Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

PEACEPLUS Programme

INVESTMENT AREA 1.1

Co-Designed Local PEACEPLUS Action Plan

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Executive Summary

The PEACEPLUS programme is structured around six key themes, encompassing a total of 22 investment areas. Theme 1 is dedicated to the advancement of Peaceful and Thriving Communities, with Investment Area 1.1 focusing on the development of Co-Designed Local Community Peace Action Plans. The aim is to make a substantial and enduring contribution to peace and reconciliation efforts.

The creation of the Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon Borough Council Action Plan has been led by the collaborative efforts of the PEACEPLUS Partnership. The partnership has worked closely with Council Officers to craft the Action Plan, employing a co-design process that allowed various stakeholders from the Borough, including community organisations, residents, statutory providers, public bodies, and Council staff, and more to provide input into its development. The resultant Action Plan is designed to promote peace and reconciliation throughout the Borough and carries a total budget of £6,759,997 with an anticipated engagement of 7,774 participants.

This process has embraced a co-design approach, involving extensive engagement with the local community and key stakeholders such as statutory providers, public bodies, businesses, and community organisations. As a result, the Action Plan presented in this document aligns strategically with the identified needs and preferences of the stakeholders who have been involved in this process. There is a clear synergy between the Action Plan and various local and regional strategies, including the Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council Corporate Plan 2018 – 2023, Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council Connected Community Plan 2017 - 2030, and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council: Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2025.

The lead partners responsible for overseeing the Action Plan are Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon Borough Council, with the PEACEPLUS Partnership taking the lead in implementing it over its designated timeframe. More details about the PEACEPLUS Partnership can be found in a subsequent chapter of this Action Plan. The Action Plan comprises of various delivery methods, including programmes managed by Council Officers and others that will be tendered. All the

programmes will be delivered on a cross community basis. The PEACEPLUS Action Plan is designed to address a range of critical issues in the area, falling under three key themes:

Regeneration and Transformation
• Tackling the lack of sufficient sporting and recreational amenities for children. • Addressing the need for enhanced facilities and limited financial resources for community organisations. • Expanding communal spaces to break down tangible and perceived barriers. • Advancing facility development and optimising the use of existing spaces. • Meeting the growing demand for urban sports. • Fostering cross-community connections among children and youth to enhance community inclusivity. • Necessity for investment in both urban and rural areas. • Need for equal play opportunities for children and young people across the Borough. • Strengthening capacity-building efforts of community groups.

Thriving and Peaceful Communities
• Addressing limited interaction among children and young individuals from diverse backgrounds. • Providing support for newcomers to integrate and initiatives to alleviate isolation and loneliness. • Cultivating future community leaders and extending support to rural residents. • Implementing activities to enhance mental health and overall well-being. • Offering education and skills programmes, mentorship, and guidance for leaders and volunteers. • Bridging skills and development gaps for volunteer participants. • Promoting outdoor engagement and environmental awareness. • Fostering intergenerational connections and diversionary initiatives to counteract anti-social behaviour. • Meeting the demand for children's sports programmes.

- Expanding the impact of men's sheds with older adults.
- Establishing community forums to encourage dialogue and participation.
- Implementing age-friendly projects and promoting cross-community and cross-border programmes.
- Innovative plans to develop community resilience.
- Tackling the lack of shared education opportunities and services in rural areas.

Building Respect for all Cultural Identities

- Recognising the role of education, integration, and acceptance in breaking cultural barriers.
- Responding to the demand for projects like multicultural showcases and inclusive events.
- Addressing the need for disability awareness programmes, history, and heritage initiatives.
- Promoting awareness and inclusivity for the LGBTQIA+ community.
- Meeting the desire for cultural symbols, flags, and iconography programmes.
- Providing support and resources for asylum seekers.
- Offering educational programmes focused on culture and heritage.
- Organising events that unite people based on shared interests.
- Embracing and celebrating the increasing diversity within the area.
- Creating awareness of various cultures and traditions while nurturing community cohesion as a shared objective.

Local Community Regeneration and Transformation

PROGRAMME	DESCRIPTION	BUDGET	PARTICIPANTS
1.1 Community Capital Advantage Programme	The Community Advantage Programme will create investment in local Capital Projects across the Borough. The key aim is to develop and deliver local strategic capital projects (collaboratively working with community groups, sports clubs and/or partnerships) that "create a more cohesive society through the development of transformative shared space and services, which will support and embed peace and reconciliation". The three projects are: ▪ City of Armagh Rugby Club (£400,000) ▪ Laurelvale Cricket Club (£330,900) ▪ Aghaderg GAA/ New-Bridge Integrated College (£332,100) NOTE: The Reserve Project is Lurgan Rugby Club (£177,618.69)	£1,063,000 Plus, contingency amount of £327,912	1,300
1.2 Capacity Building Programme	The ABC Capacity Building programme will supplement the Community Advantage Programme above. The aim of the ABC Capacity Building Programme is to enable organisations/ community groups across the Borough with the skills and knowledge to develop peace building projects which will leave a real legacy in their local community for many years to come.	£50,000	100
1.3	The Signature Capital Project aims to create inclusive spaces and implement programmes that actively break down barriers, fostering a sense of safety and confidence among	£515,460	900

PEACEPLUS Signature Capital Project	individuals and groups from diverse communities, cultures, and backgrounds. Centred on Capital Play Development, the project will focus on enhancing play opportunities across nine strategically chosen sites within the Borough, namely Keady, Palace Stables, Lawrencetown, Clady, Darkley, Hamiltonsbawn, Mountmorris, Aghagallon, and Loughgall. These initiatives are poised to have a transformative impact on the area and its residents, particularly children and young people, by ensuring equal access to high-quality play facilities regardless of their geographical location or socio-economic status. Moreover, beyond providing recreational benefits, the project is designed to foster significant peace and reconciliation outcomes, promoting cross-community interaction, understanding, and cohesion within the local community.		
TOTAL		**£1,956,372**	**2,300**

Thriving and Peaceful Communities

	PROGRAMME	DESCRIPTION	BUDGET	PARTICIPANTS
Mental Health and Wellbeing Programmes	2.1 Mental Health Training	A series of training programmes in partnership with the Community Planning Partnership and the Protect Life Implementation Group (PLIG) that will support the agreed Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Training Framework as directed by the PHA. The training programmes will complement and enhance existing provision across ABC and will also seek to address gaps in provision. A range of training programmes will be supported that supplement and underpin current and planned training opportunities that may be delivered under the framework.	£40,000	60
	2.2 ABC Crisis Café	To support the establishment and operation of a Crisis Café in the Borough. This would complement the existing Well-Bean Crisis Café that is in operation in Newry and is supported by PIPS. The design of the project has been supported by employing a co-design and a co-production lived experience model alongside a stakeholder analysis approach.	£160,000	130
	2.3 Volunteer Resilience and	Working in partnership with Volunteer Now and Craigavon & Banbridge Volunteer Bureau to provide a multi-faceted training programme addressing the issues for volunteers affiliated to VN/C&VB to promote and	£30,000	90

	Wellbeing programme	support self-care and build resilience and coping mechanisms. Self-Care training programmes for Volunteers across A, B & C, including Self-Care/Mindfulness, Stress Management, Peer Support, Psychological First Aid for Volunteers, Risks, Resilience & Protective factors.		
	2.4 Sheds for Life Programme	The ABC Men's and Women's Sheds for Life Programme aims to promote, cross-community engagement, friendship and health and well-being among men and women, whilst fostering a sense of camaraderie and community within the Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon Borough Council area. Through a range of activities and workshops, the programme seeks to enhance the physical and mental health of participants and encourage cross-community connections. Through this programme, participants will come together to share their skills, examples of good practice, exchange ideas on community development and peace building, reduce conflict and combat isolation and loneliness.	£40,000	50
	2.5 Positive Pathways - Reboot your Life Camp	The aim of the Sustainable Living Programme is to engage hard-to-reach youth and adults from communities in the ABC area in activities focused on mental health, addiction support, and combating isolation. Through training, skills development, volunteering, and work experience, the programme intends to empower participants to make positive lifestyle	£90,000	60

		choices and live independently and sustainably. The programme will be delivered through indoor and outdoor sports.		
Connecting Communities	2.6 Good to Chat	The ABC PEACEPLUS Chatty programmes have been developed to promote human connection and combat the feelings of loneliness and isolation across Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council. The Chatty Benches programme provides welcoming seating areas across local parks and open spaces to meet and engage in conversation. The Chatty Cafes Programme will see the development of chatty cafes and associated programmes across a range of facilities. Evidence has proven that these projects are highly effective in addressing the issue of loneliness.	£20,000	100
	2.7 Social Supermarket Programme	The aims of the Social Supermarket programme will focus on addressing food insecurity and social exclusion by providing affordable and accessible food and other essential products to individuals and families in need. This programme has been piloted and designed to operate as a bridge between traditional food banks and regular retail outlets, with a focus on promoting self-sufficiency and community support. Within the context of Peace Building, the Social Supermarkets can serve as community hubs where people from different backgrounds come together. By fostering	£140,000	150

		positive interactions and cooperation among community members, they can help bridge divides and promote social cohesion.		
	2.8 Community Forums	The ABC PEACEPLUS Community and Voluntary Organisation Forums programme aims to create seven targeted forums throughout the Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon area. These forums will serve as crucial meeting places for community and volunteer organisations to meet, exchange ideas, gain access to training, discover funding opportunities, discuss examples of best practise, have opportunities to collaborate and connect with council employees. They will also function as venues for highlighting the needs and wants of the communities served by these organisations.	£40,000	105
	2.9 Community Resilience Programme	The Community Resilience Programme aims to empower communities within the Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon Borough Council area to become more resilient in the face of various challenges. By fostering preparedness, community cohesion, and adaptability, the programme contributes to peace, reconciliation, and cross-community connections.	£240,000	230

Outdoor and Environment Programme	2.10 Forest Schools Programme	The programme supports outdoor, nature-based learning that focuses on the holistic development of the child/adult. Training for Forest School Leaders and Assistance parallel to Forest School Delivering with children, young people, families, and communities. The common interest of learning in Forest schools is outdoor, nature-based learning that focuses on the holistic development of the child/adult and this medium will be used to encourage conversation and build relationships between people in outdoor natural spaces regardless of ability. The programme will target and engage directly with people from marginalised and isolated groups/individuals from areas of high deprivation and ethnic minority communities across the Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council area. The onsite Forest School Programme of training & delivery will use the Borough Councils green spaces in our Outdoor Parks.	£130,000	180
	2.11 Community Growing and Sustainable Lifestyles	The programme supports outdoor, nature-based learning that focuses on social interaction and inclusion. Delivered to children, young people, families and communities. To grow food, to grow community and to grow resilience in these uncertain times. Sustainable lifestyles project (social inclusion, therapeutic practices and sustainability principles and practices) will be	£70,000	94

		used as a medium to encourage and promote community development for social change, creating a space for conversation and to build relationships between people. Create an ethos of community and sustainability, raise awareness of the natural space and benefits of outdoors on mind and body.		
Building Positive Relationships	2.12 Community Engagement Programme	The Outdoor Spaces Community Engagement Programme is designed to foster thriving and peaceful communities by promoting cross-community activities, outdoor education, and the preservation of local heritage and biodiversity. The primary goal is to create shared spaces that bring together individuals from diverse backgrounds, with a particular focus on children and young people. Through a range of activities, the programme aims to encourage interactions, enhance community cohesion, and provide opportunities for personal growth.	£130,000	150
	2.13 GLOW Projects	The GLOW Programme is a development from our innovative PEACE IV programme. It aims to inspire girls to become more physically active in a fun and creative manner. This 10-week programme will include physical activity sessions, educational workshops, and art activities, fostering cross-community relationships and contributing to a more peaceful and	£15,625	75

		cohesive community. The GLOW Programme will be hosted at three key areas in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon.		
	2.14 Diversionary Sport Programmes	The Weekend Evening Sports Club is an inventive cross-community initiative designed to address rising Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) among 13–17-year-olds in our Borough. The programme aims to provide constructive diversionary activities during weekend evenings, targeting a vulnerable age group at times when ASB is most prevalent. It seeks to engage young people from diverse cultural backgrounds and create a safe, positive, and fun environment that fosters personal development, community connections, and a sense of responsibility.	£43,800	310
	2.15 Barge and Play Space Programme.	Council has identified two facilities that, if revitalised, will enhance the current provision under the aims of the Council's Play Strategy and the Building Sustainable Communities Bushcraft Programme and will have the capability to extend to community use to support interventions around mental health, suicide awareness and addiction and support cross community interaction.	£155,000	150

		This approach to revitalise provision in the vicinity of Waterside House, Oxford Island will widen current provision and support the delivery of various projects that will benefit residents from across the ABC Borough.		
	2.16 Age- Friendly Projects	Several needs, outcomes and actions have been identified in the ABC Age-Friendly Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2025 which allow us to develop programmes to support older people to engage with other communities. Project will focus on promoting physical activity, health, and wellbeing; opportunities to volunteer and engage in development of digital skills; building understanding and commitment among local service providers; arts, crafts and heritage activities; enhancing community support; intergenerational programmes. This programme will also develop a cross-border project which will include good practise visits and develop links and connections.	£50,000	100
	2.17 Community Restorative Justice	The Community Restorative Programme aims to deliver a restorative suite of training across the Borough, which will provide training, education, and awareness of Community Restorative practices for the community, statutory and key stakeholders. Through this project we hope to facilitate community dialogue around difficult legacy issues with individuals who are marginalised and from high areas of deprivation. It will also offer	£35,000	90

		support and create a 'safe space' for participants, where mutual understanding and respect for each other can be promoted and where some attitudes may be challenged/changed.		
Developing Our Future	2.18 Cross Community Volunteer Development Programme	The Cross Community Volunteer Development Programme aims to empower volunteers from local community groups across the Borough to become effective agents of change in their communities, this cross-community programme will be open to all volunteers in the area. Through a structured and comprehensive training programme, participants will have an opportunity to help shape the programme, giving them ownership and helping them to best support the members of their community groups. Participants will develop the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to contribute to peace and reconciliation efforts within their communities.	£100,000	70
	2.19 Sustainable Living Programme - Outdoor Spaces	By involving people in horticultural, environmental, and conservation activities in outdoor areas, the Park Ranger Programme is a cross community programme that aims to foster a thriving and peaceful community. This programme seeks to empower participants with practical skills, environmental knowledge, and a deep appreciation for their natural surroundings. It aims to enhance the quality of life,	£150,000	90

		confidence, communication skills, and overall well-being of participants while fostering a sense of community and purpose.		
	2.20 Rural Citizenship & Future Leadership Programme	The ABC Rural Citizenship & Future Leadership Programme has been carefully designed to address a range of needs within local rural communities. The pilot scheme will encompass Kinallen, Garvaghy, Waringsford, Aughnaskeogh, Carnew, and Gransha.	£32,000	50
	2.21 Youth Leadership Projects (x 3)	This project aims to develop a thriving and peaceful community by engaging a diverse group of young people aged 16-20 in sports and physical activities. The primary goal is to increase awareness of the physical, social, and emotional benefits of health and fitness while boosting self-esteem and confidence among young participants. The project also seeks to equip them with coaching and volunteering skills for active involvement in their local communities.	£30,600	60
	2.22 Young Enterprise Programme	The Youth Catalyst Programme aims to equip young people from different communities in ABC with the knowledge, skills and resources needed to become successful entrepreneurs. This will include encouraging participants' originality, creativity and fostering innovation. The Youth Catalyst programme will be delivered on a cross community basis between	£100,000	70

	ABC Youth Catalyst Programme	young people from different communities. By offering a platform for dialogue, the programme aims to reduce tensions and promote peace. Participants will form groups/ project teams with people from different communities to develop potential business ideas which they will have the opportunity to share to potential investors at the end of the programme.		
	TOTAL		**£1,842,025**	**2464**

Celebrating Cultures and Diversity

Theme	PROGRAMME	DESCRIPTION	BUDGET	PARTICIPANTS
History and Heritage Programme	3.1 Local cultural and heritage awareness projects.	Living heritage projects; Tapping into heritage and living history tours; History programmes utilising existing facilities; Research on key historical figures and acknowledging the impact of events; Local heritage projects that focus on place.	£60,000	150
	3.2 Online History Lecture & Talk Series on Local, Regional and National Histories	This programme will allow participants from across communities to engage in learning and dialogue on the significant local and national events, conflicts, and their impact today. These events and the legacy of those periods contributed to national and political identities not only on this island but also internationally. They also contributed to political, social and economic development.	£20,000	110
	3.3 Borders, Boundaries, Belonging and Bonds Project	This lecture series looks at how physical and psychological borders change the mindset of those living in their shadow. Starting out with the formation of Northern Ireland and the construction of the Irish State, the series will broaden out to look at other places around the world where borders exist,	£8,000	50

		to show us that we are not unique in this wee country; we have a shared experience with others.		
	3.4 The Great Hunger – The Famine	The Great Famine & Beyond –comprises of an online lecture series, History Educators Programme, study visits and an international trip aimed at enhancing understanding and confidence in teaching historical narratives, particularly focusing on the 19th and early 20th centuries in Northern Ireland. The online lecture series will delve into topics such as The Great Famine and 20th Century Ireland, while the History Educators Programme will provide post-primary school teachers with immersive learning experiences and workshops to enrich their teaching practices.	£34,735	623
	3.5 Online History Courses on Modern Ireland and Irish History	This programme will provide online history courses to residents of the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council area. It will focus on the decade (1913-23) in which the world emerged into and from the Great War, the foundations were laid for Irish independence and in which the establishment of the Irish Free State was achieved. A second course will have a broader examination of Irish history.	£60,000	80
	3.6	This project will examine historical links between Northern Irish and Poland and other areas of Europe. It will focus on how historical events combined	£40,000	60

	OCN Level 2 Shared History Educational Programme	with a modern learning approach to gain a wider understanding of shared history and to celebrate positive relations between communities.		
Multi-Cultural Events and Festivals	3.7 Events programme - at locations across the Borough and signature sites	This programme will support the development and delivery of a series of annual and one-off events and festivals to celebrate cultures, identity and heritage through music, food, sport etc. The programme will include events and activities at outdoor parks and open spaces.	£250,000	800
	3.8 Wellbeing Events at Oxford Island	The outdoor events will be a showcase and celebration of creativity, well-being, and self-sufficiency with activities including exhibits, demonstrations, outdoor activities, live music, local food and workshops and camping.	£150,000	600

	3.9 Battle of the Bands	To be supported through Education Authority led youth clubs as an interclub competition with provision of musical instruments and training, culminating in a yearly Battle of the Bands event.	£30,000	70
	3.10 ABC Community Awards programme	An annual gala awards event that will showcase and celebrate the work and achievements of community groups, volunteers, and individuals across the borough. This event will empower them and the next generation of community volunteers and group leaders.	£100,000	196
Inclusion Programmes	3.11 One Community	Series of inclusion programmes delivered over three years across the Borough. Project aims to increase awareness and confidence of anyone working with people who experience exclusion issues to ensure they are treated with respect, dignity, and empathy. The project will include programmes focussing on; LGBTQIA+, Disabilities, Travellers, Asylum Seekers & Autism Friendly. The programme will explore the potential for OCN accredited training for professionals and community reps to be able to integrate this into their daily work and to better identify the issues facing marginalised groups in ABC. 5 programmes will be supported.	£120,000	200

	3.12 Language Empowerment for Newcomer Communities (classes/ cultural exchange events/ mentorship programme)	To deliver a programme which provides essential English language skills to help people from newcomer communities to integrate based upon the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). By improving the English language skills of emerging leaders and targeted individuals, this programme also aims to support and develop leadership and volunteer capacity to enable new communities to develop their capability and capacity to organise groups and activities, enabling their own communities to become more resilient and self-supporting.	£30,000	50
Cultural Identity Programme	3.13 Cultural and Identity Awareness Programme	This programme will examine ways in which challenging issues such as flags, symbols, bonfires etc can be addressed through dialogue and learning.	£20,000	100
	3.14 Club and Schools Sports	Project would be designed to bring together male and female members from local GAA, Hockey, Soccer and Rugby clubs and teams/students from post primary schools to learn playing skills from the stick and ball sports,	£50,000	140

	Connection Project	build mutual respect for the sport and each other, and to build relationships between each club/school in a safe space. The programme will incorporate a range of physical activity sessions, educational workshops, and fun activities. The project will be based at club and school venues, encouraging the use of their facilities to be seen as a shared space and has allowed meaningful relationships to develop between participants, club representatives, Neighbourhood Officers from PSNI and Council Officers.		
	3.15 Schools and Communities Interpretive Arts Project	Working with schools, this is a Youth / Community engagement project to support community regeneration and transformation. The project will develop and create installation of art works created by primary and secondary pupils from across communities. It will also allow participants to connect to the history of their area/nature/community.	£60,000	150
	3.16 Enhancing Culture, Heritage and Community	Place shaping provides an opportunity for partnerships and communities to improve the quality of life in our places across the Borough for the benefit of all. Participation of local people and local communities is essential in this place planning process. Aligned to the ABC 'Connected' Community Plan, developing place plans for the urban centres will support	£50,000	140

	Identity within the ABC Place Plans	Council and the Community Planning Partnership to ensure creativity, enhancement, and revitalisation in our places. The PEACE PLUS programme will support the development of these plans to ensure that the heritage, culture, and community identify becomes a central part of these projects.		
			£1,082,735	**3519**

The structure of this Action Plan follows the guidance provided by SEUPB. In the subsequent chapter, we will delve into the core components of our plan, offering comprehensive details on the programmes, budgets, participant figures, outputs, results, and the rationale for each programme. This chapter will explain how these programmes contribute to peace and prosperity on a cross-community or cross-border basis.

The following chapter, which focuses on the strategic and policy context, will shed light on how the Action Plan was conceived, introduce the PEACEPLUS Partnership, and provide an overview of the strategic context within which the plan operates. The chapter dedicated to the Co-Design process will emphasise the intricacies of the process and underscore the specific needs of the area that the plan addresses.

In the section titled "Project Options Considered and Preferred Option," we will explain upon the selection process employed for the programmes. The "Budget and Financial Projections" section will outline the financial framework for programme delivery, while the "Risk Analysis" chapter will unveil an early risk register associated with Action Plan delivery.

Within the "Horizontal Themes" segment, we will discuss how the plan has been crafted with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in mind, highlighting the alignment of each programme with different SDGs. The "Management Arrangements" section will delve into the practical aspects of plan delivery, while the chapter on the "Communication Plan" will detail our strategy for effectively communicating the plan to stakeholders.

The "Monitoring and Evaluation Plan" chapter will provide insights into how the Action Plan will be supervised and assessed for its effectiveness. Lastly, there will be a chapter dedicated to the exit strategy, explaining the enduring impact and legacy of the programmes.

Section 1: The Proposed Project (Peace & Reconciliation Action Plan)

The Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon Borough Council's PEACEPLUS partnership has played a pivotal role in formulating this PEACEPLUS Action Plan. This Action Plan is the result of an exhaustive and distinctive co-design process that spanned over the past 15 months. The co-design process was a collaborative effort that offered numerous opportunities for key stakeholders to actively participate in shaping the Action Plan. These stakeholders included community and voluntary organisations, public bodies, elected officials, residents, and dedicated staff members representing various departments within the Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon Borough Council.

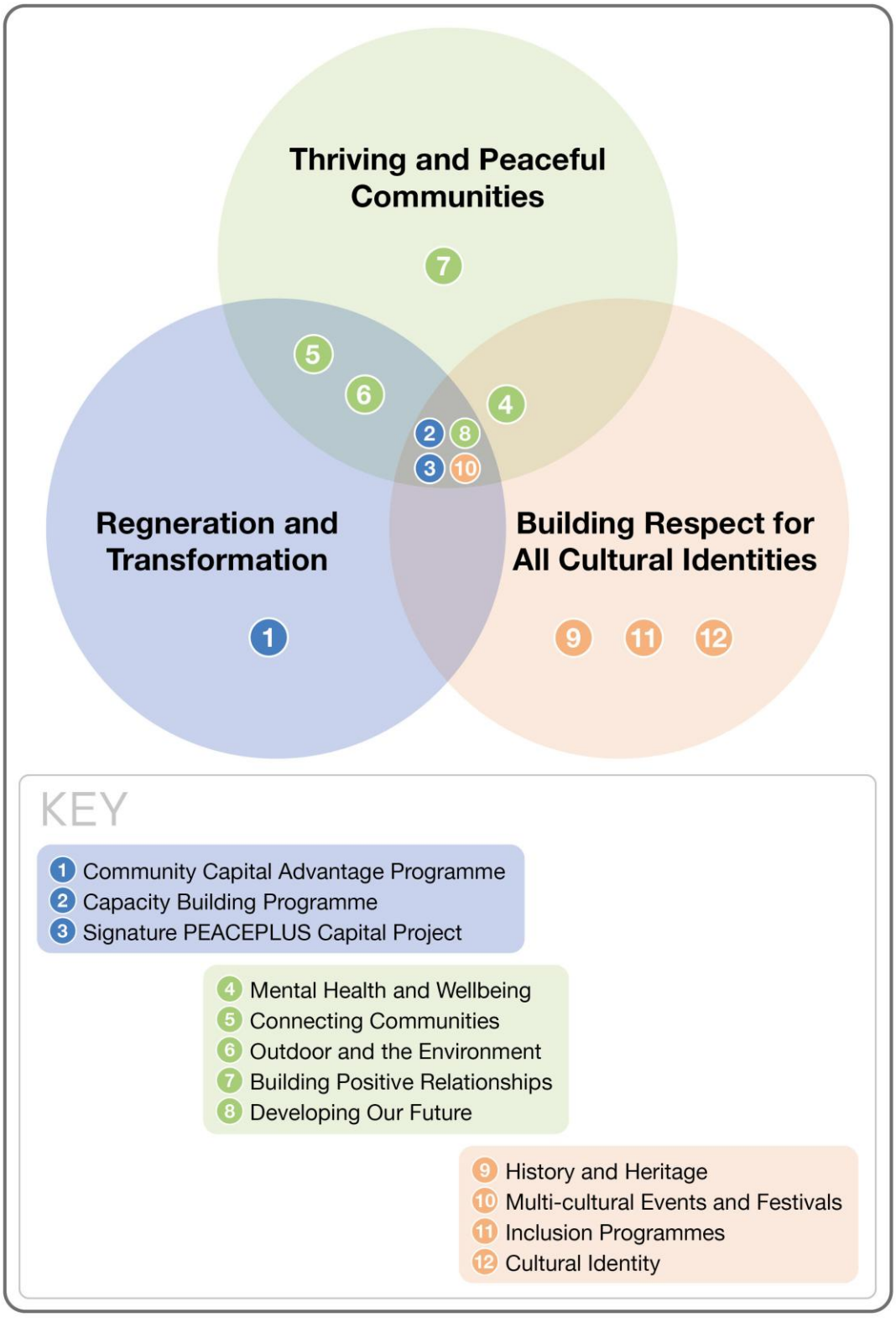
This inclusive engagement approach encompassed a variety of methods to ensure that a wide range of perspectives and voices were heard. Participants had the chance to provide their input through one-on-one consultations, constructive focus group discussions, and convenient online surveys. This robust public engagement process was further enhanced by rigorous desktop research, which delved into essential strategies at both local and regional levels. The aim was to ensure strategic alignment and incorporate relevant socio-economic data pertinent to the Borough into the Action Plan.

This section of the Action Plan will discuss the strategic framework that reflects our dedication to developing a thriving and peaceful community across the Borough. The section below will highlight the three thematic strands and the projects and programmes that have been designed following the co-design process. The inclusion of specific SMART objectives within our projects provides us with a robust framework for evaluating our progress and outcomes. Moreover, our dedication to cross-community and cross-border initiatives underscores our commitment to uniting individuals from diverse backgrounds, fostering meaningful and purposeful engagement among communities. The projects and programmes within each thematic strand outlined below will not only describe their individual objectives but also illustrate how they are intricately interconnected.

Theme	Regeneration and Transformation	Thriving and Peaceful Communities	Building Respect for all Cultural Identities
Participants	**2,300**	**2,464**	**3,519**
Budget	**£1,956,372**	**£1,842,025**	**£1,082,735**
Sub-themes	1. Community Capital Advantage Programme	1. Mental Health and Wellbeing	9. History and Heritage
	2. Capacity Building Programme	2. Connecting Communities	10. Multicultural events and festivals
	3. Signature PEACEPLUS Capital Project	3. Outdoor and the Environment	11. Inclusion Programmes
		4. Building Positive Relationships	12. Cultural Identity
		5. Developing Our Future	

Figure 1: Projects and programmes in each theme

The image provided below illustrates the interplay and complementarity of the various sub-themes:


Thriving and Peaceful Communities
7
5
6
4
2
8
3
10
Regneration and Transformation
1
Building Respect for All Cultural Identities
9
11
12
KEY
1 Community Capital Advantage Programme
2 Capacity Building Programme
3 Signature PEACEPLUS Capital Project
4 Mental Health and Wellbeing
5 Connecting Communities
6 Outdoor and the Environment
7 Building Positive Relationships
8 Developing Our Future
9 History and Heritage
10 Multi-cultural Events and Festivals
11 Inclusion Programmes
12 Cultural Identity

Regeneration and Transformation

The Regeneration and Transformation theme focuses on addressing various community needs and challenges. Within this theme, there are several sub-themes- the Community Capital Advantage Programme, Capacity Building Programme, and the Signature PEACEPLUS Capital Project. These sub-themes aim to address issues such as the lack of sporting and recreational amenities for people of all ages, the need for enhanced play facilities for children and young people, limited financial resources for community organisations to develop business cases and feasibility studies, and the urgency to expand communal spaces to eliminate barriers. Additionally, the theme aims to optimise the utilisation of current spaces, promote cross-community connections among children and youth, and foster a sense of community inclusivity. It also addresses the necessity for investment in both urban and rural areas and provides support for capacity-building efforts within community groups.

How the activities relate to the identified needs of the area	Insufficient sporting and recreational amenities for children. Need for enhanced facilities. Limited financial resources for community organisations. Urgency for expanding communal spaces to dismantle both tangible and perceived barriers. Advancing facility development. Optimising the utilisation of current spaces. Growing demand for unconventional urban sports. Residential partitioning. Fostering cross-community connections among children and youth. Augmenting the sense of community inclusivity. Amplifying the utilisation of shared areas. Necessity for investment in urban and rural areas. Enhancing the development of existing communal spaces. Helping with the development of feasibility studies and business proposals.

	Strengthening the capacity-building efforts of community groups.
How the activities align with PEACEPLUS	Transformation and re-imaging of individual or collective areas within a community. Development of new or enhanced facilities which will enable increased levels of cross-community interaction and service provision. The focus of these new or enhanced shared spaces will include sporting facilities and play facilities that will benefit people of all ages. Development of new shared outdoor spaces which enable increased levels of cross- community interaction and where possible capitalise upon natural assets.

Thriving and Peaceful Communities

The Thriving and Peaceful Communities theme is dedicated to creating vibrant and harmonious communities across the Borough. It encompasses sub-themes such as Mental Health and Wellbeing, Connecting Communities, Outdoor and the Environment, and Building Positive Relationships. These sub-themes respond to the needs of the community, including addressing the limited interaction among children and young individuals from diverse backgrounds, supporting the integration of newcomers, combating isolation and loneliness, and fostering the leaders of tomorrow. The theme also extends support to residents in rural areas, promotes mental health and well-being, and offers educational and skills programmes. It aims to fill the need for mentorship, guidance, and volunteer recruitment efforts, bridge the skills and development gap for participants, and encourage intergenerational connections. Furthermore, it addresses the need for diversionary initiatives and sports programmes for children, rural citizenship development, and engagement with older adults through men's sheds. The theme also seeks to establish community forums, implement age-friendly projects, and enhance networking opportunities among community organisations.

How the activities relate to the identified needs of the area	Address the limited interaction among children and young individuals from diverse backgrounds. Provide essential support to help people from newcomer communities to integrate. Initiate programmes aimed at alleviating isolation and loneliness. Cultivate the leaders of tomorrow. Extend support to residents in rural areas. Implement activities dedicated to enhancing mental health and overall well-being. Need for education/ skills programmes. Fill the need for mentorship and guidance for community leaders and volunteers. Enable organisations to expand their volunteer recruitment efforts. Bridge the skills and development gap for volunteer participants. Facilitate connections between individuals and the great outdoors while promoting environmental awareness. Foster intergenerational connections through engaging activities. Need for diversionary initiatives to counteract anti-social behaviour. Demand for sports programmes tailored for children. Create a rural citizenship development. Expand upon the impactful engagement of men's sheds with older adults. Establish community forums to encourage dialogue and participation. Implement age-friendly projects that enhance the quality of life for all residents. Opportunities to network with other community organisations. Desire for cross-community/ cross-border programmes.

	Lack of shared education opportunities. Need to tackle lack of services in rural areas.
How the activities align with PEACEPLUS	Programmes designed to build the capacity of local organisations through cross- community collaboration. Programmes designed to develop new community leaders and enhance the capacity of existing leaders and volunteers to promote and facilitate peace and reconciliation. Programmes designed to enable cross-community interaction and collaboration across a broad range of areas of mutual interest including parenting, arts and culture; sport; and social innovation / enterprise. Community action projects designed to provide additional activity and services in key areas such as education, health and wellbeing and the environment. Community events and festival programmes. Gender specific support programmes. Programmes developed to provide social and emotional support and opportunities for people of all ages. Programmes involving social prescribing initiatives; and Community justice interventions that contribute to peace building and positive relations.

Building Respect for all Cultural Identities

The Building Respect for all Cultural Identities theme is centred on celebrating diversity and fostering cultural inclusivity. It comprises sub-themes like History and Heritage, Multicultural events and festivals, Inclusion Programmes, and Cultural Identity. These sub-themes recognise the importance of education, integration, and acceptance in breaking down cultural barriers. They respond to the growing demand for multicultural showcases and inclusive events, disability awareness programs, LGBTQIA+ awareness and inclusivity programs, cultural symbols, flags, and iconography programmes, and support for asylum seekers. The theme offers educational programmes focused on culture and heritage, organises events that

unite people based on shared interests, and embraces the increasing diversity within the area. It also creates awareness of various cultures and traditions, nurturing community cohesion as a shared objective.

How the activities relate to the identified needs of the area	Recognising the vital role of education, integration, and acceptance in breaking down cultural barriers. Responding to the growing demand for projects and initiatives like multicultural showcases and inclusive events. Addressing the need for disability awareness programmes. Understanding the significance of history and heritage programmes. Implementing programmes to promote awareness and inclusivity for the LGBTQI+ community. Responding to the desire for programmes related to cultural symbols, flags, and iconography. Providing support and resources for asylum seekers. Offering educational programmes focused on culture and heritage. Organising events that unite people based on shared interests. Embracing and celebrating the increasing diversity within the area. Creating awareness of various cultures and traditions. Nurturing community cohesion as a shared objective.
How the activities align with PEACEPLUS	Programmes which build, improve, and sustain relationships between and within communities by addressing issues of trust, prejudice, and intolerance. Programmes which result in increased levels of understanding and integration of minority communities, including newcomer families.

	Conflict resolution interventions (including anti-sectarian initiatives), which contribute towards building positive relations. Programmes which increase civic participation, including those by minority and newcomer communities (this may include the requirement for language support). Programmes which facilitate positive cultural expression within diverse communities, which increase levels of mutual understanding, trust and respect. Programmes which engage those with opposing and dissenting views, which if not challenged, will contribute to continued segregation and endanger the Peace Process; and Programmes which increase knowledge and understanding of individual and collective history and heritage.

Theme: Local Community Regeneration and Transformation

1.1 Expression of interest Programme

Programme Name	**Community Advantage Programme (CAP)** **Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council** **Community Capital Investment Programme**		
Budget	**£1,063,000.00** **Plus, contingency amount of £327,912**	**Timeframe**	**2024 - 2027**
Programme Aim			
The Community Advantage Programme will create investment in 3 local Capital Projects across the Borough. The programme will be delivered following the Expression of Interest process that has been completed in Quarter 1 of 2024. The successful projects have submitted an Expression of Interest form, business case and project costings. The projects have demonstrated deliverable outcomes aligned with Peace Plus programme strategic objectives. The key aim is to develop and deliver 3 local strategic capital projects (collaboratively working with local community-based groups such as sports clubs) that "create a more cohesive society through the development of transformative shared space and services, which will support and embed peace and reconciliation". Council will lead the process from the design stage to development of share space and facilities, ending with cross community usage, which is the essence of a shared space such as: • Reimaging projects • Collaboration for re-imaging projects • Shared Spaces and Shared Facilities • Supporting usage of Shared Spaces and Facilities The 3 identified projects that are proposed under this programme will be managed by Council as the lead partner through to completion of the construction phase. Council will be responsible for procurement and contract management. The investment will aim to: • Enable strategic and targeted peace capital projects. • Facilitate the development of shared spaces across the Borough. • Assist the transformation and re-imaging of individual or collective areas within a community including existing buildings, open spaces, streetscapes etc in a manner		

which challenges initial perceptions and increases the level of shared pride in an area.

- Support the development of new or enhanced facilities within existing buildings, which will enable increased levels of cross-community interaction and service provision. The focus of these new or enhanced shared spaces will vary and include areas such as social enterprise, community development, education, sport, culture etc.
- Enable the development of new shared outdoor spaces which enable increased levels of cross community interaction and where possible capitalise upon community assets.
- Development of new community navigation projects and schemes, which facilitate increased levels of cross-community mobility within target areas; and
- Development of co-designed cross-community place making plans.
- Deliver investment that will aim to achieve a combination of capital projects to the value of 3 projects with the following monetary investment (the fourth project is the reserve project):

Project	Project Budget	Investment Request	Match Funding
City of Armagh Rugby Club	£477,325.00	£400,000.00	£77,325.00
Laurelvale Cricket Club	£330,900.00	£330,900.00	
Aghaderg GAA/ New-Bridge Integrated College	£332,100.00	£332,100.00	
Lurgan Rugby Club	£177,618.69	£177,618.69	

NOTE 1: The reserve project is Lurgan Rugby Club (£177618.69).

NOTE 2: The process of identifying the projects to be developed involved a call for Expressions of Interest and a three-stage assessment. The final stage of appeals/review is ongoing at the time of this application.

- create shared space that opens up the potential for increased engagement between communities and increased normalisation of social and community activity.
- Each project must bring about a positive change in the form of clear, meaningful, and sustainable shared space and activities.
- Reduce physical and psychological barriers around territory by developing spaces that all communities can have access to and share.
- Create attitudinal and behavioural change that reduces segregation within and between communities.

The creation of 3 new shared spaces requires preparatory work with the communities and an investment in the normalisation of the resultant shared space. This should include a harmonizing capacity building programme element to ensure the creation of additional

shared spaces or working towards the normalisation of public places to make them safe for all communities.

The PEACE PLUS Programme provides the opportunity to complement the stated objectives of the TBUC Strategy via collaborative working with local authorities and local communities throughout the Borough towards the creation of shared spaces.

The 3 selected projects identified via expressions of interest call will promote peace and reconciliation with the aim of developing a thriving and peaceful community.

Project 1 - City of Armagh Rugby Club: Southern Cross Border Shared Space and Services Hub

The submission by CARFC is for one element of its overall vision for the Southern Cross Border Shared Space and Services Hub (the Hub) project. The proposal is to extend the current clubhouse facilities at City of Armagh RFC to put in place improvements to the club's shared space, community hub, visitor, and member facilities. The development works include providing three new changing rooms and associated lobby and communal spaces together with essential utility improvements which include rewiring, refurbishment, and enhancement of existing community hub facilities. The total area to be developed is 149m^2 of new build and 654 m2 of refurbished existing space (previously constructed in the 1970s) at the cost of £473,412 which includes capital costs, contingency, fees and an optimism bias of 25%.In total in the Southern Cross Border Shared Space and Services Hub will provide and 803 m2 shared space and services hub in Armagh City.

Project 2 – Laurelvale Cricket Club: Cricket and Community Hub

The project is to build a new Cricket and Community Hub to cater for the growing number of groups with diverse needs who wish to use our facility so that we can offer a more inclusive building and comply with current legislation.

Since 1875 the grounds and facility has provided the focus for many village activities and functions. In 2025, the club will be celebrating 150 years existence, and to mark this the Committee want to secure a viable long-term future for this established club and develop the facilities and activities that take place here.

The current building is a brick structure of 1970s construction showing clear signs of urgent need for replacement. Heating and ventilation are poor, and insulation inadequate. Repairs have become more costly as the years go on. Securing facilities for the future as over the years due to its location in the centre of the villages of Laurelvale and Mullavilly, many activities other than cricket now take place within the grounds. There is a real need to build a new, fit for purpose facility to host these activities.

This capital project will kickstart the first phase of our vision - the building of a new community hub and changing facility adjacent to the current cricket pitch ground. This single storey building will have a multi-use space where groups will meet and during the

cricket season will also act as changing rooms. It will also have a disabled toilet and baby changing facilities.

The new facility would allow for more programming of indoor activities, longer opening hours. Increase in usage of the facility will lead to increased revenues, all of which will be ploughed back into maintaining and developing other facilities in our vision.

Project 3 – Aghaderg & Ballyvarley GAC: Sports Hub

Aghaderg & Ballyvarley GAC is undergoing significant growth, particularly due to the introduction of ladies' football within the club. Part of the reason for the success of the development of ladies' football has been our proactive partnerships with the local schools but in particular with New-Bridge Integrated College. New-Bridge is currently undergoing a major redevelopment and they are availing of our grass pitch for PE purposes whilst Aghaderg-Ballyvarley are also utilising their sports hall during the winters so as the younger female age groups can practice and enjoy physical activity in a warm, dry and safe environment.

