utilise the city centre as a shared space. It was suggested that there should be a ‘liveability strategy’ to ensure access for all. The majority of respondents felt this should tackle issues relating to dealing with the social housing element of all the city centre developments.

- Taking a proactive approach to using contested space – potential to try to animate contested spaces. Consider opportunities for social enterprise and social innovation in these areas.

**Community planning and good relations linkages in the development of shared space**
• The majority of respondents highlighted that good relations should be considered in physical development e.g. in the 'Leisure transformation programme\(^6\) to ensure that good relations outcomes are maximised.

• The Belfast Mobility Project’s (BMP)\(^7\) work was seen as useful in ascertaining how people use, move through and avoid everyday public spaces in the city, determining how, when and where segregation occurs, and who it affects most severely.

**Promotion of cultural identify and creating a ‘welcoming’ shared place**

- Council promoting a positive message that everyone is welcome in Belfast was viewed as important by the majority of respondents.

- A majority of respondents recommended for new and emerging communities to be supported ‘to tell their story’, sharing their cultural traditions, so as to develop meaningful relationships e.g. Talking Diaries. Cultural diversity - need for more awareness raising and work should be promoted in locations where new communities will reside.

- A significant minority thought there should be a dedicated facility to ‘remembering the past’ including murals – telling local stories.

**Commemorative Projects**

- It was acknowledged that commemorations offered Belfast City Council the opportunity to demonstrate civic leadership, this role in relation to commemorations for 2012 -2016 has been recognised as good practice.

- Dealing with the legacy of the conflict is problematic and it was reported by a significant minority of consultees that it is important for Belfast to respect and commemorate victims and survivors.

**Opportunities to take leadership on key upcoming anniversaries**

- Council in a civic leadership capacity should consider its potential to lead the conversation on the twentieth anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement to establish conversations on how we see each other.

**7.6.3 Examples of projects that have worked well**

**Shared spaces**

- The intentional focus on good relations issues in the design of the Innovation Factory, a new business hub on the Springfield Road, was cited by a significant majority of respondents. The concept of the Innovation Factory is to promote a shared space product with outcomes for those communities that are surrounding it. With such approaches at the early stages of development this can reach maximum impact by supporting a ‘shared space policy’.

- Girdwood Community Hub was also highlighted as positive example of a shared/open space by a significant majority of respondents however there were equally as many respondents who had the view that there is a

\(^6\) Consultation is ongoing in relation to the design brief for each individual centre. Critical to the success of the programme will be the definition of unique selling points (USPs) for each new development. Through these USPs it is intended to provide city-wide centres of leisure and sporting excellence within a holistic overarching provision of leisure opportunities. [Online] Available at http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/leisure/transformingleisure/transformingleisureoverview.aspx

need to maximise good relations outcomes at the beginning of projects and provide support for communities to deliver activities at these sites that support peace and reconciliation.

**Case Study 1: The Innovation Factory**
The Innovation Factory (IF) is a pioneering, creative business space. It is a dynamic, flexible and entrepreneurial hub for start-up businesses and expanding firms specialising in innovation, research and development and other creative solutions. It aims to support regeneration by investing in infrastructure which will make it easier for businesses to start up and grow. This, in turn, will create wealth and employment opportunities for local residents. Promoting equality, good relations and creating shared space is a priority for IF. This commitment is demonstrated in the development of IF’s ‘Good Relations and Shared Space Policy’ which outlines that IF will remain a neutral, safe and welcoming environment where all members of the community, tenants, users and visitors feel comfortable and safe.

**Case Study 2: Girdwood Community Hub**
The Girdwood site in north Belfast has been transformed into a shared space hub which offers leisure, community and education facilities. It is also the first step in the regeneration of the former Girdwood Barracks. Belfast City Council’s development of Girdwood Community Hub was named ‘Community Benefit Project of the Year’ at the Property Industry Excellence Awards in Dublin. The involvement of the Girdwood Community Forum – made up of over 20 groups from the surrounding area – has informed the development to make the hub a safe and welcoming place for everyone.

The GRU have facilitated a shared space programme at Girdwood which included peace building training for young people and a shared space summer programme.

- In addition the University Campus at Carrick Hill looked at the potential impact on good relations and was highlighted as positive by a significant minority of respondents.
- The redevelopment of the Cathedral Quarter was noteworthy for a significant minority of respondents, noting the value of art based projects and linking north Belfast to the city.
- The Belfast Continental Market was highlighted by a significant minority as a positive tourist attraction, giving people more access to City Hall.
- St George's Market was featured by a significant minority – a shared space within the city centre.
- Co-location of services, for example, the HSCT and the council have co-located services in the Grove Wellbeing Centre and is an example of an effective partnership model for shared services.

**Opportunities to work together**
- Most respondents indicated that places/programmes/activities that bring people of all ages together to work on common issues that unite rather than divide has had a positive impact on good relations, indeed generating a greater willingness to engage, meet and develop relationships with others within the city. Some citing partnership working occurring across community organisations as assisting in the development of good relations.
- The majority of respondents reported that by enabling single identity groups to leave their communities, engage with others through utilising neutral shared space venues can greatly assist in promoting good relations.

**Increasing positive multi-cultural experiences**
It was noted by the majority of respondents that increased diversity within the city, particularly in relation to new communities, has changed thinking beyond traditional issues. Active citizenship and participation, particularly from new communities and refugees and asylum seekers continues to promote integration which fosters good relations.

It was reported by a significant minority that there is evidence of more positive experiences and exchanges between new and emerging communities and the wider community despite some racist incidents.

Shared events such as festivals, civic engagement events, multicultural events, all contribute to the building of a shared city, examples noted were the CS Lewis Festival, Arts Festivals, Holocaust Memorial Day, Community Relations Week, UN Day of Peace, UN World Interfaith Harmony Week, etc.

Condemning racist incidents

The Council was seen as positive in condemning incidents of racism, noted by a significant minority of respondents.

Funding support

Acknowledgement given to Belfast City Council for supporting the development of the Refugee Transition Guide, which has supported and assisted refugees through various legal processes and has played a role in reducing destitution.

7.7 Links with the Belfast Agenda

There is a clear commitment from Belfast City Council with regard to supporting ‘Our Shared Community’ activities and to promote good relations (see extract from the Belfast Agenda below).

### Belfast Agenda – Key linkages with ‘Our Shared Community’

Working through our Shared City Partnership and within our individual organisations, we will build upon and refocus our collective work to deal with the issues of division and segregation that directly impact on individual life opportunities and the ability of organisations to deliver effective public services.

Relevant ambitions under the ‘Living here’ priority:

- Deliver £1 billion of physical investment in our neighbourhoods;
- Deliver 1,800 social housing units;
- Invest £1 million in communities to drive social innovation;
- Make progress towards our 2035 ambition of 50% reduction in the life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived neighbourhoods;
- Make progress towards reducing the number of interface barriers; and
- Ensure 4,000 young people participate in shared city programmes.

**Workstream: Design and deliver Belfast City Shared Space programmes:**

We will work with the Shared City Partnership to deliver an integrated plan to improve good relations, developing a sustainable, transferable and scalable approach to management of shared space, while creating leadership and networking opportunities. Partners will also work with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) and others to address segregated housing issues through the NIHE Community Cohesion
Strategy and the NI Executive’s Together: Building a United Community Strategy, facilitating growth of sustainable shared neighbourhood estates where possible.

Workstream: Use social innovation to unlock service transformation:
City partners will explore how to transform and improve the way we plan and deliver services at both the city and local level. We will test and adopt new socially innovative tools and techniques at neighbourhood level. We want to find better ways of working at the local level, particularly in exploring how we can work with residents and partners, to co-design and deliver more effective solutions that can be adopted at scale across the city.

7.8 Recommendations

- The Good Relations Action Plan should align to commitments under the Programme for Government, relevant to this theme the action to deliver a programme of local neighbourhood schemes and capital/public realm/environmental improvement schemes which will enhance public spaces, creating high quality multi-use places that are in every sense ‘shared spaces’. Local authorities are highlighted as key delivery partners for this element in the Programme for Government.

- There is a role for the GRU to work with internal Council departments to consider mechanisms to maximise the good relations outcomes of any capital projects that are being developed by the Council and enhance links with good relations staff, for example Urban Villages projects funded as part of the TBUC strategy.

- The Good Relations Action Plan and associated projects under the DCGRP should link with the Belfast Agenda’s proposed Shared Space Programme and the adoption of a ‘Good Relations and Shared Space Policy’ to ensure that good relations is a key consideration in ‘Community Planning’ and the ‘Local Development Plan’, thereby generating greater usage of new and existing shared spaces by all communities.

- Good relations should also be considered in the context of the Belfast Agenda’s wider regeneration and investment outcomes i.e. the Council will ‘drive the physical and cultural regeneration of the city centre’ and is ‘committed to encouraging city centre living and creating a vibrant, well-connected environment for people to enjoy’ as well as supporting the economic growth and connectivity of surrounding neighborhoods. This is linked to the Council and the Department for Communities joint City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy.

- Furthermore, it is important that synergies are created with NIHE as part of the Community Cohesion ‘building good relations through housing’ strategy (2015-2020), which aims to create a common vision and sense of belonging for everyone.

- Based on the above, it is clear that Good Relations is and should continue to be a key feature in all council-led policy and implementation programmes.

- Belfast City Council and other stakeholders should consider enhanced engagement with local community in the development of new shared spaces, involving input from the GRU at an early stage to advise of issues and develop programmes, where required. This will enhance the likelihood of shared space outcomes.

- Deliver projects that will develop shared space in identified areas. Consider opportunities for the GRU to develop the use of council leisure and community centres as shared spaces.
• Consider projects to promote the use of shared spaces and enhance opportunities for children and young people to access shared spaces such as leisure centres.
8 KEY FINDINGS - OUR SAFE COMMUNITY

8.1 Introduction

This section outlines the aim and outcomes for ‘Our Safe Community’ under the TBUC strategy; and the activities currently undertaken by the GRU to meet these outcomes.

The audit findings are also presented, based on a range of stakeholder engagement sessions, which summarise the issues impacting good relations relating specifically to ‘safe community’; as well as suggested actions and examples of good practice mentioned by respondents.

The section concludes with proposed links between the new Good Relations Action Plan and the recently launched ‘The Belfast Agenda’ (community plan).

8.2 TBUC theme and outcomes

Our Safe Community: To create a community where everyone feels safe in moving around and where life choices are not inhibited by fears around safety.

- **Outcome 3.1: Reduce the prevalence of hate crime and intimidation**
  - Increase in the percentage of participants who feel safe going to events held in for example, an Orange Hall, a GAA club, a Protestant secondary school, a Catholic secondary school.
  - A decrease in the number of participants who felt intimidated by republican/loyalist murals, kerb paintings or flags in the last year.

- **Outcome 3.2: A community where places and spaces are safe for all**
  - Increase in the percentage of participants who see town centres as safe and welcoming places for people from all walks of life.
  - Increase in the percentage of participants who would like to see interfaces/peace walls come down now or in the near future.

8.3 Current DCGRP 2016/17

A total of £78,000 has been allocated to deliver activities under the TBUC theme ‘Our Safe Community, which represents 11% of the total budget for delivery of the current DCGRP. The majority (64%) of this funding is allocated as grant aid (i.e. £50,000) and the remaining (36%) delivered directly by the GRU (i.e. £28,000) for the following project activities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BCC Aims</th>
<th>Projects (delivered via grant aid to groups with support from the GRU)</th>
<th>Projects (projects delivered by the council and/or delivery agent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Engage with and support communities living at interface barriers</td>
<td><strong>Grant Aid (£50,000):</strong> • Work with up to 10 local groups and organisations to develop engagement programmes, consultation events and Good Relations activities to look at the issue of interface barriers.</td>
<td><strong>Projects (£28,000):</strong> • Provide support for interface communities to develop relationships and engage in dialogue around the transformation of interfaces (£3k) • Transformation of aggressive murals (£25k)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• To reduce physical markings</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8.4 Baseline

8.4.1 Key Statistics

Outcome 1: Reduce the prevalence of hate crime and intimidation

- Across Northern Ireland, there were 1,517 incidents and 1,043 offences recorded by police as having a sectarian motivation in 2014/15. The number of sectarian crimes for 2014/15 is the highest since 2009/10 when 1,264 sectarian crimes were recorded.

- In terms of crimes having a race hate motivation, 1,356 incidents and 921 offences were recorded by police in 2014/15. The level of racist incidents and crimes has increased each year since 2011/12.

- It is important to note that the statistics represent 'recorded' crime only and do not include crimes that have not been reported to the police or those that the police decide not to record.

- When the data is split by area:
  - North – higher level of incidents with a sectarianism motivation.
  - South – higher level of incidents with a racist motivation.
  - East – even split between incidents with a racist and sectarianism motivation.
  - West – generally lower level of incidents with a racist and sectarianism motivation than other areas.

Figure 8.1: PSNI Hate Crime Statistics

![Chart showing incidents and offences recorded with a racist or sectarian motivation by area in 2014/15](chart.png)

Source: Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Services (NISIS) - PSNI Area data (2014)
• 18% of people said they had been annoyed by republican murals, kerb paintings or flags in the last year. 23% of people said they had been annoyed by loyalist murals, kerb paintings or flags in the last year. The previous year this was 27% and 32% respectively. A reduction in the use of murals, kerb-paintings and flags to mark territory will result in a community where people feel safe moving around, and are not inhibited by fear.

• In 2015, 55% of Protestants said they would feel safe going to events held in a GAA club, and 54% of Catholics said they would feel safe going to events held in an Orange Hall. 85% of Protestants said they would feel safe going to an event held in a Catholic secondary school, and 82% of Catholics said they would feel safe going to an event held in a Protestant secondary school.

Outcome 2: A community where places and spaces are safe for all.

• 57% of both Catholics and Protestants see town centres as safe and welcoming places for people from all walks of life.
  - 49% of respondents in Belfast ‘agree strongly’ (7%) or ‘agree’ (42%) that towns and city centres in Northern Ireland are safe and welcoming places for people of all walks of life, compared to 59% for the rest of NI (NI overall, 57%)
  - 46% of respondents in Belfast ‘strongly disagree’ that Northern Ireland is a place free from displays of sectarian aggression, compared to 32% for the rest of NI (NI overall, 43%).

• 87% of adults said ‘yes definitely’ or ‘yes, probably’ they felt a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood, with 83% saying they felt a sense of belonging to Northern Ireland as a whole – highlighting an opportunity to build on the concept of ‘a shared city’, ‘one city’ in the context of Belfast.
  - 43% of respondents in Belfast reported ‘yes, definitely’ when asked if they feel a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood, compared to 55% for the rest of NI (NI overall, 52%).

• Despite good progress in community relations the city has 88 physical interface sites. Some of the poorest neighbourhoods in Belfast continue to be those located in and around interfaces and flashpoint areas.

• 49% of Peace Line Residents would like to see the Peace Line(s) come down now or in the future. With 57% of Catholics reporting that they would like to see the Peace Line(s) come down, they are much more in favour than Protestants (34%) – highlighting the need for further mediation work in interface areas.

• Government has four strategic commitments to removing interface barriers:
  - Programme for Government – to actively seek local agreement to reduce the number of interfaces/peace walls;
  - Community Safety Strategy 2012-2017 – to seek agreement with local communities to reduce the number of interface structures;
  - TBUC – to create a 10-year Programme to reduce, and remove by 2023, all interface barriers and create a support package; and
  - Fresh Start – to contribute to the conditions that will allow the removal of interfaces/peace walls and the creation of a shared future through delivery of confidence and relationship building measures.

• The Department of Justice owns 51, the NI Housing Executive 20. The others are either privately owned or belong to various public agencies.
- Seven of the structures owned by the Department of Justice have been altered, including the four sets of security gates on Derry's walls in May 2013; fencing on Torrens Crescent in north Belfast in August 2013; a road barrier at Brucelave Park in north Belfast in October 2013, and a road barrier at Newington Street, also north Belfast, in November 2014. The Crumlin Road wall is both the first wall to be removed and the first structure owned by the NI Housing Executive to come down.

8.5 Audit Findings

8.5.1 Issues impacting good relations

Public display of expressions of cultural identity in civic space
- Most of those consulted reported that flags, emblems, symbols, murals, graffiti, the location(s) of parades and bonfires all impact on the use of civic space. They affect people’s economic behaviour making them less likely to shop in particular places and a significant minority of people indicated feelings of being intimidated by these displays.
- A perceived lack of political leadership over flags was seen as a ‘blow for good relations’. According to respondents, the flags dispute affected good relations in the city and had a negative impact on engagement from the PUL community.
- ‘The marking out of territory needs to come to an end’ was the view of a significant minority of respondents.

Segregated City
- The segregated nature of the city to include interfaces/peace walls was seen as challenging with the majority of consultees noting that interfaces still divide communities and there is a lack of vision for sharing, despite all political parties claiming a goal to have a ‘shared society’.
- The majority of respondents noted that the defensive architecture (‘peace’ or ‘segregation’ walls) has been easier to build than dismantle (with half of the cities walls situated in the four mile square radius of North Belfast).
- A significant minority of respondents felt that the Council’s good relations work stops short of interface areas and harder to reach areas. A clear message should be communicated in relation to the Council’s stance on ‘interfaces/peace walls’. There was a sense from the majority of respondents that there is a need for statutory agencies and government departments to ‘grasp the nettle’ and show leadership in the removal of ‘interfaces /peace walls’.
- Concerns were noted by most respondents about the lack of say that residents have within neighbourhoods and challenges of ensuring that the voices of residents are heard in addition to those of community leaders and activists. It was noted that the council should aim to hear the voices of local residents – using evidenced based research.
- Respondents also noted that intra- and inter-community tensions remain evident.

Perception that racism is increasing
- Racism and the perception that racism is on the increase is a key concern for most respondents. Education and a need to better understand new communities and their traditions is seen as vital by a majority of respondents.
Recent external events, such as Brexit and the US elections had a ‘huge influence’ in creating racial tension reported a majority of respondents.

8.5.2 Suggested Actions

In terms of feedback from the online survey, it should be noted that 41% of respondents agreed that it is ‘absolutely essential’ that the council continue work on ‘Transforming aggressive murals’ followed by 28% who agreed it was ‘very important’. Furthermore, 48% agreed that it was ‘absolutely essential’ that the council continues Interventions around interface areas, followed by 31% who agreed it was ‘very important’

Feedback from stakeholders is provided below:

Relationship-building and incentivising change

- Working with communities to better good relations was seen as central by the majority of respondents to improving ‘cross-interface’ relationships.
- The work involved in re-imaging murals was seen as conducive to good relations incorporating agreed images within the local communities. A documentary and media coverage to demonstrate the good work that goes on showcasing changes and improvements made to local neighbourhoods would be beneficial.
- Demonstrate the benefits of interface transformation to local residents. Government departments and statutory agencies should consider the benefits of developing action plans for the transformation of interface areas in Belfast.
- It was suggested that there is a continuing need for intra community engagement initiatives as a pre-requisite to inter-community engagement given that tensions and divisions exist within communities as well as between communities.

Action Research – view of local residents

- Commission action based research to ascertain real views of local people living on interfaces to get views on how receptive they are to the walls coming down and see what suggestions they have with regards to changing the structure.

Clear linkages between community planning and good relations

- It was also suggested to reframe the discussion to be more about place-making – what make places welcoming and liveable and attractive places to be. This is clearly linked to economic development and community planning. The view of a majority of respondents was that community planning is critical to ‘unlocking’ interfaces and the planning function has the potential to have a positive impact on interface transformation.
- It was noted that we need to consider how engagement/ participation/ collaboration can be incentivised and encouraged. Respondents reported that they would welcome more innovative and creative ways of engaging local interface communities. For example:
  - Looking at the potential for economic benefit for tourism with a focus on interfaces. There were issues raised regarding the benefit for taxi tours with no monetary benefit to local community. There was a sense that people would like to see the removal of the walls and do not want to reinforce them by focusing attention on ‘walls’.
− Peace trial with ‘artistic attractions’ is considered to add value.
− Use of shipping containers for ‘meanwhile’ use at interfaces/ on available land e.g. creative/ craft studios etc. This idea is linked to the promotion of social enterprise and social innovation projects, where vacant areas are reclaimed by and for the community.
− There are huge possibilities to involve children and young people to visualise Belfast without walls (e.g. using ‘Minecraft’). Young people could potentially map the city without walls. Whilst this could be expensive – a visualising exercise without using outside technology could be considered as a low cost option.
− Use co-design process with community ‘chat and cup of tea’. Work together to create shared space.
− Visualisation concept - potential to have positive impact. Enable communities to take ownership of area.
− Council could fund ‘small worlds’ events which facilitate communication and involve/initiate media attention to focus on good news stories [NB. ‘Small Worlds’ are cafe-style events in which people circulate around tables hosted by volunteers from different nationalities. The workshops introduce a taste of the diversity that exists in NI and provide safe spaces in which participants can engage with those from different backgrounds and other parts of the world].

Focus on priority areas

• Priority sites: Council working on identifying seven priority areas based on DoJ/IFI scoring matrix. Note that priority sites should recognise the complexity of needs at interfaces, for instance, physical and mental health and poverty issues and the need for coordinated services and support programmes to align to these issues.

• All relevant organisations should focus on a few main interface areas and use this as an example to encourage other areas to follow suit (for example, two interfaces per year).

• Of particular importance is that funding needs to be flexible – when working in interface areas and the community is ready to move forward and remove the wall, funding should be there to react quickly – if momentum is lost because of delays in funding then mediation work will need to begin again.

Partnership working

• Engage Area Working Groups (convened as part of the community planning purpose to support regeneration).

• Harness the benefits of architectural design in promoting good relations (ref Belfast Agenda and Community Planning).

• Encourage groups to engage with and deliver work in partnership and with Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs).

• The identification of priority areas links with the Programme for Government concept of a ‘place based approach to tackling crime which promotes collective efficacy and builds upon work of PCSPs and the local community planning process’.

Capitalise on Peace:

• Consider opportunities for Belfast to promote itself as a leader of peace and reconciliation.
8.5.3 **Examples of projects that have worked well**

- Transforming and re-imaging politically charged/conflict related murals to ones that are more peace driven and inclusive was seen as a positive step by respondents.

- The Belfast Mobility Project’s (BMP)\(^8\) work was noted in respect of allowing the Belfast City Council and other policy makers to target interventions to promote ‘shared’ spaces more effectively and to identify ‘contested’ spaces as sites of potential intervention.

- NIHE work around interfaces is effective, involving widespread engagement and local interventions. For example, with support from the NIHE, the community led decision to transform the interface barrier in North Belfast along the Ardoyne and Crumlin Road (involved removing the 8ft high brick structure, which has stood for three decades, to be replaced with railings and decorative panels).

8.6 **Links with the Belfast Agenda**

There is a clear commitment from Belfast City Council with regard to supporting ‘Our Safe Community’ activities and to promote good relations (see extract from the Belfast Agenda below).

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**Belfast Agenda – Key linkages with ‘Our Safe Community’**

There has been significant partnership work over the years to ensure that people in Belfast feel safe and are safe. Overall crime and most types of crime in Belfast have decreased over the last ten years.

**Related Population Indicators:**

- Number of victims of any crime.
- Number of hate-motivated crimes.
- Proportion of people who feel safe.
- Number of anti-social behaviour incidents.
- Number of interfaces.

**Workstream: Deliver a city and neighbourhood Community Safety programme:**

We will continue to work with the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnerships to deliver an integrated programme of work to improve community safety across the city to ensure that local communities are safe and free from the fear of crime.

**Workstream: Design and deliver Interfaces programmes:**

We will seek to develop an Interfaces Programme and make progress towards reducing the number of interface barriers.

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\(^8\) Research Councils UK. Open University ‘The Belfast Mobility Project: Intergroup contact, segregation and the time-geography of sectarian relations in Belfast’ (2015) [Online] Available from [http://gtr.rcuk.ac.uk/projects?ref=ES/L016583/1](http://gtr.rcuk.ac.uk/projects?ref=ES/L016583/1)
8.8 Recommendations

- Continue and enhance working relationships with the PCSP to deliver approaches that reduce hate crime and intimidation.