As we grow, we are now at a point where the facilities that are owned by our own club are beyond maximum capacity and as such becoming increasingly more difficult to maintain. We have recently found ourselves having to hire council facilities just to train and very few of the different teams within our club (we offer four codes; hurling, camogie, men's football and ladies' football) are able to train as often as they need to. Through our partnership with New-Bridge we became aware of their new development, which included a mixed-use pitch (Rugby and GAA) as well as a Soccer pitch and Hockey pitch. We entered into discussion with the Principal and following approval from the Board of Governors agreed that if we could find the funding then we could install floodlights onto their pitches which would then see them opened for community use.

Construction Overview

We intend to install 8 floodlights onto the main pitch as well as 4 on the smaller pitch. This will require excavation work around the perimeter of the pitches and the installation of appropriate ducting back to an electrical substation.

Reserve Project: Lurgan Rugby Club

The project will also involve the extension of the current changing rooms, significantly increasing their capacity. We will completely transform our existing community space, helping to meet the demands of our service users, members of other community organisations who use the facilities and local residents. The current community building was constructed in 1975 and there has been very little changed over the last 50 years, particularly in terms of the changing and bathrooms of the ground floor. This would be the most used section of the facility, being in use 7 days a week throughout the year.

There is currently no designated female changing area in the facility and there are no female or disability access bathrooms. Severely limiting the accessibility and participation of our facilities and in our activities. There are also a wide number of other community organisations who use the facilities, including both those that are and are not sporting focused.

The works will include a number of key additions, which do not currently exist, including:

- Addition of female toilets
- Addition of disabled toilets
- Addition of female showers
- Separate female access, with two female dedicated changing rooms
- Full ground floor to have disability access

This project will focus on regenerating and transforming a key community facility in Lurgan. It will have a large number of positive benefits and impacts in the local community, through making it more accessible and attractive for both potential participants and other community organisations. Through this redevelopment, we will significantly increase the capacity of our organisation and the multitude of other community based organisations who use the facilities.

Relation to Area Needs

Community Advantage Programme

The programme will achieve investment in 3 local spaces via capital build projects. Experience gained from the previous programmes highlights that each project requires a meaningful investment, (estimated project investments between £200,000 to £400,000) to make a transformative impact at the local level.

We have identified 3 projects that will meet the requirement to ensure reasonable spatial distribution across the Borough.

The 3 projects selected are located in the following DEAs:

1. Project 1 - City of Armagh Rugby Club **(Armagh DEA)**
2. Project 2 – Laurelvale Cricket Club **(Cusher DEA)**
3. Project 3 – Aghaderg & Ballyvarley GAC **(Banbridge DEA)**
4. *Reserve Project – Lurgan Rugby Club* ***(Lurgan DEA)***

Community Advantage Programme Investment in shared spaces is needed for several important reasons, as these spaces play a crucial role in promoting peace, reconciliation, and community cohesion in a Borough historically marked by sectarian tension.

Here are some of the key reasons for such investment:

Promoting Social Cohesion

Shared spaces provide a neutral ground where people from diverse backgrounds can come together, fostering a sense of community and shared identity. They help break

down physical and psychological barriers between communities, promoting social cohesion.

Peacebuilding
Shared spaces are part of broader peacebuilding efforts by encouraging interaction and dialogue among different communities, these spaces contribute to the ongoing peace process and help prevent the reemergence of conflict.

Reconciliation
Investment in shared spaces supports reconciliation by providing opportunities for individuals to engage in activities and discussions that promote understanding, tolerance, and forgiveness among groups with a history of conflict.

Community Integration
Shared spaces facilitate the integration of communities that have historically been segregated. They create spaces where individuals and families can live, work, and socialise together, promoting a sense of belonging for everyone.

Economic Development
Shared spaces can be hubs for economic activity, attracting businesses, tourism, and investment. By revitalising neighbourhoods and communities, they contribute to local economic growth and prosperity.

Cultural Exchange
These spaces will host cultural events, festivals, and educational programs that celebrate the diversity of Northern Ireland's communities. Cultural exchange promotes mutual respect and appreciation for different traditions and identities.

Youth Engagement
Shared spaces provide opportunities for young people to participate in positive activities and engage in programs that promote cross-community understanding. Investing in youth is seen as an investment in the future of a peaceful Northern Ireland.

Reducing Division
Shared spaces can help reduce the physical and psychological division between communities. Projects that remove or transform physical barriers, such as peace walls or interfaces, promote a more open and integrated landscape.

Community Well-being
Shared spaces improve the overall well-being of individuals and communities by providing safe, accessible, and inclusive environments for leisure, exercise, and cultural activities.

In summary, investment in shared spaces is driven by the goal of building a more peaceful, inclusive, and integrated society. These spaces serve as physical symbols of reconciliation and provide opportunities for individuals and communities to come together, heal, and build a brighter future.

Each project has provided evidence of need summarised below:

Project 1 - City of Armagh Rugby Club: Southern Cross Border Shared Space and Services Hub

There is a strong need and driver for these changing and upgraded facilities at CARFC. The current facilities are substandard (built in 1977) and there is a requirement to ensure that there are facilities suitable for female and disabled participants and that they are adequate and truly inclusive for everyone in CARFC's ever-growing community. The accessibility and environmental improvements will increase participation volumes in all categories. Significantly, it will encourage other organisations including cross community and cross border groups to use the facilities.

Historically rugby has been a sport played by young men and in Northern Ireland, typically by those males who attended Protestant grammar schools. The development efforts outlined in this proposal respond to the challenge of making the sport accessible and open to all age groups, genders, and abilities.

Equality of Opportunity

Over recent years CARFC has strived to promote rugby training and playing available to all genders, creed, religions, race, and social background. This has resulted in a much greater level of participation by the Catholic community. This trend is continuing with current representation at 30% from a very low base of circa 5% 10 years ago. The aim is to achieve a 50:50 participation split regarding Protestant/Catholic participation. However, this will place a great strain on the currently very limited facilities. With new dedicated changing rooms, we will be able to:

- Run fixtures on the same day which will further enhance access with families being able to enjoy their rugby.
- Accommodate additional mini/youth rugby players of all denominations, races and backgrounds.
- Reinforce our club values by giving equal access and facilities to our women's and girls' section.

Female Participation

Specifically, the project will create safe, modern facilities for women and girls at CARFC. The female section has grown steadily since its foundation in the late 1990's, however, CARFC are constrained by not having adequate facilities. Female participation has grown by more 15% for the past 10 years which shows a growing interest from females. This has presented challenges including difficulty retaining female members and fielding an adult ladies' team due to not having the facilities. Whilst basic changing facilities can be made available there are no showering or toilets suitable for females. Female members and visitors often must come kitted out for training and cannot change afterward. The new facilities will fully accommodate women and girls.

Disabled changing facilities.

There is no current capacity within CARFC facilities to allow for disabled participation. The proposed project will address the need to give access to persons with a disability in the following specific ways:

- There is a growing veteran section and veteran tag and fitness groups. The demand for disabled changing will increase as this section of the club grows in importance and can involve nonplaying inclusive roles.
- The mini's section (U6U12) is founded on the principle of allowing everyone to participate. Disabled changing would allow participation from children with disabilities and CARFC could fully support their participation.
- Disabled changing rooms will allow CARFC to open to other neighbouring community sports groups who actively require disabled facilities. CARFC has established links with over 50 local clubs and societies.

Addressing these areas will directly impact on the potential to provide a quality multipurpose community hub that can service growing cross community and cross border membership and visitors.

Letters of Support/Intent for the Hub have been received from 24 organisations/groups across a range of sectors as summarised below (copies attached).

Sector	No.	Potential Usage
Community/Special Interest	12	• Delivering Programmes & Events • Monthly & Committee Meetings • Tutorials & Exhibitions • Workshops • Indoor & Outdoor Activities • Social Events • Collaborative Training & Events • Fundraising & Awareness Events • Healthy Lifestyle/Health Awareness
Sports	7	
Health & Wellbeing	3	
Education	1	
Business	1	
Cross border	3	

The community hub is welcomed across the local community and by potential cross border partners/users. The proposed facility and services can support the needs identified in the consultation. Respondents expressed the importance of the CARFC community hub being a neutral venue, having carparking, complimentary indoor & outdoor space, appropriate facilities, amenities and services. Weekend and evening access is also important to potential users.

There is also support from the PSNI who recognise the potential of the facility as a suitable neutral space to bring together local community groups from different backgrounds in a divided society. The IRFU Ulster Branch is also supportive and recognises that the geographical location and the cross-border potential of the project is unique as the club strives to provide more cross-community playing opportunities.

Project 2 – Laurelvale Cricket Club: Cricket and Community Hub

- All the buildings within our grounds need replacing as they are visibly decaying, have dated heating, lighting, and insulation, and have insufficient facilities to meet the needs of the groups that currently use it. It is not fit for purpose and based on current uses alone merits investment.
- The replacement of the current changing rooms building into a multi-purpose community hub and changing facility will mean that the groups who already meet in the cricket club will have access to a space that is warm in the autumn/winter months and well-ventilated in the spring and summer months. There will be access to a disabled toilet and baby changing which we currently do not have on site.
- There is potential to attract other groups to use the facility. We have had enquiries about the possibility of setting up a day nursery, after school's club etc. but had to decline this request due to having no baby changing or disabled toilets and the cost of running the antiquated heating system would be prohibitive.
- Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Council produced a document titled 'Laurelvale Village Strategy', in June 2015. One of the actions that came out of this study was the need for "Provision of community facilities".
- In 2011 the population of Laurelvale-Mullavilly was 1,284. In 2021 this had risen to 1,410 (NISRA). Since 2021 a housing development, Rose Meadows, opposite has been built containing 37 homes, another 10 homes in Hillmount Manor development have been built with another 22 homes within the next four years. Also earmarked for development is a piece of land beside the cricket pitch. Outline planning for a residential development for up to 53 units has been submitted in 2023 so potential demand for facilities is set to rise.
- Facilities are inadequate users who are in wheelchairs or less ambulant. Our project will be fully DDA compliant.
- Dilapidated facilities – ageing and with several problems in need of immediate repair which we currently do not have the resources to undertake.
- Facilities are dated and fall significantly short of councils' commitment in 'creating a sustainable, cleaner and greener environment for everyone'.
- There is a lack of children and young people's activities in the village and this new space could be used to provide something for them.
- It will be the only neutral venue in the village (non-religious).
- Our current facilities do not have a function space separate from the bar thus making it unsuitable for some religious and ethnic groups.
- The current facility is underused for cross border cricket matches due to the limited size of team changing facilities.
- Representative cricket and Cup Final allocation by the Northern Cricket Union of Ireland and Cricket Ireland is limited to lower levels because of the limitations on our current changing, catering and toilet facilities.
- Northern Cricket Union of Ireland have told us in an email dated 12 February 2024:

  "Great to speak last week regards to hosting more interprovincial representative fixtures including the NCU and Leinster.

Laurelvale is always a very welcoming and the club's volunteers do a great job of hosting travelling teams. Laurelvale is ideally situated geographically for teams travelling from Cork and Dublin as it reduces travel times to venues elsewhere in the NCU.
I just want to reiterate the point however re. changing facilities at the club. While we appreciate the great work being done by the club across many environments, to host more interprovincial representative fixtures at a higher level, we would need to look at the changing facilities and catering provisions. When hosting senior male and female teams, one of the first things we look at is the changing facilities to make sure they are big enough for a squad including their kit bags, as well as the access to suitable toilets and showering facilities. At present, unfortunately, the existing provision is below our expected standards, not uncommon in facilities of this age. As you know the catering situation is a major part of the expected hosting provision and again the small kitchen limits what range of food can be provided to players and officials.

Currently we could offer younger age group interprovincial cricket at Laurelvale but ideally we would like to offer you the opportunity to host senior representative fixtures at Laurelvale once the changing and catering facilities improve".

Project 3 – Aghaderg & Ballyvarley GAC: Sports Hub

The club recently held two Public Consultation meetings with the local community. The meetings were attended by around 50 people in two locations, the first in the Aghaderg Hall and the second in Loughbrickland.

We reached out to all current users of the club facilities and surveyed them on their requirements. These included:

- Ballyvarley Indoor Bowling Club,
- Special Olympics Banbridge,
- Aghaderg Youth Club,
- The Dynamic Gymnastics Club,
- Ballet group,
- Pilates class, and
- Star School Drama Group.

We have also held regular meetings with the Principal at New-Bridge regarding this project and agreed the benefits. All of which have been discussed with the New-Bridge Board of Governors.

In November we conducted further consultation with the entire club membership. We presented several proposals for future capital development, including this potential shared space project with New-Bridge. These plans were extremely well received.

We have met and/or discussed this proposal with other local sports clubs including;

- Seapatrick FC
- Banbridge Rugby Club
- Annaclone GFC

Aghaderg/Ballyvarley Need

Aghaderg and Ballyvarley is a community sports and recreation organisation offering a range of activities to the local community. We are the only club within a 15 mile radius who offers 4 codes of gaelic games. Aside from hurling, camogie, men's football and ladies football, we also offer a range of other services such as dancing, music, events and activities for those within the community who have special needs. We are the only sports and recreation community in the Loughbrickland area. The membership of the club is over 400 and we continue to grow. In particular the largest growth has been the development of ladies football with teams now competing for honours from U8, U10, U12, U14, U16 (2 teams) and for the first time we will field a team at U18 level. We also run a Gaelic for Mothers and Others group. At present we have one main grass pitch and a small training pitch which is used by all groups and all 4 codes within the club. On a typical week, the grass pitches have over 30+ hours of use. Not only is this too much use for grass pitches (leading to them becoming compacted, poorly drained and close to unfit for purpose) but it also means that each of the teams are struggling to get sufficient training time. We only have 4 floodlights on the small grass training area, which means that every single team is vying for time on the training pitch during the evenings. This is stagnating the development of the club and it also means that we are limited in taking in new members. Membership of the club has grown significantly over the past few years rising from 328 in 2011 to 450 by 2023.

Community Need

Loughbrickland currently has no leisure and recreation provision. According to the ABC sports directory there are no sports clubs registered in Loughbrickland. Loughbrickland is a mixed community (49% Catholic, 45% Protestant according to the 2011 census). According to NISRA Measure of Social Deprivation, Loughbrickland SOA is amongst the most deprived in terms of Access to services and low-income affecting children (200/890 and 250/890 respectively).

The growth in the population in the council area is significant particularly amongst the female 10-20 year old category. Since 2001, ABC has seen the 2nd largest population growth (23.4%) across NI, twice the overall NI growth rate.

Overall this would indicate that the evenly mixed community is in an area of rapidly growing population but suffering as a result of low income for young families and also a lack of facilities. The lack of leisure and recreation facilities in this Super Output Area is alarming and one that we believe we can address in partnership with the local Integrated College.

It is also important to note that the lack of evening time leisure and recreation provision increases the likelihood for anti-social behaviour within the area. As the only provider of sports within the area, we have demonstrated the positive impact that sports can have on

local young people and we believe that the addition of community access to new sports facilities within the area will not only enhance the availability of sports and recreation facilities within the area but it will also entice new sports clubs into the area, whereby local young people, perhaps without access to transport means, will be able to take part in new sports with new clubs within the village setting.

RESERVE PROJECT – Lurgan Rugby Club

To ascertain the need for this project, the club carried out a number of different forms of analysis, based around the needs of our local community. To begin with we conducted a number of different site surveys and inspections in recent years on our existing facilities. As mentioned, the facility was constructed in 1975 and there has been very few major changes made since that time, particularly in terms of the ground floor where our changing and bathroom areas are located. These inspections were the first stage in a club wide renovation of our facilities, as we aimed to identify the areas most in need of work. This further highlighted areas of the facilities that were completely lacking, particularly in terms of female changing and bathrooms, as well as disability access. We pride ourselves on being open and inclusive to all within the community and due to the facilities, we are not able to cater for the needs of these large groups.

We then consulted with our local community, speaking to the likes of players, coaches, parents, committee members, local schools, youth organisations, other sports clubs, churches, local charities, politicians and local residents. These are the people facing the challenges locally day by day and are therefore best placed to identify how community organisations and their facilities can best meet the needs to address the challenges identified. We conducted focus groups and surveys locally to gather this information, as well as informal conversations with many key stakeholders. It was further identified that the lack of disability access and female changing was an issue for many groups in using the facilities for their own activities, as well as individuals engaging in our own clubs activities. Therefore it is of the utmost of importance that we work to address these significant issues and provide a space that is suitable for all. For all projects and initiatives within our organisation, we are led by what our members and wider community identify as priorities.

In recent years we have launched female sport at the facilities, for both young people and adults across cricket and rugby. While we are able to deliver these activities in a limited capacity, our facilities are simply not suitable to meaningfully grow these services in the community, as they severely restrict us. It also restricts us in terms of working with other local organisations, such as St Paul's GAC, who we have linked with for many years for our male sports and they have an abundance of female participants. We are therefore currently limited to the amount of good relations and cross community activities we are able to host and deliver in the local area, as our facilities simply are not suitable or accessible to all.

We also analysed the social and economic environment in which our club and participants are situated, giving us a more in depth view of the challenges and issues facing our local community. We are located in the area of Mourneview, which is predominantly consisting of people from PUL backgrounds and an area where people from CNR communities traditionally did not visit. Over the recent years we have been making significant strides in working with those from CNR and other communities. This has primarily been with our work with a number of local schools, as well as GAA clubs, such as St Pauls and Eir Og. The local area is still heavily divided in Lurgan and the wider Craigavon, particularly in terms of housing, education and sport. We believed we are best placed to address these divisions and use our facilities, as a shared space that is welcoming and inclusive for all to come and partake in recreational and community based activities.

Unfortunately, sectarianism is still a prevalent issue within the local area with 393 sectarian motivated crimes and incidents recorded in the last 2 years. We aim to provide a space where a wide range of community organisations can deliver activities that are accessible to all within the community, particularly in often marginalised and underrepresented groups such as those with disabilities or women in sport. The current provision of our facilities is simply not up to standard and cannot cater for the needs of our community, severely limiting the impact we can have in the local area, particularly in terms of bring local residents together and enhancing their health and well-being.

Programme Actions

This programme will consist of multiple different elements:

Expression of Interest has been completed in Quarter 1 of 2024 that has resulted in projects being listed within the Peace Plus Action Plan. Applicants have demonstrated how the proposed capital investment has been developed on a cross-community basis and will lead to increased and sustained cross community interaction and as such make a tangible and lasting contribution to peacebuilding in the Programme area.

Council will lead on the pre-construction phase and construction phase activities with project administration, project management and financial management.

The phases and actions are listed below:

Pre construction phase
Professional Design Team procurement and appointment – in line with Council and Peace Plus criteria.
Design Team to prepare detailed scheme design.
Statutory approvals required.
Construction contractor procured and appointment – in line with Council and Peace Plus criteria.
Construction phase
Construction oversight by design team and Council officers.
Construction Completed and defects started.

Post Construction
Monitor Defects period
Completed capital project handover
Applicant group to assume responsibility for ongoing project management monitoring (as detailed in project agreement)

Programme Evaluation

To close, the Council will conduct an evaluation of the effectiveness of the programme. It will include how the projects aligned with PEACEPLUS, the diversity of projects, how the projects will impact community development.

Beneficiaries

- Youth organisations
- Community and voluntary sector organisations
- Good relations organisations
- Sports Clubs
- Local community organisations.

For each project we have included summary of beneficiaries below:

The project will deliver substantial benefits including:

Project 1 - City of Armagh Rugby Club: Southern Cross Border Shared Space and Services Hub

- The Southern Cross Border Shared Space and Services Hub which will provide a multipurpose, shared, neutral, safe and inclusive space that is accessible to all sections of the local community and by visitors from both Northern Ireland and across the Southern Cross Border catchment area.
- 50:50 participation between protestant and catholic participants
- Safe modern facilities for women and girls
- Appropriate disability access to provide for disabled participation by visitors and members.
- Allow all participants from different communities and cross border, an opportunity to meet together through rugby and other activities in order to develop more positive relationships.
- Increase the number of visitors from across Northern Ireland and the Southern cross border catchment area and contribute to improvements in community relations.
- CARFC is situated in a neutral area and those from surrounding neighbourhood renewal areas (Callanbridge, Drumarg, Mulacreevie, Orangefield) will benefit from new facilities available.
- The project will deliver cross border, cross community, health and wellbeing, social and economic benefits.

Project 2 – Laurelvale Cricket Club: Cricket and Community Hub

- A new-build development to create a focal point will regenerate and transform the centre of the village. It will be a place where people can meet, participate, learn, and relax, made possible by the construction of a modern facility where cultural, educational, health and wellbeing activities can be provided throughout the year.
- Currently our facilities are inaccessible to wheelchair users. There will be disabled toilets and baby changing facilities.
- The multi-purpose space can be divided into two rooms if required. Currently we facilitate classes in Pilates, fitness circuits, bums and tums and dance classes. Groups that currently hold their meetings include a Quad Racing Club, Laurelvale Golf Society, Laurelvale & District Community Association, Shares Club and The Pigeon Club. An accessible meeting room with reliable internet connection would attract other groups and rural businesses to hold their meetings here.
- In addition to the above we want to hold more activities to encourage the participation of sections of the community that don't currently use our facilities such as the migrant community who live in the village and work in the local orchard farms.
- We particularly want to have a space where young people and the elderly will feel comfortable to drop in and use. In the past we held events and activities for older people, but these have become less frequent due to access which has discouraged or prevented them coming to our current building.
- Cricket matches are played almost every weekend between May and September including senior teams practice and junior practice on weeknights. New facilities will attract more people to take up the sport.
- Mullavilly Primary School which is less than 100 metres away hold their annual sports day on the edge of the cricket pitch area where 120 pupils and their parents and grandparents come together. Outdoor space in the school grounds has been reduced in recent years due to the addition of portable buildings as pupil numbers continue to expand year on year. There is an opportunity for the school to use this building and the grounds for PE on a regular basis.
- A low energy building that is sustainably built, be easy to maintain and uses sustainable energy to operate will keep running costs low. Our current facility has an inefficient heating system, lighting, and insulation, leading to high energy and maintenance costs.
- This project is phase one of a much bigger vision to develop community facilities in the heart of the village. It will be the catalyst to enabling further development of the site and will lead the way towards a thriving and peaceful community.

Project 3 – Aghaderg & Ballyvarley GAC: Sports Hub

- Development of stronger relationship between Aghaderg & Ballyvarley GAC with New-Bridge Integrated College.
- Provision of evening and weekend sport and recreation for the people of Loughbrickland and the surrounding areas.
- Potential sustainable business through the hire of the facilities by the lead partner for evening and weekend use.

- Per pitch: 10 hours for the development of GAA sports, particularly ladies football through the midweek evenings and 6 hours per weekend.
- Per pitch: Potentially 10 hours for other sports such as rugby and soccer for the midweek evenings and 10 hours weekend provision.
- Growth in female participation in sport from CNR and PUL communities through the continued growth in ladies football in the area
- Our aim is to achieve 10% PUL background participants in Ladies Football within 5 years and
- 100% growth in leisure and recreation provision in the Loughbrickland Community.
- At least one multi-sport session per annum where girls from different backgrounds come together to participate in soccer, Gaelic football, rugby, camogie and hockey, using coaches from local clubs at the new facilities.
- We also aim to expand our work with other community organisations, providing them with greater opportunity for access to facilities as well as the opportunity to engage in new activities and benefit from new coaching, including Special Olympics Banbridge.

Reserve Project: Lurgan Rugby Club

There are a wide range of positive impacts we ai to achieve through the completion of this project. They will include:

- Increased accessibility of our community facility: As stated, the core focus of this project is to improve the accessibility of our community facilities, ensuring that we are able to cater for all within our community. This will primarily focus on accessibility for those with disabilities, as well as females. There is currently no disabled toilets or females toilets and changing areas within our facilities and this project will directly address and correct this. It will help to ensure that we are open and accessible to all, prevent none from engaging in sporting and community based activities moving forwards.
- Increased participation in community activities: Due to this enhanced accessibility, we will be able to attract and engage with a much greater number of residents on a yearly basis. This will include in our activities, as well as the activities of many other community organisations who use the facilities. We are creating a much more functional and attractive place for all. It will strengthen our organisation in terms of attracting participants, but also other organisations to work with, many of which have been hesitant due to our poor and dated facilities.
- Enhanced community cohesion and co-operation: As a direct result of this project, the capacity of our organisation to carry out cross community activities will be significantly increased. We have a strong track record in working with a large amount of organisations locally, regardless of background. Our participants and members also come from a wide range communities in our locality. This facility enhancement, will enable us to strengthen existing partnerships and attract new partner groups, as well as being a more attractive proposition for potential participants moving forwards. This will include sporting and community based activities and organisations, as we work to bring people from different backgrounds together and break down barriers. This

project will focus on promoting inclusion and ensure that we are capable of meeting the demands of any potential visitors or participants.

- Enhanced sustainability of community organisation: As we will be able to engage and work with an increased amount of participants and local organisations at our facilities, we will increase the footfall and income generated. Through increasing the usage of the facility, we will be able to reinvest the monies generated to achieve other long term objectives, including the enhancement of the quality of our services, volunteer education/training, other capital improvements etc.
- Enhanced health and well-being of local residents: All of the activities and services that we provide in the community have the aim of enhancing the health and well-being of our participants and wider community. This includes their physical health, through increased physical and sporting activity, as well as their mental well-being, through increased social interaction and engagement. The enhancement and increased accessibility of our facilities, will equip us to have a much greater impact on the health and well-being of our residents. We will be able to engage with and attract a much wider range of participants, with a focus on female's and those with disabilities.

SMART Objectives

- ✓ Minimum of **1300** people to regularly utilise the developed and regenerated shared spaces.
- ✓ Develop 3 new shared civic spaces that will be used by all sections of the community; this will involve changes in both attitudes and behaviour with a corresponding reduction in segregation.
- ✓ Invest £1.1million Peace Plus investment in Capital projects across the Borough by December 2027
- ✓ Development of 3 new or enhanced facilities, which will enable increased levels of cross-community interaction and service provision. The focus of these new or enhanced shared spaces will vary and include areas such as social enterprise, community development, tourism, education, sport, culture etc;
- ✓ Develop a minimum of 3 co-designed cross-community place making plans.
- ✓ Support a minimum of 3 capital projects that align with PEACEPLUS and the Councils strategic objectives.

Project Specific SMART Objectives:

Project 1 - City of Armagh Rugby Club: Southern Cross Border Shared Space and Services Hub

The SMART objectives for the proposed investment are:

1. To develop one additional shared space in the Borough and in Armagh City
2. To develop and enhance the multipurpose, shared, neutral, safe and inclusive space that is accessible to all sections of the local community and by visitors from both Northern Ireland and across the Southern Cross Border catchment area.

3. To reinforce the position of rugby football as an inclusive game for all communities and traditions, increasing the CNR percentage of CARFC's from its 2023 baseline of 30% to 50% by December 2027.
4. To increase cross border membership by 50% from its 2023 baseline of 80 by 31 December 2027.
5. To increase the number of cross border visitors by 30% from its 2023 baseline of 3,000 pa by December 2027.
6. To introduce and sustain 5 annual collaborative events with sports clubs/community organisations from other traditions and/or cross border by December 2027.
7. To sustain and increase the multipurpose usage of the wider CAFRC facilities and services by 30% from a 2023 baseline of 300 persons per week by December 2027(non-rugby and member focused services and activities).
8. To increase the female membership by 25% from its 2023 baseline of 50 by December 2027.

Note: objectives 1, 2, 5 & 6 will contribute to better health and wellbeing for citizens, contribute to reducing anti-social behaviour and contribute to cost efficiencies for associated public services. Objectives 3 & 4 will contribute to visitor numbers and spend in the local area and the delivery economic benefits.

Note: objectives 1, 2, 5 & 6 will contribute to better health and wellbeing for citizens, contribute to reducing anti-social behaviour and contribute to cost efficiencies for associated public services. Objectives 3 & 4 will contribute to increased visitor numbers and spend in the local area and to the delivery of economic benefits.

Project 2 – Laurelvale Cricket Club: Cricket and Community Hub

Create 1x Cricket and Community Hub to facilitate shared space.

How we will animate the proposed capital space from a cross community / border perspective:

- By encouraging people to come together around food, games, sport, and celebrations to help build bridges between groups, create a sense of unity in our local area and help overcome prejudice and tension in the community.
- By hosting cross border/cross community Northern Cricket Union of Ireland and Ireland Cricket Union representative cricket matches
- 'Tape Ball Cricket' is becoming increasingly popular especially within the Asian community within Craigavon and Portadown. We would hold cross border social cricket 'tape ball' matches.

The changes we want to see:

- Better community amenities
- Increase in number and range of community activities.
- Retention of existing users

- A wider demographic range of users
- More physical activity by the community
- Improved community wellbeing and health
- Improved access
- Increased footfall
- A building that fits in with its surroundings
- A sustainable and energy efficient building
- More local opportunities for children and young people
- Increased use of facilities by ethnic minorities
- Increased number of cross border cricket matches
- Increased use for cross border cricket matches
- An improved community asset

Project 3 – Aghaderg & Ballyvarley GAC: Sports Hub

- Development of stronger relationship between Aghaderg & Ballyvarley GAC with New-Bridge Integrated College.
- Provision of evening and weekend sport and recreation for the people of Loughbrickland and the surrounding areas.
- Potential sustainable business through the hire of the facilities by the lead partner for evening and weekend use.
- Per pitch: 10 hours for the development of GAA sports, particularly ladies football through the midweek evenings and 6 hours per weekend.
- Per pitch: Potentially 10 hours for other sports such as rugby and soccer for the midweek evenings and 10 hours weekend provision.
- Growth in female participation in sport from CNR and PUL communities through the continued growth in ladies football in the area
- Our aim is to achieve 10% PUL background participants in Ladies Football within 5 years and
- 100% growth in leisure and recreation provision in the Loughbrickland Community.
- At least one multi-sport session per annum where girls from different backgrounds come together to participate in soccer, Gaelic football, rugby, camogie and hockey, using coaches from local clubs at the new facilities.
- We also aim to expand our work with other community organisations, providing them with greater opportunity for access to facilities as well as the opportunity to engage in new activities and benefit from new coaching, including Special Olympics Banbridge.

Reserve Project: Lurgan Rugby Club

- Extension of the current community facilities to significantly enhance access and inclusion.
- Extend the current changing facilities on the ground floor and reconfigure its layout to cater for the changing needs of our residents and improve the accessibility of the community facilities for all.

- Addition of female toilets, disabled toilets, female showers, separate female access, with two female dedicated changing rooms, and a full ground floor to have disability access.
- Transform the existing community space, helping to meet the demands of our service users, members of other community organisations who use the facilities and local residents.
- Increased accessibility of the community facility.
- Increased participation in community activities.
- Enhanced community cohesion and co-operation.
- This facility enhancement will enable the club to strengthen existing partnerships and attract new partner groups, as well as being a more attractive proposition for potential participants moving forwards. This will include sporting and community based activities and organisations, as they work to bring people from different backgrounds together and break down barriers.
- This project will focus on promoting inclusion and ensure that we are capable of meeting the demands of any potential visitors or participants.
- Enhanced sustainability of community organisation.
- Enhanced health and well-being of local residents:

Results

- Local authority lead schemes that facilitate the sustained usage on a shared basis of public areas/buildings.
- Minimum of 3Capital shared space jointly developed and implemented.
- **1300** Participants from different communities engaged jointly within new shared spaces.
- Percentage of people who would define the neighbourhood where they live as neutral.
- Percentage of people who prefer to live in a mixed religion environment.
- Percentage of people who would prefer to live in a neighbourhood with people of only their own religion.
- Local initiatives that facilitate the sustained usage on a shared basis of public
- An increase in the number of individuals and groups regularly accessing new or reimaged shared spaces, which have been co-designed on a cross-community basis; and spending recreational time or accessing services therein.
- Strengthened impact through collaboration and partnerships.
- A more diverse capital programme that reflects the communities it serves.
- Joint engagement: meaningful and purposeful contact between persons from different communities.
- Different communities: different religious belief, ethnic or racial group.
- Achievement: participants that have engaged in a joint activity or join usage occurrence in a shared space.
- Variation between the two main community backgrounds less than 20% (60/40 split).
- Participation of other communities encouraged (minority ethnic communities and different racial backgrounds).

- Engagement can be a single event or a multiple event.

Outputs

- Jointly developed capital projects by the Council and Community groups.
- Shared spaces: infrastructure for programmes that result in meaningful and purposeful contact between persons from different communities.
- High quality design and sustainable development principles, including measures to minimize carbon emissions.
- Achievement when the shared space is open and becomes operational and provides evidence of shared usage.
- Minimum of 3 no. community capital projects delivered.
- Strengthened links between community groups and their members, the council, and other local organisations.
- Improved physical infrastructure through the development or improvement of physical infrastructure, such as the construction of community assets, parks, sports facilities, cultural venues, or public spaces.
- Reduced barriers as a result of the removal or transformation of physical barriers or divisions, such as peace walls or interfaces, that separate communities within shared spaces.
- New Shared Facilities: The creation of new amenities or facilities within shared spaces, which may include community spaces, sports fields, seating areas, and community gardens.
- Delivery of Community Engagement Programs e.g., initiatives aimed at engaging the community, such as educational workshops, cultural events, sports programs, and other activities that encourage participation and interaction.
- Increased shared usage as a measurable increase in the utilisation of shared spaces by community members, including visitor counts, event attendance, and recreational activities.
- Complementary training and capacity-building programs that empower community members to actively participate in the management and maintenance of shared spaces.
- Measurable improvements in community cohesion, social harmony, and reduced divisions within the community as a result of shared space initiatives.

How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements

Local authority lead schemes will facilitate the sustained usage on a shared basis of public areas/buildings using the following programme features:

- Emphasis on new and reimaged community spaces
- Inclusion of both urban and rural based projects
- Cross-community a priority and cross-border usage where applicable.
- Transformative effect locally
- Each project must bring about a positive change in the form of clear, meaningful, and sustainable 'distance travelled' for communities and end beneficiaries.

- Breaking down the barriers of territory and developing spaces that both communities can have access to and share.
- Involving changes in both attitudes and behaviour with a corresponding reduction in segregation
- Transformation and re-imaging of individual or collective areas within a community including existing buildings, open spaces, streetscapes etc in a manner which challenges initial perceptions and increases the level of shared pride in an area;
- Development of new or enhanced facilities within existing buildings, which will enable increased levels of cross-community interaction and service provision. The focus of these new or enhanced shared spaces will vary and include areas such as social enterprise, community development, tourism, education, sport, culture etc.

Shared spaces should primarily be used on a cross community and/or cross-border basis, with variation between participating groups of the two main community backgrounds not normally more than 20%. For example, if a shared space is used by 50 people from a Catholic background, it should have a variance of no more/less than 20% (10 people) from a Protestant background. As the shared space is used by 50 people from a Catholic background, it should also be used by between 40 and 60 people from a Protestant background. Usage is also encouraged by people from other communities including minority ethnic communities and those of different racial backgrounds.

The projects that are developed through this programme must be aligned with the objectives of the PEACE PLUS programme. The preferred approach will be Council led but local communities must be empowered to identify their unique needs, aspirations and challenges and subsequently develop projects around these.

The capital projects that receive investment must contribute significantly to enhanced peace and reconciliation, both within and across communities.

Below, we have summarised how each of the three projects contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross- community and/ or cross border elements:

Project 1 - City of Armagh Rugby Club: Southern Cross Border Shared Space and Services Hub

Positive differences/impacts

- The Southern Cross Border Shared Space and Services Hub (the Hub) project facility will provide a multipurpose, shared, neutral, safe and inclusive space that is accessible to all sections of the local community and by visitors from both Northern Ireland and across the Southern Cross Border catchment area.
- Improved facilities which will help increase membership and retain new and existing players.

- Over recent years CARFC have continually strived to promote rugby training and playing available to all genders, creeds, religions, race and social background. These efforts have seen a much greater level of participation by the Catholic community. The new facilities will allow the club build on this and to deliver on the aim to achieve a 50:50 participation split regarding Protestant/Catholic participation.
- It will create safe, modern facilities for women and girls.
- The development will provide appropriate disability access which is not currently adequate. There is no current capacity to allow for disabled participation. The project will address the need to give access to persons with a disability including the club's veteran section, the mini's section (U6U12) is founded on the principle of allowing everyone to participate, disabled changing rooms will allow the club to open to other, neighbouring community sports groups who actively require disabled facilities.
- This project will allow all participants from different communities an opportunity through rugby to meet together in order to develop more positive relationships. It will further give young people an opportunity to pursue a sport that can be carried on well into adulthood. Through the medium of rugby, they will learn respect, learn the need to rely on each other in order to achieve team goals and form lasting friendships. The project will cater for CARFC's growing youth section and improve opportunity for young people to stay fit and healthy.
- Geographically, eastern, and western parts of Armagh City lie in neighbourhood renewal areas. Therefore, with improved facilities this project has potential to attract new participants from these areas thus stopping them becoming involved in low level crime and anti-social behaviour.
- The plans to increase the number of visitors from across Northern Ireland and the Southern cross border catchment area will contribute to improvements in community relations and will also contribute to visitor spend in the local area and economic benefits associated with that.
- The proposal includes refurbishments that will improve energy efficiency and help manage costs for CARFC and contribute to the Councils green agenda.
- By increasing participation there will be a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of citizens associated with playing sport and keeping active.

It is estimated that 3,450 people will directly benefit, 700 club members and 2,750 students who have forged links with CARFC in recent years and used facilities at the club. Some 8,500 – 12,000 people will indirectly benefit. This figure is calculated based on the footfall (visitors, spectators, visiting playing/teams) who visit the club throughout the season and additional activities generated by the new Hub. Particularly large numbers from clubs all over Ireland visit Armagh to play the seniors in Division 1A of the Energia All Ireland League.

This project will support a range of local and central Government initiatives aimed at creating stronger, shared communities, creating safer communities especially regarding antisocial behaviour, creating opportunities, tackling disadvantage, and improving health and wellbeing. The club is situated in a neutral area and those from surrounding

neighbourhood renewal areas (Callanbridge, Drumarg, Mulacreevie, Orangefield) will benefit from new facilities available.

An **animation** plan will be developed around the four key themes for the Hub:
(1) Rugby Union Football
(2) Multisport and multiactivity opportunities and programmes.
(3) Community health and wellbeing programmes and initiatives.
(4) Community services.

The annual shared space animation programme will include:

- Developing a database of potential community, special interest, sporting, and cross border users.
- Marketing materials will be developed (website content, brochures, flyers) to provide information about the hub's facilities.
- Partnerships will be developed with local, sports clubs, cultural organizations, and community groups from across the community and cross border.
- CARFC will collaborate with partners on joint marketing initiatives, cross-promoting each other's events, programs, and services to reach a broader audience.
- Outreach activities will be carried out in neighbouring communities and cross border to raise awareness about the hub's offerings. This will include building on the extensive school's outreach already in place.
- Representatives from CARFC will promote the hub through community events, fairs, and festivals by providing promotional materials and engaging with potential users face-to-face.
- An annual digital marketing plan will be developed to reach cross-community and cross-border users, including social media platforms, search engine marketing, and targeted online advertising.
- Community ambassadors from diverse backgrounds will be used to serve as advocates for the hub within their respective communities.
- Ambassadors will be encouraged to organise outreach events, facilitate introductions, and provide guidance and support to new users.

There will be annual programmes of activity which will include:

1. **Networking Events:** Networking events will be organised to facilitate cross community and cross border connections and relationship-building among members and users.
2. **Workshops and Skill-Building Sessions:** Offer workshops and skill-building sessions on topics relevant to cross community's interests and needs.
3. **Community Forums and Discussions:** Host community forums and panel discussions on current events, issues, or trends affecting the local area or specific industries.
4. **Collaborative Projects and Hackathons:** Facilitate collaborative projects and hackathons where members can work together to solve problems, develop new ideas, or create innovative solutions.
5. **Fitness and Wellness Activities:** Offer fitness and wellness activities to promote physical and mental well-being among members.

6. **Social Events and Celebrations:** Organise social events and celebrations of mutual interest
7. **Educational Seminars and Talks:** Invite guest speakers, experts, and thought leaders to deliver educational seminars and talks on a variety of topics.
8. **Volunteer Opportunities:** Organize volunteer opportunities for members to give back to the community and make a positive impact.
9. **Rugby Fixtures:** The senior team play in the all-Ireland league and will host 8 Southern cross border teams from (Limerick, Dublin and Cork); the adult, youth and girls sections will also host Southern cross border teams (including: Monaghan, County Cavan, Virginia, Ratoath, Coolmine and Donegal).

Project 2 – Laurelvale Cricket Club: Cricket and Community Hub

The make-up of village residents is predominantly Protestant (82% according to Census 2021 NISRA).

In a village that is still healing from political conflict, this project will make a significant and lasting contribution to peace and reconciliation through providing a neutral, shared space where cultural and educational activities can take place to promote reconciliation and opportunity.

There is still much sectarianism, fear, and hatred as a legacy from the violent conflict and racism with the influx of migrants in recent years. This will be a space where inter-group contact and friendships with members of the other community can take place. All sides will be able to come together, to meet and chat and for different stories to be heard which allows understanding to grow. This welcoming space will host a programme of workshops and activities designed to attract people of any religious, cultural, and political background to participate together.

Positive differences and impact:

- A new-build development to create a focal point will regenerate and transform the centre of the village. It will be a place where people can meet, participate, learn, and relax, made possible by the construction of a modern facility where cultural, educational, health and wellbeing activities can be provided throughout the year.
- Currently our facilities are inaccessible to wheelchair users. There will be disabled toilets and baby changing facilities.
- The multi-purpose space can be divided into two rooms if required. Currently we facilitate classes in Pilates, fitness circuits, bums and tums and dance classes. Groups that currently hold their meetings include a Quad Racing Club, Laurelvale Golf Society, Laurelvale & District Community Association, Shares Club and The Pigeon Club. An accessible meeting room with reliable internet connection would attract other groups and rural businesses to hold their meetings here.
- In addition to the above we want to hold more activities to encourage the participation of sections of the community that don't currently use our facilities such as the migrant community who live in the village and work in the local orchard farms.