- Continue to provide support for transforming aggressive murals and support for interface communities to develop relationships and engage in dialogue around the transformation of interfaces.

- Prioritise engagement with communities living at interfaces /peace walls to support the development of cross community relationships and networks.

- Details relating to the council’s proposed ‘Interfaces programme’ within the Belfast Agenda needs to be developed. It is important that linkages between the Good Relations Action Plan and Community Planning are made to maximise the benefits of such a programme. It is also imperative to continue to engage in partnership working with DoJ to advance the reduction in interfaces.

- Consider opportunities for social enterprise and social innovation in the development of shared spaces. Support increased capacity of community groups to avail of opportunities under the Department for Communities Community Asset Transfer policy, which provides for a change in management and/or ownership of land or buildings, from public bodies to communities.
9 KEY FINDINGS - OUR CULTURAL EXPRESSION

9.1 Introduction

This section outlines the aim and outcomes for ‘Our Cultural Expression’ under the TBUC strategy; and the activities currently undertaken by the GRU to meet these outcomes.

The audit findings are also presented, based on a range of stakeholder engagement sessions, which summarise the issues impacting on good relations relating specifically to cultural expression; as well as suggested actions and examples of good practice mentioned by respondents.

The section concludes with proposed links between the new Good Relations Action Plan and the recently launched ‘The Belfast Agenda’ (Belfast City Council’s community plan).

9.2 TBUC theme and outcomes

Aim: Our Cultural Expression: To create a community which promotes mutual respect and understanding, is strengthened by its diversity, and where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced.

- **Outcome 4.1: Increased sense of community belonging (widens contribution beyond community background).**
  - Increase in the percentage of participants who feel a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood.
  - Increase in the percentage of participants who feel a sense of belonging to NI as a whole.
  - Increase in the percentage of participants who feel they have an influence when it comes to the local decisions made in their neighbourhood.
  - Increase in the percentage of participants who feel they have an influence when it comes to any of the local decisions made in NI.

- **Outcome 4.2: Cultural diversity is celebrated.**
  - Increase in the percentage who think that the culture and traditions of the Catholic Community add to the richness and diversity of NI.
  - Increase in the percentage who think that the culture and traditions of the Protestant Community add to the richness and diversity of NI.
  - Increase in the percentage who think that the culture and traditions of the Minority Ethnic Community add to the richness and diversity of NI.
  - Increase in the percentage of Protestants who think that their cultural identity is respected by society.
  - Increase in the percentage of Catholics who think that their cultural identity is respected by society.
9.3 Current DCGRP 2016/17

A total of £143,000 has been allocated to deliver activities under the TBUC theme ‘Our Cultural Expression’, which represents 21% of the total budget for delivery of the current DCGRP.

The majority (63%) is delivered directly by the GRU (i.e. £90,000) and the remaining (37%) is allocated as grant aid (i.e. £53,000).

Table 9.1: Our Cultural Expression: existing projects and funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BCC Aims</th>
<th>Projects (delivered via grant aid to groups with support from the GRU)</th>
<th>Projects (projects delivered by the council and/or delivery agent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Support local groups in developing local projects to promote positive cultural expression.</td>
<td>Grant Aid (£53,000): • Work with up to 10 local groups and organisations to develop engagement programmes, consultation events and Good Relations activities on cultural expression.</td>
<td>Projects (£90,000): • Deliver a programme on bonfire management – supporting communities to better manage bonfires and transform them into safe, non-contentious events. (£50k)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Supporting the positive expression of cultural heritage.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Deliver a number of civic events</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Promote the inclusion of all communities in events around St. Patrick’s Day.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Support the development of an approach to linguistic diversity in Belfast, specifically focusing on the Irish language and Ulster Scots.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

9.4 Baseline

9.4.1 Our Cultural Expression

Outcome 1: Increased sense of community belonging (widens contribution beyond community background).

- 80% of people believe that the culture and traditions of the Catholic community adds to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society. A similar proportion (82%) believes this about Protestant culture and traditions, whilst a smaller proportion (61%) believes this about the culture and traditions of people from different Minority Ethnic groups. Embracing cultural diversity and celebrating cultural expression will be key to good relations in the future. – **highlighting the need for further work to promote cultural diversity**.

- Less than a third of adults (27%) felt like they have an influence when it comes to any of the local decisions made in their neighbourhood, and less than a quarter (22%) to the decisions made in Northern Ireland. For young people, these proportions were much lower (9% and 7%, respectively).

- For people to feel like they belong to their community, it is important that they feel like they have an influence when it comes to decisions made in their neighbourhood, and in Northern Ireland – **highlighting the need for increased citizenship programmes, especially involving young people**.
Outcome 2: Cultural diversity is celebrated

- 67% of Catholics and 69% of Protestants think that their cultural identity is respected by society. 53% of people with no religion think this – highlighting the need for further promotion of cultural and greater tolerance and mutual respect for different cultural identity.

9.5 Audit Findings

9.5.1 Issues impacting good relations

Support developing relationships

- Programme activity and grant aid should support the community to develop relationships and networks with groups from other backgrounds. The funding of separate/s single identity projects should only take place where there is a clear and distinct rationale.

Increase awareness

- A lack of knowledge about ‘other’ communities, including the retelling of history from different perspectives were regarded as creating tension and having a negative impact on active participation, by a significant minority of respondents.

Engaging PUL community

- The majority of consultees believed that there were significant concerns on behalf of the PUL community within Belfast, of ‘Britishness’ being taken out of Belfast and across Northern Ireland.

- There is a perception of disconnection within the community and no sense of gain from the peace process. There are concerns that this is now embedded within the psyche of working class Protestant communities.

- It was suggested that a strong sense of identity can be fostered; this will enhance emotional and physical security.

Bonfire Management Programme

- By being part of a Bonfire Management programme, run structurally by the Council, it aids in the sense of feeling validated/affirmed, and supports loyalist to become involved in a more progressive and positive expression of culture.

- Mixed opinions were offered with regard to the Bonfire Management Programme and whether the provision of financial incentives for bonfire celebrations from the council was appropriate and if these events actually contributed to good relations. The funding however was also seen to act as a lever to address issues such as environmental and community safety concerns and as a way of engaging with communities to support more inclusive and family orientated and culturally symbolic events.

- The Bonfires continue to cause disruption, is the view expressed by a majority of respondents, where the ‘rule of law is flouted during the July period’. A view was expressed by a few respondents that a person can be fined for littering but those who burn tyres and endanger people’s health escape any fine or punishment.

- There was a strong view that bonfires should be approached from a health and safety angle.

- Concern was raised in relation to the Council’s role – querying whether there is a difference between ‘management’ and ‘enablement’. Issues for consideration were - what if the wider community do not want the bonfire? Is there a mechanism to have the bonfire stopped?
• From the Council's GRO perspective the Council is usually the first port of call for agencies/people who have an issue around bonfires. They have put in place a structured programme of funding events around celebrating cultural expression which includes bonfires however the responsibility for dealing with all of the issues surrounding bonfires involves a range of agencies, government departments and other stakeholders.

• The beacon construction has been offered as an alternative to the traditional bonfires and is seen to be more in keeping with historical tradition.

• It was noted that groups have become accustomed to the availability of funding and develop a plan of work on this basis. For a minority of respondents it was felt that the Council's 'micro-management' of bonfires had led to disengagement, with the modernisation of bonfires on the increase in some communities.

• The CNR communities’ effort to move away from bonfires associated with internment was reported by a significant minority of respondents.

9.5.2 Suggested Actions

Cultural awareness projects

• Consider the development of a large scale city centre event that recognises the cultural traditions that are associated with the 11 July.

• Consider using existing partnership arrangements to ensure maximum enhancement of good relations outcomes in large events, such as St Patrick’s Day Celebrations, Summer period, Orangefest, etc.

• The delivery of thought-provoking large scale events to stimulate good relations, including cultural diversity awareness was noted by a significant minority of respondents. Such events should involve young people and engage with local neighbourhoods.

• Opportunity for unifying the city through St Patrick’s Day celebrations, which is a huge attraction in other parts of the world. The council aims to use events like St Patrick’s Day to be a positive celebration of culture. To make the city more vibrant, to encourage people to come to the city, attain more investment, which will then emanate to neighbourhoods. Delivery should seek to enhance good relations outcomes.

Cultural programme - ‘Who do you think you are?’

• A significant majority considered the need to be mindful of the new and emerging communities, creating opportunities for new identities to be expressed without emphasis on labels. It was suggested that the GRU could develop a city-wide “Who do you think you are?” programme with local people to challenge long held perceptions, be thought provoking, highlight commonalities as well as differences in a positive way and promote a more multi-cultural city.

• Council promoting the sharing of human stories – living library but using various forms of media to support/share.

Use various mediums/approaches

• A majority of respondents believed that using the medium of the arts can be powerful and positive, exposing people to various perspectives/imagery can give rise to better engagement and relations. Using the arts to celebrate diversity and for personal reflection.
Reaffirm commitment to cultural expression

- Positive reaffirmation of the council’s commitment to good relations - Council to promote a statement saying that they acknowledge the cultural expression and heritage of all people living in the city when it is expressed in a safe and respectful way.

- Council need to support people to have a sense of belonging and a feeling of being validated, working collaboratively on creating a shared and inclusive city to combat the perception of community culture being eroded/ diminished.

Support communities through transition towards a positive expression of their culture

- Need recognition from Council that soft good relations projects are needed as a stepping stone to long term projects, enabling engagement from hard to reach individuals, for example, projects based around exploring food/culture/story telling.

- Need to find better ways of working with communities to support people in that transition process. Through building relationships, providing resources, getting people involved in engaging with each other across interfaces/peace walls and other areas. Need to support people in a positive expression of culture.

Combat racism with educational awareness/training/other support

- A majority of respondents recommended for new and emerging communities to be supported ‘to tell their story’, sharing their cultural traditions, so as to develop meaningful relationships e.g. Talking Diaries. Cultural diversity - need for more awareness raising and work should be promoted in locations where new communities will reside.

- Empowering communities to have the confidence to intervene safely when sectarianism/racism happens – through the provision of capacity building training/mentoring was recommended from the majority of respondents. Multifaceted cultural competence training was suggested so that new and local people, specifically leaders and service providers are more aware, to support sensitivity to language, customs and cultural needs.

- Consider capacity building for ethnic minority groups to create a sense of belonging and promotion of diversity.

- A minority of respondents said that the Council should be cognisant of holy days, dietary requirements, prayer time when organising civic events to be as inclusive as possible.

- Support for one-to-one interactions and conversations between people using ‘The Living Library’ concept and/or ‘Conversation Cafe’.

Civic engagement projects

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9 The Living Library is an equalities tool that seeks to challenge prejudice and discrimination. It works just like a normal library: visitors can browse the catalogue for the available titles, choose the Book they want to read, and borrow it for a limited period of time. After reading, they return the Book to the library and, if they want, they can borrow another. The only difference is that in the Living Library, Books are people, and reading consists of a conversation.
http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/eycb/Programme/livinglibrary_en.asp

10 Conversation Cafés are open, hosted conversations in cafés as well as conferences and classrooms—anywhere people gather to make sense of our world. At a Conversation Café there is nothing to join, no homework, no agenda, just a simple process that helps to shift us from small talk to BIG talk, conversations that matter.
http://www.conversationcafe.org/category/community/
The majority of respondents noted a need for localised and targeted interventions, which actively involve the local community in the development and implementation process.

**One overall small grants programme fund**

- Consider an approach where different programmes could be bid for by community and voluntary based groups under one annual small grants programme.

### 9.5.3 Examples of projects that have worked well

**Positive Events**

- The availability of funding for cultural awareness and diversity events and projects was highlighted as a positive by the majority of respondents.

- **Belfast Mela** is reported one of the best examples of involving minority ethnic communities and newcomers and is a long standing event.

- The ‘big community festival days’ within the city centre supports people to feel more welcome, more safe, more accessible and use the city.

- St Patrick’s event is successful from the perspective of the minority ethnic community, who found it a culturally diverse event where newcomers feel welcome. Shared events help to contribute to the building of a shared city.