- We particularly want to have a space where young people and the elderly will feel comfortable to drop in and use. In the past we held events and activities for older people, but these have become less frequent due to access which has discouraged or prevented them coming to our current building.
- Cricket matches are played almost every weekend between May and September including senior teams practice and junior practice on weeknights. New facilities will attract more people to take up the sport.
- Mullavilly Primary School which is less than 100 metres away hold their annual sports day on the edge of the cricket pitch area where 120 pupils and their parents and grandparents come together. Outdoor space in the school grounds has been reduced in recent years due to the addition of portable buildings as pupil numbers continue to expand year on year. There is an opportunity for the school to use this building and the grounds for PE on a regular basis.
- A low energy building that is sustainably built, be easy to maintain and uses sustainable energy to operate will keep running costs low. Our current facility has an inefficient heating system, lighting, and insulation, leading to high energy and maintenance costs.
- This project is phase one of a much bigger vision to develop community facilities in the heart of the village. It will be the catalyst to enabling further development of the site and will lead the way towards a thriving and peaceful community.

How we will animate the proposed capital space from a cross community / border perspective:

- By encouraging people to come together around food, games, sport, and celebrations to help build bridges between groups, create a sense of unity in our local area and help overcome prejudice and tension in the community.
- By hosting cross border/cross community Northern Cricket Union of Ireland and Ireland Cricket Union representative cricket matches.
- 'Tape Ball Cricket' is becoming increasingly popular especially within the Asian community within Craigavon and Portadown. We would hold cross border social cricket 'tape ball' matches.

The proposed programme of activity to ensure that the project will be a shared space:

1. To understand who lives in the area we will chart who lives here to ensure that no group is inadvertently excluded from the activities that are being planned. Who takes part in public life locally? Who does not? Whose perspectives on life in the area is missing?
2. We will ensure that members from all levels of ABC Council, both elected representatives and officers, are directly involved in shared discussions and activities.
3. We will go to where people are instead of expecting them to come to us and ask what activities they would attend? What can be done to support more interactions between different groups and networks? Use the information gathered to plan and facilitate activities that will encourage them to participate.
4. Check if there are any language barriers?

5. Use all the information gathered to design and incorporate fun and exciting activities. By involving people who do not currently use the building in the planning of activities this will lead to their participation. With our new build being a more welcoming environment for people to meet, interact and create social bonds, this will make activities more engaging and participatory.
6. Work with partners to re-start the activities we used to hold for older people such as rural transport to bring them to our new and accessible building, therefore combating social isolation.
7. Different ethnic groups will be encouraged to hold cultural events and activities as part of the process of bridging differences and identifying commonalities. In doing this they can celebrate and show off their culture and traditions to other parts of the community.
8. A new build separate from the existing clubhouse will be perceived as neutral and open to all as it will not be associated with a licensed premises and will lead to social inclusion for those who's religious beliefs or cultural background prevents them from visiting our current facilities.

Project 3 – Aghaderg & Ballyvarley GAC: Sports Hub

Loughbrickland is an evenly mixed rural community. As such it seems that it is the perfect place for a thriving integrated school, which appears to be the case for New-Bridge Integrated College. There are two main reasons why this project will make a significant and lasting contribution to peace and reconciliation in this area. The first is the provision of sport which appeals to all people regardless of background. Aghaderg & Ballyvarley has already proven that it is an open and inclusive sports club offering a range of activity that will appeal to all communities. We recently participated in the Clanmil Housing and PSNI Neighbourhood organised 'Sticks with Diversity' Programme, unifying Aghaderg Camogie and Dromore Hockey Club.

In particular ladies football within our club has been proactive and successful in breaking down perceived barriers in the area and our girls football teams are seeing players from mixed backgrounds take to the field. The idea that girls will be able to come to a local facility within the village and take part in physical recreation is a positive for them regardless of background and this is something which we in Aghaderg are committed to.

Our relationship with both St. Francis Primary School and Bridge Primary School is strong and something which we intend to grow and ultimately our very strong relationship with New-Bridge Integrated College, through the sharing of facilities (both GAA and school) is something that we will continue to explore and ensure that those who take part in sport within the school can then continue it with ease after school and at the weekends through the partnerships, not just with Aghaderg & Ballyvarley GAC but with other clubs whom we have established relationships (such as Banbridge Rugby Club and Seapatrick FC) who have already committed to using the new facilities and working with Aghaderg to further engage with all parts of the local community.

That leads onto the second benefit of this project. The use of school facilities for the wider community, particularly where there simply are no other sports facilities, is one that will bring new sports and new sports clubs to the area. This will ensure that those who take part in school sport have easily accessible development routes on their doorstep. The local community clubs will have access to safe, high quality facilities, which will allow them to offer coaching (and improvements to mental and physical wellbeing) in a high quality facility within a new, mixed community. New-Bridge is a familiar environment for children from both the CNR and PUL communities who are learning together and engaging in different sports together. It is a fantastic opportunity therefore to create that connection with the 'outside' local community, whereby children from mixed backgrounds can continue to explore and develop through sport with familiar faces in a familiar high quality safe environment.

In Aghaderg, we believe in the role that sport can play in uniting a society by being open and inclusive and we believe that those values are reflected by New-Bridge Integrated College. Indeed, their track record is something that they are very proud of and their credentials are reassuring for the local community that New-Bridge are committed to genuinely building a strong united community. Just a sample of their awards highlights their commitment to bringing the entire community together not just in school but beyond into the community: Winner of the Evens Laureat for Peace Education Award (the first in UK or Ireland); Winner of the Children in the Crossfire – Gold Compassion Award in 2020 and the winner of the UNICEF Right Respecting Award which embeds these values in daily school life and gives children the best chance to lead happy, healthy lives and to be responsible, active citizens. In particular, the Award recognises the school's achievement in putting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child into practice within the school and beyond and it is something that we firmly believe the community use of these facilities at the evening and the weekends will strengthen those opportunities for the young.

Animating the Project

The building of the new school in Loughbrickland is one of the most talked about cross community projects in Ireland with dignitaries from both UK and Ireland having visited over recent times. The fact that these will also be the first sports facilities in the village is also massive for the school and even for the neighbouring primary schools who are already lined up to visit. Therefore, it is safe to assume that every family, no matter what cultural background, in the area will be aware of the facilities.

The fact that Aghaderg & Ballyvarley, the largest sports club in the area are looking to achieve a project which will see these facilities being used by the community during the evening and the weekend as well as getting soccer and rugby using them as training bases means that at least 3 sports clubs will be promoting their involvement on a regular basis. We would also intend to run regular social media posts to promote our partnership with New-Bridge and will ensure that every pupil in the school is aware of the opportunity to get involved with Gaelic Football, Rugby, Soccer, Hurling and Camogie by attending the facilities outside of school and ensuring that they are exposed to the possibility of taking part in a variety of sports with their friends and neighbours, regardless of background.

Suggested Programme

- Provision of access to sports clubs for young people from both PUL and CNR communities for evening and weekend coaching.
- Provision of formal structured use of school facilities within a community setting under the guidance and direction of 2-3 local sports clubs.
- Stronger relationship between New-Bridge Integrated College, Aghaderg & Ballyvarley GAC and the local community.
- Introduction of Rugby and Soccer into the area where there is currently no provision though the proposed use by supporting soccer and rugby clubs.
- Joint coaching sessions across multisport (GAA, Rugby, Soccer) aimed at bringing young people from different backgrounds together through sport and recreation.
- Participation in 'Stick with Diversity' Project with Dromore Hockey Club, organised by Clanmil Housing and PSNI Neighbourhood Policing Team
- Hosting of Special Olympics Banbridge event at New-Bridge

Overall, the Community Advantage Programme (CAP) will deliver a shared space investment programme that will play a multifaceted role in promoting peace and reconciliation by creating spaces where diverse communities can come together, learn from one another, and work toward common goals. These projects will require ongoing support, community involvement, and a commitment to long-term peacebuilding efforts.

Reserve Project: Lurgan Rugby Club

This project will focus on regenerating and transforming a key community facility in Lurgan. It will have a large number of positive benefits and impacts in the local community, through making it more accessible and attractive for both potential participants and other community organisations. Through this redevelopment, we will significantly increase the capacity of our organisation and the multitude of other community based organisations who use the facilities.

One of the main aims and impacts of this project will be that it will directly enhance social inclusion at our shared space. We are currently not able to cater for the needs of our residents, in particular those with disabilities and females. All of the activities that are delivered at our facilities have the focus of bringing people from the local community together and enhancing their health and well-being, both mentally and physically. Physically through increased sporting and physical activity and mentally through increased levels of social engagement and interaction among participants. Our current participants come from a wide range of backgrounds, including PUL and CNR, as well as from ethnic minority communities locally. The project will place us in a much stronger position to attractive a continued more diverse range of participants, with the modern and accessible facilities.

We aim to create a sense of pride among our participants in their facilities. As mentioned, there is very little that has been done to our facilities in around 50 years, leaving them very dated and no longer fit for purpose as the demands of our community evolves, including more readily available female and disability sport. We have consulted widely with our community and have followed their lead in designing this project, meeting their needs and demands the best we can. Through creating a more attractive and functional shared space, we will be able to engage with many other community organisations who have been hesitant in the past, due to the restrictions around using our changing and bathroom facilities.

We have a strong network of local community organisations and schools, with whom we regularly partner with and who also use the clubs facilities. We will rely on this network of organisations to assist use in carrying out many of the cross community activities and initiatives, as they come from a wide array of backgrounds. We will also work to increase the diversity of our own participant base through these connections and partnerships, particularly with local GAA clubs such as St Pauls and Eir OG, as well as local schools such as St Ronan's and Lismore. These organisations are based in and attract participants from communities in which we are not as present and have traditionally had less engagement, primarily those from CNR backgrounds.

Through this project, we will enhance the sustainability of our organisation through higher quality facilities, that are welcoming and accessible to all. This will help to ensure that the initial connections made, are able to be sustained and grown, continuing providing services that tackles the needs and demands of our local residents. Through growing the range of services we offer, we will be able to continuing growing the among of local residents from different backgrounds. All of the activities that are delivered at the facilities, will work to break down barriers and build up sustained relations between participants and communities. Through a community led transformation at our facilities, for the first time we can be open and accessible to all within the local area through all activities. We will ensure that we are able to significantly grow our engagement in female and disability focused activities, while also having an increased capacity and ability to cater for all.

1.2 Capacity Building Programme

Programme Name	**ABC Capacity Building Programme** **100 participants**		
Budget	**£50,000**	**Timeframe**	**2024 - 2027**
Programme Aim			
The community capacity building programme aims to enhance the ability of the community to plan, develop, manage, and benefit from infrastructure and development projects within			

their locality that add value to meaningful Peace outcomes through shared spaces. The capacity building programme will complement the Community Advantage Programme (Expression of Interest strand). This programme is designed to empower community members to actively engage in the decision-making processes, development, and maintenance of capital projects that directly affect their lives and environment. This programme will be open to all community groups, cultural groups, sports clubs and/or partnerships.

The Capacity Building Programme will increase the skills, knowledge, and capability of the community to develop and deliver local strategic capital projects) that "create a more cohesive society through the development of transformative shared space and services, which will support and embed peace and reconciliation". The Capacity Building Programme will aim to:

- Support Business Case Development for Shared Space Capital Projects
- Increase knowledge and skills across themes such as:
  - Grants and Funding.
  - How to write applications.
  - Community engagement.
  - Project management.
  - Financial management.
  - Recruiting and Managing Volunteers.
  - Monitoring and evaluating projects effectively.
- empower individuals and the community to be proactive in addressing conflicts, promoting peace, and building a resilient and harmonious society.
- build the capacity of community groups by developing learning materials, facilitating the sharing of knowledge, experience and learning through workshops and providing mentoring support.
- Help community groups recognise their existing skills and knowledge, gain new information and influence the wider community.

- Assist groups to identify solutions to address the challenges and issues that they face in their local communities.
- Improve leadership skills and confidence among community representatives and provide the chance to work together and network with other community groups.
- Provide an opportunity for community groups to meet in an environment where all participants are valued and respected, and differences are validated.
- Improve relationships within the community and create a sense of purpose in working with other community members and service providers.
- enable organisations/ community groups across the Borough with the skills and knowledge to develop peace building projects which will leave a real legacy in their local community for many years to come.
- Ultimately, the programme seeks to create a sustainable culture of peace within the community.
- Deliver 2 programmes across the 4-year peace programme delivery.
- Appoint delivery provider to deliver the capacity building programme.

Capacity Building will provide participants from groups/ organisations with wide-ranging training and resources delivered by experts with knowledge of the community and voluntary sector, it will enhance the capacity of individuals and groups related to project development, management, and sustainability.

Relation to Area Needs

This capacity building programme is part of a wider overall programme under Peace Plus, that will deliver Capacity Building interventions for Groups across the Borough.

The programme will join groups & individuals together who wouldn't normally do so. The programme will provide participants with training & experiential learning to develop relationships & a better understanding of others by increasing their cultural competence.
The purpose of the capacity building training programme is to enable participants and groups to:

- Increase skills and knowledge in the community to have the opportunity to progress project development through the Community Advantage Programme (Expression of Interest). The Community Advantage Programme is an animation budget to be managed by Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council staff.
- Create networking for groups.
- Support local community groups to develop their skills, knowledge, and resources in Community Development practices through taking part in a range of workshops and training.
- Assist groups to identify solutions to address the challenges and issues that they face in their local communities, particularly around sustained & meaningful contact between groups of different backgrounds.
- Strengthen community organisations, particularly those in disadvantaged areas.
- Improve leadership skills and confidence among community representatives and provide the chance to work together and network with other community groups.
- Improve relationships within the community and create a sense of purpose in working with other community members and service providers.

Peace Plus consultation across the Borough highlighted the need for more detailed information on project development, funding processes and sustainable shared spaces. Respondents highlighted the need for support in the form of volunteer and staff workforce development, training, and financial resources to strengthen their community groups to help them deliver more, and improved cross-community projects and programmes. Resourcing the sector and ensuring sustainability were highlighted as key priorities. This included help for accessing finance opportunities for capital projects that will deliver shared spaces. Throughout the consultations, participants also highlighted how “time poor volunteers are” and it would be beneficial to access capacity building training and support to increase knowledge and skillsets.

Respondents were asked to provide a summary of the key barriers to good relations in the Council area. Respondents were asked to provide qualitative feedback, and as such brought

to the fore a range of key considerations which should factor into the design of interventions delivered under the Action Plan, namely:

- Lack of sustained interventions aimed at young people.
- Delivering fit for purpose programmes and encouraging access within the rural population.
- A need to overcoming entrenched views.
- Divisions within housing and education.
- Influence of paramilitarism; and
- Lack of fit for purpose facilities in which to hold events.

Communities across the Borough continue to require capacity building for peace programs due to the complex and historically rooted challenges associated with a divided society. Capacity building remains a crucial area for community engagement and empowerment due to:

- Historical Conflict Legacy: The legacy of this conflict, including deep-seated mistrust, unresolved grievances, and intercommunity divisions, persists in many communities. Capacity building will help to address these underlying issues.
- Continued Community Polarisation: Capacity building fosters dialogue, tolerance, and reconciliation, promoting a more unified and inclusive society.
- Building the capacity of communities to engage constructively with one another is essential. Programmes must facilitate cross-community interaction, breaking down barriers and reducing the potential for intercommunity tension and violence.
- Communities will benefit from empowerment through capacity building. They gain the tools and confidence to shape their own futures and play an active role in local decision-making processes.
- Political reconciliation remains an ongoing process in Northern Ireland. Capacity building encourages political participation and cooperation, fostering a more stable political environment.

- Training and networking opportunities will promote cultural understanding and appreciation among different communities, reducing prejudice and discrimination.
- By building skills and fostering entrepreneurship within communities, capacity building programs contribute to inclusive economic development, reducing socio-economic disparities that can contribute to tensions.

Communities often require capacity building for shared space capital projects for several important reasons:

- Capacity building empowers community members to take an active role in the planning, development, and management of shared space capital projects. This empowerment ensures that the community's voice is heard, and their needs and preferences are considered in the project's design and implementation.
- Building the capacity of communities to engage with shared space projects helps ensure the long-term sustainability of those spaces. When community members are involved from the outset, they are more likely to take ownership of the project, contribute to its maintenance, and protect it from misuse or neglect.
- Informed Decision-Making: Capacity building equips community members with the knowledge and skills needed to make informed decisions about shared space projects. This includes understanding project budgets, timelines, environmental impacts, and potential benefits and drawbacks.
- Capacity building fosters a culture of transparency and accountability in shared space projects. Community members who are well-informed are better able to hold project managers, contractors, and local authorities accountable for their actions and decisions.
- Shared space projects often involve diverse stakeholder groups with varying interests. Capacity building in conflict resolution and negotiation skills can help prevent and resolve disputes that may arise during project development, ensuring a smoother process.
- When communities are knowledgeable about project management and resource mobilisation, they can more efficiently utilize available resources, whether those

are financial, human, or material. This can lead to cost savings and improved project outcomes.

- Creating safe communities – we support initiatives that will address emerging issues in relation to sectarianism and racism.
- Communities that have the capacity to engage in shared space projects can leverage these projects to stimulate local economic development. This can include job creation, attracting businesses, and promoting tourism.
- Capacity building can enhance social cohesion by promoting collaboration, trust, and a sense of unity among community members.
- Reduced Dependency: Capacity building reduces the community's dependency on external actors and resources. When communities can manage their projects independently, they are less reliant on external funding and support.
- Communities are best positioned to understand their unique needs and cultural preferences. Capacity building allows them to customise shared space projects to align with their specific requirements and values.

In summary, capacity building for shared space capital projects is essential to ensure that communities have the knowledge, skills, and confidence to actively participate in and benefit from the development of shared spaces. It empowers communities to shape their environments in ways that promote sustainability, inclusivity, and long-term well-being.

Programme Actions

Develop a Training Programme for Groups which will incorporate the below themes:

1. Capacity Building Programme
2. Business Case Development for Capital projects
3. Peace & Reconciliation
4. Good Relations & Cultural Diversity
5. Development of shared spaces
6. Volunteer Management – recruitment & retention
7. Good Governance for Community Organisations

8. Community Engagement
9. Project Management
10. Financial management e.g., Managing budgets.
11. Funding making applications and drawdown of grants.
12. Monitoring and evaluating projects effectively.

Note: this is not an exhaustive list.

This programme will consist of two main elements:

1. Capacity Building Sessions/ Workshops
2. Mentoring

Delivery

- Hybrid delivery using online resources (Zoom or Microsoft teams) and face to face delivery methods.
- To accommodate community groups, sessions may need to be delivered during the day, evening, and weekends.
- workshops should be interactive and engaging for participants, encouraging active learning.
- Various teaching strategies should be incorporated in order to promote a participant centred learning. Examples include group work, individual tasks, role-plays, small group discussions, breakout rooms, case studies and whiteboard.
- Appointed provider is required to develop, coordinate, and deliver the programme of work in line with the agreed programme plan and maintain contact with relevant member of Council staff.
- Facilitator will be required to support recruitment of participants, and the registration of participants will be expected to be completed by the facilitator.
- Facilitators are expected to work with the participants directly in terms of accessing online content and queries.

- Facilitators must keep an attendance record of all sessions and provide this to Council Officer on completion of project.
- Completion and collection of all programme registrations and evaluation must follow GDPR requirements.
- Meet with relevant Officer(s) at regular intervals throughout the programme. (This will be pre-arranged to suit all parties).
- Support promotional needs of the programme as identified by Council.
- Ensure that all workshops planned, delivered in a highly participative and interactive way, and responsive to the needs of the audience and Council.
- Ensure all required documentation is completed and returned to the relevant Officer(s) within agreed timeframes throughout the programme.
- Appointed facilitator must present valid insurance to deliver the programme.
- Upon completion of each programme, a progress report will be required to be completed and submitted with the invoice.
- It is anticipated that a minimum of 10 community groups will register for each programme.
- 4 participants from each community organisation with a minimum 40 participants x 2 programmes = 80 participants.
- Participants i.e., the Community Groups will be referred to the consultant by Peace Plus and Council staff.
- Delivery of the Training Programme to a number of Community Organisations who are from different backgrounds.
- The Training Programme must last a minimum of 26 hours in total and be scheduled at times to suit the Community Groups (often evening & weekends)
- The dates of the training programs will also be based upon demand, however all training must be completed by August 2028
- Monitoring and evaluating in line with the SEUPB Output Indicator Guidance and other guidance notes and in liaison with the Council. (These notes will be provided and explained to the appointed Training Provider)

Beneficiaries

- Youth organisations
- Community and voluntary sector organisations
- Good relations organisations
- Sports Clubs
- Local community organisations.

SMART Objectives

- ✓ 2 training programmes to be delivered between 2024 with a completion date of 2027 and delivered across 2 participant cohorts.
- ✓ Minimum of 80 participants will benefit from capacity building training during the duration of the programme.
- ✓ Minimum of 20 community groups will engage with the programme training.
- ✓ Capacity building programme (1st cohort) to support the development of new or enhanced facilities within existing buildings (minimum of 3 and maximum of 6), which will enable increased levels of cross-community interaction and service provision. The focus of these new or enhanced shared spaces will vary and include areas such as social enterprise, community development, tourism, education, sport, culture etc;
- ✓ Training to support development of feasibility studies/business cases for at least 10 projects.

Results

- Strengthen community organisations, particularly those in disadvantaged areas.
- Support local community groups to develop their skills, knowledge, and resources in Community Development practices through taking part in a range of workshops and mentoring.
- Help community groups recognise their existing skills and knowledge, gain new information and influence the wider community.
- Assist groups to identify solutions to address the challenges and issues that they face in their local communities.
- Improve leadership skills and confidence among community representatives and provide the chance to work together and network with other community groups.

- Provide an opportunity for community groups to meet in an environment where all participants are valued and respected, and differences are validated.
- Improve relationships within the community and create a sense of purpose in working with other community members and service providers.
- Provide an opportunity for community groups to meet in an environment where all participants are valued and respected, and differences are validated.
- enable organisations/ community groups across the Borough with the skills and knowledge to develop peace building projects which will leave a real legacy in their local community for many years to come.
- create a sustainable culture of peace within the community.
- Support Business Case Development for Shared Space Capital Projects
- empower individuals and the community to be proactive in addressing conflicts, promoting peace, and building a resilient and harmonious society.
- Help community groups recognise their existing skills and knowledge, gain new information and influence the wider community.
- Assist groups to identify solutions to address the challenges and issues that they face in their local communities.
- Participants on the programme will acquire new skills and knowledge on how to effectively design and deliver community projects.
- Participants will learn how to identify and access grants that will support the long-term sustainability of their community groups.
- Participants will be better equipped to engage with their local community to design and deliver community consultations and develop new partnerships.
- Participants will gain project management skills.
- Participants will have the opportunity to network with other community leaders/ volunteers across the Borough and share knowledge.
- Increase community capacity and encourage sustainable wider community participation for the betterment of the community.
- Improve voice, access, and agency of the community.
- Increase individual and community resilience against racism and sectarianism.

- Reduce the number of people vulnerable to racism and sectarianism.

Outputs

- Delivery 2 capacity building training programmes
- Minimum of 80 participants will benefit from capacity building training during the duration of the programme.
- Minimum of 20 community groups will engage with the programme training.
- Enhanced capacity of community sector to engage in the development of new or enhanced facilities within existing buildings (minimum of 3 and maximum of 6 shared space projects)
- Training to support development of feasibility studies/business cases for at least 10 projects.
- Programme graduates to be involved in a minimum of 3 capital projects that align with PEACEPLUS and the Councils strategic objectives.
- Minimum of 80 Completion Certificates and records of participation for capacity building workshops.
- Enhanced community and voluntary sector capacity creating a legacy beyond the Peace Plus investment.

How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements

CNR 45% / PUL 45%/ other 10%

The Capacity Building Programme will:

- support community leaders and legacy to share good practice across the Borough via peer-to-peer learning.
- Support the development of existing community leaders/ volunteers to contribute to enhanced peace and reconciliation in the Borough and the wider region.
- Support the development of new community leaders/ volunteers.
- Increase the capacity of community organisations to deliver good relations, peace and reconciliation activities, deliver community solutions to identified community need.

- Participants will contribute to shared space projects from the design stage to development of share space and facilities, ending with encouraging cross community usage through activity and service provision, which is the essence of a shared space.
- Empowered volunteers will help to create new and reimaged community spaces.
- Capacity building will help to build confidence and trust to break down the barriers of territory and developing spaces that both communities can have access to and share.
- Cultivate changes in both attitudes and behaviour with a corresponding reduction in segregation through confident and skilled community activists.

The capacity building programme will be aligned with the objectives of the PEACE PLUS programme. Participants will be empowered to identify their unique community needs, aspirations and challenges and subsequently develop Peace Building projects around these.

The Capacity building programme will play an important role in peacebuilding efforts in the Borough by empowering individuals, communities, and organisations to actively contribute to the peace process and create a more stable and harmonious society. Participants will increase their knowledge and become upskilled in the following areas:

- Capacity building will provide individuals and communities with conflict resolution and mediation skills. These skills enable them to peacefully manage disputes, defuse tensions, and prevent conflicts from escalating.
- Capacity building empowers communities to take ownership of their peacebuilding initiatives. Through training and support, communities can identify and address the root causes of conflict within their areas, fostering a sense of agency and self-reliance.
- Cross-community engagement: Capacity building promotes cross-community engagement by bringing together individuals from different religious, political, and cultural backgrounds. This fosters dialogue, trust-building, and cooperation, essential components of peacebuilding.

- Leadership Development: identify and nurture local leaders who can play key roles in promoting peace and reconciliation. These leaders can bridge divides, advocate for peace, and inspire others to get involved.
- Conflict-Sensitive Development: training helps organisations and institutions integrate conflict sensitivity into their policies and practices. This ensures that development efforts do not inadvertently exacerbate tensions but contribute to peace and stability.
- Capacity building encourages inclusive decision-making processes that consider the needs and perspectives of all community members, including marginalized groups. This helps build a sense of fairness and justice.
- Advocacy and Policy Influence: Equipped with advocacy and communication skills, individuals and organisations can influence policies and decisions that contribute to peacebuilding. They can advocate for initiatives that promote reconciliation and address underlying grievances.
- Long-Term Sustainability: aim to create lasting change by strengthening the ability of communities and organizations to continue peacebuilding efforts independently, even after the programs conclude.
- Networking and Partnerships: Capacity building encourages networking and collaboration among peacebuilding organisations, community groups, and public bodies. These partnerships can leverage resources and expertise for more effective peacebuilding.

1.3 PEACEPLUS Signature Capital Project

Programme Name	**Signature Project:** Capital Play Development 2 Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council		
Budget	**£515,460.08**	**Timeframe**	**2024 - 2027**
Programme Aim			
A signature capital project **'**Capital Play Development 2' has been identified by the PEACEPLUS Programme for delivery through the Theme 1 Local Regeneration and			

Transformation. This new signature capital project will strategically align with the objectives of the PEACEPLUS Programme, the Council's PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan, the Council's Corporate Plan and Community Plan, and any other relevant policies. The Project will create 9 no. shared and inclusive play spaces across the Borough. The Peace Plus capital investment will enhance Access and Inclusion in play parks in the borough as set out in the Play Strategy 2018-2026. The investment will reduce barriers so that groups and individuals from different communities, cultures and backgrounds feel safe and confident using these spaces. The facility will have a transformative effect on the 9 identified areas and will have significant peace and reconciliation outcome. Capital Play Development Programme Two is proposed to pick up where the first programme ended and cover the October 2024 to July 2027 period. Overall, the key aim of the signature capital project is to "create a more cohesive society through the development of shared spaces across the Borough, that will support and embed peace and reconciliation".

Council has led the process identify appropriate community spaces for development that will be utilised for cross community usage. This programme will generate:

- Shared Spaces and Shared Facilities
- Supporting usage of Shared Spaces and Facilities

Peace Plus investment in this significant capital project will deliver Local community regeneration and transformation aims by:

- Transformation and re-imaging of individual and collective areas within 9 community locations creating open play spaces that will challenge initial perceptions and increase the level of shared pride across the Borough.
- Developing new shared space Play facilities that will enable increased levels of cross community interaction.
- Expansion of new shared outdoor spaces which enable increased levels of cross community interaction.

Relation to Area Needs

Council officers across Community Development and Estates departments carried out a Capital Plan assessment Process to identify the Signature Project to be included in the Council Peace Plus Action Plan in line with the co-design development method completed to date. The Signature Projects were determined based on project need and projects that had achieved a formal commitment having been approved by Council.

The 'Capital Play Development 2' signature PEACEPLUS Capital Project will meet the following area needs:

- Community consultation has consistently emphasised the strong desire for safe, inclusive spaces that could be utilised by community groups and residents across the Borough.
- The need for safe and inclusive spaces was a common theme throughout all District Electoral Areas, highlighting the community's need for such spaces in each local District Electoral Area.
- Notably, during public survey aimed at gaining insights into the challenges faced by the community, the scarcity of shared community facilities emerged as a predominant issue, with a resounding 71.9% of respondents categorising this social challenge as "very important." Therefore, the project is intrinsically rooted in addressing these immediate and pressing needs, aligning itself with the community's call for enhanced shared spaces that promote inclusivity, interaction, and a greater sense of belonging within the Borough.
- The 'Capital Play Development 2' project will focus on developing a shared spaces at 9 locations across the Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon Borough, these will play a vital role in nurturing several crucial aspects of community well-being such as creating neutral/safe space that enables people from diverse backgrounds to come together.
- These shared spaces will foster a sense of community and social cohesion, these 9 spaces will effectively break down both physical and psychological barriers, thus promoting shared community spaces.

- The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey conducted in 2022 highlights a crucial aspect of community life in Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon Borough - the need for more community facilities to bring people together.
- Consultation has identified that there still persists a sense of separation in the community, emphasising the importance of creating more facilities and initiatives that actively encourage interaction and integration among different segments of the population.
- This programme aligns with key strategic objectives aimed at fulfilling the child's right to play as outlined within Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Participation of Children & Young People within the Peace Plus plan, this signature project programme will enable participative engagement with local communities, including children and young people.
- Nine play parks as detailed in Capital Play Development Programme Two to be upgraded to include accessibility and inclusive.
- Recognising the role of play in contributing to stable and sustainable community relations – play development will continue to engage with communities.
- Ensure that vulnerable and young people are supported in their play.
- Increase participation in play and use of play resources in areas with low community infrastructure via non-fixed play opportunities.
- Ensure that all children and young people across the Borough have opportunity to access and benefit from shared play and leisure opportunities.
- Support and continue inter-generational working already established.
- Encourage use of shared space by older children and young people

Throughout the focus groups, targeted engagement groups, one to ones and surveys, community groups and citizens of the Borough highlighted the need for more safe and inclusive play spaces that residents of the Borough could use. The consultations included focus groups in each of the DEA's and this feedback was common at each event.

Signature Project 'Capital Play Development 2'

Investment in shared spaces is needed for several important reasons, as these spaces play a crucial role in promoting peace, reconciliation, and community cohesion in a Borough historically marked by sectarian tension.

Here are some of the key reasons for such investment:

- **Promoting Social Cohesion**
- Shared spaces are part of broader peacebuilding efforts.
- Investment in shared spaces supports reconciliation by providing opportunities for individuals to engage with people from the 'other' community.
- Shared spaces facilitate the integration of communities that have historically been segregated.
- Shared spaces provide opportunities for young people to participate in positive activities and engage in programs that promote cross-community understanding.
- Investing in youth is seen as an investment in the future of a peaceful Northern Ireland.
- Shared spaces can help reduce the physical and psychological division between communities. Projects that remove or transform physical barriers, such as peace walls or interfaces, promote a more open and integrated landscape.
- Shared spaces improve the overall well-being of individuals and communities by providing safe, accessible, and inclusive environments for leisure, exercise, and cultural activities.

In summary, investment in shared play spaces is driven by the goal of building a more peaceful, inclusive, and integrated society. These spaces serve as physical symbols of reconciliation and provide opportunities for individuals and communities to come together, heal, and build a brighter future.

Programme Actions

As a result of consultation and co-design, Council have identified 9 no. play park locations to establish inclusive play park that will provide equal quality of play opportunities for

children and young people who live in our Borough. Council has completed an options appraisal to identify this preferred option project and to identify the project sites.

The preferred option locations are:

- Keady
- Palace Stables
- Lawrencetown
- Clady
- Darkley
- Hamiltonsbawn
- Aghagallon
- Loughgall
- Mountnorris

Procurement Route

Officers have previously successfully procured, delivered and programme managed the Capital Play Development Programme 2018-2024. Council is now experienced in the procurement process in partnership with the Procurement team for the proposed Peace Plus Signature Project 'Capital Play Development 2'. This procurement process will be progressed parallel to the existing Business Case if funding is secured.

Funding and Affordability

Spaces to play are an essential for children and young people to develop and have fun with their friends/family/community. Officers have calculated the funding needed for Capital Play Development Programme Two Access & Inclusion element is £412,368.07 which will focus on inclusive upgrades in those 9 play park sites that have no current provision for inclusivity.

Delivery Arrangements

If successful a contractor will be responsible for the installation of inclusive equipment and any accessibility work needed for all 9 no. play parks. The Form of Contract will apply and will be managed by Officers from Council's Estates and Asset Management Department.

Play Development and Estates Officers have an established programme delivery systems in place which successfully delivered during a previous Capital Play Development Programme iteration. It his envisaged that the same processes can be used in Capital Play Development Programme Two.

Capital Play Development Programme Two will be programmed managed by an Officer in the Estates Team in partnership with the Play Development Officer. In council we work to the British and European Standards for playground equipment and surfacing (BS EN 1176) standards, governance arrangements will continued to be monitored and delivered by the two Officers. While the contractual building work and site management is predominately overseen by the Estates Officer and the consultation and play processes are overseen by the Play Development Officer, both Officers are involved in the management of all aspects of the governance, procedures and processes set up to deliver the Capital Play Development Programmes.

Independent inspections of each play park will be conducted prior to every play park soft opening.

Council will facilitate Peace Plus events to launch the completed play parks to provide exposure for the Peace Plus fund investment and create programme opportunities to amplify Peace and Reconciliation messaging.

Beneficiaries

- Residents of the Borough particularly families with children and young people.
- Youth organisations
- Community and voluntary sector organisations
- Good relations organisations

- Local community organisations.

SMART Objectives

- ✓ Deliver 9 Shared Space Play projects across the Borough.
- ✓ A minimum of 100 people at each location will be involved in projects that launch and promote shared play space venues, 900 participants targeted.
- ✓ Activities to take place in the spaces that will see sustained cross cultural and cross community contact between at least 900 participants.
- ✓ Deliver 1 capital signature project to incorporate 9 venues and revitalize facilities in each area that will widen current provision to benefit residents from across the Borough.
- ✓ Develop 9 enhanced shared civic spaces that will be used by all sections of the community; this will involve changes in both attitudes and behaviour with a corresponding reduction in segregation.
- ✓ Develop 9 co-designed cross-community place making plans to animate the new and enhanced play facilities.
- ✓ Host a minimum of 9 information sessions for the community across the Borough between October 2024 and September 2025 to engage a minimum of 180 participants (20 people in each location).
- ✓ Fund a minimum of 9 capital play projects that align with PEACEPLUS and the Councils strategic objectives.

Results

- Local authority leads play schemes that facilitate the sustained usage on a shared basis of public areas play areas.
- Deliver 9 Shared Space Play projects across the Borough.
- Deliver 1 capital signature project to incorporate 9 venues and revitalize facilities in each area that will widen current provision to benefit residents from across the Borough.
- 900 participants from different communities engaged jointly within new shared spaces.

- Increased percentage of people who would define the neighbourhood where they live as neutral.
- Increased percentage of people who prefer to live in a mixed religion environment.
- Increased percentage of people who would prefer to live in a neighbourhood with people of only their own religion.
- An increase in the number of individuals and groups regularly accessing new or reimaged shared play spaces, which have been co-designed on a cross-community basis; and spending recreational time or accessing services therein.
- Develop 9 enhanced shared civic spaces that will be used by all sections of the community; this will involve changes in both attitudes and behavior with a corresponding reduction in segregation.
- Embed article 31, to create 9 newly enhanced play spaces that are a natural and fundamental aspect of children and young people's lives, supporting a broad range of developmental outcomes as well as providing opportunities for fun and enjoyment in childhood.
- This signature project recognises the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.
- respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.
- The sites will host play that will be social, where the child chooses to play with another child or group of children or maybe solitary with the child choosing to play alone. As a society we often view play in restrictive terms, seeing it as an activity that takes place only in certain locations, for example in an equipped playground. For children and young people, the urge to play is a constant and by their very nature, children and young people are always on the lookout for play opportunities regardless of where they find themselves.
- Participation of other communities encouraged (minority ethnic communities and different racial backgrounds).

- Engagement can be a single event or a multiple event.

Outputs

- Play Development encourages and brings families and communities in the Borough and from outside to our Play Parks together which brings economic benefits to respecting each other in our Borough by learning about other people.
- Officers will continue to oversee optimisation of costs in Capital Play Development Programme Two.
- Accessing funding to help to finance play is an affordable way to invest in our 48,243 0–15-year-olds (22.1%) of the Borough's population.
- Play Development achieved the delivery of 9 shared space play parks.
- Shared spaces: infrastructure for programmes that result in meaningful and purposeful contact between persons from different communities.
- 9 number of shared space capital projects delivered with an investment of £515,460.08

How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements

Local authority lead schemes should facilitate the sustained usage on a shared basis of public areas/buildings using the following programme features:

- Improved physical infrastructure through the development or improvement of physical infrastructure, such as the construction of community assets i.e., play parks and public spaces.
- Reduced barriers as a result of the removal or transformation of physical barriers or divisions, such as peace walls or interfaces, that separate communities within shared spaces.
- New Shared Facilities: The creation of new amenities or facilities within shared spaces, which will include community spaces and playparks.

- Increased shared usage as a measurable increase in the utilisation of shared spaces by community members, including visitor counts, event attendance, and recreational activities.
- Improvements in community cohesion, social harmony, and reduced divisions within the community as a result of shared space initiatives.
- To raise awareness of play facilities across the Borough, both Fixed and Non-Fixed play is ongoing throughout the Borough.
- provide a range of high-quality accessible play space and facilities across the Borough.
- Continue to maximise use of the Borough's play facilities - Fixed and Non-Fixed Play
- Continue to support efforts to enhance Open Spaces to promote quality play opportunities for everyone.
- Recognising the role of play in contributing to stable and sustainable community relations – play development will continue to engage with communities.
- Ensure that vulnerable and young people are supported in their play.
- Increase participation in play and use of play resources in areas with low community infrastructure via non-fixed play opportunities.
- Ensure that all children and young people across the Borough have opportunity to access and benefit from shared play and leisure opportunities.
- Support and continue inter-generational working already established.
- To increase use of play facilities and participation in play and recreation
- Increase physical activity among children and young people.
- Development of family based/ inter-generational activities at play areas.
- Encourage use of shared space by older children and young people
- Work with local residents/communities to enhance green spaces to promote opportunity for quality play.
- The delivery of play in public spaces to children, young people, families, and communities have been increased and will continue to increase.
- Breaking down the barriers of territory and developing spaces that both communities can have access to and share.

- Involving changes in both attitudes and behaviour with a corresponding reduction in segregation
- Transformation and re-imaging of individual or collective areas within a community including existing open spaces, play parks etc in a manner which challenges initial perceptions and increases the level of shared pride in an area.
- Development of new or enhanced facilities which will enable increased levels of cross-community interaction and service provision. The focus of these new or enhanced shared spaces will be to create common areas where diverse communities mix.

The projects that are developed through this programme are aligned with the objectives of the PEACE PLUS programme.

These capital projects that receive investment must contribute significantly to enhanced peace and reconciliation, both within and across communities. The projects should achieve the following objectives:

- Promote interaction and dialogue.
- Breaking Down Divisions
- Fostering a Sense of Belonging
- Cultural Exchange and Celebration
- Building Trust

Overall, the Signature Project 'Capital Play Development 2' will deliver a shared space investment programme that will play a multifaceted role in promoting peace and reconciliation by creating spaces where diverse communities can come together, learn from one another, and find common cultural touchstones common goals.

Theme: Thriving and Peaceful Communities

2.1 Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Training Programme

Programme Name	**Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Training Programme 90 participants**		
Budget	**£40,000**	**Timeframe**	**2025-2028**
Programme Aim			
The aim of the Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Training Programme is to empower participants across ABC with the knowledge and skills required to promote and support the mental health and emotional wellbeing of individuals in the community, thereby			

contributing to enhanced peace and reconciliation. The programme will consist of a series of training programmes in partnership with the Community Planning Partnership and the Protect Life Implementation Group that will support the agreed Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Training Framework as directed by the PHA. The development of The Framework was guided by the PHA and those living and working in Northern Ireland, including individuals with an interest in mental health and suicide prevention; families bereaved by suicide; carers; health and social care trusts; education; clergy; sports bodies, community and voluntary organisations and trainers involved in the delivery of mental health and suicide prevention training. There will be 2 programmes delivered per year, over a three-year period, with 15 participants per programme.

The ABC PEACEPLUS Partnership is conscious of the investment area 3.3, focusing on Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing. We are committed to close collaboration with successful organisations in this sector to guarantee the avoidance of duplication of services within the Borough.

Relation to Area Needs

This programme addresses a critical need within our community, as identified by local stakeholders and participants in the ABC region. Through feedback and consultation with the Protect Life Implementation Group and the Community Planning Partnership, it is evident that there's a pressing need for accessible and consistent mental health and emotional wellbeing training. Our area requires the means to address the stigma surrounding mental health, improve knowledge, and ensure equitable access to vital support and resources. This initiative will help bridge these gaps, creating a healthier and more resilient community.

The data from both the 'Wellbeing in Northern Ireland' report (2022) and the 2021 Census for Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon Borough Council reveal a crucial need for a Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Training Programme in this community. With a staggering 23.5% of residents in this region reporting feelings of loneliness often or some of the time, which exceeds the Northern Ireland average of 20.2%, it is evident that

emotional well-being and social support are pressing concerns. Moreover, the 2021 Census indicates that a significant portion of the population reports fair (12.7%) or bad/very bad (6.9%) general health. These statistics emphasise the necessity for programmes that can empower individuals to take control of their mental health and well-being.

Programme Actions

The training programmes supported through PEACEPLUS will complement and enhance existing provision within the Framework across ABC and will also seek to address gaps in provision. A range of training programmes will be supported that supplement and underpin current and planned training opportunities that may be delivered under the framework.

Training could include the following.

Step 1	<u>Info Sharing sessions;</u> To be aware of mental health and suicide prevention local and regional services and how to access these. Challenge and break the stigma in accessing and using mental health and suicide prevention services. Know and understand the Take 5 steps to wellbeing
Step 2	<u>Developing Awareness & Understanding;</u> Increased awareness of what is positive emotional mental health and wellbeing. Increased awareness and understanding of mental illness. Increased awareness of building resilience; coping strategies and self-care to help protect your emotional health and wellbeing. Increased awareness of local and regional services available and how to access
Step 2	<u>Suicide Awareness;</u> Increased confidence to talk openly about suicide. Increased awareness of coping strategies; building resilience and self-care to help protect your emotional health and wellbeing. Increased awareness of local and regional help and support services available and how to access these
Step 3	<u>Enhanced Knowledge & Skills Training;</u>

	Advanced evidence based skills training to equip an individual with the knowledge and skills to be able to respond appropriately and confidently to a person displaying the signs and symptoms of mental illness and/or suicide ideation and to signpost them to appropriate professional help. Examples of training programmes at this level are Mental Health First Aid; SafeTALK
Step 4	<u>Specialised Skills Training;</u> Includes specialised skills and evidence based training which is focussed on how to appropriately intervene and help an individual who is experiencing a mental health / suicidal crisis. Specialised skills refer to expertise that can be used to help others in immediate distress. Examples of training programmes at this level are ASIST; STORM

Beneficiaries

- Community members
- Volunteers
- Local citizens
- Community groups

SMART Objectives

- ✓ By the end of the three-year programme, 90 participants will demonstrate increased knowledge and skills related to mental health and emotional wellbeing.
- ✓ Participants will feel more confident in openly discussing mental health and suicide, thus reducing stigma.
- ✓ The programme will promote positive mental health and wellbeing across the Borough.

Results

- Improved knowledge and awareness of mental health and emotional wellbeing.
- Reduced stigma surrounding mental health and suicide.
- A more resilient and informed community.
- Enhanced access to support resources.

• Increased confidence in responding to mental health challenges.
Outputs
➢ Completed training sessions at various stages, aligning with the Framework's goals. ➢ Enhanced skills and knowledge among participants. ➢ Training resources and materials. ➢ Programme evaluation reports and feedback.
How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements
CNR 45% / PUL 45%/ other 10% **Fostering Inclusivity**- The training will be accessible to all, promoting inclusivity and ensuring that individuals from diverse backgrounds can benefit from it, bridging divides and encouraging community cohesion. **Breaking Stigmas**- By addressing the stigma associated with mental health and suicide prevention, the programme helps build a more open and compassionate society, fostering reconciliation by breaking down barriers that hinder understanding. **Encouraging Dialogue**- The programme encourages open and confident conversations about mental health and suicide, which can contribute to a more compassionate and communicative community that seeks to understand and support one another. **Empowering Communities**- By providing individuals with the skills to support others in times of crisis, this programme empowers communities to take care of their members, creating stronger bonds and fostering peace and reconciliation.

2.2 ABC Crisis Café

Programme Name	ABC Crisis Café 130 participants		
Budget	**£160,000**	**Timeframe**	**2024-2028**
Programme Aim			
The ABC Crisis Cafe project aims to establish and operate a Crisis Café in the Borough, complementing the existing Well-Bean Crisis Café in Newry, supported by PIPS. The project follows a co-design and co-production lived experience model, along with a stakeholder analysis approach. PLIG seeks to create a second café to provide coverage across the entire Southern Trust area, with a specific location to be determined in consultation with PLIG and PIPS. The aim is to establish and operate the ABC Crisis Cafe, providing essential mental health support to individuals in crisis, fostering open conversations, and enabling them to manage their emotional struggles effectively, contributing to the overall well-being of the community. This initiative offers a clinical alternative to Emergency Departments, reducing mental and emotional distress by providing 1:1 counselling and peer support within a unique social space offering light refreshments. The service welcomes self-referrals and direct referrals from statutory services. The Crisis Café will provide professional support, fostering open conversations and helping individuals better manage their emotional struggles. It will offer a warm, safe, and friendly environment with trained staff, volunteers, and professional counsellors. Additionally, the café will run various programmes, with specific project requirements to be determined through further consultation and engagement facilitated by PLIG. The café will be in the Borough. The exact location is still to be determined as it ideally needs to be in the locality of where the hospital is situated. The scoping out of a suitable location will be undertaken by PLIG and PIPS			
Relation to Area Needs			
The ABC Crisis Cafe is a direct response to the urgent and compelling needs within the Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon area. Recent comprehensive assessments and data reveal the critical importance of addressing mental health and well-being challenges. Notably, mental health concerns have been identified as a top priority by the community, with an overwhelming 93.9% of survey respondents categorizing it as "Very Important" or "Important" for fostering a thriving and peaceful community. Throughout all focus groups,			

mental health was also a key topic with people highlighting the need to support citizens of the Borough.

The data from the 'Wellbeing in Northern Ireland' report in 2022 highlights a pressing need for the establishment of a crisis cafe in the Borough. The report reveals that this area reported higher levels of loneliness compared to most other Local Government Districts, second only to Belfast in Northern Ireland. A significant 23.5% of individuals in this region report feeling lonely often, always, or at least some of the time, which exceeds the Northern Ireland average of 20.2%.

The Local EA Assessment of Need for this area highlights a crisis in youth mental health, with approximately one in five young people grappling with mental health issues. Disturbing self-harm and suicide rates further emphasize the urgency of strengthening mental well-being and resilience.

Programme Actions

The aim is to establish and operate the ABC Crisis Cafe, providing essential mental health support to individuals in crisis, fostering open conversations, and enabling them to manage their emotional struggles effectively, contributing to the overall well-being of the community. This initiative offers a clinical alternative to Emergency Departments, reducing mental and emotional distress by providing 1:1 counselling and peer support within a unique social space offering light refreshments. The service welcomes self-referrals and direct referrals from statutory services. The Crisis Café will provide professional support, fostering open conversations and helping individuals better manage their emotional struggles. It will offer a warm, safe, and friendly environment with trained staff, volunteers, and professional counsellors. Additionally, the café will run various programmes, with specific project requirements to be determined through further consultation and engagement facilitated by PLIG.

Beneficiaries

- Individuals experiencing mental and emotional distress.
- Family members and friends seeking support for their loved ones.

- Healthcare professionals and hospital staff looking for alternative options for patients in crisis.
- Community members who wish to engage in volunteering and peer support efforts.
- Local healthcare services, as the Crisis Café reduces the burden on Emergency Departments.
- The broader community, as the project fosters open conversations and improved mental health awareness, contributing to a more peaceful and reconciled society.

SMART Objectives

- ✓ To establish the ABC Crisis Cafe by 2028.
- ✓ To provide professional counselling and peer support to 130 beneficiaries throughout the programme.
- ✓ To reduce the burden on Emergency Departments by offering a clinical alternative.
- ✓ To foster open conversations and emotional management in the community.

Results

- The establishment and operation of the Crisis Café.
- Improved mental and emotional well-being for beneficiaries.
- Reduced pressure on local healthcare services.
- Enhanced community support for individuals facing mental health crises.

Outputs

- ➢ A fully operational ABC Crisis Cafe.
- ➢ Trained staff and volunteers.
- ➢ 1:1 counselling and peer support services.
- ➢ Self-referral and direct referral pathways.
- ➢ Community engagement programs.

How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements

CNR 45% / PUL 45%/ other 10%

Reducing Stigma- By providing a safe and supportive space for individuals experiencing mental and emotional distress, the Crisis Cafe helps reduce the stigma surrounding mental health. This inclusivity and acceptance create an environment where people from all backgrounds can openly seek help without fear of judgment.

Promoting Inclusivity- The Crisis Cafe welcomes all members of the community, regardless of their background, to access its services. It serves as a symbol of inclusivity and support, fostering a sense of belonging and shared purpose across diverse communities.

Community Engagement- As the Crisis Cafe relies on a network of trained volunteers and peer supporters, it actively involves community members in supporting those in need. This collaborative approach encourages cross-community engagement, as individuals from various backgrounds work together to assist.

Mental Health Awareness- The programme raises awareness about mental health issues and emphasises the importance of emotional well-being. Educating the community about these topics helps bridge the knowledge gap and promotes empathy, understanding, and solidarity among different community groups.

Conflict Resolution- The Crisis Cafe is designed to help individuals cope with situational problems and emotional struggles. Teaching conflict resolution and coping skills, indirectly contributes to creating a more peaceful and reconciled society, one individual at a time.

Improved Healthcare Access- By offering an alternative to Emergency Departments for individuals in crisis, the Crisis Cafe ensures that hospital resources can be allocated more efficiently to those with urgent physical health needs. This contributes to a sense of fairness and accessibility in healthcare services, fostering community trust and cohesion.

2.3 Volunteer Resilience and Wellbeing programme

Programme Name	Volunteer Resilience and Wellbeing programme 90 participants		
Budget	**£30,000**	**Timeframe**	**2025-2028**

Programme Aim

The Volunteer Wellbeing & Resilience Programme aims to enhance the emotional and mental wellbeing of volunteers across the Borough. This programme seeks to promote self-care, build resilience, and equip volunteers with essential skills to protect their mental health. By fostering the wellbeing of these volunteers, the project strives to ensure that they can continue to serve their communities effectively while maintaining their emotional and mental health.

Relation to Area Needs

This programme directly addresses critical community needs that have been identified through consultations with community members. These consultations have served as a platform for local voices to express their concerns and insights. One prominent issue that resounded throughout these conversations is the growing pressure being placed on volunteers. Community groups, which are the lifeblood of our borough, are grappling with the significant challenge of retaining dedicated volunteers due to the increasing demands on their time and energy. Furthermore, the findings from the public survey conducted as part of the PEACEPLUS Action Plan have highlighted the importance of integrating mental health and wellbeing programmes. An overwhelming 97% of the survey's participants indicated that it was either "very important" or "important" to include such programs within the PEACEPLUS Action Plan. This resounding consensus underscores the urgent need for mental health and wellbeing support initiatives.

Moreover, an equally remarkable 93% of respondents expressed their belief in the critical significance of creating volunteer development programmes tailored to support and empower volunteers in various community groups across the Borough. This indicates a clear and collective desire for initiatives that not only recognise the invaluable contributions of volunteers but also ensure their overall well-being.

Programme Actions

The project will work in partnership with Volunteer Now and the Craigavon & Banbridge Volunteer Bureau to develop comprehensive wellbeing and resilience training programmes. These programmes will encompass self-care and mindfulness, stress management, peer support, psychological first aid for volunteers, and an exploration of risks, resilience, and protective factors. The training programmes will be co-designed and co-produced alongside VN and C&VB to ensure they meet the specific needs of volunteers. Training Programmes will be developed and supported which incorporate the Community Resilience Model. This approach will provide practical knowledge that can be used by support staff, as well as by volunteers themselves, to increase resiliency and positive mental health.

The Community Resilience Model (CRM) has been used in over 20 countries to support individuals and communities impacted by stress, trauma, and difficulties with mental health. The primary focus of CRM is to educate individuals about the biology of stress and anxiety, as well as teach simple biologically based wellness skills which can help stabilize and re-set the nervous system. By helping people understand the impact of stress on the body and mind, and then learning how to work with their nervous system to foster resiliency, CRM provides a very practical, hands-on opportunity for people to build resiliency in their own lives and in those of their communities. CRM is being successfully used across several fields and sectors, including international development, public health, reconciliation, community development, education, mental health, early years and policing and justice, with strong outcomes for both service providers and service recipients. The programmes will build on previously successful training approaches to supporting self-care amongst volunteers such as the NICVA Community Wellbeing & Resilience Programme that was developed in partnership with Inspire Wellbeing

Wellbeing & Resilience training programmes for Volunteers focussing on self-care will be developed and delivered to include the following areas of support:

- Self-Care/Mindfulness
- Stress Management
- Peer Support

- Psychological First Aid for Volunteers
- Risks, Resilience & Protective factors

Beneficiaries

- Volunteers
- Community groups
- New volunteers
- Citizens

SMART Objectives

- ✓ Engage volunteers, Volunteer Now, and the Craigavon & Banbridge Volunteer Bureau in a co-design process to tailor the training programs to the unique needs and preferences of the volunteers.
- ✓ Empower volunteers to continue their invaluable work in the community while taking proactive steps to safeguard their own emotional and mental wellbeing.
- ✓ Make the training programmes accessible to volunteers across the Borough, providing equitable support throughout the entire community.
- ✓ Equip volunteers with the knowledge and skills to develop resilience, allowing them to effectively manage the stress and demands associated with their volunteer commitments.
- ✓ Improve the emotional and mental wellbeing of volunteers, fostering life satisfaction, happiness, and reducing symptoms of depression.
- ✓ Develop a network of peer support among volunteers, enabling them to provide mutual assistance, guidance, and emotional support to one another.
- ✓ Increase volunteers' awareness of the risks and protective factors impacting their emotional and mental wellbeing, allowing them to proactively address challenges and leverage strengths.

Results

- **Increased Resilience-** Participants will demonstrate enhanced resilience, as measured by a statistically significant increase in their ability to effectively cope with stress and challenges in their volunteer roles.

- **Improved Wellbeing-** Volunteers will report improved emotional and mental wellbeing, as indicated by higher levels of life satisfaction, happiness, and a reduction in symptoms of depression compared to baseline measures.
- **Established Peer Support Network-**The creation of a robust peer support network among volunteers will be evident, fostering mutual assistance and emotional support within the volunteer community.
- **Community-Wide Accessibility-** The training programmes will be accessible to a wide range of volunteers across the Borough, ensuring inclusivity and participation throughout the community.
- **Bespoke Programmes-** The training materials and delivery will be customized to meet the unique needs and preferences of volunteers through the co-design process, ensuring relevance and effectiveness.
- **Sustained Volunteer Commitment-** Volunteers will continue their vital contributions to the community, with improved self-care practices to sustain their long-term commitment to community well-being.
- **Enhanced Peace and Reconciliation-** By promoting volunteer well-being and reinforcing community engagement, the programme will contribute to the overarching peace and reconciliation efforts across the Borough.

Outputs

- **Delivery of 6 Volunteer Wellbeing Programmes-** Bespoke wellbeing and resilience training programmes will be developed and delivered the Borough, providing comprehensive support for volunteers.
- **Training Materials and Resources-** A library of training resources, including manuals, toolkits, and digital materials, will be created to support the effective delivery of the programmes.
- **Peer Support Network Establishment-** The creation of a robust peer support network will be encouraged through the programmes, fostering emotional and practical support among volunteers.

- **Educational Sessions on Risks and Protective Factors-** The programmes will include educational sessions to increase awareness of risks and protective factors relevant to volunteer work.
- **Participation and Engagement-** 120 volunteers will participate in the wellbeing and resilience programs, actively engaging in self-care and community support.
- **Strengthened Volunteer Commitment-** The programmes will ensure volunteers are better equipped to continue their vital contributions to the community, promoting ongoing commitment to community well-being.
- **Contribution to Peace and Reconciliation-** By enhancing the emotional well-being of volunteers and increasing their resilience, the programme will contribute to the overarching peace and reconciliation efforts within the Borough.

How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements

CNR 45% / PUL 45%/ other 10%

Increased retention of volunteers- Volunteers are pivotal to the prosperity of the Borough and this programme will support the retention of volunteers working within community groups.

Promotion of Inclusivity- By offering comprehensive mental health and wellbeing programmes for volunteers, this initiative encourages inclusivity and equal access to support regardless of one's background or affiliation. This inclusivity aligns with the fundamental principles of peace and reconciliation, breaking down barriers and promoting unity.

Community Collaboration- Through partnerships with Volunteer Now and the Craigavon & Banbridge Volunteer Bureau, the programme demonstrates collaboration and unity.

Mental Health and Wellbeing-The mental health and wellbeing programmes will provide essential support to individuals who may be experiencing stress, anxiety, or depression due

to their volunteering commitments. By addressing these challenges, the programme helps individuals become more resilient and better equipped to engage positively in their communities. This psychological well-being plays a vital role in fostering peaceful interactions and understanding.

Peer Support and Psychological First Aid- The programme includes elements of peer support and psychological first aid, which emphasise empathy, listening, and understanding. Volunteers who receive training in these areas are more likely to provide effective support and assistance to others, thereby enhancing community relationships and contributing to peace and reconciliation efforts.

Conflict Resolution Skills- As part of the programme, conflict resolution skills may be imparted. These skills can assist volunteers in handling disputes and disagreements constructively, promoting harmony and understanding among various community groups.

Community Cohesion- By focusing on the holistic well-being of volunteers and community groups, this initiative promotes a shared vision of a harmonious, thriving community. This shared vision aligns with the ideals of peace and reconciliation, as it encourages all residents to work together towards common goals.

2.4 Sheds for Life Programme

Programme Name	**Sheds for Life Programme** **50 participants**		
Budget	**£40,000**	**Timeframe**	**2025-2027**
Programme Aim			
The ABC Sheds for Life Programme aims to promote health and well-being among men while fostering a sense of companionship and community within the Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon Borough Council area. Through a range of activities and			

workshops, the programme seeks to enhance the physical and mental health of participants and encourage cross-community connections.

Relation to Area Needs

The Sheds for Life Programme recognises the importance of men's health and well-being while acknowledging the positive impact of community engagement. By providing men with opportunities for social interaction, skill development, and health education, the programme contributes to peace and reconciliation efforts in the region.

The findings from the PEACEPLUS consultation underscored the need to create initiatives that promote social cohesion, address issues of isolation and loneliness, support the enhancement of mental health and physical well-being, and facilitate the acquisition of new skills. Men's Sheds were highlighted as a great way to do this through the public focus groups and ABC staff consultation. This is backed up by the finding of NISRA (2021) that highlighted that 23.3% of those aged 55-64 years old felt lonely at least some of the time,14.3% of those aged 65-74 felt lonely at least some of the time and 21.4% of those 74 and over felt lonely some of the time. The Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon discovered that nearly a third of people surveyed during the creation of the Action Plan said they often felt lonely, and half said that they sometimes felt lonely. Throughout various round table discussions held during the consultation process, participants consistently emphasised the desire for the expansion and further development of Men's and Women's Sheds projects within the Borough to combat the issue of isolation.

During August 2023, an ABC Seniors focus group highlighted the importance of battling loneliness and social isolation needs our attention. While virtual communication platforms like Zoom have become more prevalent in the post-COVID era, there is an emerging consensus that, while they have their advantages, they fall short of meeting the underlying need for in-person contacts and face-to-face meetings for older adults. The view expressed by ABC Seniors highlights the importance of returning to more meaningful social

connection outside of screens. The demand for human connection and social engagement is stronger than ever before.

The data from the 'Wellbeing in Northern Ireland' report for 2022 underlines the compelling rationale for launching a Men's Sheds programme in the Borough. The report reveals that these areas have reported higher levels of loneliness compared to most other Local Government Districts, second only to Belfast. A significant 23.5% of individuals in this region report feeling lonely often, always, or at least some of the time, exceeding the Northern Ireland average of 20.2%.

Programme Actions

The "Sheds for Life" Programme is more than just a health initiative; it's a demonstration to the power of community and well-being. The programme is designed to enhance the physical and mental well-being of men in the Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon Borough Council area.

Through a diverse range of engaging activities, workshops, and a shed-specific approach, it aims to empower men to prioritise their health while fostering camaraderie and inclusivity. These actions embrace the unique essence of men's sheds, harnessing the positive qualities of banter, autonomy, and the sharing of skills.

Core Components:

Health Check (30 minutes once-off health check)

- Blood pressure check
- Pulse check
- Cholesterol assessment
- Blood glucose measurement
- Carbon monoxide assessment
- Weight measurement and Body Mass Index calculation

Healthy Food Made Easy (2.5-hour workshops for 6 weeks)

- Basic nutrition and cookery course

-

Fitness Programmes

Participants will have the opportunity to take part in a selection of fitness activities.

Mental Health & Wellbeing in the Community

These workshops will provide participants with the knowledge and understanding necessary to foster and enhance mental health and wellbeing.

Supplementary Components:

Participants can choose from a range of supplementary components based on their interests and needs, these could include cancer awareness workshops, suicide prevention training, dementia awareness, or online computer training etc.

Beneficiaries

- Men of all ages within the Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon Borough Council area.
- Participants' families and communities who benefit from healthier and happier individuals.
- Community groups.
- Men combating isolation and loneliness.
- Men's Sheds.

SMART Objectives

- ✓ Engage a minimum of 50 men in the Sheds for Life Programme in the first year of implementation.
- ✓ Establish partnerships with local health and social service providers to ensure access to additional resources and support for shed members by the end of year two.
- ✓ Increase shed membership by 20% within the first year of the programme, demonstrating its appeal and relevance to the target audience.
- ✓ Develop a sustainability plan within the first year, outlining strategies to ensure the continued success and longevity of the Sheds for Life Programme.

- ✓ Deliver at least one community event organised by shed members to showcase their skills and contributions to the broader community within the first 18 months of programme implementation.
- ✓ Measure a minimum 10% improvement in participants' self-reported physical and mental health indicators based on pre-programme and post-programme assessments conducted at the end of each 10-week cycle.

Results

- Enhanced Participant Satisfaction- participant satisfaction rate of 90% or higher, as measured by post-programme surveys, demonstrating that the programme delivers a positive and impactful experience for shed members.
- Strategic Partnerships- establishment of partnerships with local health and social service providers, ensuring that shed members have access to additional resources and support, enhancing the programme's holistic impact.
- Increased Membership-a significant increase in shed membership, reflecting the programmes relevance and appeal to the target audience.
- Community Showcase- the successful delivery of at least one community event organised by shed members within the first 18 months, showcasing their acquired skills and contributions to the broader community.
- Sustainability Plan- the development of a sustainability plan within the first year, outlining strategies to ensure the continued success and longevity of the Sheds for Life Programme beyond the PEACEPLUS funding period.
- Improved Health Indicators- a minimum of 10% improvement in participants' self-reported physical and mental health indicators, as evidenced by pre-programme and post-programme assessments conducted at the end of each 10-week cycle.

Outputs

- ➢ Participant Satisfaction Records- documentation of participant satisfaction rates through post-programme surveys.
- ➢ Partnership Agreements- agreements and partnerships with local health and social service providers, enhancing the support network available to shed members.

- Membership Records- records indicating the percentage increase in shed membership within the first year.
- Community Event Documentation- records, photos, and testimonials from community events organised by shed members.
- Sustainability Plan Document-a comprehensive sustainability plan outlining strategies, timelines, and responsibilities for the programmes continued success.
- Health Assessment Reports- pre-programme and post-programme health assessment reports showcasing the improvements in participants' self-reported physical and mental health indicators.

How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements

CNR 45% / PUL 45%/ other 10%

Cross-Community Friendships- Sheds for Life embraces the essence of men's sheds, emphasising friendship, comradery, and the sharing of skills and stories. By bringing men from diverse backgrounds together from across the Borough in a relaxed and inclusive environment, the programme naturally promotes cross-community understanding and cohesion.

Community Showcases- through community events organised by shed members, the programme offers a platform for men to demonstrate their skills and contributions to the broader community across the Borough. These events serve as opportunities for cross-community interactions, fostering understanding and appreciation of diverse talents and backgrounds.

Community Resilience- as shed members build stronger physical and mental well-being, they become more resilient individuals. This resilience ripples through their communities, contributing to the overall resilience of the Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon Borough Council area. Resilient communities are better equipped to handle challenges and contribute positively to peace and reconciliation efforts.

2.5 Positive Pathways - Reboot your Life Camp

Programme Name	**Reboot Your Life- Boot Camp** **60 participants**		
Budget	**£90,000**	**Timeframe**	**2024- 2027**
Programme Aim			
The aim of the Sustainable Living Programme is to engage hard-to-reach youth and adults in the ABC area in activities focused on mental health, addiction support, and combating isolation. Through training, skills development, volunteering, and work experience, the programme intends to empower participants to make positive lifestyle choices and live independently and sustainably. The programme will be delivered through indoor and outdoor sports. The programme seeks to improve mental well-being, provide hands-on experience, and build a pathway to positive personal growth.			
Relation to Area Needs			
This programme directly targets the urgent needs of people dealing with mental health issues, addiction disorders, and social isolation, especially those who are difficult to reach or vulnerable. It gives individuals the opportunity to live more independent and sustainable lives by providing training, skill development, and hands-on experiences. Mental health and wellbeing emerged as the most pertinent issue for those completing the online survey, with 93.9% of respondents categorising this social challenge as either 'Very Important' or 'Important' to develop a thriving and peaceful community within their area. During the focus groups, consultees also stressed the need to prioritise the health and wellbeing of citizens, in particular mental health. This programme responds to the pressing needs of the Borough, as highlighted by recent statistics and assessments. According to the Continuous Household Survey conducted by NISRA (2021/22), individuals in this region reported a significant sense of loneliness, second only to Belfast. This alarming trend underscores the urgent need for programmes that address social isolation and develop community connections. Moreover, the EA Local			

Assessment of Need for Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon reveals a concerning youth mental health crisis, with one in five young people in the area grappling with mental health challenges. This translates to a staggering 14,882 young individuals who require support to address their mental health needs. The self-harm and suicide rates in this region are equally troubling, with a rate of 104.4 per 100,000 population for self-harm and 12.7 per 100,000 population for suicide. These figures underscore the urgency of interventions aimed at enhancing mental well-being and resilience. Additionally, substance abuse issues in the Borough are a cause for concern, with a rate of 167 per 100,000 population for drug-related problems and a staggering 628 per 100,000 population for alcohol-related issues. These statistics highlight the community's struggles with addiction, emphasising the importance of programmes that address addiction, provide support, and encourage healthier lifestyle choices.

Programme Actions

This programme will cover three areas Indoor, Outdoor and Sports Development. Each project will engage hard to reach youth/adults, giving them an opportunity to take part in a sustainable living programme - focus on mental health, addictions, isolation to support rehabilitation. The project aims to give people the skills, knowledge, and hands-on experience in the various activities to support them to live an independent and sustainable lifestyle. The programme will take place at various places including:

- South Lakes Leisure Centre
- Oxford Island
- Various parks and open space across the Borough

Participants will engage in various activities and workshops focusing on personal and skills development. Activities will be used as a tool to reboot their ability to learn, becoming effective learners and developing inter and intrapersonal skills. The workshops will encourage and support positive mental health and wellbeing to improve the quality of life of the individuals. The duration of the course will be designed to expose the participants to a healthy environment for a sustained time to embed personal development.

The proposed programme will take place over 60 weeks x 2 (20 weeks November - March and 40 weeks from April – March) with 20 places, on each 60-week period, providing them with a pathway to positive personal growth. It will provide training, volunteering, and work experience to develop skills and learning; supporting hard to reach individuals achieve better life prospects to build peaceful thriving communities. Training, opportunities to volunteer and work experience will embed learning received through programme activities and training, and participants will gain qualifications relevant to the three leisure areas Outdoor / Indoor and Sport. Examples of some training could include:

- RLSS Pool Lifeguard
- Powerboat Level 2
- First Aid
- Manual Handling
- Safety Boat
- Ski Instructor
- Level 2 Sailing RYA
- BCU Canoe/Kayak Leader
- Bushcraft Instructor
- Walking Leader

Additional to the above qualification's participants will take part in personal development, team building and issue-based activities and workshops, including:

- Equality and Diversity Inclusion
- Mental Health awareness
- Gym sessions
- Trauma informed practice
- Team building Civil Society - Rights & Responsibilities
- Employability sessions – CV / Application form / Interview skills Social Action activities – giving back to the community.

- Volunteer Training
- Needs based workshops.

Sustained contact with leaders and peers will allow for relationship building and self-development. Connecting with Community Development, Local Policing Teams, PCSP and other relevant statutory and community organisations to maximise constructive engagement and build good relations with the participants. The programme will not only upskill the individuals, but it will have a long term, life-changing impact on their lives. It will build their confidence, improve their communication skills, and promote personal and social development while improving their physical and mental well-being.

The participants will spend most of their time outside learning and participating in:

- Outdoor activities, i.e. cycling, hill walking, adventure climbing
- Water activities, i.e. Canoeing, paddle boarding, Water safety training
- Conservation projects, i.e. protect and preserve the land, Leave no Trace
- Sustainable Lifestyle activities – building shelters, lighting fires, foraging.
- Mental health and well-being workshops / activities

They will learn how to:

- Correct use of equipment, tools and machinery
- Maintenance and storage of equipment
- Health and Safety and Risk Assessments
- First Aid (certificated course)

As part of the programme the participants will also develop skills around:

- Preparation and planning, communication skills, teamwork, time management.
- Individual responsibility, respect for others, resilience and working through adversity.

All participants will:

- Increase their physical well-being by participating in a variety of indoor and outdoor activities.

- Increase in awareness of environmental and conservation issues.
- Improved ability to maintain their own mental health and wellbeing.

As with all projects within the overall programme participants will be in a cross community and cross-cultural environment. Participants will be recruited via referral services and community and voluntary sector and statutory agencies.

Beneficiaries

- Hard-to-reach youth and adults in the ABC area seeking support for mental health, addiction, and isolation.
- Young people
- Adults
- Community leaders/ volunteers
- Community groups

SMART Objectives

- ✓ To engage 20 participants for each 60-week period (November - March and April - March) in a sustainable living programme.
- ✓ To provide training, work experience, and volunteering opportunities to help participants gain qualifications and develop skills in indoor, outdoor, and sports leisure areas.
- ✓ To improve the mental well-being and personal development of participants through workshops and activities.
- ✓ To support participants in making positive lifestyle choices and building pathways to positive personal growth.

Results

- Participants will have better mental health because of reduced stress, depression, rage, and anxiety.
- Participants will have a higher quality of life, as seen by greater emotional well-being, satisfaction, enjoyment, and energy levels.
- Participants will integrate into social groups more efficiently, extend their local social networks, and receive stronger social support.

- The community will be encouraged to be more inclusive and accepting of cultural and social differences.
- The programme will help to build healthy and peaceful communities in the ABC area by addressing racism and sectarianism and encouraging civil leadership.

Outputs

- Training and qualifications- participants will gain qualifications in a wide variety of areas such as lifeguarding, boating and first aid.
- Personal development- participants will engage in personal development activities to boost their wellbeing and self-esteem.
- Experience- participants will gain practical experience through the placements.
- Improved mental health and wellbeing- participants will demonstrate improved mental health and wellbeing through their participation on the programme.

How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements

CNR 45% / PUL 45%/ other 10%

Inclusive- the programme will actively engage hard-to-reach youth and adults from various backgrounds, promoting inclusion and reducing social divisions within the ABC area.

Cross-Community- by offering a range of activities and workshops, the programme will create opportunities for participants to work together on common goals, regardless of their background. Participants will also collaborate on community projects, building bridges between different communities.

Mental Health Awareness and Support- the programme will address mental health issues, including addiction and isolation, which can often be sources of conflict within communities.

Team Building- activities like team building and issue-based workshops encourage participants to work together, promoting a sense of belonging and cohesion.

2.6 Good to Chat

Programme Name	**Good to Chat** **100 participants**		
Budget	**£20,000**	**Timeframe**	**2025-2026**
Programme Aim			
The ABC PEACEPLUS Good to Chat programme has been developed to promote human connection and combat the feelings of loneliness and isolation across the Borough by providing a welcoming seating area in local facilities to meet and engage in conversation. Evidence has proven that these projects are highly effective in addressing the issue of loneliness.			
Relation to Area Needs			
The outcomes of the PEACEPLUS consultation highlight a pressing need to run programmes that foster social cohesion, address issues related to isolation and loneliness, and provide support for the improvement of mental health and physical well-being. According to NISRA's 2021 report, it was revealed that 23.3% of individuals aged 55-64 reported feeling lonely at least some of the time, along with 14.3% of those aged 65-74 and 21.4% of those aged 74 and above. Additionally, the Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan for Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon revealed that nearly one-third of respondents in the survey conducted during the development of the Action Plan frequently experienced loneliness, with half admitting to occasional bouts of loneliness. Furthermore, in August 2023, a focus group for ABC Seniors emphasised the critical significance of addressing the issues of loneliness and social isolation.			
Programme Actions			
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council will partner with the ABC Loneliness Network to roll out several benches across the Borough. The PEACEPLUS Chatty Benches will be placed in parks and public spaces that are identified in partnership with council departments and the ABC Loneliness Network. These benches will be vastly different from normal benches as they will be painted in a colour which makes them stand out from your average bench, the bench will also display information to let people know how they are unique. An innovative element of these benches will also be the inclusion of			

QR codes on them. The QR codes will allow users to use their phones to scan the QR codes and then be instantly connected to valuable mental health support resources which will provide users with information on how to nurture their mental and emotional wellbeing and signpost them to local mental health services.

Beneficiaries

- Older adults vulnerable to isolation and loneliness.
- Individuals of all ages who seek opportunities for social interaction and support.
- Local schools
- Community groups

SMART Objectives

- ✓ Establish Chatty Benches in parks and public spaces across the Borough.
- ✓ 100 older adults participating in programmes linked to the Chatty Benches.
- ✓ Partner with mental health services to provide support resources through the QR codes.
- ✓ Collaborate with local schools and community groups to involve students and volunteers in the promotion of Chatty Benches.

Results

- Increased community engagement and social interaction among residents.
- A reduction in feelings of loneliness and isolation, particularly among older adults.
- Enhanced awareness of mental health resources and support services.
- Greater involvement of local schools and community organisations in the maintenance and promotion of Chatty Benches.

Outputs

- ➢ Installation of Chatty Benches in parks and public spaces.
- ➢ Integration of QR codes on benches, connecting users to resources.
- ➢ Delivery of community programmes around the Chatty Benches.

How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements

CNR 45% / PUL 45%/ other 10%

Awareness and Inclusivity- the programme's unique benches, in a variety of bright colours and display information, will serve as symbols of inclusivity and support. They demonstrate to the community that they are not alone in dealing with loneliness and mental health issues. This understanding and inclusiveness will contribute to a more peaceful and thriving community. **Reduce Isolation**- loneliness and isolation can contribute to conflict and tension within communities. The Chatty Benches programme assists in reducing possible sources of unhappiness and improves overall quality of life for residents by addressing these concerns head on. **Mental Health Support**- by including QR codes on the benches that guide users to mental health support options, users of the benches across ABC will have easy access to a variety of resources. **Inter-Generational Interaction**- Loneliness and isolation can be worse in older people who may feel isolated from younger generations. The Chatty Benches programme promotes understanding and empathy between age groups by enabling intergenerational contacts.

2.7 Social Supermarket

Programme Name	**Social Supermarket**		
Budget	**£140,000**	**Timeframe**	**July 2024 to June 2027**
Programme Aim			
The aims of the Social Supermarket programme will focus on addressing food insecurity and social exclusion by providing affordable and accessible food and other essential products to individuals and families in need. This programme has been piloted and designed to operate as a bridge between traditional food banks and regular retail outlets, with a focus on promoting self-sufficiency and community support. Within the context of			

Peace Building, the Social Supermarkets can serve as community hubs where people from different backgrounds come together. By fostering positive interactions and cooperation among community members, they can help bridge divides and promote social cohesion.

The specific aims will include:

- **Reducing Food Insecurity:** The primary goal of a Social Supermarket programme is to alleviate hunger and food insecurity within the shared community by providing affordable and nutritious food options to those in need.
- **Affordability:** This programme aims to offer products at significantly reduced prices, making it more affordable for low-income individuals and families to access essential groceries.
- **Dignity and Empowerment:** Social Supermarkets will aim to empower individuals by allowing them to choose the products they need rather than receiving pre-packed food parcels. This promotes dignity and autonomy in food choices.
- **Supporting Vulnerable Populations:** Social Supermarkets often target vulnerable populations, such as low-income families, seniors, and individuals with limited resources, who may struggle to meet their basic needs.
- **Waste Reduction:** The Social Supermarkets will collaborate with local food producers, manufacturers, and retailers to rescue surplus or unsellable yet edible food that might otherwise go to waste. This contributes to reducing food waste.
- **Community Building:** The programme will foster a sense of community by encouraging volunteers and community members to get involved. They can serve as a hub for social interaction, mutual support, and networking among beneficiaries.
- **Financial Education:** The Social Supermarkets will offer financial literacy education and workshops to help participants better manage their finances and make informed choices about spending on food and other essentials.
- **Partnerships:** Collaborating with local businesses, charities, and government agencies is often a key aim of Social Supermarkets to ensure a sustainable supply of products and support services.

- **Health and Well-being** By offering healthier food choices and nutritional information, these programmes aim to improve the overall health and well-being of beneficiaries.
- **Long-term Impact:** Social Supermarkets will aim to address the root causes of food insecurity and social exclusion by providing not only food but also support services, such as job training, employment opportunities, and social services.
- **Sustainability:** the programme will strive for sustainability by managing resources efficiently, seeking funding and donations, and engaging in community outreach to build long-term support.
- **Measuring Impact:** Evaluating the effectiveness of the programme is an important aim. Social Supermarkets often collect data and feedback to measure their impact on food security, community engagement, and well-being.

In summary, the Social Supermarket will be a community-based programme that aims to create a more inclusive and supportive environment for individuals and families facing food insecurity while fostering a sense of community, promoting self-sufficiency, and addressing the underlying issues contributing to social exclusion and poverty.

Relation to Area Needs

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council delivered a Social Supermarket and Wraparound Service Grow to Give Pilot Project in 2023. This programme will build upon that pilot to enable Community Organisations to share food produce with the established Food Provision Social Supermarket Partner through the Social Supermarket and Wraparound Service Grow to Give. This programme aligns with the 'common needs' and 'shared issues' thread that runs through components of the wider Council Peace Plus Local Action Plan.

Background

- The Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Council is committed to supporting and developing the 'food and beyond' support structure of the Social Supermarket Infrastructure.

- The Social Supermarket and Wraparound Service Model suggests a pathway through the financial distress journey by offering personal dignity, development, and progression, addressing food insecurity and causes and greater access to sustainability of nutritional food and wraparound support services.

Grow to Give Pilot Project Grant 2023

The Social Supermarket and Wraparound Service Grow to Give Pilot Project Grant 2023 (G2G 2023) was designed to promote co-design and collaborative support of the community led approved environmental food supply chain network; by the growing/producing of products/available stock to be given into an established Food Provision Social Supermarket Partner being.

1. Armagh Foodbank
2.The Storehouse Banbridge
3. Craigavon Foodbank
4.Via Wings Dromore
5. ABC Food Hub
6. St Vincent de Paul
7. The Salvation Army.

The Social Supermarket and Wraparound Service Grow to Give programme is a flexible and responsive food intervention supply, to those most vulnerable in the Borough, through animation funds of £5000 to suitably qualified ABC Community Organisations who have obtained collaboration from the established Food Provision Social Supermarket Partner to co-create a food supply chain project and become a food producer partner.

The programme encourages and is reflective of community 'creative and adaptable' food support alignments and other additional benefits with the established Food Provision Social Supermarket Partner.

The programme is in response to recommendations in the Welfare Reform Mitigations report the Department for Communities has operated a Social Supermarket Pilot

programme since October 2017. The aim of this programme is to build upon the pilot to tackle food poverty and its root causes.

The Social Supermarket aligns to:

- The linking of the existing ABC food provision structure and ABC community connections through the creation of a supply chain role
- Building skills in relation to environmental outputs
- Encouraging knowledge transfer for community led environmental food creation
- Delivering on the capacity of participants so that projects can be sustained after completion and therefore looking to create a future robust community led supply infrastructure.
- ABC Community Organisations who can meet the criteria of the project, must seek collaboration to be a Food Producer Partner, from the list of the seven *established Food Provision Social Supermarket Partners to offer a supply chain link.

*(*who are established because of over 7 years' experience in the management of emergency food support, including Covid Response and Living Crisis engagement)*

Programme Actions

Call to action for ABC Community Organisations to submit an Expression of Interest (EoI) to share food produce with the established Food Provision Social Supermarket Partner through the Social Supermarket and Wraparound Service Grow to Give Peace Plus Project Grant. Applicants should discuss their application with one of the established Food Provision Social Supermarkets before completing a form.

The Application form will capture:

- **Section 1** Organisational Details
- **Section 2** Project Detail
- **Section 3** Budget and Procurement Templates
- **Section 4 & 5** Checklist and Declarations including

The programme aligns to:

- The linking of the existing ABC food provision structure and ABC community connections through the creation of a supply chain role
- Building skills in relation to environmental outputs
- Encouraging knowledge transfer for community led environmental food creation
- Delivering on the capacity of participants so that projects can be sustained after completion and therefore looking to create a future robust community led supply infrastructure.
- ABC Community Organisations who can meet the criteria of the project, **must seek collaboration** to be a Food Producer Partner, from the list of the seven *established Food Provision Social Supermarket Partners to offer a supply chain link.