**Belfast City Council funding and support welcomed**

- Almost all respondents valued the support of Belfast City Council in developing their work on ‘Our Cultural Expression’ activities.

- Council being a facilitator on the Migrant Forum – supporting information sharing but not necessarily being the lead partner.

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11 Belfast Mela (meaning ‘meet’) was launched in 2007 by the critically acclaimed and pioneering ArtsEkta organisation in a bid to showcase and celebrate Northern Ireland’s increasing cultural diversity.
9.7 Links with the Belfast Agenda

There is a clear commitment from Belfast City Council with regard to supporting ‘Our Cultural Expression’ and to promote good relations (see extract from the Belfast Agenda below).

**Belfast Agenda – Key linkages with ‘Our Cultural Expression’**

Building relationships across communities is central to achieving the council’s vision for Belfast. In recent years, the population of Belfast has changed substantially. We have welcomed new people from other countries who have made Belfast their home. This diversity has enriched our culture and contributed to our prosperity.

**Workstream: Deliver an integrated cultural and arts strategy:**

Culture and arts make a vital contribution to the city helping to improve quality of life, drive the economy and make Belfast a shared, welcoming and proud city.

Related Population Indicators:
- The number of people who agree that people from different background get on well together.
- Proportion of population who believe the cultural identity is respected by society.
- Proportion of the population participating in culture, arts and sport.

9.8 Recommendations

- The council to reaffirm its commitment to promoting positive cultural expression and the inclusion of all communities in events.
- Continue to provide training to increase awareness of the benefits of cultural diversity.
- Consider mechanisms, in partnership with other relevant organisations, to deliver good relations programmes that highlight the role of civic leadership in fostering relationships between people of different backgrounds and the benefits of good relations to the city of Belfast.
- Consider targeted engagement with PUL community that will promote inclusion and develop relationships within that community and with others from different backgrounds to further support positive cultural expression.
- Continue to support the inclusion of new communities into Belfast and develop their capacity to create social bonds and connections and to participate locally.
- The Good Relations Action Plan and associated projects under the DCGRP should link with the Belfast Agenda’s proposed Cultural and Arts Strategy and the commitments made under the Racial Equality Strategy 2015-2015.
10 PROMOTION OF GOOD RELATIONS

10.1 Introduction

This section outlines the views of stakeholders relating to the strategic focus of the council in the overall delivery and promotion of good relations.

10.2 Understanding Good Relations

Belfast City Council defines good relations as: “Promoting better relationships between people from different political, religious and racial backgrounds, tackling sectarianism and racism and promoting cultural diversity.”

The majority of respondents commented on the general lack of understanding of the definition of good relations and the terminology used. This issue is apparent for both the ‘resident on the street’ and within the internal structures in council.

Depending on the context of good relations, it can be considered either in programme terms / delivery of specific initiatives or in the wider context as an outcome for the city and therefore inherent in everything that the council does. For example the Belfast Agenda’s long-term outcome is that ‘by 2035, Belfast will be a place where everyone will continue to feel welcome and safe and will be treated fairly with equality and respect in a city that values diversity and encourages civic participation’.

“Council plays a key, pivotal role in leading work forward, not least around the operational, interagency approach, with clear, genuine intent to try and make things better”

“By demonstrating key civic leadership, influencing, co-ordinating, bringing people together, giving them a focus; this is the way to proceed on a neighbourhood and citywide basis”.

Feedback from stakeholders highlights a disconnect regarding the prominence of good relations, with half asserting that is an underpinning shared value of the council’s work, and others believing that good relations is a secondary issue - only considered by other council units when ‘something goes wrong’ or the GRU becomes ‘a catch all for events’ which are not directly related to good relations.

There was a high degree of consensus that all work undertaken by the Council should be ‘proofed for good relations’ and that capital projects, the creation of shared spaces and services should be designed with a view to maximising the good relations outcomes achieved through projects.

To increase cross-functional collaboration and communication, the need for a member of the strategic leadership team become a ‘champion’ for good relations and provide support to the GRU to ensure that good relations is considered a policy level as well as a delivery mechanism. This approach is modelled on the Racial Equality Strategy (2015 – 2025) which calls for each department to appoint a racial equality champion.

It is important to note that the GRU provides training on good relations issues for all staff on a three yearly basis as outlined in the Equality Strategy. This training should continue as a means to ensure that there is an awareness of good relations issues and the responsibilities of staff in relation to its promotion through their work and service delivery.
10.3 Promotion & Awareness Raising Activities

Feedback from the online survey with respect to the promotion of good relations is presented, with reference to the key strengths, weaknesses and areas of improvement.

The majority of respondents (51%) rated the council as ‘good’ (40%) or very good (11%), a further 29% rated the council as ‘adequate’ (29%) when asked to describe the council’s promotion and delivery of good relations. The results and stakeholder feedback highlight the need to enhance the effectiveness of internal and external communications. It is recommended that ‘flagship’ projects are considered which will have maximum impact in terms of raising awareness of good relations across the city.

**Figure 10.1: How would you describe the council’s promotion and delivery of good relations**

![Bar chart showing the distribution of responses]

10.3.1 Key Strengths

In considering the work of Belfast City Council, respondents were asked to identify ‘the key strengths in the promotion and delivery of good relations?’

Of the 92 respondents, 71% provided a response, with strengths grouped as follows:

- The effective approach and attitude of staff.
- Ability to engage with all / neutrality.
- Storytelling and information provided by the council.
- Use of cultural events.
- Strong use of consultation and engagement.
- Support for migrant groups.
- Variety of interventions and innovative approaches.
A selection of quotes is provided below to illustrate responses provided:

“Ability to engage with all sections of the community”

“Ability to engage flexibly and long-term with communities, groups and individuals”

“Delivery of training and development and interesting cultural events”

“Wide range of experience of staff delivering projects”

“Staff are brilliant, willing to listen and are extremely supportive”

“Diversity and opportunity to engage in programmes to learn about other cultures”

10.3.2 Weaknesses

Respondents were also asked to identify ‘the weaknesses (if any) in the promotion and delivery of good relations’

Of the 92 respondents, 66% provided a response, with weaknesses grouped as follows:

- Good relations being siloed within the GRU and not embedded across Belfast City Council.
- Being disconnected from activity on the ground.
- Lack of promotion of strategy and activity.
- Political influence.
- Short-term funding.

A selection of quotes is provided below to illustrate responses provided:

“Lack of ‘all council’ buy-in to the concept of Good Relations”

“Be clearer with public about the aims and objectives and the staff’s boundaries when dealing with contentious programmes such as bonfire management and reimaging programmes”

“To achieve this real change in attitudes and approaches to managing diversity within communities’ people need to firstly understand why this is important. Has the Good Relations Unit achieved this?”

“Political entanglement and vested interests behind scene”

“Political support required to allow Good Relations to take on a stronger challenge role as part of their support for community groups engaged in good relations work.”

“Absence of fresh and innovative intervention”

“Duplication of programmes that don't have a lasting impact or offer any real change”
10.3.3 **Areas for Improvement**

Respondents were asked to identify ‘if there was anything Belfast City Council could do to improve the promotion and delivery of good relations’

Of the 92 respondents, 62% presented a response. There was a diverse range of comments provided under this question, including:

- Additional funding / longer-term funding cycle.
- Enhanced promotion of activity and project success / using media more effectively - use of social media and City Matters publication.
- Promotion of the council’s good relations strategy (internally within council and beyond).
- More focused community consultation.
- A more proactive rather than reactive approach.
- A review of good relations work across the city to remove duplication.
- Training.
- Leadership from elected representatives.
- Consider events that are not overly ‘good relations’ but have a good relations impact to generate greater buy-in to activities.

A selection of quotes is provided below to illustrate responses provided:

“Provide longer term funding streams to enable more sustained engagement to take place”

“Offer bigger funds over a longer period of time - so more ambitious projects can be taken forward by organisations that will make a bigger difference over time”

“Increase your use of internet based tools to promote and develop good relations projects”

“More promotion of operational work carried out at local level - highlight the involvement, the work and the commitment before, during and after. Not just some nice pics of the end result”

“Leadership from Council members in the promotion of and in the use of the language in delivery of the good relations”

“If there are many smaller targeted events locally with a theme other than good relations, but an ethical underlying ethos of good relations you would be promoting good relations indirectly.”

“The council should be using investments and other opportunities to encourage good relations indirectly i.e. the running, management and promotion of the football fan zone during the Euros”

“More information about the work Good Relations is funding. The outcomes and the change it has made in the community. Working with all sections of the community and not just hand full of people”

“Engagement with alternative voices and not just the usual suspects”
Key stakeholder consultations also raised the issue of promotion of good relations, with the following suggested improvements offered:

- **Strategic and policy link**
  - Need for strong political leadership from Council elected members. The council should consider how it can better promote good relations principles. The Chair and the Vice Chair of the Shared City Partnership may have a role as good relations champions.
  - Council should drive forward and promote their good relations messages in leisure centres and public amenities. For example, the Innovation Factory produced a ‘Good Relations and Shared Space policy’ – this charter/commitment to good relations reaffirms the commitment to good relations principles and should be promoted as a model of best practice.
  - Explicit links to be made from funded good relations projects to the wider Belfast Agenda. The outcomes for good relations projects should be reviewed to reflect good relations and Belfast Agenda priorities.

- **Grant aid**
  - Council should promote more ownership of good relations funded projects and ensure that projects supported are using Belfast City Council logo as required under their terms of funding.
  - It was felt that ‘People don’t appreciate that the projects on the ground are funded by GRU’. To further recognition, the council should consider mechanisms to acknowledge the GRU’s work and to support a consistent approach to the promotion of projects supported.

- **Media**
  - Engender media interest with regard to a focus on good news stories and example of good relations in practice.
  - Consider initiating and developing a good relations project that involves the media/press as a partner.
  - Consider alternative means of engaging the media through discussions / debate regarding good relations to generate interest and conversation.

- **Social Media**
  - Increased use of social media to promote good relations themes and the work of the GRU.
  - It was noted that PSNI have effectively adopted social media by responding to negative news with a positive story / or if social media is reflecting an anti-social problem as a big issue – PSNI set this in context ‘only a few youths and officers are on the ground’ – this approach prevents fear/issues escalating.
  - The Department of Justice are working on developing a specific ‘interfaces’ social media profile as a means of unifying all the partners and conversations relating to interfaces.

- **Council Publications**
  - The council’s ‘City Matters’ publication should continue to include case studies of good relations in action and ensure that ‘good relations’ terminology is used to promote a consistent message (at times the term good relations is interchanged with the term ‘community relations’).
11 PARTNERS & COLLABORATIVE WORKING

11.1 Introduction

This section provides an overview of the findings from the online survey relating to the identification of key stakeholders, as well as recognition of the various strategic linkages between the Belfast City Council, in particular the GRU, and other key partners.

11.2 Role in the delivery and promotion of good relations

To gain an understanding of the key organisations, as perceived by respondents, the online survey asked individuals ‘to what extent should the following groups or organisations play a key role in the promotion and delivery of good relations?’

The majority (83%) of respondents identified Belfast City Council as having a ‘key role’ in the promotion and delivery of good relations. Youth organisations (82%) and community organisations (77%) also rank highly as having a key role. Ex-prisoners were identified by only 29% of respondents as having a key role, the lowest ranked group against this criterion.

Figure 11.1: Role organisations should have in the promotion and delivery of good relations
Respondents were asked to identify ‘other’ organisations not in the above predefined list. The following were reported:

- Police Service for Northern Ireland (PSNI) – mentioned by the majority of respondents.
- NI Housing Executive – mentioned by the majority of respondents.
- The NI Executive.
- Department of Justice.
- Department of Health / Health Trusts / Public Health Agency.
- Department of Education / Education Authority.
- Department for Communities.
- Belfast City Centre Management (BCCM).
- Political parties.

11.3 Strategic linkages

The Council and the GROs recognise and appreciate the value of inter-agency collaborative working, citing benefits such as ‘strength in the collective’ and ‘greater joined up thinking across issues which are fundamentally about good relations’.

The council is engaged in a number of strategic linkages, for example, a number of assessment panels relating to the award of various grants and is also represented at a number of boards within TEO. Council regularly liaises with the Department of Justice (DoJ) and the International Fund for Ireland (IFI) in relation to work with interface communities and is a member of the Interfaces Strategic Board.

There are also strategic links in relation to the implementation of the Racial Equality Strategy and work with CRC on the Decade of Centenaries events. In addition, the Unit has been involved in the development of a range of the Peace IV project proposals; this will help to avoid duplication and overlap in service provision.

A list of key partners and linkages with Belfast City Council in the delivery of the DCGRP is presented in the table below. These are aligned to the various TBUC themes but it is acknowledged that this somewhat simplistic and that partners will have an overarching interest in all good relations work.

- Theme 1: Our Children and Young People
- Theme 2: Our Shared Community
- Theme 3: Our Safe Community
- Theme 4: Our Cultural Expression

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Potential Partner</th>
<th>Strategic Linkages</th>
<th>TBUC theme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belfast City Council – other departments</td>
<td>To avoid duplication/support streamlined approach to funding, there must be strategic links between the GRU and other units e.g. Community Planning, Community Safety, Economic Development.</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belfast Health and Social Care Trust</td>
<td>Trust’s Good Relations Strategy Co-location of services (e.g. The Trust and the council have co-located services in the Grove Wellbeing Centre and is an example of an effective partnership model for shared services).</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 11.1: Potential Partners to aid delivery of DCGRP
### Potential Partner

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Potential Partner</th>
<th>Strategic Linkages</th>
<th>TBUC theme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Relations Council</td>
<td>Assessment Panel collaboration</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Decade of Centenaries</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department for Communities</td>
<td>Neighbourhood Renewal</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Area at Risk</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Community Support Programme (CSP)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regional Infrastructure Support Programme (RISP)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)</td>
<td>Village Renewal Community Scheme</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rural Basic Services Community Scheme</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rural Community Development Support Scheme</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Justice</td>
<td>Interfaces Strategic Board</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Interface Programme</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DoJ are currently developing a specific ‘interfaces’ social media profile – opportunity to link with and engage partners.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEO and the Education Authority</td>
<td>Summer Camps Programme</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diversionary Activities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assessment Panel collaboration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Fund for Ireland</td>
<td>Peace Walls Programme</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE)</td>
<td>Housing and Interfaces</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NIHE Community Cohesion Strategy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Supporting Communities Northern Ireland (SCNI) initiative</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs)</td>
<td>Responsibility under TBUC for DCGRP to work closely with their local PCSPs and to ensure that their Good Relations plans should illustrate development and implementation of this process between the two services.</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSNI</td>
<td>Reducing Hate Crime</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racial Equality Strategy Sub group</td>
<td>Racial Equality Strategy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Suggested partnerships

- Key stakeholders asserted that there are numerous partnerships that are effective and it is important not to dilute effectiveness by creating new collaboration when mechanisms already exist.

- A ‘Funders Forum’ was put forward as a possible additional partnership arrangement to include all the relevant departments and philanthropic organisations, such as the Big Lottery, International Fund for Ireland, Heritage Lottery, Joseph Rowntree, SEUPB. It was asserted that the various ‘pots of money’ could have a greater impact if resources were concentrated in key areas as part of ‘thematic area based interventions’ that a wider that the allocation of grants. It was suggested that TEO is best placed to initiate this work at a regional level.

- According to some stakeholders, it is more challenging for the council to be innovative as the work is subject to a political process which can be time consuming and officers need to build political consensus. Involvement in partnerships with funders, who do not have the same political pressures, was seen as way to ensure the ‘riskier work takes place’.
11.4 Recommendation

Population accountability is related to the wellbeing of whole populations i.e. quality of life conditions we want for the children, adults and families who live in our community (outcomes). Accountability for improving indicators of outcomes should not rest with one department or government alone but multiple organisations working together towards the same outcome.

The need for partnership working to address outcomes is clear, with existing partnerships and various levels of collaboration already evident. To fully embrace the OBA model will require a more involved form of partnership working in order to meet the outcomes set in the TBUC strategy. The GRU must ensure that all the actions and projects closely align to overall outcomes and there is a direct alignment with performance indicators and the measurement of indicators.

Belfast City Council must engage with the relevant partners to identify common areas of focus / thematic area based interventions – this approach will generate a greater combined impact. It is important that the partnership mechanism already in place are used rather than creating new ones, for instance, DoJ have convened a Interfaces Strategic Board (cross-departmental and joint statutory body working) to deliver on government's commitment to reduce and remove all interface barriers by 2023.
12 CONCLUDING COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 Introduction

This section outlines the key conclusions and recommendation from the audit of good relations needs in Belfast, which will inform the development of the Good Relations Action Plan for the period 2017-18.

12.2 Concluding Comments

The findings from the audit have highlighted a range of good practice examples of work currently undertaken by Belfast City Council and specifically by the Good Relations Unit (GRU). Positive feedback was received from the funders (TEO), strategic partners, community groups and other interested parties with regard to the competencies and capabilities of the GRU in the implementation of the current District Council Good Relations Programme (DCGRP). It is clear that the Council is committed to building on this work in order to improve good relations outcomes at both a citywide and neighbourhood level.

The changing strategic and policy context with the launch of the Together; Building a United Community (TBUC) strategy provides a useful framework for continuing good relations activity to lead to the achievement of collective population outcomes as part of the Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) model.

It is also important to appreciate that the Good Relations Action Plan will operate within the context of the Council’s Community Plan i.e. ‘The Belfast Agenda’. This is an ambitious plan by the Council to make Belfast a better place to work and live and to drive forward economic activity through an integrated, inter-agency approach to neighbourhood regeneration and investment projects.

Eight shared values are outlined within the Belfast Agenda, including ‘Equality and Good Relations’. A further five key outcomes are also detailed, the one most relevant to Good Relations is ‘Belfast is a welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive city for all’.

Good relations projects and activities funded under the DCGRP will directly align to the outcomes of the Belfast Agenda in order to achieve the 2025 Vision for Belfast i.e.

“Belfast will be a city re-imagined. A great place to live for everyone. It will energise and drive a successful economy where everyone can reach their potential. Beautiful, well connected and culturally vibrant, it will be a city shared and loved by its people and admired around the world. It will be a producer of and magnet for talent, investment, innovation and creativity - a compassionate place where people create value and are valued.”

The findings and recommendations contained in this good relations audit will feed into the consultation on the Belfast Agenda as many of the issues require strategic responses at a citywide level. In terms of a neighbourhood level, attention should be focused on interface areas and areas of high deprivation where the council should endeavour to engage in partnership working to generate greater outcomes for residents.
12.3 Recommendations

The below recommendations relate to the four TBUC themes to improve future programme delivery to best meet good relations outcomes, followed by strategic issues which the council should consider.

12.3.1 Our Children & Young People

- Although the Council does not have a statutory remit for direct provision with children and young people, through its civic leadership role it recognises its role in supporting children and young people. Council provides a range of services through various departments and should continue to develop relationships internally and with other agencies to delivery good relations initiatives.

- Continue to build on the DiverseCity events which are targeted towards young people and aim to support children and young people to learn more about the culture and traditions of other communities living in Belfast.

- Continue to work in schools on projects that tackle racism and sectarianism amongst young people.

- Given the significance of children and young people in the delivery of good relations outcomes, consideration should be given to enhancing the good relations outcomes achieved through the Youth Forum. This will not only provide a useful insight for the delivery of good relations but will also provide participating young people with the opportunity to engage in decision making processes and have a direct influence in programme delivery.

- The Good Relations Action Plan should link with the proposed activities under the PEACE IV programme, highlighted in the Belfast Agenda (which aims to delivery programmes to over 4,000 children and young people) and work to complement this work in order to focus on a particular area and/or issue to generate a greater impact and value for money.

12.3.2 Our Shared Community

- The Good Relations Action Plan should align to commitments under the Programme for Government, relevant to this theme the action to deliver a programme of local neighbourhood schemes and capital/public realm/environmental improvement schemes which will enhance public spaces, creating high quality multi-use places that are in every sense ‘shared spaces’. Local authorities are highlighted as key delivery partners for this element in the Programme for Government.

- There is a role for the GRU to work with internal Council departments to consider mechanisms to maximise the good relations outcomes of any capital projects that are being developed by the Council and enhance links with good relations staff, for example Urban Villages projects funded as part of the TBUC strategy.

- The Good Relations Action Plan and associated projects under the DCGRP should link with the Belfast Agenda’s proposed Shared Space Programme and the adoption of a ‘Good Relations and Shared Space Policy’ to ensure that good relations is a key consideration in ‘Community Planning’ and the ‘Local Development Plan’, thereby generating greater usage of new and existing shared spaces by all communities.

- Good relations should also be considered in the context of the Belfast Agenda’s wider regeneration and investment outcomes i.e. the Council will ‘drive the physical and cultural regeneration of the city centre’ and is ‘committed to encouraging city centre living and creating a vibrant, well-connected environment for people to enjoy’ as well as supporting the economic growth and connectivity of surrounding neighborhoods. This is
linked to the Council and the Department for Communities joint City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy.

- Furthermore, it is important that synergies are created with NIHE as part of the Community Cohesion ‘building good relations through housing’ strategy (2015-2020), which aims to create a common vision and sense of belonging for everyone.

- Based on the above, it is clear that Good Relations is and should continue to be a key feature in all council-led policy and implementation programmes.

- Belfast City Council and other stakeholders should consider enhanced engagement with local community in the development of new shared spaces, involving input from the GRU at an early stage to advise of issues and develop programmes, where required. This will enhance the likelihood of shared space outcomes.

- Deliver projects that will develop shared space in identified areas. Consider opportunities for the GRU to develop the use of council leisure and community centres as shared spaces.

- Consider projects to promote the use of shared spaces and enhance opportunities for children and young people to access shared spaces such as leisure centres.

12.3.3  Our Safe Community

- Continue and enhance working relationships with the PCSP to deliver approaches that reduce hate crime and intimidation.

- Continue to provide support for transforming aggressive murals and support for interface communities to develop relationships and engage in dialogue around the transformation of interfaces.

- Prioritise engagement with communities living at interfaces /peace walls to support the development of cross community relationships and networks.

- Details relating to the council’s proposed ‘Interfaces programme’ within the Belfast Agenda needs to be developed. It is important that linkages between the Good Relations Action Plan and Community Planning are made to maximise the benefits of such a programme. It is also imperative to continue to engage in partnership working with DoJ to advance the reduction in interfaces.

- Consider opportunities for social enterprise and social innovation in the development of shared spaces. Support increased capacity of community groups to avail of opportunities under the Department for Communities Community Asset Transfer policy, which provides for a change in management and/or ownership of land or buildings, from public bodies to communities.

12.3.4  Our Cultural Expression

- The council to reaffirm its commitment to promoting positive cultural expression and the inclusion of all communities in events.

- Continue to provide training to increase awareness of the benefits of cultural diversity.

- Consider mechanisms, in partnership with other relevant organisations, to deliver good relations programmes that highlight the role of civic leadership in fostering relationships between people of different backgrounds and the benefits of good relations to the city of Belfast.
- Consider targeted engagement with PUL community that will promote inclusion and develop relationships within that community and with others from different backgrounds to further support positive cultural expression.

- Continue to support the inclusion of new communities into Belfast and develop their capacity to create social bonds and connections and to participate locally.

- The Good Relations Action Plan and associated projects under the DCGRP should link with the Belfast Agenda’s proposed Cultural and Arts Strategy and the commitments made under the Racial Equality Strategy 2015-2015.

12.3.5 **Strategic and Operational Issues**

The below recommendations relate to strategic issues where the Shared City Partnership should seek to influence on good relations issues:

- Develop a communication strategy that communicates good relations messages to internal and external audiences. This should include definition, terminology, impact and best practice.

- Consider the development of the identity of the Shared City Partnership as a body that promotes good relations across the city. The Partnership should review its membership and operation to ensure that it maximises its role in developing responses to contentious issues. This should include a renewed emphasis on the role of the Chair and Vice Chair as good relations ‘champions’ across Belfast.

- Consider longer term, strategic funding approaches which move away from the current model of four funds administered every six months.