  *(*who are established because of over 7 years' experience in the management of emergency food support, including Covid Response and Living Crisis engagement)*

Eligibility Criteria

To be a Food Producer Partner:

Suitable ABC Community Organisations must evidence:

- Be a constituted organisation.
- Have *written collaboration* from an eligible Food Provision Social Supermarket Partner. Be able to run the community project to encourage food production, sustainability, nutritional & wellbeing awareness, skills and structured collaboration supply networks for the benefit of their community group and the Food Provision Social Supermarket Partner end client, based on a *co-design project.*
- To meet the needs of the ABC residents through preferred Projects such as, possibly on site or close to site, small vegetable patch, Micro Greens, Herbs, Fruit Trees/Bushes, Hydroponics (for limited outdoor space), Vertical Gardens, Apiaries (Bee Hives) and eco fuel (pinecones due to their beneficial energy use are permitted).
- Comply with Environmental Health Regulations to be able to offer a stock supply. Please see Appendix 1 Guidance Note - Advice on Supplying into a Food Bank.

- Have the capacity to offer up to 50% of stock to the aligned Food Provision Social Supermarket Partner under the necessary standards of Food and Environmental Health Legislation.
- Have Training in place. *(please refer to the training section*).
- Monitor and report on the value and outputs of the project funded by Peace Plus. A final report will be required which includes:
    - Case Study,
    - Numbers of ABC residents supported through your project.
    - Number who benefited within your community organisation.
    - Number of products supplied and who benefited from them.
    - Sustainability and Development Outcomes achieved.

Training Mandatory Requirement

Project Awareness and Health and Safety Training Requirement:

- ***Groups must participate in mandatory training (that can be provided by Council) or show evidence* in the form of** contracted training and certificates of leaders having a successful outcome in the following training;
    - **i. First Aid Training**
    - **ii. Manual Handling Training**
    - **iii. Risk Assessment Training**
    - **iv. Safe Guarding**

*Please note that attendance at this training is mandatory by **two** members of your group if the organisation **cannot** provide evidence of this required standard being in place. The Training will be offered by* council and must take place before the project can begin.

Management

Project Management and Governance

- A dedicated project contact is expected to be nominated, who will act as the main point of contact to council. It will be a requirement of any future offering that the project contact will have the necessary authority to take decisions, at all times, and deal directly with all matters relating to this project to ensure any issues which may arise are resolved in a timely manner.

Evidence and Publicity

- Successful applicants will be required to produce evidence in the end of project/ post reporting of the outcomes of the funded project. Due to the project including planting and growing of produce the timeline of reporting will be relevant to harvesting.
- All publicity relating to funding will require prior approval from the Council.

Role and Purpose of the projects key element of Co-Design/ Co-Create

is being established to:

- Consider place-based approaches that builds on the existing structure and the potential of partnerships in ABC.
- Sharing with a **Food Provision Social Supermarket Partner** will include co-operation and planning of the project.

Beneficiaries

- Community and voluntary sector organisations
- Good relations organisations

Local community organisations.

SMART Objectives

- ✓ Improve Accessibility: Ensure that 100% of the Social Supermarket's facilities are fully accessible to individuals from underrepresented groups.
- ✓ Increase community response through flexible and responsive food intervention supply, to those most vulnerable in the Borough via a minimum of 7 targeted community outreach efforts.
- ✓ Increase the number of local community groups by introducing 10 new local groups engaged in Social Supermarket programming.
- ✓ Enhance Volunteer Engagement: Recruit and train 10 volunteers per participant group and ensure they are actively engaged in Social Supermarket operations within the next 12 months.

- ✓ 150 local volunteers engaged in the programme.
- ✓ Strengthen Community Partnerships by supporting the establishment of 7 minimum to 10 maximum partnerships with the existing ABC food provision structure and ABC community connections to provide a consistent supply of fresh, locally grown produce within the next year.
- ✓ Increase Financial Sustainability: Achieve a 10% increase in revenue from fundraising events and donations within one fiscal year to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the Social Supermarket in ABC.
- ✓ Diversity and Inclusivity: Increase the representation of underrepresented and marginalized communities among volunteers and members by 10% within the programme cycle.
- ✓ Achieve a 10% increase in the number of beneficiaries served by the Social Supermarket over the next three years.
- ✓ Organise and host at least 10 community events to promote a sense of community, cooperation, and well-being within the programme cycle.

Results

- Improve accessibility to the Social Supermarket's facilities particularly for individuals from underrepresented groups.
- Embed cultural understanding via the programme through a cross-cultural exchange that will promote cultural understanding.
- Increase community response through flexible and responsive food intervention supply, to those most vulnerable in the Borough.
- Increase Social Supermarket programming and capacity building across the Borough.
- Enhance Volunteer Engagement through training and skill building to deliver effective Social Supermarket programming.
- Improve Diversity and Inclusivity of underrepresented and marginalized communities among volunteers and Social Supermarket beneficiaries.
- Increase in the number of beneficiaries served by the Social Supermarket over the next three years.

- Support local community groups to develop their skills, knowledge, and resources in Community Development practices through taking part in a range of workshops and mentoring.
- Improve relationships within the community and create a sense of purpose in working with other community members and service providers.
- Create a sustainable culture of peace within the community.

Outputs

- Delivery capacity building training to a minimum of 150 volunteers to be better equipped for social supermarket programming.
- 10 community groups will engage with the programme training.
- Deliver 1 enhanced Social Supermarket programme in the Borough.
- Enhanced community and voluntary sector capacity creating a legacy beyond the Peace Plus investment.
- Ensure that 100% of the Social Supermarket's facilities are fully accessible to individuals from underrepresented groups.

- Increase the number of local community groups by introducing 10 local groups engaged in Social Supermarket programming.
- Strengthen Community Partnerships by supporting the establishment of 7 minimum to 10 maximum partnerships with the existing ABC food provision structure and ABC community connections to provide a consistent supply of fresh, locally grown produce within the next year.
- Diversity and Inclusivity: Increase the representation of underrepresented and marginalized communities among volunteers and members by 10% within the programme cycle.
- Achieve a 10% increase in the number of beneficiaries served by the Social Supermarket over the next three years.

How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements

CNR 45% / PUL 45%/ other 10%

Community Cohesion: Social Supermarkets will serve as community hubs where people from different backgrounds come together. By fostering positive interactions and cooperation among community members, they can help bridge divides and promote social cohesion.

Reducing Economic Inequality: Addressing food insecurity and providing affordable access to essential goods can help alleviate economic disparities that have historically been linked to conflict and tension. Reducing economic inequality can contribute to a more stable and peaceful society.

Providing Support to Vulnerable Populations: The Social Supermarkets will support and target vulnerable populations, including those who may have been affected by the legacy of conflict in NI or new communities arriving in the Borough. By providing support and assistance to these individuals and families, this programme can contribute to healing and social stability.

Community Building and Reconciliation: Social Supermarkets will engage in reconciliation efforts by promoting dialogue, understanding, and cooperation among community members, regardless of their background or history. This will be achieved through working on shared community needs and challenges in the Borough.

Youth Engagement: Some Social Supermarkets involve young people in volunteer programmes and education. Engaging young people in positive activities can help prevent them from becoming involved in anti-social or violent behaviour.

Employment and Training: there is scope for job training and employment opportunities, that can contribute to peacebuilding by offering economic stability to individuals and communities and addressing some of the root causes of conflict.

Strengthening Civil Society: By providing essential services and fostering a sense of community and social responsibility, Social Supermarkets will help strengthen civil society in the Council Borough, which is crucial for promoting peace and reconciliation. It's important to note that while Social Supermarkets can contribute to peace by promoting community well-being and reducing social exclusion, they should aim to complement the comprehensive peace-building initiatives and efforts to address the historical and political issues related to the conflict. They are part of a broader set of strategies aimed at improving the quality of life and social cohesion in the region.

2.8 Community Forums

Programme Name	**PEACEPLUS Community Forums** **105 participants**		
Budget	**£40,000**	**Timeframe**	**2024-2028**
Programme Aim			
The ABC PEACEPLUS Community and Voluntary Organisation Forums programme aims to create seven targeted forums throughout the Borough. These forums will serve as crucial meeting places for community and volunteer organisations to meet, exchange ideas, gain access to training, discover funding opportunities, discuss examples of best practise, have opportunities to collaborate and connect with council employees. They will also function as venues for highlighting the needs and wants of the communities served by these organisations.			
Relation to Area Needs			
Public consultation as part of the ABC PEACEPLUS programme has constantly revealed a significant need in our communities. It is becoming increasingly clear that our community and volunteer organisations require centralised points where they can gather, collaborate, and receive essential assistance to effectively address the specific and diverse requirements of their respective locations. This resounding need was not only widely expressed across all seven public focus groups conducted for PEACEPLUS, but it was also			

emphasised firmly during conversations with ABC staff. In the public survey, 93% of respondents felt that it was 'very important' or 'important' that the council provide volunteer development activities as part of the action plan to develop a thriving and peaceful community. This need to establish community forums across the borough was also highlighted by ABC staff who felt that these forums would help improve links with community organisations.

Programme Actions

Year One: Scoping and Mapping Exercise

Conduct a comprehensive scoping and mapping exercise in each District Electoral Area (DEA) to identify community and voluntary organisations. This exercise will serve as a foundational step to understand the existing landscape of participants.

Year Two: Networking and Capacity Building

Facilitate networking opportunities, including cross-community events, where participating organisations can connect, share insights, and collaborate.

Provide capacity-building opportunities, such as training sessions, workshops, and resource-sharing, to enhance the effectiveness and impact of community forums.

Year Three and Four: Community Forums

Through this programme, seven community forums will be set up across the Borough, with one in each DEA. The aim is to have at least 15 participants through each forum. The forums will provide opportunities for organisations to network and create relationships. These forums will enable them to communicate, share experiences, and form partnerships that will lead to more impactful community activities by establishing connections. The forums will be held once a quarter. The forums will include the following actions:

Networking- The forums will provide chances for community and volunteer organisations to network with one another and develop useful contacts.

Training Opportunities- they will provide bespoke training sessions and workshops to improve these organisations' capacity and abilities, allowing them to better serve their communities. These training opportunities will be based on the training needs analysis that is conducted through each of the community forums once they are established.

Funding Advice- community and voluntary organisations rely heavily on funding and grants, these forums will provide regular updates on funding opportunities that are available and will also support the organisations with training on how to complete funding applications.

Sharing of Best Practice- the forum will provide organisations with opportunities to present examples of good practice to other groups and share research and learning.

Communication with Council- the forums will be attended by a variety of ABC staff members to educate groups on the different opportunities and programmes that the council are running. This will strengthen the relationship between groups and the council and provide them with opportunities to collaborate.

Beneficiaries

- Community and Voluntary Organisations
- Community leaders/ volunteers.
- Residents from each DEA.
- Newcomer communities.
- Rural communities
- Young leaders/ volunteers

SMART Objectives

- ✓ Establish 7 community forums across Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council.
- ✓ A minimum of 10 community organisations to sign up through the forums (15 per DEA)
- ✓ Conduct a training needs analysis for members of each community forum and deliver a bespoke training programme based on these needs.

✓ Deliver a bespoke training programme annually in each forum. ✓ Establish a monthly newsletter/ email for members of each community forum with helpful resources.
Results
• Improved community and volunteer organisation networking and collaboration. • Increased organisational capacity, resulting in more effective community service delivery. • Access to financing opportunities and grants for community initiatives has been improved. • Best practises in community development are promoted. • Fostering successful communication channels between organisations and local officials to effectively represent community needs and aspirations.
Outputs
➢ The creation of seven community forums for community and volunteer organisations. ➢ Increased participation in forums and related activities from a varied variety of organisations. ➢ Regular training sessions, workshops, and educational tools for capacity building are provided. ➢ Improved communication between community groups and ABC Borough Council
How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements
CNR 45% / PUL 45%/ other 10% **Cluster Development**- the forums will support the development of community groups clusters across the Borough with Council staff and community organisations being able to share knowledge, develop relationships and have opportunities to communicate and engage with the other forums.

Cross-Community Collaboration- these forums serve as neutral meeting places for community and volunteer organisations from various backgrounds and traditions. They tear down barriers, increase mutual understanding, and develop links between communities with historically varied identities by enabling communication and collaboration. The forums' shared space will promote dialogue and cooperation, resulting in a thriving and peaceful community. **Capacity Building**- the training and workshops provided by the forums helps to build the capacity of community and voluntary organisations. **Inclusivity**- by promoting inclusivity and diversity within the forums, the programme sets an example for the broader community. The welcoming environment encourages individuals from various backgrounds to participate actively. This inclusivity sends a powerful message that different communities can come together and work collectively for the betterment of society.

2.9 Community Resilience Programme

Programme Name	**Community Resilience Programme** **230 participants**		
Budget	£240,000.00	**Timeframe**	**2024-2027**
Programme Aim			
The Community Resilience Programme aims to empower communities within the Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon Borough Council area to become more resilient in the face of various challenges. A resilient community is built upon a foundation of comprehensive support that spans from grassroots community development and active engagement in service design to collaborative efforts involving multiple agencies across the voluntary, community, and statutory sectors. By fostering preparedness, community cohesion, and adaptability, the programme contributes to peace, reconciliation, and cross-community connections.			

Relation to Area Needs
This programme acknowledges that resilient communities are better able to handle crises, foster mutual trust among various groups, and advance long-term peace. The programme is in line with the overall objectives of PEACEPLUS by fostering community resilience. During consultations, consultees highlighted the need for programmes that developed resilience within the community, with a particular focus on existing community groups and new communities. Many of the volunteers highlighted that they were struggling with resilience issues such as succession planning, recruiting new members, both from younger and more diverse backgrounds, sustaining current programme outputs, maintaining myriad governance, and reporting requirements. New communities expressed a frustration that they were finding it difficult to establish 'legitimate' groups that were able to access funds and resources. Complex processes around setting up groups, accessing banking which is critical to getting funding. Finding suitably qualified and capable leaders to run groups, who are either from the new communities or have a relationship with them.
Programme Actions
Community resilience, in this context, is all about fostering collaboration with groups and individuals to create social value and cultivate a more resilient community. These residents, including dedicated individuals and volunteers, various community organisations, sports organisations, and faith groups, local businesses, and interconnected networks, can come together to enhance community capability and capacity. This programme aims to foster a sense of unity and mutual support, allowing our community to better weather challenges, strengthen peace and reconciliation, and ensure a thriving and harmonious future. The Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the resilience of community organisations and how agile they were to mobilise and meet the needs of their community. For example, in this Borough, a GAA club, football club and rugby club worked together to develop food packages to those in need. This innovative Community Resilience programme will include the following key actions: **Identification of Risks** Groups will work together to identify potential risks within the area, this could include environmental risks, food security, societal risks and more.

Community Resilience Workshops

A series of workshops in diverse communities to educate residents about the importance of community resilience. Topics will include risk assessment, emergency preparedness, and the role of community and voluntary organisations.

Community Resilience Plans

Facilitate the development of Community Resilience Plans in collaboration with residents. These plans will outline strategies for responding to various challenges, such as extreme weather which has the potential to have significant impact on communities, social crises, or community conflicts.

Promote cross-community engagement by encouraging residents from different backgrounds to participate in the development of Community Resilience Plans. This collaborative approach strengthens relationships and trust.

Skill-Building Workshops

Offer skill-building workshops in areas like first aid, conflict resolution, and disaster response. These workshops empower individuals to take active roles in their communities during times of crisis.

Networking and Resource Sharing:

Create a platform for local community organisations to network and share resources. This collaborative approach enhances the community's collective ability to respond effectively to challenges.

Beneficiaries
• Volunteers/ community leaders • Marginalised groups • Community groups • Residents

SMART Objectives
✓ Strengthen the preparedness of community groups, with a focus on both urban and rural areas, to mitigate localised risks by co-designing and implementing Community Resilience Plans. ✓ Develop a risk register of potential risks in each DEA. ✓ Facilitate the development of Community Resilience Plans each DEA, involving a diverse group of participants from different backgrounds. ✓ Offer skill-building workshops to residents over the course of the programme, enabling them to contribute actively to community resilience efforts. ✓ Establish a community network with active participation from local organisations, fostering collaboration and resource-sharing.
Results
• Increased awareness and understanding of community resilience among residents. • Development of actionable Community Resilience Plans in each DEA. • Empowered individuals with skills to contribute to community resilience. • Strengthened cross-community connections through collaborative efforts.
Outputs
➢ Community resilience workshop materials and documentation. ➢ Developed Community Resilience Plans for each DEA. ➢ Certificates and records of participation for skill-building workshops. ➢ An active community network with documented collaborations and shared resources. ➢ Creation of Risk Registers.
How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements
CNR 45% / PUL 45%/ other 10% **Strengthening Community Bonds**- the programme promotes a sense of togetherness and shared responsibility by involving residents from all backgrounds in the creation of

Community Resilience Plans. This cooperative effort strengthens ties within the community and bridges gaps in society.

Cross-Community Collaboration-by bringing together people with different points of view, experiences, and abilities, the programme fosters cross-community cooperation. Participants get an understanding of one another's contributions and how to cooperate to achieve shared resilience goals through workshops and activities.

Conflict Resolution Skills- conflict resolution training and skill-building workshops enable people to resolve conflicts and disagreements in their communities amicably. These learned abilities are useful for preserving happy relationships and resolving conflicts.

Inclusivity- the initiative's emphasis on involving residents from all backgrounds makes sure that all viewpoints are considered while planning for resilience. This inclusiveness lessens emotions of exclusion and marginalisation by fostering a sense of belonging and equality.

Empowerment- giving people the knowledge and abilities they need to deal with emergencies or obstacles increases their sense of agency and self-efficacy. Community members that feel empowered are more likely to actively participate in efforts to promote peace and reconciliation.

Common Needs- the creation of community resilience plans fosters a sense of purpose among locals. The belief that communities may cooperate to further greater goals of peace and reconciliation is strengthened when they band together to prepare for and address issues.

2.10- Forest Schools Programme

Programme Name	**Forest Schools Programme** **180 participants**		
Budget	**£130K**	**Timeframe**	**2024-2027**

Programme Aim
The programme is a development of a very successful PEACE IV programme which aims to nurture the holistic development of the child/adult through engagement in outdoor, nature-based learning. It also aims to develop Forest School Leaders and Assistants through delivery of training in parallel with the Forest School Programme itself. The common interest of learning in Forest schools is outdoor, nature-based learning that focuses on the holistic development of the child/adult and this medium will be used to encourage conversation and build relationships between people in outdoor natural spaces regardless of ability. At the heart of the Forest School programme is the utilisation of natural resources to inspire creativity, stimulate ideas, and foster intrinsic motivation. The primary objective is to promote positive physical and mental health and wellbeing among participants. The programme offers a platform for all attendees to engage in activities that raise awareness and facilitate authentic dialogue, with a unique twist – these activities take place in fantastic green and woodland settings. For adult participants, there is an additional component aimed at equipping them to actively support the delivery of the Forest School programme over several months. This training fosters meaningful dialogue among adults and deepens their engagement with the curriculum, achieved through Forest School Curriculum Level 3 learning. Qualified Forest School tutors will facilitate this training, providing practical, hands-on learning experiences in an outdoor environment.
Relation to Area Needs
The programme is a development of a successful PEACE IV Programme. During consultations, consultees highlighted the need for programmes that utilised the natural environment across the Borough. Activities for children and young people, from within both traditional and new communities, ranked highly through the surveys and consultations. The programme will target and engage directly with people from marginalised and isolated groups/individuals from areas of high deprivation and ethnic minority communities across the Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council area. According to the findings of the public survey, activities catering to vulnerable

individuals were ranked as the third most significant emerging theme. Participants will engage together in outdoor activities, build shared experiences, breakdown barriers, build social and physical resilience and raise awareness and respect of the environment and the countryside. All of these were directly or indirectly highlighted as issues during the consultation and stakeholder engagement sessions.

The programme seeks to harness and enhance the under-utilised natural resources within the Borough. Participants will engage in the immersive Forest School Programme of Training and Activities, utilising green spaces in the Borough, including Gosford, Oxford Island, Carnagh, and Darkley.

Programme Actions

The onsite Forest School Programme of training & delivery will use the Borough Councils green spaces in our Outdoor Parks. It will include several elements:

Training:

- Train the trainer Forest School teachers
- Forest School Leader Level 3
- Level 2 training.
- REC Outdoor First Aid
- Child Protection training.

Engagement:

- Community
- Stakeholders – shared education / Surestart / Homestart
- Partnerships – SHSCT / Women's Aid / Early Intervention / National Childhood Partnership.
- Regional and cross border.

Programme:

- Forest School children activities throughout each year

• Forest School adult therapeutic sessions through the year

• Across Parks and Open Spaces.

Small Capital elements:

• Creation of suitable spaces for all participants

• Resources & equipment

• Materials

Element 1: Children and Young People

The Forest School programme is an immersive educational experience which is set in natural woodland environments, offering hands-on learning opportunities that encompass a wide range of activities. These activities will span from outdoor play, using tools, constructing woodland shelters, lighting fires, preparing food, engaging in woodland games, crafting, and various other outdoor pursuits. These activities are thoughtfully designed by instructors while also allowing children to take the initiative and lead their own explorations and to develop meaningful relationships with others.

The Forest School Programme is designed to be inclusive, inviting children, young people, and community members of diverse abilities and cultural backgrounds to come together. Within this nurturing environment, they will explore the wonders of the natural world, play, learn, and forge social connections. As participants progress through their Forest School journey, the programme places a significant emphasis on nurturing a sense of independence, bolstering self-esteem, and honing social and communication skills. Furthermore, it aims to foster a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of the natural environment that surrounds them, enriching their connection to the world they inhabit.

Element 2: Forest School Leadership Training and Activity Programme

Sessions 1 and 2

- History and Development of Forest School
- Study of the Forest School Principles

- Introduction to practical skills (knots and rope use; tool use; natural crafts; shelters and dens; fire lighting and cooking)
- Appropriate learning theory (including the theories of Developmental Movement Play, Building Learning Power and Risky Play)
- Understanding play
- The value of nature in children's learning
- How to write a Benefit Risk Assessment.

Session 3, 4, 5 and 6

- Completion and assessment of practical skills (knots and rope use; tool use; natural crafts; shelters and dens; fire lighting and cooking)
- How to write a Site Risk Assessment
- Policy and Procedure writing
- Environmental and sustainability planning
- Planning and Delivery of a Forest School Programme
- Observation
- Reflection and Assessment of children's play
- Nature connection.

Session 7

- Policies and procedures necessary for safe practice at Forest School,
- Benefit Risk Assessments necessary for safe practice about Forest School
- Upon passing this component of the course the students can move on to their own Forest School practice sessions (the pilot).

Development and Delivery of Forest School Activities

- Adult participants will deliver the Forest School pilot project – A minimum of 10 sessions or 26hours of forest schools activity sessions (practical application of skills and knowledge taught) with cohort of children / young people.
- Support is provided by tutors during the onsite mentoring and underpinned by the Forest School handbook.

- Exploration of learned theory and how it relates to own practice
- Observations of children's play and planning sessions based on those observations.
- Students write summaries of the progress the children make at their Forest School.
- Evaluation of own journey at Forest School.

Session 8- Closing Weekend and Celebration Event

- Revision of practical skills
- Revision of Forest School ethos and theory
- Reflection and evaluation of own practice
- Preparation for Celebration event to which all stakeholders are invited.
- Prepare and collaborate on the running of a shared celebration using the skills they have learned on the course.

Certificates of completion.

Beneficiaries

- Children and Young People
- Marginalised groups
- Volunteers/ Community Leaders

SMART Objectives

- ✓ By the end of the Forest School Programme, 150 children and young people will demonstrate improved social skills, increased self-esteem, and a deeper understanding of their natural environment.
- ✓ Upon completion of the Forest School Leadership Training and Activity Programme, 30 adult participants will be proficient in Forest School leadership, capable of planning and delivering a minimum of 10 sessions or 26 hours of forest school activities with children and young people.

Results

- Children and young people reporting enhanced social interaction and collaboration with peers.

- Increased self-esteem of participants.
- Improved mental health and wellbeing.
- Proficiency in Forest School Leadership
- Successful celebration event

Outputs

- Reports showcasing the programmes impact on participants' understanding and connecting to nature.
- Case studies on the participants experiences building new relationships.
- Documentation on the learning journey of participants.
- Execution of the celebration event.

How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements

CNR 45% / PUL 45%/ other 10%

Inclusivity- this project will recruit participants from diverse abilities, different cultural backgrounds, and marginalised communities to take part in the programme. The Forest Schools programme will aim to develop social cohesion through developing a sense of belonging for those who might have felt isolated or excluded in the past.

Empowerment-the programme will aim to boost the self-esteem and confidence of participants which will have a positive impact on their mental health.

Sustainability- participants will develop a better understanding of the natural world through this programme which will help them to become more conscious of the environment and sustainable practices.

Development of Community Leaders-participants who have been through Element 2 of the programme will be upskilled to further deliver this programme to individuals and groups across the area on a cross community basis.

2.11 Community Growing and Sustainable Lifestyles

Programme Name	**Community Growing and Sustainable Lifestyles** **94 participants**		
Budget	**£70,000**	**Timeframe**	**2024 - 2028**
Programme Aim			

Building on the successful Community Growing Project delivered through Peace 4 this programme will further develop the sites previously supported, increasing the shared usage of enhanced existing facilities, and creating new shared spaces and a growing network; and will result in an increased number of individuals and groups utilising shared spaces and accessing shared services contributing to creating thriving and peaceful communities. It also aims to:

- support and align with the programme in that it is designed to enable cross community interaction and collaboration across a broad range of areas of mutual interest i.e. Growing / Gardening.
- It is a community action projects designed to provide additional activity in the key areas of health and wellbeing and the environment.
- It is developed to provide social and emotional support and opportunities for people of all ages to come together creating social connections.

Widen participation from

- Disadvantaged or low-income groups
- Ethnic minority groups
- Engaging with the wider community e.g. schools and other community groups

Support Environmental Sustainability

- Biodiversity
- Climate Change
- Conservation

Creating an attractive environment supporting

- Eco tourism
- Income generation

Elements within the programme will include:

- Both classroom and outdoor based learning open to All community members with additional focus on hard-to-reach participants and participants from areas of social deprivation.
- Intergenerational activities - building relationships between younger and older residents through practical gardening activities which will build on team building and communication.
- Activities which focus on promoting positive physical and mental health and wellbeing
- Support person's rehabilitation process, to help them recover and 'find their feet again' after an illness or a difficult time in their lives.
- Provide opportunities to learn new skills.
- Study trips to expand discussions and learning.
- Participants will be given the opportunity to engage with individuals from within their local community and surrounding areas in a safe space to enable development of self-awareness; communications skills, capacity building and greater understanding of both one and others.
- Intergenerational elements will be delivered via practical project delivery within a polytunnel and surrounding green spaces, creating a community of growers.
- Through purchase and use of Polytunnels where need is identified, participants will be given the opportunity to work together throughout all seasons, developing their own knowledge of sustainable living whilst building meaningful and long term relationships.
- The project will also focus on promoting positive health and wellbeing and provide opportunities for all participants of the programme to take part in activities designed to raise awareness and facilitate discussion around physical and mental health.

Relation to Area Needs

Consultation highlighted the need for community growing and sustainable lifestyles programmes with the following insights and feedback received:

- Appetite to develop shared interest themes that brought people together in normal environments around common interests to build relationships within and between communities.
- Remove the barriers to better community cohesion in the Council area, including inter-community relations and integrating new communities.
- Priorities in relation to future Community Regeneration Programmes such as community growing.
- Deliver activities which bring everyone together.
- Food distribution programmes during the pandemic, this highlighted communities can work together to respond to shared needs.
- Mental health and wellbeing emerged as the most pertinent issue for those completing the survey, with 93.9% of respondents categorising this social challenge as either 'Very Important' or 'Important'. Community growing and sustainable lifestyles programme can contribute to enhanced mental health and wellbeing.
- Collaboration on gardening and sustainability initiatives fosters positive relationships, trust, and a sense of unity among participants.
- As people from different backgrounds work together on common goals, they have opportunities to share stories, experiences, and perspectives, fostering greater understanding and empathy.
- Sharing resources, such as seeds, tools, and knowledge, within and between communities promotes a sense of interconnectedness and solidarity.
- Communities can exchange cultural knowledge and celebrate each other's traditions through shared food and festivities, which fosters cultural appreciation and cross-community celebration.

Programme Actions

The programme supports outdoor, nature-based learning that focuses on social interaction and inclusion. Delivered to children, young people, families, and communities. To grow food, to grow community and to grow resilience in these uncertain times. Sustainable lifestyles project (social inclusion, therapeutic practices and sustainability principles and

practices) will be used as a medium to encourage and promote community development for social change, creating a space for conversation and to build relationships between people. Create an ethos of community and sustainability, raise awareness of the natural space and benefits of outdoors on mind and body. Support communities in hard-to-reach places to have access to the initiative to support connectivity, community development and health and wellbeing. Connecting individuals, groups, and communities with nature for the benefit of humanity and for reciprocal benefits to nature. Participants experience change in their relationship to self, to nature and each other. The Bushcraft & Parks Development team will lead in the development and implementation of the Community Growing and Sustainable Living project.

Programme will provide opportunities to learn and to support:

- Sustainable and healthier lifestyles through horticulture activities & cultivating the land.
    - How to grow healthy food and cook healthy food.
    - Food security principles
- To support and develop communities by building and encouraging a sense of pride in the borough.
    - A place for community to share skills and knowledge.
    - Intergenerational – for knowledge and skill sharing
    - Inclusivity and accessible to all – wheelchair access, therapy garden etc.

Building on PIV 3 central sites will be utilised for primary / initial deliver:

- Kinnego Bushcraft – Craigavon rural
- Edenvilla - Portadown
- Armagh Palace Stables

Project will include several elements:

Training:

- Train the trainer growing skills
- Horticulture level 1/2/3

- Permaculture and organic growing
- Other relevant skills development.

Engagement:

- Development opportunities for wider community growing and skills development with other groups including:
    - Engage with other CG groups
    - Dromore
    - Donaghcloney
    - Drumellan
    - Chrysalis
    - Gilford
    - Loughgall
    - Tannaghmore
    - Mount Zion
    - Banbridge
- Targeting hard to reach and minority communities.
- Stakeholders and Partnerships
- Regional and cross border connections.

Programme:

- Activities throughout each year
- Social interaction events and workshops
- Across Parks and Open Spaces.

Small Capital/other costs:

- Creation of suitable spaces for community growing
- Resources & equipment
- Materials
- Facilitation

- Venue / hospitality costs

Beneficiaries

- Existing community leaders/ volunteers
- Community groups
- Marginalised groups

SMART Objectives

- ✓ Deliver one programme supports outdoor, nature-based learning that focuses on social interaction and inclusion. Delivered to children, young people, families, and communities.
- ✓ 3 central sites will be utilised for primary delivery.
- ✓ 94 participants will complete the programme.
- ✓ 4x courses will be delivered across the four-year project period.

Results

Community growing and sustainable lifestyles can address various needs in the context of peace and reconciliation between communities. These initiatives can help meet practical, social, and emotional needs while contributing to conflict resolution and harmony:

- Community gardens and sustainable food production provide a local source of fresh and healthy food, addressing food security issues, particularly in economically disadvantaged communities.
- Sustainable practices like urban farming and local food production can create economic opportunities, especially for marginalized or vulnerable groups, reducing economic disparities that can contribute to tensions.
- Community gardens and green spaces offer accessible and inclusive recreational areas, meeting the need for green and open spaces within urban environments.
- Participation in gardening and sustainable living promotes physical and mental well-being, helping individuals and communities cope with stress and trauma, which is essential for reconciliation.
- Collaborative projects like community gardens build social bonds and a sense of community cohesion, addressing feelings of isolation and division.

- Community growing projects bring people from different backgrounds together, facilitating cross-community interaction and reducing social segregation.
- Participants often learn conflict resolution and communication skills through community gardening, which can be applied to address disputes and conflicts within and between communities.
- Sustainable living practices often involve cultural traditions related to food and agriculture. This allows for cultural exchange and appreciation, contributing to intercultural understanding.
- Involving young people in sustainable initiatives keeps them engaged in positive activities, reduces their susceptibility to negative influences, and provides them with valuable life skills.
- Sustainable lifestyles can empower marginalised or disadvantaged groups, such as refugees or minority communities, by providing them with skills, resources, and opportunities for social integration.
- Working towards common sustainability goals creates a sense of shared purpose and cooperation, reducing intercommunity tensions and conflicts.
- Building resilience through sustainable practices helps communities better withstand external shocks and challenges, reducing vulnerabilities that can lead to conflicts.

By addressing these various needs and contributing to community well-being and cohesion, community growing, and sustainable lifestyles can play a significant role in peace and reconciliation efforts between communities. These initiatives promote shared values, cooperation, and a sense of belonging, fostering an environment conducive to conflict prevention and resolution.

Outputs

- The programme will upskill the individuals, improve their quality of life both short and long term, and promote community engagement between themselves and others. It will build confidence, improve communication skills, and promote personal and social development while improving their physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

- The Community Growing and Sustainable Lifestyles project will improve and enhance opportunities to engage in outdoor activities to deliver positive outcomes:
- Better physical health - Lower obesity, lower blood pressure and faster recovery from illness and from fatigue.
- Better mental health - Less stress and more psychological restfulness, reduced depression and anxiety and anger.
- Enhanced quality of life - Increased sense of emotional wellbeing and satisfaction, greater happiness, reduced fear, and higher energy levels.
- Social integration - Reduced stratification and greater integration of social groups, and larger social networks locally, with stronger social support.
- Greater inclusiveness Enhanced use of space by marginalised and socio-economically disadvantaged groups, and acceptance of cultural and social difference.
- More enabling environments for citizens of older age and/or with disabilities.

How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements

The community growing and sustainable lifestyles programme will contribute to enhanced peace and reconciliation between communities in several ways:

Shared Purpose and Collaboration

- Engaging in community growing projects creates a shared purpose that brings members of different communities together.
- Collaboration on gardening and sustainability initiatives fosters positive relationships, trust, and a sense of unity among participants.

Intercommunity Dialogue:

- Community gardens and sustainability projects provide natural settings for intercommunity dialogue and interaction.

- As people from different backgrounds work together on common goals, they have opportunities to share stories, experiences, and perspectives, fostering greater understanding and empathy.

Conflict Resolution and Mediation Skills:

- Community gardening and sustainable living projects can include training in conflict resolution and mediation skills.
- Participants learn how to address disputes or conflicts that may arise within the context of the projects, promoting peaceful resolution.

Resource Sharing and Solidarity

- Sharing resources, such as seeds, tools, and knowledge, within and between communities promotes a sense of interconnectedness and solidarity.
- Communities can support one another in times of need, which builds trust and reduces potential tensions.

Cultural Exchange and Celebration

- Sustainable lifestyles often involve traditional and cultural practices related to food and agriculture.
- Communities can exchange cultural knowledge and celebrate each other's traditions through shared food and festivities, which fosters cultural appreciation and cross-community celebration.

Youth Engagement and Education

- Involving young people in community growing and sustainable lifestyle projects provides them with valuable skills and opportunities.
- It also engages them in positive activities that steer them away from negative influences and potential involvement in conflict.

Empowerment for Marginalised Groups

- Community growing initiatives often include marginalized or vulnerable groups.
- Empowering these groups through participation in sustainable practices can contribute to social inclusion and peace.

Overall, community growing, and sustainable lifestyles offer a holistic approach to peace and reconciliation. By addressing social, economic, cultural, and environmental dimensions, these initiatives can build bridges between communities and create the conditions for peaceful coexistence and collaboration.

2.12 Community Engagement Programme- Outdoor Spaces

Programme Name	**Outdoor Spaces Community Engagement Programme** **150 participants**		
Budget	**£130,000**	**Timeframe**	**2024-2028**
Programme Aim			
The Outdoor Spaces Community Engagement Programme is designed to foster thriving and peaceful communities by promoting cross-community activities, outdoor education, and the preservation of local heritage and biodiversity. The primary goal is to create shared spaces that bring together individuals from diverse backgrounds, with a particular focus on children and young people. Through a range of activities, the programme aims to encourage interactions, enhance community cohesion, and provide opportunities for personal growth.			
Relation to Area Needs			
This programme recognises the pivotal role of outdoor, nature-based learning in connecting people with their environment and heritage. By engaging children and young people, it seeks to instil a sense of appreciation for the natural world and local traditions across the Borough. This commitment was underscored during public consultations, where it became evident that youth-oriented activities and programmes geared toward well-being play a pivotal role in nurturing a vibrant and harmonious community. This sentiment was further reinforced in the public survey results, which identified these two elements as the			

most crucial emerging themes. Additionally, the programme aims to address issues of marginalisation and isolation among high-deprivation areas and BME communities by providing inclusive and engaging activities that foster interactions across divides.

Programme Actions

The Outdoor Spaces Community Engagement Programme offers a comprehensive array of activities, carefully designed to unite individuals from various backgrounds across Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon Borough Council areas, fostering cross-community relationships, enhancing mental health and well-being, and equipping participants with valuable skills:

Arts and Crafts

These engaging workshops provide a creative outlet, encouraging participants to work together on projects like giant nest building, kite making, park maze design, and windsock crafting. By collaborating on artistic endeavours in the natural surroundings, individuals from different backgrounds form connections, fostering mutual understanding and friendship.

Drama and Heritage

Educational activities linked to local heritage to immerse participants in the rich cultural tapestry of their communities. Activities will include exploring traditional crafts such as basket weaving, honey and jam making, and delving into the historical significance of the linen industry. This experience will promote cross-community appreciation of shared heritage and traditions.

Play and Physical Activity

This element of the programme will provide a safe space for participants to engage in fundamental play activities, from individual pursuits to team-building exercises. Outdoor games, including traditional play games, orienteering, archery, and bush crafts, encourage teamwork and cooperation, transcending cultural and community boundaries.

Conservation and Biodiversity

Guided outdoor biodiversity activities like pond dipping, bug hunts, species identification, and tree studies offer participants the opportunity to explore and protect their natural environment together. Collaborative conservation efforts will strengthen bonds, as individuals work side by side to preserve the local ecosystem.

Family Events

These events, such as picnics in the park, bat walks, and seasonally appropriate activities, will encourage intergenerational participation and provide a platform for families from diverse backgrounds to connect, share experiences, and build lasting relationships.

Through these multifaceted activities, the Outdoor Spaces Community Engagement Programme will bring together individuals who might not otherwise have the chance to interact. By fostering an inclusive environment that values diversity, these experiences not only enhance participants' mental health and well-being but also equip them with practical life skills. Moreover, the relationships formed during these activities extend beyond the programme, contributing to the development of a more integrated and peaceful community across Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon Borough Council areas.

Beneficiaries

- Children and young people
- Older adults
- Families
- Individuals combating isolation.
- People with an interest in the environment
- Marginalised and isolated groups and individuals
- Local community groups

SMART Objectives

- ✓ Collaborate with local schools and community groups to ensure that at least 20% of programme participants are newcomers or individuals who have had limited

exposure to cross-community activities within the first year, thereby expanding the program's reach and impact.

- ✓ Increase the utilisation of shared spaces over the 4 years.
- ✓ Foster sustained personal interactions between residents and groups from different backgrounds.
- ✓ Engage 200 children and young people annually in outdoor education and community activities.
- ✓ Enhance community cohesion by providing opportunities for participants to interact with peers from diverse backgrounds.
- ✓ Facilitate at least three cross-cultural events or workshops, where participants from different backgrounds share their cultural traditions, foods, or practices, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of diversity.
- ✓ Identify and mentor at least five participants each year to take on leadership roles within the programme, encouraging them to organise and lead cross-community activities and initiatives, thereby promoting sustainable community engagement.

Results

- Enhanced Cross-Community Relationships- a 20% increase in cross-community interactions and relationships formed among participants within the first year, demonstrating the programme's success in fostering a sense of unity and understanding.
- Improved mental health and wellbeing- the programme will have a positive impact on the participants' mental health and wellbeing.
- Cross-Community Leadership Development- identify and mentor at least five participants each year to take on leadership roles within the programme, encouraging them to organise and lead cross-community activities and initiatives, thereby promoting sustainable community engagement.
- Inclusivity- collaborate with local schools and community groups to engage at least 20% of programme participants who are newcomers or individuals with limited exposure to cross- community activities within the first year of the programme.

- Skills Development- participants will acquire practical skills in outdoor activities, arts, or crafts throughout the delivery of the programme.

Outputs

- Increased participation in outdoor arts, crafts, drama, and heritage activities.
- Documented instances of community members working and playing together in outdoor settings.
- Elevated awareness and knowledge of local heritage and biodiversity.
- Evidence of cross-community interactions and collaborations.
- Creation of new links between community groups, local schools and residents across the Borough.

How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements

CNR 45% / PUL 45%/ other 10%

Fostering Understanding and Empathy- through cross-community activities and interactions, participants will gain a deeper understanding of different cultures, traditions, and perspectives. They develop empathy for one another's experiences, which is fundamental to peacebuilding and reconciliation.

Breaking Down Barriers- by creating shared spaces and inclusive activities, the programme breaks down barriers that may have previously divided communities. Participants will engage in collaborative projects, transcending cultural and communal boundaries, thus reducing prejudices and stereotypes.

Encouraging Open Dialogue- the programme will create a platform for open and constructive dialogue. Participants will have opportunities to discuss sensitive topics, share their stories, and address any lingering tensions or misunderstandings, promoting conflict resolution and peace.

Strengthening Social Cohesion- through collaborative events, games, and projects, the programme will strengthen social cohesion across the Borough. Participants will learn to appreciate their shared identity as a community that values diversity, inclusivity, and unity. **Empowering Cross-Community Leaders**- by identifying and mentoring individuals to take on leadership roles within the programme, the initiative empowers cross-community leaders who can play a pivotal role in fostering peace, understanding, and cooperation beyond the program's scope.