- Consider ‘flagship’ projects that will have maximum impact in terms of raising awareness of good relations across the city. This could be aligned to the TBUC themes i.e. five flagship projects to include one flagship project per theme, as well as an overall communications/promotion programme.

- The need for partnership working to address outcomes is clear, with existing partnerships and various levels of collaboration already evident. To fully embrace the OBA model will require a more involved form of partnership working in order to meet the outcomes set in the TBUC strategy. Belfast City Council must engage with the relevant partners to identify common areas of focus / thematic area based interventions – this approach will generate a greater combined impact.

- The GRU must ensure that actions and funded projects closely align to the overall TBUC outcomes. Grant recipients should be selected on the basis of their ability to deliver projects and measure and report on relevant performance indicators to meet the overall outcomes of the DCGRP and TBUC.

- Given the priority of good relations, as per feedback from stakeholders to the Belfast Conversation, and the impact of ‘poor relations’, it would be useful if good relations targets featured more prominently in the Belfast Agenda. Furthermore, the terminology ‘community relations’ is used in the Belfast Agenda with respect to ‘good relations’ issue. It is important that the council and the Belfast Agenda use a consistent approach to terminology. Good Relations is the term more widely used and if the council wish to promote a consistent message there is a need to used consistent terminology – this will have a greater impact on the promotion of good relations within the council’s internal structures and staff and external stakeholders.
Appendices
Appendix I: Stakeholders

Breakdown of stakeholders per engagement session

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualitative Research</th>
<th>Number of individuals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Key stakeholder interviews and focus groups</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Consultation Event</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-design Workshop</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>105</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantitative Research</th>
<th>Number of individuals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online Survey</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overall total</strong></td>
<td><strong>197</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of unique organisations/individuals represented: 64 organisations, representing:
- Government Departments
- Non-department Public Body organisations
- Local Authority - Belfast City Council
- Private sector
- Philanthropy
- Community/Voluntary groups:

71 residents

Unique Organisations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholder / Organisation</th>
<th>Focus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. African Sports Group</td>
<td>Community/Voluntary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Afro-Community Support Organisation Northern Ireland (ASCONI)</td>
<td>Community/Voluntary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. ArtsEkta</td>
<td>Community/Voluntary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Barnados</td>
<td>Community/Voluntary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Bbeyond</td>
<td>Community/Voluntary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Belfast City Council</td>
<td>Local Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCC Senior Officers</td>
<td>Good Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCC Good Relations Unit Staff</td>
<td>Good Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCC Tourism, Culture, Heritage &amp; Arts</td>
<td>Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCC Community Development</td>
<td>Community Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCC Economic Development</td>
<td>Economic Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCC Community Safety</td>
<td>Community Safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCC Elected representatives</td>
<td>Elected Representatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. BCC Shared City Partnership / Elected representatives</td>
<td>Local Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Belfast City Centre Management (BCCM)</td>
<td>Private Sector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Belfast Health &amp; Social Care Trust (BHSCT)</td>
<td>Statutory organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Benmore CDA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Charter NI</td>
<td>Community/Voluntary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum</td>
<td>Community/Voluntary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Coiste Na h Iarchimhi</td>
<td>Public/Private Non-Profit Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Community Relations Council (CRC)</td>
<td>Non Departmental Public Body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Congress of Trade Unions</td>
<td>Private Sector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Connswater Women’s Group</td>
<td>Community/Voluntary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Department for Communities (DiC)</td>
<td>Government Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stakeholder / Organisation</td>
<td>Focus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Department of Justice (DOJ)</td>
<td>Government Department – Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. DOJ Interface team</td>
<td>Government Department – Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. East Belfast Community Development Association</td>
<td>Community/Voluntary – Community Development – East Belfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. East Side Partnership</td>
<td>Community/Voluntary – Community Development – East Belfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Education Authority (EA)</td>
<td>Non-Departmental Public Bodies – Children &amp; Young People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. Falls Community Council</td>
<td>Community/Voluntary – Community Development – West Belfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26. Fighting Words Belfast</td>
<td>Community/Voluntary – Children &amp; Young People Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27. FTP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. Girdwood – Community Engagement</td>
<td>Community/Voluntary – Community Engagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29. Greater Whitewell / Mount Vernon</td>
<td>Community/Voluntary – Community Development – North Belfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30. HAPANI</td>
<td>Community/Voluntary – Ethnic Minority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31. Institute for Conflict Research</td>
<td>Community/Voluntary – Good Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32. Intercomm</td>
<td>Community/Voluntary – Good Relations / Social &amp; Economic Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33. International Fund for Ireland</td>
<td>Independent International organisation – Philanthropy – funder of Good Relations projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34. John Paul 11 Youth Club</td>
<td>Community/Voluntary – Young People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35. Law Centre</td>
<td>Asylum Seekers &amp; Refugees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36. Ligoniel Improvement Association</td>
<td>Community/Voluntary – Community Development – North Belfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37. Lower Ormeau Resident's Action Group (LORAG) x 2</td>
<td>Community/Voluntary – Community Development – South Belfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38. Lower Shankill Community Association (LSCA)</td>
<td>Community/Voluntary – Community Development – North Belfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39. New Lodge Arts x 2</td>
<td>Community/Voluntary – Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40. NI Housing Executive (NIHE)</td>
<td>Non Departmental Public Body – Housing and Good Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41. Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA)</td>
<td>Community/Voluntary – Supporting and representing voluntary and community organisations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42. Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum (NIIF)</td>
<td>Community/Voluntary – Faith Groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43. Northern Ireland Somali Association (NISA)</td>
<td>Community/Voluntary – Ethnic Minority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44. Peace Players International- Northern Ireland</td>
<td>Community/Voluntary – Good Relations Sport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45. POBAL</td>
<td>Non Departmental Public Body – Good Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46. Police Service for Northern Ireland (PSNI)</td>
<td>Non Departmental Public Body – Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47. PWP</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48. Raidió Fálite107.1fm</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49. Romanian Roma Community Association x 2</td>
<td>Community/Voluntary – Ethnic Minority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50. Shankill Women’s centre</td>
<td>Community/Voluntary – Women’s Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51. Shared City Partnership</td>
<td>Non Departmental Public Body – Good Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52. Somali Women’s Group</td>
<td>Community/Voluntary – Ethnic Minority Women’s Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53. Strand Arts Centre</td>
<td>Community/Voluntary – Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54. Sudanese Community Association Northern Ireland (SCANI)</td>
<td>Community/Voluntary – Ethnic Minority</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Stakeholder / Organisation  | Focus  
--- | ---  
55. Suffolk Lenadoon Interface Group (SLIG)  | Community/Voluntary  | Community Development – outer West Belfast  
56. Tar Isteach  | Community/Voluntary  | Support and services for republican ex-prisoners and their families  
57. TEO – The Executive Office  | Statutory organisation  | Policy / Funder  
58. University of Radboud Nijmegen, Netherlands  | Community/Voluntary  
59. Victim Support NI  | Community/Voluntary  | Victims of Crime  
60. West Belfast Athletic Club  | Community/Voluntary  | Young People Sport  
61. Women’s Resource & Development Agency  | Community/Voluntary  | Women’s Group  
62. Young at Art  | Community/Voluntary  | Young People Arts  
63. 174 Trust  | Community/Voluntary  | Community Support – North Belfast  
64. 71 individuals / residents  | Individuals /residents  | Local residents views  

**Quizdom Results from 22 November event**

Of the 45 participants that responded (45/46), 16 were men, 28 were women and 1 transgender.

Attendees indicated that they came from the following areas: North Belfast – 12, South Belfast - 6, West Belfast - 10, East Belfast – 5 and Other was noted as 11, 1 respondent did not specify.

In response to attendance as an individual or part of an group or organisation, the following was revealed: 3 people were in attendance as an individual, 4 were representative of a political party, the largest amount of people came from the community/voluntary sector with 23 people in attendance, 1 person came from the private sector, 13 people came from the public sector and 2 people were representing University/College or Research.

**Sectarianism**

In response to the levels of sectarianism at a citywide level, the highest ranking response from 19 respondents believed it to be ‘Average’ followed closely by 18 respondents who found sectarianism to be ‘High’.

Levels of sectarianism within the last year was determined by 21 respondents to have ‘stayed the same’ with 10 respondents having a sense that sectarianism had decreased, closely followed by 9 respondents who were ‘not sure’.

With regards to levels of sectarianism ‘in your area’, the highest ranking response from 15 respondents was ‘average’, with an almost even split of respondents believing neighbourhood sectarianism to be ‘high’ and ‘low’ with 11 and 10 respondents respectively. 27 respondents believed sectarianism to have ‘stayed the same’ in their local area.

**Racism**

2 participants rated racism as ‘very high’ at a citywide level, 23 people rated racism ‘high’, followed by ‘average’ by 18 attendees. Levels of racism in the city were seen as having “increased” by the majority of attendees (25), only 4 attendees saw racism as having ‘decreased’ and 11 believing racism as having ‘stayed the same’.

Participants were asked to rate the levels of racism in their areas and there were varying responses with 14 rating racism as high, an equal split of 11 responses was received rating racism as ‘low’ and ‘average’.

Levels of racism within the last year were deemed as having ‘stayed the same’ from 22 participants, and 11 attendees having a sense that racism has increased. 8 and 7 respondents were ‘not sure’ and thought racism has ‘decreased’ respectively.
When surveyed 27% of respondents thought the top barrier to good relations was ‘Largely segregated housing/schools’ and 26% were of the view that ‘social deprivation and poverty’ was the top barrier.

17 attendees believed the Council’s promotion and delivery of good relations was ‘good’ and an even split between ‘very good’ and ‘adequate’ with 10 respondents respectively.

Overwhelming support was received from 99% of respondents believing there was a need for the Council in continuing to support work to develop good relations.

All participants felt they were able to highlight the good relations issues that were relevant to them with just over 2/3rds of respondents (33) believing the event increased their knowledge on the good relations approaches in Belfast.

The majority of respondents (99%) indicated that they would like more information on the Council’s good relations audit and action plan.

Feedback on the event was rated highly by participants with 39 participants rating it as 4 or 5 (out of 5).
Appendix II - Online Survey Results

Respondent Overview

In total there were 92 respondents, 77% responded as individuals, 23% responding on behalf of an organisation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondent type</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual - member of the public</td>
<td>77%, n=71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representative of an organisation</td>
<td>23%, n=21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%, n=92</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A list of the 21 organisations is provided below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the organisation:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. ArtsEkta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Bbeyond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Belfast City Council, Economic Development Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Belfast HSC Trust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Benmore CDA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Connswater women's group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Fighting Words Belfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Institute for Conflict Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. John Paul 11 Youth Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. lower shankill community association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. LSCA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Peace Players International- Northern Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. POBAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Raidió Fáilte107.1fm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Shankill Womens centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Strand Arts Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Victim support NI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Women's Resource &amp; Development Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Young at Art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Not stated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Understanding good relations issues

**Need to support good relations work**

Respondents were asked to reflect on the council’s definition of good relations (i.e. “We [the council] view good relations as promoting better relationships between people from different political, religious and racial backgrounds, tackling sectarianism and racism and promoting cultural diversity) and subsequently asked ‘Do you think that in 2016 there is still a need for us to support work to develop good relations?’

Overwhelming, 97% are of the view that there remains a need for Belfast City Council to provide ongoing support for good relations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>n=</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Sure</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Positive good relations**

In considering Belfast as a city, respondent to the online survey were asked to identify ‘the three most positive things that contribute to good relations?’

Of the 92 respondents (256 comments provided):

- 96%, n=88 offered a response against the first most important thing;
- 93%, n=86 offered a response against the second most important thing; and
- 89%, n=82 offered a response against the third most important thing.

A number of common themes emerged from the data, which are presented below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>‘positive things that contribute to good relations’</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>n=</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Improving understanding and awareness through education /dialogue</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Use of cultural activities (art, sport, music, events) to bring people together</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Targeted cross community activities</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Positive political environment/Proactive political and civic leadership</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. A focus on wider acceptance of diversity</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Shared spaces</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Addressing physical barriers that cause segregation</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Positive media portrayal</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Integrated education</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Improving economic and social wellbeing</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The figure below highlights the top three things which contribute to positive relations (based on a weighted score calculation):
A selection of quotes is provided below to illustrate responses provided:

“Providing the opportunity for increased dialogue and contact between communities to support creative and innovative approaches to dealing with contentious issues”

“The opportunity to have dialogue or projects with other groups from different backgrounds in a safe space that allows all sides to have greater understanding of our lives, views, cultures and identities”

“Opportunities for people to mix and socialise, including young people i.e. Belfast Mela, Arts Festival”

“More events that all can participate in that have no political or sectarian connotations i.e. Tall ships etc.”

“Being able to come together to celebrate what Belfast has to offer, culture, music, art, business, talent.”

“Investing in our young people to develop positive relations - creating the next generation of baggage free leaders”

“Providing time, space and resources to explore identity in its multifaceted ways’

“Displays of leadership by public figures”

“Politicians and those in positions of authority showing good example by their words actions and deeds”

“Peaceful communities working together in a shared space”

“Removal of paramilitary murals and physical interfaces”

“Getting the good news stories out there in the public domain”

“Supporting opportunities for culture to be expressed in a creative, non-threatening, and empowering way”
Issues creating tensions

Respondents were also asked to identify ‘the three biggest issues that cause poor relations and create tensions between communities?’

Of the 92 respondents (263 comments provided overall):

- 98%, n=90 offered a response against the first issue;
- 97%, n=89 offered a response against the second issue; and
- 91%, n=84 offered a response against the third issue.

A number of common themes emerged from the data, which are presented below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>‘biggest issues that cause poor relations and create tensions’</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>n</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Unresolved issues (the past, marches, flags and emblems)</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Negative political environment/lack of political leadership</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Segregated working and living</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Sectarianism/Us v them</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Negative media portrayal/Miss information</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Lack of education and understanding of diversity</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Disengaged communities</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Socio economic issues</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Ongoing paramilitary influence</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Mistrust</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Segregated education</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A selection of quotes is provided below to illustrate responses provided:

“Even though the Good Friday Agreement was signed in 1998 there remains recognition that some people, particularly the youth living in these areas continue to be particularly impacted by the detrimental effects of poverty. For many of them Peace as of yet has not delivered any benefits”

“Too much of a focus on the past”.  

“Political figures making sectarian comments and bickering in public, leading to a justification of race hate and sectarian behaviour among sections of the community”

“Loss of traditional employment routes, high unemployment and low levels of aspiration”
**Actions to address issues**

In considering the work of Belfast City Council, respondents were asked to identify ‘Actions that our Good Relations Unit could undertake to address the three needs or issues identified above?’

Of the 92 respondents (248 comments provided):

- 95%, n=87 offered a response against the first potential action;
- 90%, n=83 offered a response against the second potential action; and
- 85%, n=78 offered a response against the third potential action.

A number of common themes emerged from the data, which are presented below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continued investment in effective cross community activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empower communities/improve capability and capacity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focus on addressing unresolved issues (the past, marches, flags and emblems)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invest in shared cultural activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of positive media and communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focus on education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focus on young people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invest in and use shared spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remove physical barriers to integration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support move away from Paramilitarism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focus on improved social and economic wellbeing through investment and employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated education</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In terms of ‘other’ actions identified and specific interventions, a series of proposal were presented including:

- Longer term interventions
- Larger grant schemes
- Moving away from single identity funding
- Good relations training for elected members
- Education for grant funding recipients
- Spatially focused interventions – interfaces and the areas of highest socio economic need.

A selection of quotes is provided below to illustrate responses provided:

“Develop policies and procedures that are long term and involve decision making processes that involve the participation of the local community, agencies and statutory bodies. “

“Support for community-led informal education and youth development activities, especially through community arts”

“Working with community groups to develop media awareness/promotion for their work so it is recognised and given just as much press time”
“Work with councillors on how best to promote good relations and emphasise how poorly their words and actions are perceived”

“Commit to more designating more derelict land at interfaces into shared spaces”

**Barriers to developing good relations**

Those surveyed were asked ‘what are the top three barriers or constraints to developing good relations?’

A total of 12 response options plus an ‘other’ option were presented as per the list below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>n</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fear of intimidation or attack</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social deprivation and poverty</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of groups wishing to engage</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Largely segregated schools</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of funding to develop good relations projects</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Different capacity levels of groups</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Largely segregated housing</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of opportunities to have meaningful engagement with communities</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of shared space (parks, community facilities, leisure space)</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legacy of the conflict</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of support from the local community</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of input from local people</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The top three barriers identified are presented in the figure below (weighted score calculation), with ‘lack of groups wishing to engage’ and ‘largely segregated schools’ ranked jointly third.
Levels of sectarianism and racism – city wide

Those surveyed were asked ‘How would you rate the levels of sectarianism and racism in the city?’

The vast majority of those surveyed were of the view that sectarianism (66%) and racism (58%) is very high or high.

In terms of the changes to the levels of sectarianism and racism at a city level, 32% of respondents thought that sectarianism had increased (54% said it is ‘about the same’) and 52% were of the view that racism had increased.
Levels of sectarianism and racism – in specific Areas

75 respondents shared their postcode with the majority located in North Belfast (32%) and South Belfast the second highest represented area with 28% of respondents.

When grouped by area there are a number of distinct trends identified (however response rate should be considered, as above frequency per postcode). Levels of sectarianism are ranked very high and high by 30% of those from North Belfast and Very High by 30% of those from West Belfast. Levels of sectarianism are ranked high and very high by only 17% of those in South Belfast.
When grouped by area, 44% of respondents from south Belfast identified level of racism as high and in north Belfast racism levels were identified as very high by 7% of respondents and high by 30% of respondents. West Belfast had the lowest number of respondents identifying racism as very high or high.

Sectarianism was identified to have increased by 20% of respondents in central Belfast and 25% in North Belfast. Conversely sectarianism was viewed to have decreased in central Belfast by 20% of respondents.
Racism was considered to have increased rather than decreased across central east, west and south Belfast, with 35% respondents in south Belfast believing this was the case. In north Belfast whilst 32% of respondents considered racism to have increased, 39% also were of the view that it had decreased.

![Figure 9: Changes to levels of Racism](image-url)
Belfast City Council Good Relations Unit

Those surveyed were asked the following - ‘Our Good Relations Unit uses different approaches to promote good relations. Indicate if you are aware of this area of work or have been involved in it? ‘

The three areas that had the highest levels of awareness were:

- St Patrick's Day celebrations grants (70%)
- Transforming aggressive murals (66%)
- Commemorations (for example exhibitions and talks) (64%)
Building on this, those surveyed were asked ‘If you are aware of these approaches, how important is it that we continue to provide these resources? Tick one box in each row only’

The three areas that were regarded as absolutely essential:

- Interventions around interface areas (48%)
- Support for migrant, minority, refugee and asylum seeker communities (45%)
- Community engagement in good relations issues (Good Relations Unit staff supporting groups) (42%)
Results categories per TBUC theme:

**Supporting Programmes – Key Projects:**

- **Good relations grant aid** - 69% either aware (53%) or have been involved (16%) with this work. 37% agreed that it was ‘absolutely essential’ that the council continue this work, followed by 34% who agreed it was ‘very important’.

- **Community engagement in good relations issues** (Good Relations Unit staff supporting groups) - 71% either aware (49%) or have been involved (22%) with this work. 42% agreed that it was ‘absolutely essential’ that the council continue this work, followed by 42% who agreed it was ‘very important’.

- **Training on good relations issues** - 73% either aware (59%) or have been involved (14%) with this work. 49% agreed that it was ‘absolutely essential’ that the council continue this work, followed by 34% who agreed it was ‘very important’.

**Our Children & Young People – Key Projects:**

- **Summer diversionary programmes** - 65% either aware (57%) or have been involved (8%) with this work. 18% agreed that it was ‘absolutely essential’ that the council continue this work, followed by 33% who agreed it was ‘very important’ and 29% of ‘moderate importance’.

**Our Shared City – Key Projects:**

- **Commemorations (for example exhibitions and talks)** - 75% either aware (64%) or have been involved (11%) with this work. 12% agreed that it was ‘absolutely essential’ that the council continue this work, followed by 39% who agreed it was ‘very important’ and 37% of ‘moderate importance’

- **Support for migrant, minority, refugee and asylum seeker communities** - 68% either aware (55%) or have been involved (13%) with this work. 45% agreed that it was ‘absolutely essential’ that the council continue this work, followed by 29% who agreed it was ‘very important’.

**Our Safe City – Key Projects:**

- **Transforming aggressive murals** - 73% either aware (66%) or have been involved (7%) with this work. 41% agreed that it was ‘absolutely essential’ that the council continue this work, followed by 28% who agreed it was ‘very important’.

- **Interventions around interface areas** - 68% either aware (55%) or have been involved (13%) with this work. 48% agreed that it was ‘absolutely essential’ that the council continue this work, followed by 31% who agreed it was ‘very important’.

**Our Cultural Expression – Key Projects:**

- **Bonfire Management Programme** - 75% either aware (61%) or have been involved (14%) with this work. 36% agreed that it was ‘absolutely essential’ that the council continue this work, followed by 22% who agreed it was ‘very important’.

- **St Patrick’s Day celebrations grants** - 80% either aware (70%) or have been involved (10%) with this work. 12% agreed that it was ‘absolutely essential’ that the council continue this work, followed by 27% who agreed it was ‘very important’ and 33% of ‘moderate importance’.

- **Cultural diversity programme** - 78% either aware (60%) or have been involved (18%) with this work. 40% agreed that it was ‘absolutely essential’ that the council continue this work, followed by 42% who agreed it was ‘very important’.
Promotion and delivery of good relations

Quality of service

Respondents were asked ‘How would you describe our promotion and delivery of good relations?’

![Bar chart showing responses to the question 'How would you describe the council's promotion and delivery of good relations?']

- Very good: 11%
- Good: 40%
- Adequate: 29%
- Poor: 4%
- Very poor: 7%
- Not sure: 9%

The majority rated the council as ‘good’ (40%) or ‘adequate’ (29%) and a further 11% rated the council as ‘very good’. However, the results highlight areas for improvement in terms of the ways in which the council engages with individual to promote good relations.
**Strengths in Promoting and Delivering Good Relations**

In considering the work of Belfast City Council, respondents were asked to identify ‘the key strengths in the promotion and delivery of good relations?’

Of the 92 respondents, 71%, n=65 provided a response, with 29% n=27 offering no response.

![Figure 13: Strengths in promoting/delivering good relations](image)

The effective approach and attitude of staff was identified by the majority of respondents (15%, n=15) of as a key strength. The second highest ranked strength (12%, n=11) was identified as Belfast City Council's ability to engage with all and be neutral. Use of storytelling and information was ranked third (10%, n=9).

17% of responses were identified as other with responses including:

- Strong use of consultation and engagement
- Support for migrant groups
- Variety of interventions and innovative approaches

A selection of quotes is provided below to illustrate responses provided:

“Ability to engage with all sections of the community”

“Ability to engage flexibly and long-term with communities, groups and individuals”

“A ‘can-do’ attitude from staff”

“Delivery of training and development and interesting cultural events”

“Wide range of experience of staff delivering projects”

“Staff are brilliant, willing to listen and are extremely supportive”

“Diversity and opportunity to engage in programmes to learn about other cultures”
Weaknesses in Promoting and Delivering Good Relations

In considering the work of Belfast City Council, respondents were asked to identify ‘the weaknesses (if any) in the promotion and delivery of good relations?’

Of the 92 respondents, 66%, n=61 presented a response, with weaknesses grouped as follows:

- Good relations being siloed within the GRU and not embedded across Belfast City Council.
- Being disconnected from activity on the ground.
- Lack of promotion of strategy and activity.
- Political influence
- Short-term funding

A selection of quotes is provided below to illustrate responses provided:

“Lack of 'all council' buy-in to the concept of Good Relations”

“Be clearer with public about the aims and objectives and the staff's boundaries when dealing with contentious programmes such as bonfire management and reimaging programmes”

“To achieve this real change in attitudes and approaches to managing diversity within communities’ people need to firstly understand why this is important. Has the Good Relations Unit achieved this?”

“Political entanglement and vested interests behind scene”

“Political support required to allow Good Relations to take on a stronger challenge role as part of their support for community groups engaged in good relations work.”