2.13 GLOW Projects

Programme Name	**GLOW Project** **75 participants**		
Budget	**£15,625**	**Timeframe**	**3 years**
Programme Aim			
The GLOW Programme is a development of our innovative PEACE IV programme. It aims to inspire girls to become more physically active in a fun and creative manner. This 10-week programme will include physical activity sessions, educational workshops, and art activities, fostering cross-community relationships and contributing to a more peaceful and cohesive community. The GLOW Programme will be hosted at three key areas- Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon. Each of these centres will accommodate 25 girls, resulting in a total of 75 girls who will have the opportunity to benefit from the programme.			
Relation to Area Needs			
During Peace IV, we successfully implemented the Glow programme at three different locations within the Borough. All 75 available spaces quickly filled up, and we even had a waiting list of 50 girls eager to participate. The feedback we received from participants was overwhelmingly positive. As the programme concluded, we were inundated with expressions of interest from various groups and parents who are keen to see more Glow programmes offered in the future.			

The demographic landscape of Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon Borough has witnessed notable changes, as evidenced by the results of the 2021 Census. The data reveals that a significant majority, approximately 85.5%, of the borough's residents were born in Northern Ireland, reflecting the historically dominant native population. However, what stands out is the increasing diversity within the region, with 8.6% of residents, or 18,836 individuals, hailing from outside the United Kingdom or Republic of Ireland. This influx of individuals born in various countries, including EU nations, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, North America, and more, demonstrates a growing multicultural presence in the area. At the public consultations, people also believed in the significance of supporting the integration of newcomer communities. This programme will aim to target girls from newcomer communities and provide them with opportunities to develop friendships and share stories of their culture through the engaging activities on the GLOW Programme.

Programme Actions

Using learnings from the GLOW Programme delivered in PEACE IV. This new version will comprise of a series of engaging actions aimed at inspiring girls to lead healthier, more active lives while nurturing cross-community relationships. The programme will target girls who would not normally participate in extracurricular sports.

Physical Activity Sessions

These sessions, including Netball, Dance, and Dodgeball, will provide girls with an opportunity to participate in enjoyable physical activities. The activities are creative and innovative and are delivered under UV lights, with participants donning glow-up bibs, creating a unique and exciting atmosphere that adds a layer of fun to the programme, making it extremely engaging.

Educational Workshops

The GLOW Programme goes beyond physical activity by offering a diverse range of educational workshops. These workshops encompass a T-shirt making session where girls design their own glow-up T-shirts, Laughter Yoga, a Mini Medics Workshop, a Confidence Building Workshop, cross community workshops and a Take 5 Workshop which focuses on

mental health. These sessions not only promote creativity but also instil valuable life skills and boost self-confidence.

Cross Community Engagement

A key aspect of GLOW is to encourage cross-community interaction and understanding. By promoting inclusion across the borough and facilitating interaction among children and young people from diverse backgrounds, the GLOW Programme aims to instil a deeper respect for diversity while equipping participants with essential life skills. The physical activity component of the programme is designed not only to enhance physical health but also to contribute to better mental well-being.

Celebration Event

The programme will culminate with a celebration event where participants from the three programmes will come together for relationship building workshops, fun and engaging activities, and an opportunity to highlight their experiences from the programme.

Beneficiaries

- Young girls that wouldn't normally participate in physical activities.
- Families across the Borough
- Local communities
- Newcomer communities
- Community groups

SMART Objectives

- ✓ Increase the self-esteem, knowledge, and skills of 75 girls through the delivery of the programme.
- ✓ Build new friendships between girls from different communities.
- ✓ Improve physical wellbeing and mental health of participants.
- ✓ Develop cross community relationships.
- ✓ Provide participation opportunities to girls from newcomer communities.
- ✓ Enhance understanding of personal identity.

Results

- Enhanced self-esteem- all the girls participating in the GLOW programme will benefit from increased self-esteem and confidence.
- Improved relationships- through the GLOW programme, participants will build new friendships and relationships with girls from different communities.
- Improved physical and mental health- the 10-week programme will contribute to the improved physical health and well-being of participants.
- Participants will be signposted to further physical activity sessions across the Borough by facilitators.

Outputs

- Cross community understanding- through the interactive sessions, the girls involved will get a better understanding of girls the same age from different backgrounds.
- Case studies- the programme will provide case studies on how to successfully engage girls from different backgrounds in sports and leisure activities which will be shared with other community groups.
- Improved life skills- participants will gain new life skills such as improved confidence, communication skills and problem-solving abilities.
- Health living- the programme will encourage girls to engage in life long physical activity, promoting a healthier lifestyle.
- Video case study- a video case study highlighting the experiences of the girls on the programme and the relationships that they have built.

How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements

CNR 45% / PUL 45%/ other 10%

Community Cohesion- GLOW will bring together girls from different backgrounds across the Borough and foster cross community interaction. The girls will develop understanding of others through the activities on the programme.

Building Relationships- the activities have been designed to build relationships among participants. These friendships have the potential build trust and harmony within the community. **Cultural Understanding-** participants will have opportunities to learn about each other and their backgrounds, this will help them have a better understanding of the diverse community in which they live.

2.14 Diversionary Sport Programmes

Programme Name	**Diversionary Sports Programme** **310 participants**		
Budget	**£43,800**	**Timeframe**	**2024- 2027**
Programme Aim			
The Weekend Evening Sports Club is an inventive cross-community initiative designed to address rising Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) among 13–17-year-olds in our Borough. The programme aims to provide constructive diversionary activities during weekend evenings, targeting a vulnerable age group at times when ASB is most prevalent. It seeks to engage young people from diverse cultural backgrounds and create a safe, positive, and fun environment that fosters personal development, community connections, and a sense of responsibility. The key aims of the Weekend Evening Sports Club are as follows: Develop physical and mental wellbeing- through this programme, participants will take part in sport and leisure activities. ASB Reduction- to significantly reduce instances of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) within our borough by providing appealing alternatives to negative behaviours, such as ASB, alcohol abuse, and vandalism.			

Positive Diversion- offer weekend activities that divert young people from engaging in harmful or destructive behaviours, guiding them towards more constructive and fulfilling pastimes.

Community Engagement- to actively engage with young people in our community and raise awareness about the detrimental effects of ASB on our neighbourhoods, including vandalism and damage to public facilities.

Cross-Community Understanding-to promote cross-community understanding and appreciation of identity in a creative and enjoyable manner, breaking down barriers and stereotypes.

Relationship Building- to facilitate the building of positive relationships among participants from diverse cultural backgrounds, ultimately contributing to a more harmonious and unified community.

Community Cohesion- to develop a sense of community and encourage the development of cohesive neighbourhoods where residents share a common purpose and mutual support.

Relation to Area Needs

Within the Borough from July 2022-June 2023 we have the second highest rate of ASB in Northern Ireland, with 5,310 incidents recorded by the PSNI, it is also evident within our borough with a huge amount of our play parks and facilities being vandalised. Providing diversionary activities for the youth across our borough can reduce these levels but also give us an opportunity to engage with the young people and highlight the issues ASB brings to the community.

The escalating statistics on incidents of racism, sectarianism, homophobia, disability discrimination, transphobia, and faith/religion-related issues in our ABC over the past three years underscore the need for a diversionary sports programme. The numbers paint a

concerning picture of increasing intolerance and discrimination within the community, with significant spikes in incidents observed in 2021/22. A diversionary sports programme can serve as a proactive and constructive response to these challenges by providing a safe and inclusive space for individuals of all backgrounds and identities to come together. Through sports, we can foster unity, promote tolerance, and break down barriers, ultimately working towards a more harmonious and accepting community.

	Racist	Sectarian	Homophobic	Disability	Transphobic	Faith / Religion
2019/20	84	89	33	11	8	6
2020/21	103	86	36	11	3	1
2021/22	145	93	56	8	11	4

Hate motivated incidents by type of motivation in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2010/11 to 2021/22. Source: Police Service of Northern Ireland Statistics.

The results of the 2021 Census show that the demographic makeup of Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon Borough has seen significant changes. According to the census, a sizable majority of the Borough's residents—roughly 85.5%—were born in Northern Ireland, reflecting the historically strong native community. The region is becoming more diverse, with 18.836 people, or 8.6% of the population, coming from countries other than the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland. This programme will be completely inclusivity and provide young people from all communities with the opportunity to participate.

Programme Actions

The Weekend Evening Sports Club programme will deliver a series of community youth activities designed to suit the interests and needs of 13–17-year-old boys and girls. These activities will span sports, arts, and recreational programmes, with a specific focus on scheduling them during times when Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) incidents are most prevalent. By offering engaging alternatives, the programme aims to divert young people from negative behaviours, such as ASB, alcohol abuse, and vandalism.

Complementing these activities, the programme will deliver a sequence of workshops aimed at enhancing participants' personal development and overall well-being. These workshops will address crucial topics, including good relations to promote understanding and tolerance among young people from different cultural backgrounds, mental health to equip participants with tools for emotional well-being and resilience, confidence building to boost self-esteem and self-confidence, and team building to foster cooperation, communication, and interpersonal skills. Activities will take place in each of the three legacy council areas and have been selected with the aim of reaching diverse communities. These venues will include- Cathedral Road Armagh (BT617QX), Scarva Road Banbridge (BT323AS), and Portadown Peoples Park (BT621ED).

The programme will place a strong emphasis on cross-community engagement. It will encourage young people from different cultures and backgrounds to participate, fostering positive relationships and breaking down stereotypes. Cross-community events, activities, and workshops will be organised to promote understanding and cooperation among participants.

Beneficiaries

- Children and young people
- Newcomer communities
- Community organisations
- Families

SMART Objectives

- ✓ The programme will aim to reduce Anti-Social Behaviour within the Borough.
- ✓ Increase youth engagement across the Borough with 360 young people taking part.
- ✓ Participants to report improved mental health and wellbeing, confidence, and self-esteem through the delivery of the programme.
- ✓ 310 participants will take part in a workshop on the impact the ASB has on their community.

Results

- Reduced ASB incident in the 3 targeted areas- the programme will aim to reduce ASB incidents in the Borough, therefore creating a thriving and peaceful community.
- Diversion- divert young people from engaging in ASB, alcohol abuse and other negative behaviours at the weekends.
- Cross community understanding- the programme will bring together children from different backgrounds to enhance cross-community understanding through a series of fun and engaging activities.
- New relationships- through the fun activities, children will develop positive relationships which will contribute to the long-term development of peace and reconciliation.

Outputs

- Reduced vandalism- a decrease in vandalism across the three target areas due to children and young people taking part in alternative activities.
- A more thriving and peaceful community- this will be evidenced through reduced ASB incidents in the areas.
- Engagement of young people- 360 young people will participate in activities at weekends.
- Awareness of ASB- the community will become more aware of the importance of youth diversionary activities and how they contribute to the reduction of ASB.
- Case studies- the facilitators will produce case studies on the effectiveness of the project and how it can be evolved.

How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements

CNR 45% / PUL 45%/ other 10%

Encouraging dialogue- the activities and workshops will provide an opportunity for open dialogue among the young people on the programme. These will encourage them to express their views and feelings.

Raising Awareness of Youth diversionary Activities- by raising awareness about the importance of diversionary activities, the programme will highlight the role that other activities/ groups can play in creating a thriving and peaceful community. **Future leaders**- there is an opportunity for participants on the programme to become future leaders in their community and help develop peace and reconciliation with the borough. **Breaking down barriers**- through the workshops and activities, young people will gain knowledge of each other's backgrounds and build relationships with people that they might not have met before.

2.15 Barge and Play

Programme Name	**Barge & Play Space Revitalisation** **150 participants**		
Budget	**£155,000**	**Timeframe**	**2024-2028**
Programme Aim			
Play Development and Bushcraft Officers Council Officers have identified two facilities that if revitalised will enhance the current provision under the above aims of the Play Strategy and the Building Sustainable Communities Bushcraft Programme and will have the capability to extend to community use to support interventions around mental health, suicide awareness and addiction and support cross community interaction. This collaborative approach to revitalise facilities in the vicinity of Waterside House, Oxford Island will widen current provision and support the delivery of various projects that will benefit residents from across the Borough. Project investment will aim to: • Bring the Barge & The Play Space up to standard so that these spaces become fully inclusive giving everyone who engages in our programmes an all-year-round experience and a place where they can relax, develop, and learn while having fun. • provide inclusive space and additionally tackle disadvantage by providing safe spaces that encourage and facilitate opportunities for people to get involved.			

- Revitalisation of the site will harness changing practices and develop cultural connections to the land and environment, building on how outdoor nature based and on land experiences affect community wellness.
- Assist the revitalisation of the identified areas that challenges initial perceptions and increases the level of shared pride in an area.
- Facilitate the development of shared spaces across the Borough.
- Upgraded and revitalised spaces will support programmes for bush craft/forest schools/play and equipping children and young people with the knowledge and support to make safe, healthy, and sustainable life choices, building their social, cultural and environmental awareness and self-confidence through inclusive activities.
- 150 people will benefit from the use of the improved community facility in the first year and a further 100 each year thereafter (350 direct participants)
- Enable the development of new shared outdoor spaces which enable increased levels of cross community interaction.

The project locations will be at the Artspace and Barge at Oxford Island. By bringing the Barge & Play Space up to standard we will be sustaining existing spaces rather than building new, supporting adaptive reuse of buildings, spaces and infrastructure that is adaptable over time and more able to support the changing needs of society. This feeds into our Life Cycle Assessment on Climate, Environment Biodiversity, Circular Economy & Resource Management and Ethical Procurement & Supply.

Relation to Area Needs

This project will address several issues highlighted in the Brownlow, Lurgan and NW Portadown NR Action Plans, such as:

- high crime rates/anti-social behaviour,
- Covid-19 recovery,
- community wellbeing and the social environment,
- environmental and conservation issues and
- employment deprivation.

The aim of the project is to address the continued need surrounding social renewal, health, and crime through the encouragement of greater use of the outdoor environment by familiarising people with the opportunities around them. By increasing their confidence to engage both on an individual and group basis with nature, in an active capacity and to improve the overall health and wellbeing of all residents. A range of organisations acknowledge the deprivation and disadvantage within the local areas. Information extracted from the recent Census indicates that an average of 27.8% of people living in the areas have limiting long term illness, health problems, or disability.

During the Covid pandemic outdoor play became a refuge for some families who were adjusting to the new normal and looking for ways that their children could safely be active. Research points to proof of concept in terms of our experience with The Bushcraft/Forest School programmes that increased social, physical and mental activity levels of the local community during this time and our vision is to build on this in order to sustain the practices and associated benefits.

Consultation highlighted:

- Appetite to develop shared interest themes that brought people together in normal environments around common interests to build relationships within and between communities.
- Remove the barriers to better community cohesion in the Council area, including inter-community relations and also integrating new communities.
- Deliver activities which bring everyone together.
- As people from different backgrounds work together on common goals, they have opportunities to share stories, experiences, and perspectives, fostering greater understanding and empathy.
- Sharing resources, such as seeds, tools, and knowledge, within and between communities promotes a sense of interconnectedness and solidarity.

Oxford Island has been established as a shared space, this project would further strengthen the area as a shared space for use by all communities; and increase the shared usage of this enhanced existing facilities the project will result in an increased number of individuals and groups utilising the shared space and accessing shared services which will contribute to creating thriving and peaceful communities.

Programme Actions

Revitalising the Barge & The Play Space is the focus of this project with the aim to create shared space that is an inclusive community and public asset that provides a sustainable all-year-round experience and a place where people can relax, develop, and learn while having fun. This will not only provide inclusive space but also tackle disadvantage and provide safe spaces that encourage and facilitate opportunities for people to get involved. Regeneration of the site will harness changing practices and develop cultural connections to the land and environment, building on how outdoor nature based and on land experiences affect community wellness.

There are two main parts to the project:

1. Works to upgrade and regenerate the facility.
2. Programme activity resources.

The programmes will develop peer education and training opportunities to create community capacity. Additionally, the programme will develop social, cross-community and good relations. We have identified need via families, communities and professional bodies wanting delivery for the holistic development of children, young people, and adults alike in a supported natural environment that is Oxford Island Nature Reserve.

Bushcraft Programme targets those most in need and vulnerable of all ages however, it has seen an increased up take in the interventions offered for children and young people experiencing challenges in formal educational settings and uses an alternative approach to supporting children and young people with self-development and behavioural challenges. The areas targeted are fraught with social issues and inequalities, many due to the legacy

of the 'troubles' by developing these facilities there will be actual space to be a hub for self – development that also provide space for local community / voluntary, statutory authorities and council staff to support the work needed with the community to work towards addressing these issues and improving residents' quality of life. By creating new shared space for use by all communities; and increase the shared usage of this enhanced existing facilities the project will result in an increased number of individuals and groups utilising the shared space and accessing shared services which will contribute to creating thriving and peaceful communities. Upgraded and revitalised spaces will support programmes for bush craft/forest schools/play and equipping children and young people with the knowledge and support to make safe, healthy and sustainable life choices, building their social, cultural and environmental awareness and self-confidence through inclusive activities.

The activity will target marginalised and isolated groups / individuals from areas of high deprivation on a cross community / cultural basis (BAME communities).

This activity will provide a range of programmes which give participants the opportunity to engage personally and will facilitate interaction between residents and groups from divided neighbourhoods.

This activity will provide an opportunity for sustained contact between people of different backgrounds.

Transformation and re-imaging of these existing facilities within Oxford Island with an approach that challenges initial perceptions and increases the level of shared pride in an area. It will develop and enhanced facilities within existing building, which will enable increased levels of cross community interaction and service provision with the focus being community development, outdoor recreation and health and wellbeing.

Development of new shared outdoor spaces which enable increased levels of cross community interaction and capitalises upon natural assets of the site working in sustainability and environmental considerations.

Beneficiaries
The activity will target marginalised and isolated groups / individuals from areas of high deprivation on a cross community / cultural basis (BAME communities). This will include existing community leaders/ volunteers, community groups and marginalised groups. It will be based in Craigavon / Lurgan but will support the wider ABC area through programme activities and access to space.
SMART Objectives
✓ A minimum of 150 people will benefit from the use of the improved community facility in the first year and a further 100 each year thereafter. ✓ A minimum of 150 people will be involved in projects that promote shared space in this project. ✓ Activities that take place in the space will see sustained cross cultural and cross community and contact between at least 450 participants. ✓ Deliver 1 project to revitalise facilities in the vicinity of Waterside House, Oxford Island will widen current provision and support the delivery of various projects that will benefit residents from across the Borough. ✓ Deliver sustained programme of activity resources to create 1 enhanced shared space for cross community activity.
Results
• Local authority lead scheme that facilitates the sustained usage on a shared basis of public areas/buildings. • 450 participants from different communities engaged jointly within enhanced shared space at Oxford Island. • At least 150 people will benefit from the use of the improved community facility in the first year and a further 100 each year thereafter. • At least 150 people will be involved in projects that promote shared space in this project. • Activities that take place in the space will see sustained cross cultural and cross community and contact between at least 450 participants.

- Deliver 1 project to revitalise facilities in the vicinity of Waterside House, Oxford Island will widen current provision and support the delivery of various projects that will benefit residents from across the Borough.
- Deliver sustained programme of activity resources to create 1 enhanced shared space for cross community activity.
- Participation of other communities encouraged (minority ethnic communities and different racial backgrounds).

Outputs

Health outcomes:

- Better physical health - Lower obesity and faster recovery from illness and from fatigue including Covid recovery.
- Better mental health - Less stress and more psychological restfulness, reduced depression, anxiety and anger.
- Better general fitness - Increased exercise and outdoor recreation.
- Enhanced quality of life - Increased sense of emotional wellbeing and satisfaction, greater happiness, reduced fear, and higher energy levels

Social outcomes:

- Social integration - Reduced stratification and greater integration of social groups, and larger social networks locally, with stronger social support.
- Greater inclusiveness - Enhanced use of the space by marginalised and socio-economically disadvantaged groups, and cross community engagement leading to acceptance of cultural and social difference.
- More enabling environments - For citizens of older age and/or with disabilities.

Environmental outcomes:

- Adaptive reuse of buildings, spaces and infrastructure that is adaptable over time and more able to support the changing needs of society.
- Ecological diversity - Through supporting a greater diversity of species and a greener built environment.

How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements
CNR 45% / PUL 45%/ other 10% Project investment will contribute to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements: • Bring the Barge & The Play Space will be fully inclusive giving everyone who engages in the programmes an all-year-round experience and a place where they can relax, develop, and learn while having fun. • Provide inclusive space and additionally tackle disadvantage by providing safe spaces that encourage and facilitate opportunities for people to get involved. • Revitalisation of the site will harness changing practices and develop cultural connections to the land and environment, building on how outdoor nature based and on land experiences affect community wellness. • Assist the revitalisation of the identified areas that challenges initial perceptions and increases the level of shared pride in an area. • Facilitate the development of shared spaces across the Borough. • Upgraded and revitalised spaces will support programmes for bush craft/forest schools/play and equipping children and young people with the knowledge and support to make safe, healthy, and sustainable life choices, building their social, cultural, and environmental awareness and self-confidence through inclusive activities. • Utilise the public appetite to develop shared interest themes that brought people together in normal environments around common interests to build relationships within and between communities. • Remove the barriers to better community cohesion in the Council area, including inter-community relations and integrating new communities. • Deliver activities which bring everyone together.

- As people from different backgrounds work together on common goals, they have opportunities to share stories, experiences, and perspectives, fostering greater understanding and empathy.
- Sharing resources, such as seeds, tools, and knowledge, within and between communities promotes a sense of interconnectedness and solidarity.
- Oxford Island has been established as a shared space, this project would further strengthen the area as a shared space for use by all communities; and increase the shared usage of this enhanced existing facilities the project will result in an increased number of individuals and groups utilising the shared space and accessing shared services which will contribute to creating thriving and peaceful communities.

2.16 Age Friendly Project

Programme Name	**Age Friendly Project** **100 participants**		
Budget	**£50,000**	**Timeframe**	**2024-2027**
Programme Aim			
The Age Friendly Programme aims to create a vibrant and inclusive community that supports older people in engaging with other communities. The primary focus of this project is to promote physical activity, health, and well-being among older residents. It also aims to encourage older adults to volunteer, engage in the development of digital skills, and foster meaningful connections with local service providers. The programme will further encompass arts, crafts, and heritage activities, enhance community support, and foster intergenerational programmes.			
Relation to Area Needs			
The Age Friendly Programme directly addresses the needs and outcomes identified in the ABC Age-Friendly Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2025. It responds to a variety of local requirements, including the promotion of physical and mental health, meaningful			

community participation, being heard, valued, and respected in decision-making, retaining independence, and ensuring access to vital information.

The Age Friendly Programme directly addresses critical local needs, which have been reinforced and refined through insights from the ABC Seniors Network. The feedback underscores the urgency of Digital Inclusion, highlighting the demand for personalised one-on-one support and essential training to alleviate the prevailing apprehension among older individuals regarding technology. It also noted a strong desire for activities such as arts and crafts, intergenerational engagement, efforts to combat isolation and loneliness, and music and dance programmes to enhance well-being. This programme, driven by the feedback and local context, aims to empower and connect older residents while fostering a sense of community and vibrancy within the ABC community.

Programme Actions

Promoting Physical Activity and Well-being

The programme will organise activities and initiatives aimed at improving the physical and mental health of older residents. These will include exercise classes, health workshops, and wellness seminars.

Digital Skills Development

The programme will offer training and support to older adults in developing digital skills, ensuring they can stay connected in an increasingly digital world.

Building Understanding and Commitment

The project will foster partnerships with local service providers, promoting a better understanding of the needs of older people and securing their commitment to addressing these needs.

Arts, Crafts, and Heritage Activities

Cultural activities, such as arts and crafts workshops, and initiatives to preserve and celebrate heritage will be organised to enhance the cultural engagement of older residents.

Community Support and Volunteer Opportunities

The programme will facilitate volunteer opportunities and community support, encouraging older adults to contribute to their local communities and engage with others.

Intergenerational Programmes

To break down barriers between generations, intergenerational programmes will be introduced, fostering understanding and connection between young and older residents.

Beneficiaries

- Older adults
- Community groups
- Children and young people through intergenerational activities
- Families

SMART Objectives

- ✓ Improve the physical and mental well-being of older residents through regular activities and workshops, resulting in enhanced overall health.
- ✓ Increase digital literacy among older adults, enabling them to connect with others, access information, and engage in online activities.
- ✓ Encourage active participation in community life, fostering meaningful connections and creating a sense of belonging.
- ✓ Enhance cultural involvement through arts, crafts, and heritage activities, preserving and celebrating local traditions.

Results

- Improved physical and mental well-being among older residents.
- Enhanced digital literacy and connectivity.
- Increased community engagement and participation.
- Enriched cultural engagement and preservation.

• Strengthened international connections through cross-border collaborations.
Outputs
➢ A series of physical and mental health activities for older adults. ➢ Digital skills training and resources. ➢ Community engagement initiatives that combat isolation and loneliness. ➢ Cultural and heritage events and workshops. ➢ Developed relationships between older adults and children and young people.
How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements
CNR 45% / PUL 45%/ other 10% **Inclusivity and Community Engagement-** By actively engaging older community members, the programme promotes inclusivity and provides them with a platform to voice their needs and concerns. This fosters a sense of belonging and community cohesion, vital for peace and reconciliation efforts. **Intergenerational Interaction-** Through intergenerational programs, the Age Friendly Programme encourages meaningful connections between older and younger generations. This interaction helps break down barriers and misconceptions, promoting mutual respect and understanding, which are essential for reconciliation. **Addressing Isolation and Loneliness-** Loneliness and isolation can be drivers of tension and conflict. The programmes efforts to combat these issues directly contribute to peace by providing social support networks and reducing the sense of marginalisation among older community members. **Digital Inclusion-** By addressing the fear and apprehension around technology, the programme empowers older individuals to participate more actively in the digital realm. This, in turn, enables them to connect with others, access information, and engage in online dialogues for reconciliation and understanding.

2.17 Community Restorative Justice Programme

Programme Name	Community Restorative Justice Programme 90 participants		
Budget	**£35,000**	**Timeframe**	**2024-2025**

Programme Aim

The ABC Community Restorative Justice Programme aims to promote peace, reconciliation, and cross-community cohesion in the ABC area and Northern Ireland as a whole. This aim is achieved through the following key objectives:

1. Training and Capacity Building: The programme aims to provide accredited Restorative Practice Training to individuals and agencies working within the community, youth, voluntary, and statutory sectors. By offering this training, the programme seeks to enhance the skills and knowledge of participants to effectively reduce crime, violence, and bullying.

2. Community Dialogue: Another core aim is to create a platform for constructive community dialogues that address difficult legacy issues. By facilitating these dialogues in a safe and supportive environment, the programme encourages mutual understanding, the promotion of respect, and the challenge of existing attitudes. These dialogues are crucial in advancing reconciliation and peacebuilding.

3. Accreditation and Training: The programme aims to collaborate with accredited organisations, Northern Ireland Alternatives and Community Restorative Justice Ireland, to deliver high-intensity programmes, and provide support, and training. The goal is to reduce sectarian tensions, improve intra and cross-community relations, and prevent hate crimes. Additionally, the program aims to train practitioners and volunteers to enhance community capacity in restorative practices.

Through these three key objectives, the programme strives to empower individuals and communities in the ABC area, with a focus on marginalised and deprived populations. By building the skills and capacity to implement restorative practices, fostering community dialogues, and addressing legacy issues, the programme aims to make a significant contribution to peace, reconciliation, and community well-being in Northern Ireland. This,

in turn, contributes to a thriving and peaceful community where cross-community relationships are strengthened and long-lasting change is achieved.
Relation to Area Needs
The Community Restorative Justice Programme addresses the pressing needs of marginalised communities in the ABC area. This programme aims to provide accredited Restorative Practice Training, emphasising the reduction of crime, violence, and bullying, as well as strengthening civil society, leadership, and promoting the restoration of relationships and repair of harm. The training will also create a safe space for community dialogue on challenging legacy issues, fostering mutual understanding and respect among participants.
Programme Actions
Accredited Training: Deliver accredited Restorative Practice Training to community, youth, voluntary, and statutory agencies in the Craigavon area. This training will equip them with the skills and knowledge to reduce crime, violence, and bullying while promoting restorative practices. **Community Dialogue:** Facilitate community dialogues on challenging legacy issues, providing a safe space for individuals from marginalised and deprived areas to engage in mutual understanding, challenge existing attitudes, and promote reconciliation. **Accreditation and Training:** Collaborate with accredited organisations, Northern Ireland Alternatives and Community Restorative Justice Ireland, to provide high-intensity programmes, support, and training that reduce sectarian tensions, improve intra and cross-community relations, and prevent hate crimes. Additionally, train practitioners and volunteers to enhance community capacity in restorative practices.
Beneficiaries
• Community members • Community groups • Residents

• Marginalised communities
SMART Objectives
✓ Provide accredited Restorative Practice Training to individuals from various community, youth, voluntary and statutory agencies within ABC. ✓ Conduct community dialogue sessions across the Borough, with active participation from individuals from marginalised and deprived areas. ✓ Train volunteers to enhance community capacity in restorative practices.
Results
• Increased awareness and skills in restorative practices among community, youth, and voluntary agencies in the area, leading to a reduction in crime, violence, and bullying. • Improved community relationships, marked by constructive dialogues on challenging legacy issues and the promotion of mutual understanding and respect. • Enhanced capacity for community-led restorative practices, building a foundation for long-term peace, reconciliation, and improved community well-being.
Outputs
➢ Individuals trained in accredited Restorative Practice within the Craigavon area. ➢ Community dialogues conducted. ➢ Practitioners and volunteers trained in restorative practices to enhance community capacity.
How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements
CNR 45% / PUL 45%/ other 10% The Community Restorative Justice Programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation by: • Providing accredited training to equip individuals and agencies with skills to reduce violence, crime, and bullying. • Creating a safe space for community dialogues, fostering mutual understanding and challenging existing attitudes.

- Empowering communities to engage in restorative practices, reducing sectarian tensions and promoting cross-community relations.
- Addressing the legacies of violence and deprivation through proactive and inclusive approaches, promoting community well-being, and reconciliation.

2.18 Cross Community Volunteer Development Programme

Programme Name	**Cross Community Volunteer Development Programme (Community Leaders)** **70 participants**		
Budget	**£100,000**	**Timeframe**	**2024-2027**
Programme Aim			
The Cross Community Volunteer Development Programme aims to empower volunteers from local community groups across the Borough to become effective agents of change in their communities, this cross-community programme will be open to all volunteers in the area. Through a structured and comprehensive training programme, participants will have an opportunity to help shape the programme, giving them ownership and helping them to best support the members of their community groups. Participants will develop the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to contribute to peace and reconciliation efforts within their communities. This aim encompasses several key aspects: Empowerment- the programme seeks to empower volunteers, recognising that individuals who possess the confidence, skills, and knowledge to effect change are pivotal assets in community development and peacebuilding. Leadership Development- by fostering leadership qualities and developing a deep sense of responsibility, the programme aims to shape participants into even more influential volunteers who can mobilise and inspire others within their communities. Peace and Reconciliation- the central focus of the programme is on nurturing a generation of individuals who are well-versed in developing peace and prosperity in their areas. The			

programme will be delivered on a cross community basis bringing together community leaders/ volunteers from a variety of different backgrounds.

Community Engagement- the programme will see participants actively engaging with their communities to identify and address pressing issues. This engagement is rooted in the belief that local solutions, driven by local voices, are the most effective means of fostering lasting peace.

Sustainability- beyond the short-, medium-, and long-term training, the programme aims to establish a sustainable culture of peace and community development.

Inclusivity- the programme highlights inclusivity, embracing participants from diverse backgrounds, and ensuring that no voice is marginalised. It aims to create a safe and welcoming environment where participants can learn from one another's experiences.

Community Events- at the end of the programme, participants will have an opportunity to use the skills and training that they have learnt to develop and run a community event for their local communities based on the needs and wants of their communities at that time.

Relation to Area Needs

Throughout the various focus group discussions, a consistent theme emerged: the importance of bolstering the efforts of existing community leaders/ volunteers and facilitating the recruitment of new ones within organisations. Attendees emphasised the need for a multifaceted approach to achieve this goal. Key insights from the discussions include:

Support for Active Volunteers: Participants stressed the significance of providing ongoing support to volunteers who are actively engaged in community initiatives. They expressed a desire for tailored training programs and peer support networks to enhance the capabilities and resilience of these dedicated individuals.

Attraction of New Volunteers: Attendees highlighted the necessity of strategies to attract fresh faces to the volunteer pool. They emphasised the pivotal role of volunteers in driving the successful delivery of programmes and projects and acknowledged the need for initiatives aimed at increasing their numbers.

Retention Strategies: Recognising the fragility of volunteer retention, participants called for measures to retain volunteers once they have joined an organisation. They recognised that retaining experienced volunteers is crucial for the continuity and effectiveness of community programmes.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Monitoring and evaluating programmes were cited as essential aspects of volunteer engagement. Participants sought training and support in these areas to ensure that programmes and projects can be assessed and improved effectively.

Community Projects: Participants noted that they needed support to deliver community projects within their own communities. They highlighted the pandemic and example of how community and voluntary groups can be agile and quickly help the needs of their communities. Consultees felt that they needed support to be more effective.

More than 90% of respondents who participated in the public survey regarded volunteer development activities as either very important or important for the advancement of a thriving and harmonious community throughout the Borough.

Programme Actions

Phase 1: Needs Analysis and Orientation

Needs Analysis: In the first session, participants will take part in a comprehensive training needs analysis (TNA) led by the facilitators, this will allow the participants to have ownership and help the facilitators to craft a bespoke programme for this group. Participants will also share the specific challenges, tensions, and opportunities related to peace and reconciliation in their areas.

Orientation: Participants will be oriented to the programme's objectives, expectations, and the importance of their role as change agents. They will also get to know their fellow participants through team building activities.

Phase 2: Skill Development 1

This element of the programme will focus on the core skills and knowledge of being a volunteer.

Leadership Training: Participants will undergo leadership development sessions, where they learn about different leadership styles, working as part of a high performing team, and the importance of leadership.

Communication and Conflict Resolution: Workshops on communication skills, active listening, and conflict resolution techniques will equip participants with tools to manage and diffuse conflicts peacefully.

Project Management: Participants will receive training in project planning, implementation, and monitoring to prepare them for delivering their community projects which will occur in the final stage of this Volunteer Programme.

Community Wealth Building- participants on the programme will explore strategies and implement strategies to build economic resilience and wealth within their communities. They will learn how to access grants, funding, and resources to support community projects. This will include training on grant writing and fundraising. Community leaders/ volunteers will also learn how to identify and leverage existing community assets.

Phase 2: Skill Development 2

This element of the programme will be shaped around the TNA's that participants completed in Session 1. The facilitator will use this information to develop bespoke workshops that suit the needs of the volunteers and the communities they are active in.

Phase 3: Community Projects

Action Planning: Participants will work collaboratively with other participants and the facilitator to develop community-specific projects based on the needs of their areas. These plans address identified issues related to peace and reconciliation.

Project Implementation: Participants will work together and with the facilitators to run their projects.

Phase 4: Evaluation and Future Planning

Programme Evaluation: The final session involves an evaluation of the programmes impact on the participants. This includes assessing the effectiveness of the community projects and participants' personal growth.

Legacy: Based on the evaluation results, participants and facilitators will collaboratively chart a course for future engagement and support, ensuring that the momentum for peace and reconciliation continues. The learnings of this programme can also be used to shape any future Volunteer Development programmes ran by the Council.

Beneficiaries
• Existing community leaders/ volunteers • Community groups • Marginalised groups
SMART Objectives
✓ Develop participants' leadership and communication skills throughout the programme. ✓ Increase participants' understanding of the key issues within their communities. ✓ Explore strategies for peacebuilding, reconciliation, and conflict transformation. ✓ Succession planning- develop the next phase of community leaders. ✓ Encourage participants to develop community specific action plans.

✓ Support participants in implementing community projects focused on peace and reconciliation. ✓ Develop a legacy plan for continued engagement following the programme.
Results
• A comprehensive needs analysis report on the skills needed by local volunteers/ community leaders. • Participants have improved skills in leadership, communication, conflict resolution, and project management. • Participants have implemented community projects addressing identified needs. • Bespoke learning activities for participants • Future legacy/ engagement plan
Outputs
➢ Bespoke needs analysis produced for each participant. ➢ Training modules and materials. ➢ Skill assessment and improvement reports. ➢ Community project proposals and action plans. ➢ Reports on project implementation. ➢ Action plan for future activities. ➢ Community wealth building
How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements
CNR 45% / PUL 45%/ other 10% The Volunteer Development Programme will contribute to peace and reconciliation by equipping participants with the skills and knowledge needed to address conflict and promote unity within their communities. By empowering local volunteers/ community leaders to take a proactive role in peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts, the programme will facilitate: Conflict Resolution- participants will be better equipped to mediate conflicts and promote peaceful dialogue within their communities.

Community Empowerment-through community projects, participants will actively engage in addressing local issues and fostering a sense of belonging and cooperation. Sustainable Peacebuilding-the programme will create a network of committed volunteers who can sustain peace and reconciliation initiatives long after the programme concludes.

2.19 Sustainable Living Programme - Outdoor Spaces - Park Ranger

Programme Name	**Sustainable Living Programme- Outdoor Spaces- Park Ranger 90 participants**		
Budget	**£150k**	**Timeframe**	**2024-2028**
Programme Aim			
By involving people in horticultural, environmental, and conservation activities in outdoor areas, the Park Ranger Programme is a cross community programme that aims to foster a thriving and peaceful community. This programme seeks to empower participants with practical skills, environmental knowledge, and a deep appreciation for their natural surroundings. It aims to enhance the quality of life, confidence, communication skills, and overall well-being of participants while fostering a sense of community and purpose.			
Relation to Area Needs			
The programme addresses several pressing issues in the Borough. It offers education and practical experiences to individuals, promoting sustainability, and environmental stewardship. Additionally, it serves as a tool for personal development, reducing isolation, and promoting mental well-being. By bringing individuals together in outdoor spaces, the programme encourages a sense of belonging and community cohesion. During the consultation process, participants consistently emphasised the significance of the environment in their lives. They stressed the importance of fostering connections among individuals from diverse backgrounds, recognising the pivotal role it plays in creating a peaceful community. Equally paramount in their discussions was the unanimous acknowledgment of the need to prioritise and support the mental health and well-being of the residents in our community.			
Programme Actions			

The Park Ranger Programme is designed to nurture the holistic development of its participants. It offers an array of activities, encompassing both online and in-person delivery, designed to engage participants in purposeful ways. These activities span a wide spectrum and have been thoughtfully developed to ensure a comprehensive and transformative experience for all involved. Some of the key components of this programme include:

- Online workshops on horticultural, environmental, and conservation topics.
- Hands-on outdoor biodiversity activities and educational resources.
- Team-building activities set in natural surroundings.
- Workshops on environmental factors, sustainability, waste management, and water usage.
- Hands-on experiences with grounds equipment and manual tools.
- First Aid certification.
- Bushcraft activities promoting sustainable living and leadership.
- Maintenance of gardens, lawns, and sports pitches.
- Building and maintenance of garden structures, emphasizing conservation and environmental crafts.
- Customer care and safeguarding training.

This project will give people the opportunity to develop skills, knowledge, and the first-hand experience to increase their life skills and support them live an independent and sustainable lifestyle. The project will not only upskill the participants, it will also have a long term life-changing impact on their quality of life. It will build their confidence, improve their communication skills, and promote personal and social development while improving their physical and mental wellbeing. It will provide local community members with the opportunity to connect with others, reducing feelings of isolation or exclusion, improving mental health through a sense of purpose and achievement.

- 12-week programme.
- Maximum participant numbers - 30 per programme per year for 3 years.

- Participants will be recruited via social media, community resident groups, statutory groups, voluntary groups and existing volunteers.

Participants on the project will develop skills and knowledge in the following areas:

- Environmental factors workshop i.e. Sustainability, Waste Management, Water Usage, recycling (online)
- Conservation workshop i.e. Habitat Management (online)
- Build raised beds and fences i.e. Polytonnel, Hanging baskets creation, planter development (face to face)
- Correct use of manual hand tools and machinery / Maintenance and storage of equipment i.e.

  Use of manual hand tools, push/ride on mowers, strimmer's, backpack blower (online)
- Health and Safety in the workplace (Risk Assessments) & Manual Handling (online & practical required)
- First Aid - certificated course (online & practical required)
- Bushcraft activities, i.e. sustainable living, team building & leadership (face to face)
- The maintenance of gardens/lawns throughout the different seasons i.e. Pest control, weeds, edging, invasive species (face to face)
- Establishing and maintaining grass/artificial sports pitches (face to face)
- Plant identification & pruning i.e. trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals (online & face to face)
- Familiarisation of grounds equipment i.e. Use of manual hand tools, push/ride on mowers, strimmer's, backpack blower (online & face to face)

  The maintenance of gardens/lawns throughout the different seasons i.e. Weeds, edging, invasive species (face to face)
- The building and maintenance of garden structures i.e. Conservation & Environmental crafts (face to face)
- Customer care & safeguarding (online)

Beneficiaries

- Community leaders/ volunteers
- Those experiencing isolation.
- Community groups.

SMART Objectives

- ✓ Engage a maximum of 30 participants annually for three years, providing them with a comprehensive 12-week Park Ranger Programme.
- ✓ Increase participants' environmental knowledge.
- ✓ Boost participants' confidence and communication skills.
- ✓ Create a sense of belonging and community engagement among participants, reducing feelings of isolation.

Results

- Empowered participants with practical skills, environmental knowledge, and first-hand experience.
- Enhanced personal development, including confidence and communication skills.
- Improved mental and physical well-being of participants.
- Increased community engagement and reduced isolation.

Outputs

- ➢ Skilled and knowledgeable Park Rangers.
- ➢ Environmental certifications and hands-on experience.
- ➢ Evidence of improved confidence and communication skills.
- ➢ Documentation of increased community engagement.
- ➢ Fostering a sense of purpose and achievement among participants.