“Absence of fresh and innovative intervention”

“Duplication of programmes that don't have a lasting impact or offer any real change”
Areas of improvement in Promoting and Delivering Good Relations

In considering the work of Belfast City Council, respondents were asked to identify ‘if there was anything Belfast City Council could do to improve the promotion and delivery of good relations?’

Of the 92 respondents, 62%, n=57 presented a response. There were a diverse range of responses presented under this question, including:

- Additional funding / longer-term funding cycle.
- Enhanced promotion of activity and project success / using media more effectively - use of social media and City Matters publication.
- Promotion of the council’s good relations strategy (internally within council and beyond)
- More focus community consultation
- A more proactive rather than reactive approach
- A review of good relations work across the city to remove duplication
- Training
- Leadership from elected representatives.
- Consider events that are not overly ‘good relations’ but have a good relations impact to generate greater buy-in to activities.

“Provide longer term funding streams to enable more sustained engagement to take place”

“Offer bigger funds that last for a longer period so larger more ambitious projects can be taken on by organisations that will make a bigger difference over time and have more consistency”

“Maybe increase your use of internet based tools to promote and develop good relations projects”

“More promotion of operational work carried out at local level - highlight the involvement, the work and the commitment before, during and after. Not just some nice pics of the end result.

“Leadership from Council members in the promotion of and in the use of the language in delivery of the good relations”

“If there are many smaller targeted events locally with a theme other than good relations, but an ethical underlying ethos of good relations you would be promoting good relations indirectly.”

“The council should be using investments and other opportunities to encourage good relations indirectly. i.e. the running, management and promotion of the football fan zone during the Euros”

“More information about the work Good Relations is funding. The outcomes and the change it has made in the community. Working with all sections of the community and not just hand full of people”

“Engagement with alternative voices and not just the usual suspects”
Organisations role in Promoting and Delivering Good Relations

Respondents were asked ‘to what extent should the following groups or organisations play a key role in the promotion and delivery of good relations?’

The majority, 83% of respondents identified Belfast City Council as having a key role. Youth organisations (82%) and community organisations (757%) ranked as the second and third most important players. Ex-prisoners were identified by only 21% of respondents as having a key role, the lowest ranked group against this criterion.

Respondents were asked to identify other organisation not in the above predefined list. The following were reported:

- Police Service for Northern Ireland (PSNI) – mentioned by the majority of respondents.
- NI Housing Executive – mentioned by the majority of respondents.
- The NI Executive.
- Department of Justice.
- Department of Health / Health Trusts / Public Health Agency.
- Department of Education / Education Authority.
- Department for Communities.
- Belfast City Centre Management (BCCM).
- Political parties.
Respondent Profile

Gender

Of the 92 respondents, 55% are female and 38% male and 1% transgender.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>%, number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>55%, n=51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>38%, n=35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transgender</td>
<td>1%, n=1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No answer</td>
<td>5%, n=5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%, n=92</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Age

The majority (63%, n=58) of those who responded were aged between 40 and 59, with the largest group of respondents aged between 50 and 59 (33%, n=30). Only 9%, n=8 of respondents were aged under 30.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondent age</th>
<th>%, number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 to 19</td>
<td>1%, n=1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 to 29</td>
<td>8%, n=7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 to 39</td>
<td>20%, n=18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 to 49</td>
<td>30%, n=28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 to 59</td>
<td>33%, n=30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 to 69</td>
<td>8%, n=7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 to 79</td>
<td>1%, n=1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%, n=92</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Community Background

Of those who responded 89%, n=82 designated their religious affiliation. The largest single grouping was Catholic 33%, with those identified as Protestant making up 23% of respondents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondent type</th>
<th>%, number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catholic</td>
<td>33%, n=30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protestant</td>
<td>23%, n=21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Christian (including Christian related)</td>
<td>3%, n=2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other faith or non-Christian community background</td>
<td>2%, n=2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No religion</td>
<td>25%, n=23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefer not to say</td>
<td>11%, n=10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3%, n=2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%, n=92</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ethnic Group

Of the 92 respondents, 40% identified themselves as White Irish, 27% as White British and 25% as White Northern Irish.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondent type</th>
<th>%, number</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White Irish</td>
<td>40%, n=37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White British</td>
<td>27%, n=25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Northern Irish</td>
<td>25%, n=23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>1%, n=1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African</td>
<td>1%, n=1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefer not to say</td>
<td>4%, n=4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other, please specify below [respondent did not indicate]</td>
<td>1%, n=1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%, n=92</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix III: NI Life and Times Survey Results (2015) – Belfast District Council

2015 Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey
21% of respondents live in Belfast District Council
A highlighted asterisk means that chi-square test indicates that there is a significant difference between Belfast, and the rest of Northern Ireland. However, effect sizes have not been calculated. It is likely that differences may not be significant if responses are grouped (e.g., agree/strongly agree etc).

D1 What about relations between Protestants and Catholics? Would you say they are better than they were 5 years ago, worse, or about the same now as then?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>supercouncil</th>
<th>Belfast</th>
<th>Rest of NI</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Better</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worse</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About the same</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Please specify)</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Don't know)</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

D3 If you had a choice, would you prefer to live in a neighbourhood with people of only your own religion, or in a mixed-religion neighbourhood?

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<tr>
<th>supercouncil</th>
<th>Belfast</th>
<th>Rest of NI</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Own religion only</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed religion neighbourhood</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Please specify)</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Don't know)</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</table>
### D8 Has there been any time in the last year when you personally have felt intimidated by republican murals, kerb paintings, or flags?

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Belfast</td>
<td>Rest of NI</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D8 Has there been any time in the last year when you personally have felt intimidated by republican murals, kerb paintings, or flags?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>91.2%</td>
<td>89.8%</td>
<td>90.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Please specify)</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Don't know)</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
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</table>

### D9 And has there been any time in the last year when you personally have felt annoyed by republican murals, kerb paintings, or flags?

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<td>Belfast</td>
<td>Rest of NI</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D9 And has there been any time in the last year when you personally have felt annoyed by republican murals, kerb paintings, or flags?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Please specify)</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Don't know)</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</table>

### D11 And has there been any time in the last year when you personally have felt intimidated by loyalist murals, kerb paintings, or flags?

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<th>supercouncil</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Belfast</td>
<td>Rest of NI</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D11 And has there been any time in the last year when you personally have felt intimidated by loyalist murals, kerb paintings, or flags?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Please specify)</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Don't know)</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### D12 Has there been any time in the last year when you personally have felt annoyed by loyalist murals, kerb paintings, or flags? 

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Belfast</td>
<td>Rest of NI</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D12 Has there been any time in the last year when you personally have felt annoyed by loyalist murals, kerb paintings, or flags?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other (Please specify)</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Don't know)</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
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### D17 And thinking of the neighbourhood where you live, is it a place where you feel you can be open about your own cultural identity? 

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Belfast</td>
<td>Rest of NI</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D17 And thinking of the neighbourhood where you live, is it a place where you feel you can be open about your own cultural identity?</td>
<td>Yes, definitely</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes, probably</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Probably not</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Definitely not</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Don't know)</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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### D20 Thinking about this immediate neighbourhood, the kind of place it is and the kind of people who live around here, would you say that you feel a sense of belonging to this neighbourhood? 

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<tbody>
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<td></td>
<td>Belfast</td>
<td>Rest of NI</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D20 Thinking about this immediate neighbourhood, the kind of place it is and the kind of people who live around here, would you say that you feel a sense of belonging to this neighbourhood?</td>
<td>Yes, definitely</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes, probably</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Probably not</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Definitely not</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Don't know)</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</table>
**D21** Do you feel that you have any influence when it comes to any of the local decisions made around your area?

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<tbody>
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<td></td>
<td>Belfast</td>
<td>Rest of NI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D21 Do you feel that you have any influence when it comes to any of the local decisions made around your area?</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes, definitely</td>
<td>Yes, probably</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**D22** And thinking about Northern Ireland as a whole, the kind of place it is and the kind of people who live here, would you say that you feel a sense of belonging to Northern Ireland?

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<th>supercouncil</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Belfast</td>
<td>Rest of NI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D22 And thinking about Northern Ireland as a whole, the kind of place it is and the kind of people who live here, would you say that you feel a sense of belonging to Northern Ireland?</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes, definitely</td>
<td>Yes, probably</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**D23** Do you feel that you have any influence when it comes to any of the decisions made about what happens in Northern Ireland?

<table>
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<th>supercouncil</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Belfast</td>
<td>Rest of NI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D23 Do you feel that you have any influence when it comes to any of the decisions made about what happens in Northern Ireland?</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes, definitely</td>
<td>Yes, probably</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### D26a Do you think that leisure centres in this area are ‘shared and open’ to both Protestants and Catholics?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Belfast</td>
<td>Rest of NI</td>
<td>Total</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>D26a Do you think that leisure centres in this area are ‘shared and open’ to both Protestants and Catholics?</td>
<td>Yes definitely</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes probably</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No probably not</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No definitely not</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
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### D28 How favourable or unfavourable do you feel about people from the Catholic community?

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<td>Total</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>D28 How favourable or unfavourable do you feel about people from the Catholic community?</td>
<td>Very favourable</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Favourable</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Neither favourable nor unfavourable</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unfavourable</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Don’t know)</td>
<td></td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
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### D29 How favourable or unfavourable do you feel about people from the Protestant community?

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<tr>
<td>D29 How favourable or unfavourable do you feel about people from the Protestant community?</td>
<td>Very favourable</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Favourable</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Neither favourable nor unfavourable</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unfavourable</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Very unfavourable</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Don’t know)</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### D30 How favourable or unfavourable do you feel about people from a different ethnic group to yourself?

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<td>Belfast</td>
<td>Rest of NI</td>
<td>Total</td>
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<tr>
<td>D30 How favourable or</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>unfavourable do you feel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about people from a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>different ethnic group</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to yourself?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very favourable</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Favourable</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither favourable nor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unfavourable</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unfavourable</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very unfavourable</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Don’t know)</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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### D31a The culture and traditions of the Catholic community add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society

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<tr>
<td>D31a The culture and</td>
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<tr>
<td>traditions of the Catholic</td>
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<tr>
<td>community add to the</td>
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<tr>
<td>richness and diversity</td>
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<tr>
<td>of Northern Ireland</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>society</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither agree nor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>disagree</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
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### D31b The culture and traditions of the Protestant community add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society

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<td>community add to the</td>
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<td>richness and diversity</td>
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<tr>
<td>of Northern Ireland</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>society</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither agree nor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>disagree</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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</table>
D31c The culture and traditions of people from different minority ethnic groups adds to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society

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<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither agree nor disagree</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

D31d I feel that my own cultural identity is respected by society

<table>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither agree nor disagree</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</table>

D31e Towns and city centres in Northern Ireland are safe and welcoming places for people of all walks of life

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<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither agree nor disagree</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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### D31f Northern Ireland is a place free from displays of sectarian aggression

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<td>D31f Northern Ireland is a place free from displays of sectarian aggression</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither agree nor disagree</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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### E3 Thinking of people from minority ethnic communities, do you think there is a lot of prejudice against them in Northern Ireland nowadays, a little, or hardly any?

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<tr>
<td>E3 Thinking of people from minority ethnic communities, do you think there is a lot of prejudice against them in Northern Ireland nowadays, a little, or hardly any?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A lot</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A little</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardly any (Don't know)</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>18%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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### E4 Do you think there is generally more racial prejudice in Northern Ireland now than there was 5 years ago, less, or about the same amount?

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<tr>
<td>E4 Do you think there is generally more racial prejudice in Northern Ireland now than there was 5 years ago, less, or about the same amount?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More now</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less now</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About the same</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Please specify) (Don't know)</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
E5 Do you think there will be more, less or about the same amount of racial prejudice in Northern Ireland in 5 years times compared with now?

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<tbody>
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<td>Belfast</td>
<td>Rest of NI</td>
<td>Total</td>
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<tr>
<td>E5 Do you think there will be</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>more, less or about the</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>same amount of racial</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prejudice in Northern Ireland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in 5 years times compared</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with now?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More in 5 years time</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About the same</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Please specify)</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Don't know)</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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