How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements

CNR 45% / PUL 45%/ other 10%

Bringing community members together in outdoor spaces, fostering a sense of belonging. Promoting environmental stewardship and sustainability, encouraging shared responsibility for the natural environment.

Offering opportunities for individuals from diverse backgrounds to work together on dialogue projects, promoting cross-community understanding. Reducing feelings of isolation and exclusion, thereby enhancing community cohesion and social harmony. Creating a supportive community that engages in meaningful activities, reducing the potential for conflict and promoting peaceful coexistence. Equipping individuals with skills and knowledge that can be shared and applied to improve their local communities, bridging gaps and building trust across borders.

2.20 Rural Citizenship & Future Leadership Programme

Programme Name	**Rural Citizenship and Future Leadership Programme** **50 participants**		
Budget	**£32,000**	**Timeframe**	**2025-2026**
Programme Aim			
The ABC Rural Citizenship & Future Leadership Programme has been carefully designed to address a range of needs within the local rural communities of Kinallen, Garvaghy, Waringsford, Aughnaskeogh, Carnew, and Gransha. The primary aims of the programme are to: **Support and Develop Active Citizens:** The programme aims to nurture active citizenship among young people by equipping them with the necessary skills, knowledge, and motivation to participate actively in their communities. **Foster Future Generational Leadership:** It seeks to identify and nurture the next generation of leaders who will play vital roles in the development and sustainability of rural communities.			

Address Anti-Social Behaviour Positively: The programme aims to challenge and counter anti-social behaviour by providing positive outlets for young people to engage with their communities.

Empower Young Decision-Makers: It aims to empower young people, ensuring that they have a voice and the confidence to make decisions within their rural communities.

Bridge Generational Gaps: The programme seeks to bridge the gap between older generations and young people by demonstrating that young individuals possess the skills and abilities to take on leadership roles in community groups.

Promote Civic Engagement: It aims to encourage young people to engage actively in civic life, including participation in local councils and politics.

Counter Negative Perceptions: The programme aims to challenge the perception that young people lack interest in their local communities and demonstrate their importance as active citizens.

Enhance Community Relationships: It strives to build positive relationships between local leaders, active citizens, statutory partners, and the broader community.

Relation to Area Needs

The Rural Citizenship & Future Leadership Programme is closely aligned with the pressing needs of the six local rural areas mentioned. These needs include addressing the lack of younger capacity, fostering future leaders, countering anti-social behaviour, empowering young decision-makers, bridging generational gaps, promoting civic engagement, and building positive community relationships. The programme serves as a proactive response to these challenges by providing tailored support and development opportunities.

The subject of rural engagement emerged prominently during discussions with ABC staff, who expressed a desire for an increase in activities centred around rural areas. This

sentiment was echoed during the public consultations, where participants highlighted the need for more attention to rural-based initiatives. Additionally, stakeholders pointed out a concerning absence of succession planning within community groups, emphasising the necessity for the development of young leaders and volunteers to ensure sustainability.

In alignment with these concerns, the public survey results revealed a significant consensus, with 70% of respondents rating leadership programmes as either "very important" or "important" in the context of developing a thriving and peaceful community.

Programme Actions

The programme will consist of two parts:

Programme 1 Young Rural Citizenship Programme Age 10- 16 (Max 25 Participants)

Programme 1 will deliver a 15-session programme with the view to helping support young people to grow within the local citizenship model. Through a series of interactives workshops, fun learning and activities, the programmes have been designed to encourage young people aged 10-16 years old to become active citizens and ensure they have a positive input to the world around them. Young participants will come together to go on a journey which will support and empower them to be the next generation of local leaders both within Lagan River DEA and ANBC Council. The first sessions will be tailored to empower the young participants to structure their own programme on both their own and local needs and to learn more about themselves and others, through a series of psychometric tests, group workshops and interactive learning sessions.

The young participants will then engage in working across their Active Citizenship (OCN) in community leadership and management.

During sessions 8- 9, participants will have the opportunity to take part in good relations and building friendships workshops and session 10- 11 to engage with those involved in differing aspects of civic life.

Sessions 12- 15 have been designed to support the participants create a young active citizen's project which will benefit the local community issue. The programme will conclude

with a trip to an educational facility in Northern Ireland, the delivery of a £1000 local project and a full evaluation of how both the programme and project where delivered.

Programme 2 Young Rural Future Leadership Programme Age 16- 22 (Max 25 Participants)

Programme 2 will deliver a 16 interactive session programme and has been specifically created to help support and generate the next future leaders who will remain in the rural communities and help us meet the challenges we all face together. Young participants will come together to go on a journey which will support and empower them to be the next generation of local leaders both within Lagan River DEA and ANBC Council.

The first sessions will be designed to empower the young participants to structure their own programme on both their own and local needs and to learn more about themselves and others, through a series of psychometric tests, group workshops and interactive learning sessions. The young participants will then engage in working across their level 3 qualification (OCN) in community leadership and management.

During sessions 8- 10, participants will have the opportunity to select professional learning seminars, in which they will pick 3.

Sessions 11- 13 will allow the young participants to select 3 areas which they would like to be supported within the confounds of personal development.

Session 12- 13 have been designed to support the participants look at local community issues and through sessions 14 & 15 they will be supported to design a campaign and project which delivers on the issue.

The programme will conclude with a trip to Stormont, the delivery of a £2000 local project and a full evaluation of how both the programme and project where delivered.

Beneficiaries

- Rural communities.
- Children and young people.
- Existing community leaders/ volunteers

- New community leaders/ volunteers
- Marginalised groups.
- Newcomer communities

SMART Objectives

- ✓ This programme will develop a cohort of 50 young leaders within rural communities.
- ✓ Participants will lead on community development projects based on local needs.
- ✓ Upskilling of 50 young people.

Results

- Development of Young Leaders-the programme will contribute to the development of 50 young leaders, aged 10 to 22, who are equipped with the skills and knowledge to actively engage in their communities.
- Community Projects- the successful delivery of two local community projects, valued at £1,000 and £2,000 respectively, addressing identified community needs.
- Increased Confidence- participants will experience an increase in their confidence and self-esteem, enabling them to take on leadership roles and make a positive impact in their communities.
- Enhanced Community Engagement- the programme aims to improve community engagement and foster greater trust in young people, demonstrating their value as active citizens.
- Improved Skills and Qualifications- participants will gain valuable skills and qualifications that enhance their employability prospects and prepare them for leadership roles.
- Youth Voice- the programme will establish a solid youth voice in local decision-making processes, ensuring that young people have a say in community development.
- Social Isolation- efforts will be made to reduce social isolation among young people living in rural areas, fostering a sense of belonging and connection.

- Positive Response to Anti-Social Behaviour- the programme will encourage positive and progressive responses to anti-social behaviour, addressing this issue within the communities.

Outputs

- Development of Young Leaders- the programme will produce a group of 50 young leaders, consisting of 25 participants in the Young Rural Citizenship Programme and 25 in the Young Rural Future Leadership Programme.
- Delivery of Local Community Projects- two local community projects will be delivered, one valued at £1,000 and another at £2,000, addressing specific community needs.
- Increased Skills, Knowledge, and Qualifications- the programme will provide participants with skills, qualifications, and certifications relevant to community leadership and active citizenship.
- Anti-Social Behaviour Initiatives- the programme will initiate and support positive responses to anti-social behaviour within the communities.
- Social Isolation Reduction- efforts will be made to reduce social isolation among young people living in rural areas through community engagement activities.

How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements

CNR 45% / PUL 45%/ other 10%

Building Positive Relationships: By bringing together young people from different backgrounds and communities, the programme promotes positive interactions and friendships. Sessions on good relations and building friendships help participants understand and respect diverse viewpoints and cultures, fostering tolerance and cooperation.

Community Engagement: The programme encourages young participants to actively engage in their local communities. Through community projects and involvement in civic life, they become stakeholders in the betterment of their areas, reducing alienation and apathy.

Empowerment: Empowering young people to become active citizens and leaders gives them a sense of agency and ownership in their communities. When individuals feel their voices are heard and their actions have an impact, it can lead to a sense of empowerment and investment in peace and reconciliation efforts. **Conflict Resolution Skills:** The programme equips participants with valuable conflict resolution and mediation skills. These skills are essential for managing disputes and tensions within communities, contributing to a more peaceful coexistence. **Understanding Perspectives:** Through sessions that explore different viewpoints, such as Unionist/Loyalist, Nationalist/Republican, and ethnic minority perspectives, young participants gain a more nuanced understanding of the complex issues in Northern Ireland. This understanding can lead to greater empathy and a willingness to work towards reconciliation. **Political Engagement:** Sessions involving local politicians and community leaders expose participants to various political perspectives. This engagement encourages them to take an interest in politics, which is essential for informed decision-making and the peaceful resolution of conflicts at both local and national levels. **Cross-Community Engagement:** The programme facilitates cross-community engagement and collaboration, breaking down traditional barriers and stereotypes. This intercommunity dialogue and cooperation are fundamental to building lasting peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

2.21 Youth Leadership

Programme Name	**Youth Leadership Project** **60 participants**		
Budget	**£30,600**	**Timeframe**	**2025-2028**
Programme Aim			
This project aims to develop a thriving and peaceful community by engaging a diverse group of young people aged 16-20 in sports and physical activities. The primary goal is to increase awareness of the physical, social, and emotional benefits of health and fitness while			

boosting self-esteem and confidence among young participants. The project also seeks to equip them with coaching and volunteering skills for active involvement in their local communities.

Relation to Area Needs

According to census statistics from 2021, the ABC Council area has a larger proportion of residents aged 16 and over without qualifications than the norm for Northern Ireland. Through collaborations with neighbourhood associations and sports teams, this project will identify and include young people with few or no qualifications, especially those who are difficult to reach. The programme will bridge gaps in education and qualifications while fostering community cohesion through physical activity.

During the focus groups, consultees highlighted an absence of succession planning within community groups, emphasising the necessity for the development of young leaders and volunteers to ensure sustainability. In alignment with these concerns, the public survey results revealed a significant consensus, with 70% of respondents rating leadership programmes as either "very important" or "important" in the context of developing a thriving and peaceful community.

Programme Actions

The Youth Sports Leadership Project will connect diverse group of young individuals, aged 16 to 20, in a dynamic programme centred around sports and physical activities. This initiative not only promotes physical well-being but also focuses on the broader aspects of health, including social and emotional facets. It aspires to elevate self-esteem and confidence among young participants while imparting essential coaching and community engagement skills.

Through the Youth Sports Leadership Project, participants will have the chance to deepen their involvement in sports, whether as players, coaches, or volunteers. The programme is structured to provide participants with a multifaceted experience, including:

Coaching

Participants will receive high-quality coaching across a range of sports.

Coaching Qualifications

The programme will equip participants with professional coaching qualifications in their chosen sports, enhancing their expertise and employability.

Safety Training

To ensure the safety of both participants and those they engage with, comprehensive training in first aid and safeguarding practices will be delivered.

Community Engagement

Participants will be presented with rewarding volunteer opportunities, contributing to sports-based projects within their local communities.

This holistic approach not only fosters a passion for physical activity but also nurtures essential life skills, empowers young individuals to give back to their communities, and prepares them for future leadership roles within their communities.

Beneficiaries

- Young people aged 16-20 years old with no qualifications.
- Local community groups.
- Sports clubs.
- Marginalised groups.

SMART Objectives

- ✓ 60 young people aged 16-20 years old will successfully achieve coaching qualifications.
- ✓ Creation of pathways into volunteering and paid work for young people.
- ✓ Enhance the self-esteem and confidence of all participants.

Results

- Engaged and upskilled 60 youths aged 16-20.
- Enhanced self-esteem and confidence in programme participants.

• Increased volunteering within the community. • Improved physical and mental health among participants.
Outputs
➢ 60 young people with coaching qualifications. ➢ 60 young people have certifications for first aid and safety training. ➢ Active involvement in community sports projects. ➢ Improved communication and understanding between communities. ➢ There is evidence that the participants now have more confidence and self-esteem. ➢ Evidence of improved physical and mental health.
How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements
Personal growth- the programme will promote personal growth and provide the young people with a positive learning environment to develop. It will also include pathways for the young people to use the theoretical knowledge that they have learned through volunteering and paid work. Development of new community leaders/ volunteers- this programme will develop a new cohort of volunteer/ community leaders who will be equipped with new skills to support their communities for many years to come. Improved mental health and wellbeing- the programme will have a positive impact on the mental health and wellbeing of the participants. The participants will have a sense of pride due to having new qualifications and opportunities to use these. They will also benefit from a support network of other young people on the programme who are on the same journey.

2.22 Young Enterprise Programme

Programme Name	**ABC Youth Catalyst Programme** **70 participants**		
Budget	**£100,000**	**Timeframe**	**2025-2027**
Programme Aim			

The Youth Catalyst Programme aims to equip young people from different communities in ABC with the knowledge, skills and resources needed to become successful entrepreneurs. This will include encouraging participants' originality, creativity and fostering innovation. The Youth Catalyst programme will be delivered on a cross community basis between young people from different communities. By offering a platform for dialogue, the programme aims to reduce tensions and promote peace. Participants will form groups/ project teams with people from different communities to develop potential business ideas which they will have the opportunity to share to potential investors at the end of the programme.

Relation to Area Needs

The statistics from the recent 2021 census in ABC highlight the need for a young entrepreneur programme. Firstly, with 12% of those economically inactive in ABC being students, it underscores the potential untapped talent and ambition within the student population. A young entrepreneur programme could provide them with the resources, mentorship, and opportunities to channel their entrepreneurial aspirations and contribute to the local economy.

Secondly, with 38.2% of the population being economically inactive, there is a significant portion of the community that could benefit from skills development and entrepreneurial training. Such a programme can empower individuals who may currently be unemployed or underemployed to explore entrepreneurial avenues and create their own economic opportunities. Lastly, the fact that 25.2% of the population stated they have no qualifications suggests a need for skill development and education initiatives. A young entrepreneur programme can not only provide practical business knowledge but also inspire and enable individuals without formal qualifications to embark on entrepreneurial ventures. With 18.836 persons, or 8.6% of the population, coming from countries other than the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland, the region is growing more diversified. This programme will aim to support those young people from newcomer communities to learn new skills, build friendships and develop business ideas with others.

Programme Actions
Then programme will consist of 5 elements: • Introduction • Learning and Development • Mentoring • Business Development and Support • Showcase event. **Introduction** The programme will start with an introduction to entrepreneurship where participants will learn about the programme, hear from young entrepreneurs based in Northern Ireland. The participants will also take part in good relations workshops at this stage. **Learning and Development** In this phase of the programme, participants will gain the knowledge and skills required to excel as local entrepreneurs in ABC. The workshops will include: Leadership- The Leadership Workshop will provide participants with the information and abilities needed to succeed as leaders in both their personal and professional life. The participants will go on a journey of self-discovery, developing their leadership styles and learning how to communicate, make decisions, and resolve conflicts effectively. Participants will not only learn the theoretical underpinnings of leadership but also develop practical strategies for inspiring and motivating teams, fostering innovation, and bringing about positive change within their organisations and communities through interactive activities, stimulating discussions, and real-world case studies. Innovation and Entrepreneurship- in this workshop, young people will learn how to identify market opportunities, develop unique business ideas, and develop innovative solutions. They will also learn more about start-ups.

Financial Management- understanding the financial aspects of running a start-up/ business. Young people will learn how to budget, forecast, and manage cash flow. They will also learn how to identify different funding sources such as grants and loans.

Business competitiveness- participants on the programme will learn strategies for market analysis, how to undertake competition analysis activities, and learn how to develop a business model canvas.

Building a Positive Company Culture- Long-term success requires the development of a positive and productive company culture. The workshops will focus on team dynamics, employee engagement, and leadership. Participants will learn how to develop an environment at work that encourages innovation, collaboration, and creativity.

Mentoring

Participants will also be matched with knowledgeable mentors from various businesses in addition to workshops. Participants will navigate the challenges of entrepreneurship and business development with the assistance of mentors who will offer direction, share their experiences, and offer tailored advice.

Business Development and Support

Participants will get access to support to convert ideas into successful businesses. This is the area of the programme where they will get to develop their ideas in groups and learn how to work with people from different backgrounds on projects.

Showcase Event

The Showcase Event is the conclusion of the programme, it will provide a platform for the programme's participants to present their teams ideas, tell their personal experiences, and highlight the results of their labour of love. This celebration of the entrepreneurial spirit also offers aspiring business owners a special opportunity for networking with possible backers, teachers, and partners.

Beneficiaries
• Young Entrepreneurs- Young people (18–30) from a variety of communities who are interested in launching new enterprises or expanding already-existing ones. • Community Leaders- Local leaders and influencers who can help bridge divides and promote the programmes values. • Local Communities: The wider community will benefit from reduced tensions, increased economic activity, and enhanced social cohesion. • Newcomer communities- The programme will provide a platform for newcomer communities to get involved and develop their skills and knowledge. • Economically inactive.
SMART Objectives
✓ Young entrepreneurs will take part in entrepreneurships workshops and community dialogues during the programme. ✓ The programme will produce 70 young people as programme ambassadors to promote peace and reconciliation in the ABC area. ✓ The programme will host 1 showcase event at the end of the programme where the young participants will have the opportunities to showcase their team projects and potentially attract funding for their ideas. ✓ The programme will include participants from newcomer communities.
Results
• Increased business prospects for young people, which boosts employment rates and boosts the economy of participating areas. • Lowered inter-community tensions because of improved communication and teamwork between individuals from various backgrounds. • A more peaceful and thriving community where members of many communities collaborate to achieve shared objectives.
Outputs
➢ Delivery of workshops ➢ Opportunities for enterprises to launch during the programme.

- The quantity of intercommunity conversations and cultural exchange activities held.
- 1 showcase event held.

How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements

CNR 45% / PUL 45%/ other 10%

Cross-Cultural Collaboration- By bringing together young individuals from diverse backgrounds, the Catalyst programme will actively promote intercultural dialogue and cooperation. Through shared experiences and collaborative projects, participants learn about each other's cultures, values, and traditions. This fosters mutual understanding and appreciation, helping to break down stereotypes and reduce tensions among communities.

Inclusivity and Integration- The programme will prioritise inclusivity by specifically targeting young people from newcomer communities. It will provide them with a welcoming and supportive environment where they can build relationships with peers from various backgrounds. This integration process helps newcomer participants feel more connected to their host communities, reducing feelings of isolation and alienation.

Economic Empowerment- The programme gives young entrepreneurs from newcomer communities support as they start their own businesses. In many cases, easing tensions and promoting peaceful cohabitation among communities depends on economic stability.

Community Building- The collaborative projects initiated from participants will address community needs and challenges, such as social initiatives. These attempts will strengthen community bonds and create a sense of shared responsibility for community well-being, which is vital for reconciliation.

Theme: Celebrating Cultures and Diversity

3.1 Local cultural and heritage awareness projects.

Programme Name	**Local cultural and heritage awareness projects** **50 participants**		
Budget	**£60,000**	**Timeframe**	**2024-2027**
Programme Aim			

The Local Cultural and Heritage Awareness Projects are designed to address the diverse cultural and historical needs within the Borough. By fostering a deeper connection to local heritage through various initiatives, the programme aims to instil a sense of pride, belonging, and understanding among residents.

Relation to Area Needs

In the diverse landscape of Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon Borough Council, there exists a rich tapestry of cultural heritage waiting to be explored and celebrated. Public consultations and surveys have revealed a strong desire within the community for projects that preserve, promote, and educate about this heritage. Many residents expressed a longing for deeper connections to their roots and a better understanding of the historical events and figures that have shaped their communities. Moreover, there is a recognised need to utilise existing facilities more effectively to serve as hubs for cultural and historical learning. Thus, this programme is strategically aligned with the community's aspirations to strengthen its cultural identity, foster intergenerational connections, and promote local pride.

Programme Actions

Living Heritage Projects: Engage participants in hands-on experiences that showcase traditional crafts, music, dance, and storytelling, providing a tangible connection to the region's living heritage.

Tapping into Heritage and Living History Tours: Organise guided tours and immersive experiences that lead participants through the historical sites, landscapes, and stories that define the identity of Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon Borough Council.

History Programmes Utilising Existing Facilities: Partner with local museums, libraries, and community centres to host a series of history workshops, lectures, and exhibitions, utilising these facilities as accessible platforms for cultural education and engagement.

Research on Key Historical Figures and Events: Commission research projects to delve into the lives of prominent historical figures and pivotal events that have shaped the

region's identity, producing comprehensive documentation and educational resources for the community.

Local Heritage Projects Focusing on Place: Initiate community-led projects that highlight the historical significance of specific landmarks, buildings, and natural sites within the council area, encouraging residents to take pride in and steward their local heritage

Beneficiaries

Residents of all ages and backgrounds within the Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon Borough Council region, particularly those interested in exploring and preserving the cultural heritage of their communities.

SMART Objectives

- ✓ Increase awareness and appreciation of the diverse cultural heritage within the region.
- ✓ Engage a diverse range of participants in immersive and educational heritage experiences.
- ✓ Foster a sense of pride, belonging, and intergenerational connections through heritage-focused activities.
- ✓ Contribute to the documentation and preservation of key aspects of local history for future generations.
- ✓ Optimise the utilisation of existing community facilities as hubs for cultural and historical learning.

Results

- Heightened understanding and appreciation of the rich cultural heritage across the Borough.
- Increased participation and engagement in heritage-related activities among residents.
- Strengthened community connections and pride in local identity and history.
- Comprehensive documentation and preservation of key historical figures, events, and landmarks.

• Enhanced utilisation of existing community facilities for cultural and historical programming.
Outputs
➢ Living heritage projects and hands-on activities ➢ Guided heritage tours and immersive experiences ➢ History workshops, lectures, and exhibitions ➢ Research publications and educational materials. ➢ Community-led heritage preservation projects
How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements
CNR 45% / PUL 45%/ other 10% By promoting a deeper understanding and appreciation of the diverse cultural heritage across the Borough, this programme fosters empathy, dialogue, and mutual respect among residents from different backgrounds. Through shared experiences and a common appreciation of local history, it contributes to building bridges and fostering reconciliation within the community.

3.2 Online History Lecture & Talk Series on Local, Regional and National Histories

Programme Name	**Online History Lecture & Talk Series on Local, Regional and National Histories** **110 participants**		
Budget	**£20,000**	**Timeframe**	**2024-2027**
Programme Aim			
This programme will allow participants from across communities to engage in learning and dialogue on the significant local, regional, and national events, conflicts, and their impact today. These events and the legacy of those periods contributed to national and political identities not only on this island but also internationally. They also contributed to political,			

social, and economic development. The History Lecture and Talks Series will be aimed at bringing people and communities together and creating space for learning about events linked to the events and periods of historical interest from early Ireland to the Plantations to the significant political, military, and social events of the first half of the 20th century and recent history. The programme will explore history in a sensitive manner and will aim to build mutual understanding and acceptance of our differing historical perspectives within and across communities through a series of projects, activities, and events. Events and Periods of History which may be explored:

- Early Christian Ireland
- Reformation and Medieval Ireland
- The Plantations
- The United Irishmen Rebellions of 1798
- The Act of Union
- Political, Social and Economic Movement of the 19th Century
- Early 20th Century and the Decade of Upheaval 1911-1923
- World War II

In the context of the wider programme of Irish and Northern Irish history, this project will also explore local history.

Relation to Area Needs

In the context of the complex historical landscape of Irish and Northern Irish history, there is a need for initiatives that facilitate nuanced discussions and learning about the events and periods that have shaped political, social, and cultural identities. Public engagement activities, particularly those centred around local history, play a crucial role in fostering mutual understanding and empathy among communities with differing perspectives. This programme directly addresses these needs by providing a platform for learning, discussion, and dialogue, ultimately contributing to reconciliation and positive community relationships.

Programme Actions

Online Lecture & Talks Series: Hosting a series of online lectures and discussions led by historians, scholars, and community influencers, exploring topics ranging from early Irish history to significant events of the 20th century.

Engagement of Community Influencers: Collaborating with representatives from Catholic/Nationalist/Republican, Protestant/Unionist/Loyalist, and Black and Minority Ethnic communities to ensure diverse perspectives are represented and promoted.

Promotion of Historical Understanding: Providing opportunities for participants to explore historical facts, impacts, and differing views surrounding the events and periods under discussion.

Fostering Dialogue and Positive Relationships: Creating a safe and inclusive space for dialogue and reflection, aimed at promoting understanding, empathy, and positive relationships among participants from various communities.

Sharing Learning Beyond the Council Area: Disseminating the insights and learnings from the programme to a wider audience, contributing to broader historical understanding and reconciliation efforts.

Beneficiaries

Residents of the Council area, particularly those interested in history and community relations, as well as community influencers and leaders from diverse backgrounds.

SMART Objectives

- ✓ To provide learning and discussion linked to events and periods of history that explores history in a sensitive manner and build mutual understanding.
- ✓ To engage community influencers from Catholic/Nationalist/Republican, Protestant/ Unionist/Loyalist and Black and Minority Ethnic Communities in the Council area to promote ethical remembering.
- ✓ To promote an understanding of the historical facts, the impacts and the different views surrounding the events and periods that will be explored.

✓ To promote an understanding of our shared history. ✓ To promote dialogue and to develop positive relationships between Communities in the Borough. ✓ To share the learning from the project throughout the Council area and beyond.
Results
• Increased awareness and understanding of local, regional, and national historical events among participants. • Enhanced dialogue and empathy across communities within the Borough. • Strengthened community relationships and cohesion through respectful engagement with differing historical perspectives. • Dissemination of insights and learnings to contribute to broader historical understanding and reconciliation efforts. • Establishment of a sustainable platform for ongoing dialogue and learning about historical topics.
Outputs
➢ Online lecture and talks series with expert speakers. ➢ Participation from diverse community influencers and leaders ➢ Resources and materials for historical understanding and dialogue ➢ Increased engagement and positive interactions among participants ➢ Dissemination of learnings and insights to wider audiences
How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements
CNR 45% / PUL 45%/ other 10% By providing a platform for respectful and inclusive dialogue about sensitive historical topics, this programme contributes to building mutual understanding, empathy, and positive relationships among communities within the Council area. Through learning and engagement, it fosters a shared appreciation of history and promotes reconciliation efforts.

3.3 Borders, Boundaries, Belonging and Bonds Project

Programme Name	Borders, Boundaries, Belonging and Bonds Project 50 participants		
Budget	£8,000	Timeframe	2025-2026

Programme Aim

The Borders, Boundaries, Belonging and Bonds Project is designed to foster a deeper understanding of the historical, political, and societal implications of borders and boundaries, both locally in Northern Ireland and across the world. This lecture series and associated activities aim to explore the impact of borders on communities, individuals, and societies. By delving into the shared experiences of people living near borders and in regions with historical political divides, this project seeks to promote dialogue, knowledge exchange, and cross-cultural awareness.

Relation to Area Needs

The project is especially relevant to Northern Ireland and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, a region with a complex history of borders and divisions. It addresses the need for a nuanced understanding of how borders shape the mindset of individuals and impact local communities. By broadening the scope to include global examples, the project encourages participants to recognize the commonalities and differences in the experiences of border regions worldwide.

During public consultations, participants consistently expressed a strong interest in both acquiring knowledge about diverse cultures and sharing insights about their own cultural heritage. This sentiment was further affirmed by the results of a public survey, in which a significant 69% of respondents underscored the utmost importance of incorporating history and heritage-focused projects into the action plan. These findings underscore a compelling desire within the community for initiatives that promote cross-cultural learning and heritage preservation, highlighting the significance of addressing these needs in the proposed plan.

Programme Actions

Lecture Series

The core of the project is a lecture series that delves into the historical formation of Northern Ireland, the Irish State, and other border regions across the globe. These

lectures will be delivered by experts, including historians and academics, and will provide an in-depth understanding of the political, social, and economic contexts.

Local and International Perspectives

To provide a well-rounded view, the project will incorporate both local and international perspectives. Participants will have the opportunity to engage with historians, curators, and archivists to explore film footage, archives, and articles from the relevant eras.

Topics Covered

The project will cover a range of topics, including the Irish Border, the Role of Public History in a Divided Society, and global examples such as Poland, the Middle East, Hong Kong, and issues related to migration, displacement, civil rights, and social change.

Beneficiaries

The project is designed for individuals interested in history, politics, and the societal impacts of borders and boundaries. Participants will gain valuable insights into the shared experiences of communities living near borders, allowing for a deeper appreciation of the global context and the impact of borders on societies.

SMART Objectives

- ✓ To increase participants' knowledge and understanding of the historical and societal impact of borders and boundaries.
- ✓ To promote cross-cultural awareness and understanding of shared experiences related to borders and divisions.
- ✓ To facilitate dialogue and knowledge exchange among participants and experts in the field.
- ✓ To broaden participants' understanding of border-related issues on a global scale, going beyond the local context.

Results

- Participants will have a deeper understanding of the historical and societal impact of borders.
- Increased cross-cultural awareness and empathy among participants.

• Enhanced knowledge exchange and dialogue within the community. • A broader perspective on global border-related issues.
Outputs
➢ A lecture series featuring experts and historians. ➢ Workshops and discussions. ➢ Interaction with local historians, curators, and archivists. ➢ Promotional materials and educational resources. ➢ Increased community engagement and dialogue.
How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements
CNR 45% / PUL 45%/ other 10% The Borders, Boundaries, Belonging and Bonds Project plays a vital role in promoting enhanced peace and reconciliation by fostering a deeper understanding of the factors that contribute to division and conflict. By bringing individuals together to explore shared experiences and understand the impact of borders, the project encourages dialogue, empathy, and cross-cultural awareness. This shared learning experience contributes to building stronger bonds within the community and supports peacebuilding efforts by broadening perspectives and fostering a sense of belonging.

3.4 The Great Hunger – The Famine

Programme Name	**The Great Hunger – The Famine** **600 participants**		
Budget	**£34,735**	**Timeframe**	**2024-2027**
Programme Aim			
The Great Famine & Beyond – Shared History Programme comprises of two international online lecture series and a History Educators Programme aimed at enhancing understanding and confidence in teaching historical narratives, particularly focusing on the 19th and early 20th centuries in Northern Ireland. The online lecture series will delve into			

topics such as The Great Famine and 20th Century Ireland, while the History Educators Programme will provide post-primary school teachers with immersive learning experiences and workshops to enrich their teaching practices.

The project will also comprise of:

2 x One Day Study Visits

1st - Carrick-on-Shannon Workhouse, National Famine Museum at Strokestown.

2nd – War Memorial Gardens Islandbridge, Grangegorman Military Cemetery, Arbour Hill Cemetery, Irish Emigrant Museum

International study visit (3 days)

Examining how different narratives / interpretations of history and how reconciliation can be achieved.

Berlin
British & Commonwealth War Cemetery Berlin
Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp
Memorial to Murdered Jews in Europe
Stasi Museum

Relation to Area Needs

This programme is intricately aligned with the imperative of fostering respect for all cultural identities within the Borough. Given the diverse narratives surrounding 19th and early 20th-century history in Northern Ireland, deeply influenced by individuals' social, political, and cultural backgrounds, there arises a pressing need to engage with historical discourse in a nuanced and inclusive manner. The online lecture series serves as a vital platform for this purpose, allowing audiences to access the insights of esteemed historians. By providing diverse perspectives and well-researched insights, the programme empowers individuals to make informed interpretations of shared history, fostering mutual understanding and respect. Furthermore, discussions with post-primary teachers during the distribution of educational booklets highlighted a critical gap in historical education, particularly concerning the impact of The Great Famine locally and broader 19th and early 20th-century history. The programme seeks to address this gap by equipping teachers with the knowledge and resources necessary to navigate complex historical narratives, enabling

them to better educate students and, in turn, contribute to the cultivation of respect for all cultural identities within the community.

Programme Actions

Lecture Series

The Lecture Series forms the cornerstone of the programme, offering participants a rich and immersive educational experience. Historians and scholars will lead engaging online lectures and talks, delving into the complexities of 19th and early 20th-century history in Northern Ireland. Through these sessions, participants will have the opportunity to gain deeper insights into the diverse narratives and perspectives surrounding significant historical events, fostering a nuanced understanding of shared history.

History Educators Programme:

The History Educators Programme aims to empower post-primary school teachers within the Borough with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively teach about The Great Hunger and broader historical themes. This programme will consist of workshops, seminars, and collaborative learning sessions facilitated by experienced educators and historians. Teachers will engage in discussions, share best practices, and explore innovative teaching methods to enhance their delivery of historical content in the classroom, ultimately enriching the educational experience for students.

Two One-Day Study Trips

As part of the programme, two one-day study trips will be organised to provide participants with immersive learning experiences at key historical sites within the region. Led by experienced historians, these trips will include visits to significant locations related to The Great Hunger and other relevant historical periods. Participants will have the opportunity to engage with primary sources, explore historical artefacts, and gain first-hand insights into the lived experiences of individuals during these transformative periods of history.

Berlin Three-Day Study Trip

The programme will culminate in a three-day study trip to Berlin, where participants will explore how different narratives and interpretations of history contribute to reconciliation

efforts. This international excursion will include visits to notable historical sites, such as the British & Commonwealth War Cemetery, Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, and the Memorial to Murdered Jews in Europe. Through guided tours, discussions with local experts, and reflective workshops, participants will gain a deeper understanding of the complexities of historical memory and reconciliation, enriching their perspectives on shared history and cultural.

Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of the programme encompass a diverse range of individuals and groups within the Borough. Firstly, the Lecture Series provides an invaluable opportunity for community members, students, educators, and history enthusiasts to deepen their understanding of 19th and early 20th-century history in Northern Ireland. Through engaging with renowned historians and scholars, participants gain access to rich insights and diverse perspectives, fostering a more nuanced appreciation of shared history. Additionally, the History Educators Programme directly benefits post-primary school teachers by equipping them with the knowledge, resources, and skills necessary to effectively teach about The Great Hunger and broader historical themes in their classrooms. By enhancing educators' capacity to deliver engaging and informative historical education, the programme indirectly impacts thousands of students, enriching their learning experiences and promoting a deeper understanding of cultural identity and historical heritage within the community. The study visits will also provide further opportunities for community members, students, educators, and history enthusiasts to come together.

SMART Objectives

- ✓ Increase participants' understanding of 19th and early 20th-century history in Northern Ireland through an engaging online lecture series.
- ✓ Empower post-primary school teachers with enhanced confidence and capability in teaching historical themes, particularly related to The Great Hunger, through specialized workshops and seminars.

✓ Provide immersive and informative study experiences at key historical sites, fostering deeper insights into shared history and cultural identity among participants.
Results
▪ Participants have greater understanding of shared history. ▪ Participants have greater confidence to discuss shared history. ▪ Increased knowledge / understanding to teach post-primary students.
Outputs
➢ Online lecture series ➢ History educators programme ➢ Study visits
How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements
CNR 45% / PUL 45%/ other 10% The programme significantly contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation efforts by fostering a deeper understanding of shared history and cultural identity among diverse communities. By engaging participants in discussions and learning experiences centred around historical events from the 19th and early 20th centuries, the programme facilitates open dialogue and empathy-building across community divides. Through the exploration of historical topics, such as The Great Hunger, the programme encourages individuals to recognise commonalities and shared experiences, thereby bridging divides and promoting mutual understanding. Additionally, the collaborative nature of the History Educators Programme and the inclusive study trips provide opportunities for cross-community interaction and collaboration, fostering positive relationships and a sense of collective heritage. By cultivating respect for all cultural identities and promoting dialogue-based learning, the programme lays a foundation for reconciliation and cross-community cohesion within the ABC Council area and beyond.

3.5 Online History Courses on Modern Ireland and Irish History

Programme Name	**Online History Courses on Modern Ireland and Irish History**		
Budget	**£60,000**	**Timeframe**	**2024-2027**

Programme Aim

To deliver a programme that will provide online history courses to residents of the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council area. This programme will provide two online history courses to residents of the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council area. These courses will provide teaching on a range of major events and milestones relating to the period of 1800-1925. They will explore and examine history in a way that delves into the events, conflicts and landmark happenings of that period which still reverberate to the present day. One course will focus on the decade (1913-23) in which the world emerged into and from the Great War, the foundations were laid for Irish independence and in which the establishment of the Irish Free State was achieved. A second course will have a broader examination of Irish history.

Relation to Area Needs

During consultations, consultees highlighted the need for programmes that developed greater (and more accurate) awareness and understanding of the critical events within the last 150 years that have shaped the island of Ireland, leading to the formation of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The so-called Decade of Centenaries that covered the critical era 1912-22 addresses some of these issues but has not raised the level of knowledge or understanding of those events and issues central to the two predominant communities in the borough.

The Borough has two predominant existing communities (CNR and PUL) and this is often reflected in the physical dispersion of towns and villages, where often those communities can be heavily oriented towards a single identity, living relatively separated lives. That is reflective of course of a wider picture across Northern Ireland. This in turn has led to poor awareness of each other's history, cultures and traditions. That in turn can lead to a lack of tolerance, spilling in to anti-social behaviour, increased tensions and occasionally, violence.

Programme Actions

Key Issues Project Will Address

- Lack of knowledge or understanding of the modern history of the island of Ireland.
- Prejudices that exist as a result of reduced tolerances for the 'other' community in borough – this applies equally to CNR and PUL.
- Divisions that relate to the teaching of separate histories in the two main teaching streams in Northern Ireland.
- Weaknesses of knowledge and understanding of how the island developed during the early 20th century, within both CNR and PUL communities – that is to say that neither side fully understand their own history and backgrounds, never mind that of others.
- Help to support the reduction of levels of prejudice and foster positive relations between members representing different cultural backgrounds.
- Create more opportunities for dialogue about issues related to cohesive approaching of historical facts.
- Enable participants to further explore and perhaps discover meaning of their own history and culture.
- Discover new learnings (for them) on historical facts, the impacts and different views surrounding the events that make up the Decade of Commemorations.
- Create an inclusive approach towards participating with various sections of the community.

The programme offers two courses:

Through ten modules over ten weeks, each of the diploma courses will investigate and interrogate a period relevant to all people and communities on the island of Ireland, in which the nation emerged from rebellion to its place in the Union, the turmoil of famine and political, cultural, social and economic turmoil of the 19th century to the dramatic first decades of the 20th century. It will also examine the Unionist drive to forestall Home Rule.

TOPICS FOR COURSE 1:

The Home Rule Crisis

Ireland and Word War 1

The 1916 Rising

The War of Independence

Resolving the Anglo-Irish War

The Irish Civil War

Legacies

TOPICS FOR COURSE 2:

The Act of Union

Catholic Emancipation

The Repeal Movement

Famine and Rebellion

Land and Politics

Home Rule and Parnellism

Constitutional Nationalism and Constitutional Unionism

Beneficiaries

- Residents
- Local Historical Groups
- Community organisations
- Members from new communities

SMART Objectives

- ✓ Increase in overall confidence in participants taking part in the programme.
- ✓ Increase in the number of people from diverse backgrounds engaging in each other's shared histories.
- ✓ Increase in the number of people who have an actual awareness of what shapes the two major communities in the Borough.
- ✓ Increase in the number of members of new communities with some understanding of the history of Northern Ireland, their new home.
- ✓ Increase in the number of people in the community with a formal accreditation for having undertaken a course of study.

- ✓ The formation of a cohort of participants able to engage in follow on activities of an academic and historical nature

Results

- More volunteers willing to get involved in community related activities.
- Increase numbers of suitably trained and supported volunteers.
- Greater number of volunteers looking to deliver on specific roles.
- Greater numbers of people using their spare or down time on activities that directly benefit the wider community.
- Legacy of greater numbers of people willing to volunteer.
- Improved capacity within existing community leadership.
- Address the issue community leadership overstretch.
- Current leadership feeling appreciated.
- Introduction of formal professional development and qualification for current and future community leaders.

Outputs

- ➢ Up to 80 people achieving award of diplomas from a recognised educational establishment.
- ➢ 80 people from across the borough getting to know and interact with others from different communities, cultures, religions
- ➢ Enhanced awareness of the availability of such courses, that can be accessed by others directly, not just through participation in this particular programme

How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements

CNR 45% / PUL 45%/ other 10%

Inclusivity

This project is targeted across the Borough, not only at well-established existing groups, who are rightly the primary target of this kind of intervention, but also seeks to reach out to the new communities emerging in the borough.

The programme courses are as broad as historically possible, seeking to cover the most significant events that are critical in both PUL and CNR perceptions of the time in the late 19th and early 20th centuries that shape today.

They will be delivered by respected 3rd party academic institutions with long established track records of delivering this kind of material.

Empowerment

The programme aims to boost the cultural confidence of participants by enabling them to better understand both their 'own' and 'others' histories and cultures, be able to come to independent conclusions, engage with others through the prisms of enhanced knowledge and understanding, that should in turn lead to deeper and more respectful engagements.

3.6 OCN Level 2 Shared History Educational Programme

Programme Name	**OCN Level 2 Shared History Educational Programme** **60 participants**		
Budget	**£40.000**	**Timeframe**	**2025-2027**
Programme Aim			
The "OCN Level 2 Shared History Educational Programme" seeks to build bridges of understanding between the Northern Irish and Polish communities by delving into shared historical events, primarily focusing on post-WW2 Poland and the collapse of communism in Europe. This educational initiative will employ a modern learning approach to illuminate the shared history and foster positive relations between these communities, ultimately promoting civic society in a post-conflict context.			
Relation to Area Needs			
The "OCN Level 2 Shared History Educational Programme" is designed to meet the specific needs of the Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon Borough community, where the Polish population is notably prevalent. According to the last census, Polish is the second most spoken language in the borough, with 1.69% of people citing it as their main language. The programme acknowledges the importance of addressing the unique cultural dynamics in the area, which include a significant Polish community.			

Additionally, the high number of racist incidents reported in the borough in 2021/22, totalling 145 incidents, underscores the necessity for initiatives that promote cultural understanding, combat prejudice, and build positive community relations. The "OCN Level 2 Shared History Educational Programme" directly responds to this need by creating a platform for dialogue and learning that can help reduce such incidents.

Community consultations further revealed a genuine appetite for history and heritage-based programmes in the area. In a public survey conducted as part of the PEACEPLUS Action Plan, 69% of respondents emphasized the importance of including history and heritage-based initiatives. Therefore, the project aligns with community desires and needs, fostering greater inclusivity and understanding.

By providing a space for the Polish and local communities to engage in shared history, culture, and understanding, the programme directly addresses the social dynamics and community needs prevalent in the ABC Borough. It creates an inclusive and respectful environment for dialogue, which, in turn, contributes to the overall peace and reconciliation goals in the region.

Programme Actions

- Conduct workshops focusing on shared history, cultural awareness, cultural competence, inclusion, diversity, and the positive impact of the Polish and other BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) communities on Northern Ireland's social and economic landscape.
- Organise lectures delivered by recognized speakers, including topics like "Not Quite Poles Apart: Hiberno-Polish Literary and Cultural Relations."
- Arrange site visits to significant locations, such as the NI War Memorial, Polish Murals Tour in Belfast, Ulster Aviation Society in Lisburn, Polish Air Force Memorial in Newtownards, and Polish graves at Movila Cemetery in Newtownards.
- A study visit to Gdańsk, Poland during which participants will be able to participate in a number of meetings and sessions with “Solidarity” movement activists,

politicians as well as community leaders and visit Museum of the Second World War, European Solidarity Centre as well as Gdansk Shipyard
Beneficiaries
• Residents of ABC • Polish Communities • Those with an interest in history • Community organisations • Volunteers
SMART Objectives
✓ By the end of the programme, 60 individuals from various communities will actively participate in workshops, lectures, and site visits. ✓ To achieve a reduction in prejudices and preconceived notions among participants. ✓ To promote mutual understanding and respect among participants, with participants expressing improved attitudes and perceptions. ✓ To create opportunities for dialogue about difficult issues such shared history, discrimination and peace process based on international examples from post Second World War Poland and other conflicts. ✓ Enable participants to discover meaning of their own history and culture by having an open discussion with others about the topics and their approach to heritage and values.
Results
• Increased inclusivity: Greater participation and engagement among marginalised groups and individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds. • Enhanced dialogue: Improved communication, understanding, and respect among participants. • Reduced prejudices: A significant reduction in prejudiced attitudes and misconceptions.
Outputs

➢ Completion of workshops, lectures, and site visits. ➢ Active participation records from beneficiaries. ➢ Documented reductions in prejudices and preconceptions among participants. ➢ Testimonials and feedback from beneficiaries indicating improved mutual understanding and respect.
How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements
CNR 45% / PUL 45%/ other 10% The "OCN Level 2 Shared History Educational Programme" will offer a platform for individuals from diverse backgrounds to engage in open dialogue, challenge preconceived notions, and explore shared history. By doing so, it fosters inclusivity, enhances understanding, and reduces prejudices. The programme contributes to peace and reconciliation by providing a space where challenging conversations can take place, promoting positive relations, and facilitating shared learning. Ultimately, it strengthens community cohesion, leading to a more harmonious coexistence between the Northern Irish and Polish communities, as well as among individuals from various backgrounds.

3.7 Events programme - at locations across the Borough and signature sites

Programme Name	**Armagh Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council Events Programme**		
Budget	**£250,000**	**Timeframe**	**2024-2027**
Programme Aim			
A council wide events programme, to run across the complete period of the Peace Plus initiative. Events will be held at locations across the Borough, including at signature sites, Outdoor Parks & Open Spaces. These will be designed to tie in with key campaigns and support the strategic objectives of Thriving and Peaceful Communities and Building Respect for all Cultural Identities. These will include developments of existing programmatic themes such as Love Parks / National Play Days / Movie Month / Colour Run / Halloween Events.			

Relation to Area Needs
During consultations, consultees highlighted the need for continuation of the successful and well-developed events programmes across the Borough. It was also recognised that there was opportunity to develop these events in style and nature, to have a greater focus on both cross community, through recognising the closing cultural and social gaps between the two larger communities. In addition it was also acknowledged that more could be done to embrace so-called 'new' communities into existing events, either through greater reach in terms of advertising and raising awareness of events to these communities, and also designing events that had content and context specific to these communities, including events that recognise traditional historical, religious or cultural events that are important to those communities.
Programme Actions
The events programme will not be prescriptive in nature; it seeks to build upon an existing roster of annual festivals such as calendar events such as St Patrick's Day, Halloween and Christmas. These will be supplemented by a more diverse range of events designed to harness the literary and cultural opportunities available through the Borough recognising different genres of entertainment, opening up those opportunities to a much wider audience, drawn from within the Borough and beyond.
Beneficiaries
• Children and Young People • Marginalised and socio-economically vulnerable groups. • New Communities and established Community groups, • Youth organisations, the Council, local businesses and artisan traders
SMART Objectives
➢ Attract 800 participants to the programme of events. ➢ Delivery of a significant number of free-to-access events

➢ Increase in the number of culturally diverse events held across the Borough. ➢ Greater numbers of participants from 'New' communities in events
Results
• Greater civic engagement in events across the Borough • Greater variety and regularity of events across the Borough • Enhanced central focus in the organising, advertising and delivery of events • Greater co-ordination and spread of events across the various communities, cities, towns and villages in the Borough
Outputs
➢ Enhanced Civic Engagement: Foster greater civic engagement across the Borough by attracting a diverse range of participants to the events programme, encouraging active participation and community involvement in cultural and recreational activities. ➢ Diverse and Accessible Events: Deliver a significant number of free-to-access events that cater to the diverse interests and needs of residents, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility for all members of the community, including children, young people, marginalized groups, and new communities. ➢ Cultural Enrichment: Increase the cultural diversity of events held across the Borough by incorporating a wider range of cultural themes, traditions, and celebrations, promoting cross-cultural understanding and appreciation within the community. ➢ Community Integration: Promote greater integration and cohesion among communities by attracting increased participation from 'new' communities in events, facilitating interactions and connections between diverse groups, and fostering a sense of belonging and shared identity across the Borough.
How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements
CNR 45% / PUL 45%/ other 10% **Inclusivity**

This project will recruit participants from diverse abilities, different cultural backgrounds, and marginalised communities to take part in the programme.

The events programme will aim to develop social cohesion through developing a sense of belonging for those who might have felt isolated or excluded in the past, on grounds of religion, race, culture, gender or age.

Empowerment

The programme will aim to boost the self-esteem and confidence of participants by either enabling them to take part in events as performers, volunteers or organisers.

It will also assist both existing and new groups to avail of a series of events to showcase what they do, enabling them to raise funds, engage new audiences and attract new talent

Sustainability

By being run across 3 years, the events programme is sustainable by design. Offering opportunities for free access should encourage larger numbers, both participants and visitors, ensuring additional opportunities for traders and patrons to see increased revenues.

Additional footfall and revenues should be adding value to events and driving an appetite to deliver additional events beyond the funding envelope of this specific programme. Ultimately, if planned and delivered well, many events can be financially self-sustaining.

3.8 Wellbeing Events at Oxford Island

Programme Name	**Wellbeing Event- Oxford Island** **600 participants**		
Budget	**£150,000**	**Timeframe**	**2025**

Programme Aim
The Well-being Event at Oxford Island aims to provide a 2-day outdoor event at Oxford Island National Nature Reserve in Spring 2025 that promotes well-being, social interaction, and inclusion. This event is designed to encourage families, children, and young people to reconnect with nature and the outdoors. It will offer a range of activities, workshops, and experiences, such as cookery demos, yoga, fitness sessions, self-care workshops, bushcraft, foraging, arts and crafts, and local produce. The event concludes with live music and meditation, allowing participants to relax and unwind in a natural setting. The primary focus is on promoting health and well-being, fostering social inclusion, and encouraging community interaction through nature, the environment, and arts and culture.
Relation to Area Needs
The need for this project has been strongly emphasized during community consultations, where residents and stakeholders have consistently highlighted the pressing issues of mental health, isolation, and the importance of connecting people through shared interests across the Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon Borough. The "Well-being Event - Oxford Island Big Retreat" directly addresses these needs by providing a welcoming and inclusive platform for individuals to participate in various activities, engage with their community, and enhance their mental well-being. By offering a diverse range of well-being activities and fostering social interaction in a natural and engaging environment, the project aligns with the community's desire to improve mental health, combat isolation, and create connections based on mutual interests.
Programme Actions
A 2-day event on Oxford Island National Nature Reserve In May/June 2025 that provides nature-based activities that focuses on social interaction and inclusion. Delivered to children, young people, and families to encourage new visitors and provide a fun, informative and engaging family day out. People will enjoy activities such as, cookery demos, yoga, fitness, self-care workshops, Bushcraft, foraging, arts and craft and local produce. The event will also provide live music and meditation. • Activities will be zoned into up to 8 areas along key themes. The following headings are working titles and may change focus or content.

- Upcycle, reuse and craft
- Enjoy and Perform
- Kidsfield – Bushcraft
- Eat, Grow, Cook
- Build and make
- Relax and live well
- Conservation
- Mindfulness

The focal point of the event revolves around promoting health and well-being, environmental stewardship, social inclusion, and community engagement through the integration of nature, the environment, and arts and culture. Utilizing existing indoor infrastructure alongside externally owned and procured infrastructure such as marquees, staging, and flags, the event aims to create an immersive and inclusive atmosphere. Event management expertise will be leveraged to procure a comprehensive schedule of equipment and infrastructure and oversee the two-day event, with detailed planning, licensing, and coordination handled internally by relevant officers and an events advisory panel. To minimize environmental impact, no vehicles will be allowed on-site beyond the Artspace gates, with transportation facilitated through a flexi bus service operating both on and off-site. Off-site parking arrangements will be made, accompanied by a travel plan to promote alternative transportation methods such as walking to the main festival area.

Beneficiaries

- Children and young people
- Adults
- Families
- Community organisations
- Volunteers
- Newcomer communities

SMART Objectives

✓ To provide well-being and recreational activities to 600 participants at the Oxford Island Big Retreat in Spring 2025.

- ✓ To reduce stress, depression, anxiety, and anger, and increase mental well-being among attendees.
- ✓ To enhance the quality of life of participants, resulting in greater happiness, reduced fear, and higher energy levels.
- ✓ To promote social integration, inclusiveness, and the acceptance of cultural and social differences through cross-community engagement.
- ✓ To build social connections, foster community spirit, and encourage volunteering and trust between individuals and communities.
- ✓ To promote a positive outlook on life and the future among attendees.

Results

Health Outcomes:

- Improved mental health and psychological well-being.
- Increased emotional well-being, life satisfaction, and happiness.
- Reduction in stress, depression, anxiety, and anger.

Social Outcomes:

- Greater social integration and reduced stratification.
- Enhanced social networks and stronger social support within the community.
- Increased inclusiveness and cross-community engagement.
- Building social relationships and fostering a sense of community.
- Encouraging prosocial engagement and volunteering.
- Promoting optimism and a positive outlook on life and the future.

Outputs

- ➢ A successful 2-day well-being event at Oxford Island National Nature Reserve in Spring 2025.
- ➢ Well-being activities and workshops for 600 participants.
- ➢ Improved mental health and overall well-being of attendees.
- ➢ Enhanced social integration, inclusiveness, and community engagement.
- ➢ Positive social relationships and increased community trust.
- ➢ A sense of community and optimism among participants.

How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements
CNR 45% / PUL 45%/ other 10% This project will contribute to enhanced peace and reconciliation by creating a shared space where individuals from different backgrounds come together in a relaxed and positive atmosphere. The event promotes inclusivity, trust-building, and social integration, fostering cross-community interaction and understanding. By encouraging diverse communities to participate in well-being activities and social engagement, this project supports the overarching goal of building thriving and peaceful communities in the Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon Borough.

3.9 Battle of the Bands

Programme Name	**Battle of the Bands**		
Budget	**£30,000**	**Timeframe**	**2024-2027**
Programme Aim			
The 'Battle of the Bands' project opens the opportunity to work with youth organisations across the Borough over a 3-year period. The project will enable young people to come together in individual venues across each of our towns to learn new musical skills within a programme delivery space that can lead to developing better opportunities in life – the project will conclude with a large community event in each of the 3 Borough areas. The programme delivery WILL include elements of non-accredited & accredited training to encourage a space that is open to all young people. Costs will include those for facilitation, accreditation costs, equipment, venue hire, etc. Any equipment purchased can be utilised over a 3-year period as a shared resource within each cohort of the overall programme. This project will provide a space for young people to integrate, celebrate their cultural diversity and learn/develop new skills within an arts/culture industry leading to the potential for future employment. It will also provide a mechanism for youth groups/providers to come together developing better relationships and a shared platform to share common issues.			

Relation to Area Needs
During consultations, it became evident that there was a pressing need for programmes tailored specifically towards the youth demographic across the Borough. These programmes needed to be inclusive, welcoming young people from both established and emerging communities, regardless of cultural, social, or gender backgrounds, and irrespective of their geographical location within the Borough. The "Battle of the Bands" project directly addresses these needs by providing a dynamic platform for young people to integrate, celebrate their cultural diversity, and develop new skills within the arts and culture industry. By fostering cross-cultural interactions and facilitating shared experiences, the project promotes social cohesion and understanding among young people from diverse backgrounds, contributing to a more inclusive and vibrant community fabric.
Programme Actions
The "Battle of the Bands" project is designed to address several key issues identified within the Borough's youth community. Firstly, it aims to provide formal opportunities for young people to engage with the contemporary music scene, fostering their musical talents and interests. Through a combination of non-accredited and accredited training sessions, facilitated in individual venues across the towns, participants will have the chance to learn new musical skills and explore diverse musical genres, transcending cultural and musical boundaries. This initiative also seeks to fill the void in formal musical training beyond school settings and single-identity musical traditions, such as marching bands or folk groups, by offering a platform for young people to develop their musical abilities. Furthermore, by organizing cross-cultural and cross-community events and activities, the project encourages interaction and collaboration among young people from diverse backgrounds, promoting inclusivity and cultural exchange. Additionally, the project provides valuable opportunities for young musicians to perform publicly, either as soloists or as part of groups, fostering confidence and self-expression. Ultimately, the project aims to create a supportive environment where the community can recognize and nurture young people's musical ambitions, fostering a sense of pride and accomplishment.
Beneficiaries
• Children and young people

- Youth organisations
- Community groups
- Community groups

SMART Objectives

- Increase Musical Engagement: Encourage a higher level of musical involvement by fostering an increase in the number of individuals actively playing musical instruments, thereby enriching the Borough's musical landscape and promoting musical expression among its residents.
- Expand Community Participation: Broaden the reach and impact of the programme by expanding the membership base of participating youth organisations, ensuring more young people have access to musical education and performance opportunities, thereby fostering a vibrant and inclusive musical community.
- Foster Cultural Diversity: Promote cultural diversity and inclusivity within the Borough's musical scene by encouraging the exploration and performance of non-traditional and non-British/Irish music genres, enriching the local cultural tapestry and celebrating musical heritage from around the world.

Results

- More young people directly playing contemporary music.
- Groups of young people more aware of different cultural variations in musical tastes and styles
- New relationships built within single identity communities.
- New relationships built across the traditional existing communities.
- New relationships built between young people from across the new communities and across the borough as a whole.
- Increase numbers of young people with formal musical accreditation
- Greater numbers of young people joining youth organisations

Outputs

- Youth musical programme delivered across the Borough.
- 20 – 25 participants each year

- Formal accreditations for levels of musical ability achieved.
- Staging of several public performances each year
- Use of social media to achieve reach both across the borough and beyond

How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements

CNR 45% / PUL 45%/ other 10%

Inclusivity

This project is targeted across the Borough, not only at existing groups, but also specifically seeks to develop capability, capacity and resilience in the new communities emerging in the Borough. he programme is as broad as possible, seeking to engage with the most diverse range of stakeholders and groups in the youth sector.

The formation of musical groups from a wide base of communities enhances the inclusion, tolerance, mutual respect and understanding of differences, for those participants in the groups.

Empowerment

The programme will aim to boost the self-esteem and confidence of participants thereby enabling them to develop themselves further and enable them to interact with other participants. Through membership of youth organisations, participants will be exposed to a much wider array of experiences and opportunities.

Sustainability

The development of musical ability within both individual participants as musicians and those who participate in bands, performing in public, should lay the foundations for an enduring interest in music amongst individuals.

Performing groups/bands, that emerge from the programme, can go on to develop deeper longer-term relationships, based on their participation within the programme.

Exposing participants to the youth organisations taking part in the project opens up the pathway for them to join organisations and their participation in those is likely to outlive this project itself.

3.10 ABC Community Awards programme

Programme Name	**ABC Community Awards programme** **196 participants**		
Budget	**£100,000**	**Timeframe**	**2024-2027**
Programme Aim			
The Community Awards programme is designed to spotlight the vital role that members of the community throughout the Borough play in delivering peacebuilding and community cohesion. The annual gala awards event aims to showcase, celebrate, and empower community groups, volunteers, and individuals across the Borough who contribute to peacebuilding and community relations. The awards will also serve as an excellent opportunity to promote the PEACEPLUS programme across the Borough.			
Relation to Area Needs			
This programme directly addresses the need for recognising and celebrating outstanding community relations, intercultural understanding, and peacebuilding work in local communities across the Borough. It also serves to unite and champion local communities, fostering connections through peace, understanding, and cultural respect. Throughout consultations, participants emphasised the importance of promoting their programmes and events while also sharing instances of best practices across the Borough. The annual awards gala is poised to fulfil these needs. In addition to its recognition aspect, the Awards gala offers invaluable networking opportunities, facilitating the establishment and strengthening of relationships among various community groups.			
Programme Actions			
Planning and Organisation This initial phase is crucial for setting the foundation for the awards gala. Actions in this stage include selecting a suitable venue that can accommodate the expected number of			

attendees, determining a convenient date, and forming a dedicated project team responsible for the entire event's planning and execution. The project team will include roles such as event manager, communication coordinator, selection committee members, and logistical support.

Nomination and Selection

To ensure the gala truly recognises exceptional contributions to peacebuilding and community relations across the Borough, it's essential to open nominations to the broader community. Action steps include creating a transparent and easily accessible nomination process, defining specific categories for recognition (such as youth initiatives, intercultural engagement, and peacebuilding projects), and establishing a selection committee composed of impartial experts in the field. The committee will be tasked with reviewing nominations, assessing their impact, and selecting finalists and winners.

Marketing and Promotion

Effective promotion is vital for encouraging nominations, building anticipation, and maximising event attendance. In this phase, the event ABC event management team will utilise a multi-faceted marketing approach. Actions include creating eye-catching promotional materials, such as posters and flyers, launching social media campaigns across various platforms, developing press releases to garner media attention, and leveraging local networks and partners to extend the reach of promotional efforts. It's crucial to engage the community, stakeholders, and potential nominees in the run-up to the gala.

Event Execution

Action steps encompass setting up the venue to accommodate the award ceremony, arranging for entertainment and cultural showcases to celebrate the diversity of the community, coordinating catering and refreshments, and organising opportunities for networking and interactions among attendees. The event manager and team will be responsible for overseeing the logistics to guarantee a successful gala.

SEUPB Engagement

The event management team will extend an invitation to representatives from the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) to witness the impact of PEACEPLUS within the Borough. This action involves coordinating schedules, providing comprehensive briefings on the programme's achievements and outcomes, and facilitating discussions and feedback sessions during the gala. The engagement with SEUPB aims to strengthen the partnership and ensure continued support for peace and reconciliation initiatives in the area.

Post Gala

The ABC PEACE Team will utilise promotional materials from the events to create press releases on its impact but also to promote the wider PEACEPLUS programme across the Borough.

Beneficiaries

- Community groups
- Volunteers
- PEACEPLUS Participants
- The broader community in Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon.
- SEUPB representatives interested in observing the programmes impact.

SMART Objectives

- ✓ Host an annual gala event attended by at least 100 community members and stakeholders.
- ✓ Recognise and celebrate at least 20 outstanding community projects and individuals.
- ✓ Engage SEUPB representatives in a constructive dialogue about the programmes impact.

Results

- Increased community engagement and participation in peacebuilding efforts.
- Recognition and celebration of community achievements.
- Enhanced visibility and understanding of PEACEPLUS projects.
- Networking opportunities for community leaders and volunteers.

• Improved relationships between local communities and SEUPB representatives.
Outputs
➢ Delivery of well-attended awards gala events. ➢ Promotion materials, including posters, social media campaigns, and press releases. ➢ An awards selection committee. ➢ A detailed report on the programme's impact for SEUPB.
How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements
CNR 45% / PUL 45%/ other 10% Celebrating and recognising the efforts of those who actively work towards peace and community cohesion. Showcasing successful community projects that bridge divides and foster cultural respect. Providing a platform for dialogue and networking between community leaders, volunteers, and SEUPB representatives. Inspiring and empowering the next generation of community volunteers and group leaders.

3.11 One Community

Programme Name	**'One Community' 200 participants**		
Budget	**£120,000**	**Timeframe**	**January 2025 to December 2027**
Programme Aim			
Series of inclusion programmes delivered over three years across the Borough. Project aims to increase awareness and confidence of anyone working with people who experience exclusion issues to ensure they are treated with respect, dignity, and empathy. The project will include programmes focussing on underrepresented groups. • LGBTQIA • Disabilities • Travellers			

- Asylum Seekers
- Autism Friendly

This programme will explore the potential for OCN accredited training for professionals and community reps to be able to integrate this into their daily work and to better identify the issues facing marginalised groups in ABC. 5 programmes will be supported that will include training, capacity building, activities, and thematic events.

'One Community' will be Social & Capacity Building 3-year project. The programming will be co-designed to tackle identified need for engagement through representatives and organisations who work with underrepresented groups. Programme will include:

- Recruit and develop Under-represented groups programmes.
- Need identified in co-design process.
- 1 x launch & recruitment workshop.
- accredited capacity building courses.
- Understanding the sector awareness days.
- celebration and evaluation events.
- Social, Political & Cultural Awareness activities and events.

The 'One Community' programme is designed to integrate underrepresented groups into the community, this programme will address the unique challenges and barriers faced by these groups. The overarching goal is to foster inclusivity, equity, and a sense of belonging.

The aims of this programme include:

- Promoting Diversity and Inclusion: foster a community culture that values and celebrates diversity, creating an inclusive environment for individuals from underrepresented groups.

- Enhancing Social Cohesion: strengthen social bonds and connections among community members, irrespective of their backgrounds, by promoting understanding, empathy, and positive interactions.
- Community Education and Awareness: educational campaigns to raise awareness about the experiences, contributions, and challenges faced by underrepresented groups. Promote understanding and dispel stereotypes.

Relation to Area Needs

The aim of the programme will be to engage with underrepresented groups and Communities who have had reduced contact with Council and other statutory agencies. The goal is that these events will encourage awareness of services and support the development of a range of civic/community relationships with those from underrepresented groups to help them integrate into society.

The relation to area needs is:

- To raise awareness of the issues and cultural needs of underrepresented groups and Communities living in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council.
- To open communication for underrepresented groups with Statutory Agencies in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council by providing them with links and contacts to the Statutory Agencies available in the area.
- To provide underrepresented groups and Communities with the opportunity to meet with each other and allow for them to create links with other underrepresented groups Families living in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council.

During consultations, consultees highlighted the need for programmes that developed skills, capability, capacity, and resilience within the new communities that are establishing themselves across the Borough. In the public survey, 73% of respondents identified programmes for newcomer families as ‘very important’, or ‘important’. When asked about barriers to integration new communities, language barriers were regularly noted. The 2021

Census results noted that 6.8% of the ABC population did not consider English to be their main language.

One of the most immediate needs of the new communities is to access essential services; not only those delivered by the Council, but also those provided through the state such as health, education, welfare support, employment, and justice.

Programme Actions

- Co-design the programme to support underrepresented groups via a thoughtful and strategic approach to address the unique challenges faced by these communities.
- Needs Assessment and Community Engagement: conduct a comprehensive needs assessment to understand the specific challenges and needs of underrepresented groups.
- Engage with the community through surveys, focus groups, and community meetings to gather input and involve community members in the programme design.
- Recruit 200 participants
- Establish partnerships with local organisations, community leaders, businesses, and educational institutions to enhance programme effectiveness.
- Provide cultural competency training for programme staff and volunteers to ensure sensitivity to the unique cultural backgrounds and experiences of underrepresented groups.
- Develop and implement educational campaigns to raise awareness about the challenges faced by underrepresented groups.
- Promote understanding and empathy within the broader community.
- Facilitate access to educational opportunities and vocational training programs for underrepresented individuals.
- Collaborate with local businesses to create job opportunities and internships for underrepresented individuals.

- Establish community places or safe spaces that cater to the needs and preferences of underrepresented groups.
- Offer resources, meeting spaces, and activities that promote community engagement.
- Collaborate with healthcare providers to offer accessible and culturally sensitive healthcare services.
- Community Events and Celebrations: facilitate events that celebrate the cultural heritage, achievements, and contributions of underrepresented communities. Foster a sense of pride and unity within the community.
- Explore funding opportunities, partnerships, and community fundraising initiatives.
- Share success stories and outcomes to build community support and attract potential collaborators.

Monitoring and evaluation: develop a robust monitoring and evaluation system to track the impact of the program on peacebuilding, community cohesion, and individual development.

Communication and PR: raise public awareness about the project goals and achievements through social media, local media, and community engagement.

Sustainability: develop sustainable participation pathways that enables underrepresented groups to get involved in local community life beyond the lifespan of the Peace Plus Project.

Beneficiaries

- LGBTQIA
- Disabilities
- Travellers
- Asylum Seekers
- Autism Friendly

- Community and voluntary sector organisations
- Residents

SMART Objectives

- ✓ To deliver 1x One Community project that results in meaningful, purposeful, and sustained integration of persons from underrepresented groups living in the Borough.
- ✓ 200 participants engaged in One Community programme.
- ✓ Enhance community cohesion by providing opportunities for underrepresented participants to interact with peers from diverse backgrounds.
- ✓ Increase understanding and awareness of the needs of LGBTQIA individuals, individuals with disabilities, Travellers, asylum seekers, and those with autism.
- ✓ Complete accredited training sessions across the next three years.
- ✓ Establish community support networks for underrepresented groups across each of the 7 DEAs in the Borough
- ✓ Facilitate the formation of at least two support groups, such as LGBTQIA, disability support, and asylum seeker support networks, within the next two years.
- ✓ Collaborate with 14 community groups and leaders to create safe spaces for support and interaction.
- ✓ Implement autism-friendly initiatives, such as sensory-friendly spaces and awareness campaigns, and achieve recognition as an autism-friendly community within the next three years.
- ✓ Increase the number of LGBTQIA-inclusive events in the community.
- ✓ Host and promote 2 LGBTQIA events within the next three years.
- ✓ Conduct at least three cultural awareness workshops or events about Traveller history, traditions, and challenges within the next 3 years.
- ✓ Enhance community understanding and respect for Traveller culture and heritage.
- ✓ Launch an asylum seeker welcome initiative within the next 18 months.
- ✓ Establish a welcome committee, provide resource packages, and host at least two community events to welcome asylum seekers within the next three years.

Results

The One Community programme will engage with underrepresented groups in the Borough to deliver a broad range of positive outcomes, contributing to social inclusion, community cohesion, and the overall well-being of the Borough.

- **Increased Social Inclusion:** underrepresented groups will feel more included and valued in the community, leading to a stronger sense of belonging for individuals from diverse backgrounds.
- **Diverse Community Representation:** improved representation and participation of underrepresented groups in community events, decision-making processes, and leadership roles.
- **Enhanced Cultural Understanding:** increased awareness and understanding of the cultural, social, and historical backgrounds of underrepresented groups, fostering a more inclusive and tolerant community.
- **Reducing Stereotyping and Prejudice:** addressing stereotypes and biases contribute to a reduction in prejudice, discrimination, and negative perceptions of underrepresented groups.
- **Community Empowerment:** Empowered individuals and communities from underrepresented groups become more actively involved in shaping the development and direction of community initiatives.
- **Access to Resources and Opportunities:** improved access to educational, employment, and healthcare resources for underrepresented individuals, contributing to their overall well-being.
- **Community Building and Networks:** establishment of stronger social networks and community bonds among underrepresented groups, leading to increased social capital.
- **Civic Engagement:** Increased civic participation as underrepresented groups engage in local governance, advocacy, and community projects.

The programming will be co-designed to tackle identified need for engagement through representatives and organisations who work with underrepresented groups. Project aims

to increase awareness and confidence of anyone working with people who experience exclusion issues to ensure they are treated with respect, dignity, and empathy.

The overall result of a successful 'One Community' programme is the creation of a more inclusive, diverse, and harmonious community where all individuals, regardless of their background, feel valued, supported, and empowered. It contributes to building a resilient and thriving community in the Borough.

Outputs

- Deliver series of 5 inclusion programmes across 3-year period
- 1 x launch & recruitment workshop.
- 200 participants engaged in One Community programme.
- Increase understanding and awareness of the needs of LGBTQIA individuals, individuals with disabilities, Travellers, asylum seekers, and those with autism.
- Establish community support networks for underrepresented groups across each of the 7 DEAs in the Borough
- Collaborate with 14 community groups and leaders to create safe spaces for support and interaction.
- Implement autism-friendly initiatives, such as sensory-friendly spaces and awareness campaigns, and achieve recognition as an autism-friendly community within the next three years.
- Increase the number of LGBTQIA-inclusive events in the community.
- Host and promote 2 LGBTQIA events within the next three years.
- Facilitate the formation of at least two support groups, such as LGBTQIA, disability support, and asylum seeker support networks, within the next two years.
- Conduct at least three cultural awareness workshops or events about Traveller history, traditions, and challenges within the next 3 years.
- Enhance community understanding and respect for Traveller culture and heritage.
- Launch an asylum seeker welcome initiative within the next 18 months.
- Establish a welcome committee, provide resource packages, and host at least two community events to welcome asylum seekers within the next three years.

- Promote integration and inclusion within and between communities.
- Increase participation from all Section 75 groups including identification of issues and removing barriers.
- Increased inclusivity: Greater participation and engagement among marginalized groups and individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds.
- Enhanced community and voluntary sector capacity to cater for underrepresented groups creating a legacy beyond the Peace Plus investment.
- Reduced prejudices: A significant reduction in prejudiced attitudes and misconceptions.
- Diversity and Inclusivity: Increase the representation of underrepresented and marginalised communities among volunteers and members by 10% within the programme cycle.

How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements

The 'One Community' programme will contribute to peace and reconciliation in the following ways:

- capacity-building for underrepresented groups in the Borough will contribute significantly to peace by addressing systemic issues, fostering social inclusion, and promoting economic opportunities.
- Addressing Historical Injustices: acknowledge and address historical injustices faced by underrepresented groups, providing a platform for truth and reconciliation efforts.
- Building Trust and Social Cohesion by creating spaces for dialogue, understanding, and collaboration among diverse communities.
- Empower underrepresented groups with the skills, knowledge, and resources needed to actively participate in civic life and decision-making processes.
- Address socio-economic inequalities faced by underrepresented communities by providing training, education, and economic opportunities.
- Advocate for and contribute to the development of policies that promote inclusivity, diversity, and equal opportunities for all.

- Offer educational programmes that raise awareness about the experiences and contributions of underrepresented groups, fostering understanding and empathy.
- Develop leadership skills within underrepresented groups, enabling them to play active roles in community leadership and decision-making.
- Promoting Cultural Awareness through facilitation of cultural exchange initiatives that promote cultural awareness, appreciation, and respect among different communities.
- Increase participation from all Section 75 groups.
- Includes Section 75 groups 7 those impacted by troubles and legacy.
- raise awareness of the issues and cultural needs of underrepresented groups and Communities living in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council.
- open communication for underrepresented groups with Statutory Agencies in the Borough by providing them with links and contacts to the Statutory Agencies available in the area.
- provide underrepresented groups and Communities with the opportunity to meet with each other and allow for them to create links with other underrepresented groups Families living in the Borough.

The overall result of a successful 'One Community' programme is the creation of a more inclusive, diverse, and harmonious community where all individuals, regardless of their background, feel valued, supported, and empowered. It contributes to building a resilient and thriving community in the Borough.

3.12 Language Empowerment for Newcomer Communities

Programme Name	Language Empowerment for Newcomer Communities 50 participants		
Budget	**£30,000**	**Timeframe**	**2024-2026**

Programme Aim

To deliver a programme which provides essential English language skills to help people from newcomer communities to integrate based upon the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). By improving the English language skills of emerging leaders and targeted individuals, this programme also aims to support and develop leadership and volunteer capacity to enable new communities to develop their capability and capacity to organise groups and activities, enabling their own communities to become more resilient and self-supporting. The programme will be tied in with several other Peace Plus programmes and partners across the Borough through several initiatives. Achieving some basic English will enable representatives of new communities to:

- avail of several other capacity building programmes being offered through Peace Plus
- utilise capabilities and functions being developed through Peace Plus
- join existing community groups.
- establish and develop new community groups.
- assist in the development and delivery of a programme of multi-cultural events and activities representing the positive dimensions of and contributions to society that new communities can make.

Relation to Area Needs

During consultations, consultees highlighted the need for programmes that developed skills, capability, capacity, and resilience within the new communities that are establishing themselves across the Borough. In the public survey, 73% of respondents identified programmes for newcomer families as 'very important', or 'important'. When asked about barriers to integration new communities, language barriers were regularly noted. The 2021 Census results noted that 6.8% of the ABC population did not consider English to be their main language. One of the most immediate needs of the new communities is to access essential services; not only those delivered by the Council, but also those provided through

the state such as health, education, welfare support, employment, and justice. The single most challenging barrier to the processes and procedures associated with accessing those is the fact that they all conduct their business in languages that the new communities have little or no skills i.e., English, Irish and Ulster-Scots.

During the consultation phases it was clear that there are employment opportunities across the Borough for members of new communities; but that a lack of English language was a considerable barrier to people either accessing or successfully obtaining employment in the jobs market. It is recognised by Council in the Good Relations strategy that key to enabling new communities to integrate, assimilate, survive, and thrive is their ability to access a combination of education, employment, enhanced health and well-being opportunities. Access to English language is a key tenet of this strategy for the new communities.

Programme Actions

Key Issues Project Will Address

- Lack of English-speaking representation within new communities
- Absence of participation by members of new communities in existing community fora
- Lack of suitably trained and supported volunteers from new communities
- Shortage of people willing to volunteer in new communities.
- Lack of capacity within existing community leadership.
- Council and other statutory body's ability to engage with new communities and their members
- Lack of development or formal recognition of the need for English language among new communities and their leaders

As well as language classes it is envisaged to build in cultural exchange events and potentially a mentorship programme.

The programme has two separate elements:

- A language programme to deliver basic levels of English language proficiency to participants based around ESOL courses which can currently be accessed through the Regional Colleges network.
- A support programme focussed on empowering and supporting participants to access the course and helping them to use the newly acquired language skills.

Stage 1: Recruit participants to the programme

Stage 2: Carry out basic assessments of participants' abilities to undertake language training eg time, availability, existing language skills, access to transport, future employability, membership of community groups, access to the internet, regular access to other English speakers

Stage 3: Delivery of a formal English language programme.

Stage 4: Delivery of a formal recognisable language qualification to enhance the skills of the participants in being able to access voluntary opportunities.

Stage 5: Signposting to other courses and opportunities that participants could access having gained a basic English qualification eg further language training, other PEACE Plus activities and potentially employment.

Beneficiaries

- Recognised new community Leaders and Volunteers
- Members of new communities across the age and gender spectrum
- Members of new communities who have existing technical skillsets readily suited for the employment market but lack English language.
- School pupils from new communities looking to fast track their learning and supplement their school based English language classes.

SMART Objectives

- ✓ Increase in English language skills in participants taking part in the programme.
- ✓ Increase in the number of leaders and volunteers within new communities.
- ✓ Increase in the number of people engaging with Council and agencies.
- ✓ Increase in the confidence of new community leaders and volunteers.

- ✓ Increase in number of cultural events within new communities.
- ✓ Increase in participation of members of new communities in cultural events of all natures across the Borough.
- ✓ Increase in level of employment within new communities.

Results

- Enhanced Social Integration: The programme will facilitate greater social cohesion by fostering interactions and relationships among individuals from diverse backgrounds, leading to a more inclusive and connected community.
- Empowered Community Leadership: Through capacity-building initiatives, the programme will empower community leaders and volunteers to take on leadership roles, driving positive change and initiatives within their respective communities.
- Increased Participation in Civic Engagement: By increasing engagement with local councils and agencies, the programme will encourage active involvement in decision-making processes, ensuring that the voices of all community members, particularly those from new communities, are heard and represented.
- Strengthened Cultural Identity: The programme will celebrate and promote cultural diversity, leading to a stronger sense of cultural identity and pride among community members, while also fostering mutual understanding and appreciation of different cultures within the Borough.

Outputs

- ➢ Target the existent leadership and group networks within the new communities to identify candidates for courses and mentoring.
- ➢ Delivery of ESOL courses across the Borough
- ➢ Delivery of a suitable ESOL qualification

How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements

CNR 45% / PUL 45%/ other 10%

Inclusivity-This project is targeted across the Borough, specifically to develop capability, capacity and resilience in the new communities emerging in the borough. The programme is as broad as possible, seeking to engage with the most diverse range of people in the new communities, based on immediacy of needs and ability to participate. This enhanced understanding and use of English will be a critical catalyst to greater inclusivity of new communities. They can then engage more readily with the traditional communities that they are living within and alongside. **Empowerment**-The programme will aim to boost the self-esteem and confidence of participants thereby enabling them to develop themselves further and enable them to develop the families and wider communities they come from. It will enable them to access services and support; encourage them to travel and engage more widely in the Borough and further afield. It will reduce reliance on the small number of competent English speakers in these new communities. **Sustainability**-The development of a greater number of English speakers will assist greatly in providing depth and resilience in the new communities. This in turn should lead to the emergence of new voices, point of contact and greater numbers of volunteers and future leaders. They in turn can come forward and engage in further training and development that develops their capacity to sustain the community outputs that are core to peaceful and thriving communities.

3.13 Cultural and Identity Awareness Programme

Programme Name	**Cultural and Identity Awareness Programme**		
Budget	**£20,000**	**Timeframe**	**2024-2027**
Programme Aim			

This programme aims to examine ways in which challenging issues such as flags, symbols, bonfires etc can be addressed through dialogue and learning.

- To celebrate culture and diversity in the Borough.
- Explore ways to make cultural celebration safe and inclusive across the Borough.
- Enhance the Flags, Emblems and Bonfires Protocol Programme.
- Embed best practice around cultural expression.
- To better understand the 'on the ground' impact of culture and identity celebration.
- Deliver a Cultural and Identity Awareness Programme around flags, emblems, and bonfires in reflective of traditions in Northern Ireland
- address the complex and sensitive issues related to cultural symbols, expressions, and practices, which have often been sources of tension and conflict in the Borough.
- Foster a better understanding of the historical, cultural, and emotional significance of flags, emblems, and bonfires.
- Encourage participants to appreciate the diverse cultural heritage and identities of the Borough.
- Equip individuals with conflict resolution and dialogue skills to manage disagreements or conflicts that may arise around issues of cultural symbols and expressions.
- Encourage peaceful coexistence by promoting respect for the cultural symbols and practices of all communities in Northern Ireland, regardless of one's own cultural background.
- Promote diversity and inclusivity by acknowledging and respecting the cultural identities of all communities within Northern Ireland. This may include highlighting the history and contributions of various cultural groups.
- Engage young people in the programme to prevent the perpetuation of division and to promote future generations' ability to coexist peacefully.
- Empower local communities and individuals to take an active role in shaping and influencing the cultural and identity expressions in their own areas.

- Create spaces and opportunities for individuals from different cultural and identity backgrounds to engage in constructive dialogue, share perspectives, and build relationships.
- Offer educational components that provide historical context and information about flags, emblems, and bonfires. This can help dispel myths and misconceptions.
- Promote cultural festivals, events, and celebrations that showcase the diverse cultural identities in Northern Ireland. These should be inclusive and welcoming to all communities.
- Identify and support local leaders and influencers who can play a role in diffusing tensions and promoting peaceful coexistence.
- Promote responsible behaviour during cultural celebrations, particularly around bonfires, ensuring that they are safe and respectful of residents and the environment.

Relation to Area Needs

ABC Borough Council area has experienced issues related to flags, emblems, and bonfires, much like other areas in the region in Northern Ireland. These issues have been a source of tension and conflict in the community. There have been localised agreements and protocols that have achieved some progress around expression of cultural identity, but work remains to be down.

Cultural Expression: there is evidence to suggest that there are tensions surrounding flags in some towns and villages across the Borough. There have been tensions around parades, bonfires, murals, flags, memorials, and commemorations within the Borough that highlight the need to address these matters within the Peace Plus Local Action Plan. Territorial marking can be seen across the area and this has been an historical issue that must be explored.

It is accepted that appropriate spaces can be formed for cultural expression, but these must be underpinned by creating welcoming environments, which are not intimidating, and which feel shared, is crucial to creating a vibrant and thriving Borough. Encouraging the

promotion and celebration of culture in a way that does not appear triumphalist and engenders respect among others, as well as promoting understanding of the different cultures that exist in the Borough. Overall, this programme aims to examine ways in which challenging issues such as flags, symbols, bonfires etc. can be addressed through dialogue and learning.

The need for a Cultural Identity Awareness programme has been amplified due to the impact of Brexit on identity with tensions raised due to the political sensitivities of Brexit which led to Northern Ireland leaving the European Union on the 1 January 2021 are considerable.

Over recent times the following matters have impacted community relations in relation to identity:

- Flag Protests: the Borough has witnessed flag protests, particularly around the flying of the Union Jack flag. In 2012, there were widespread protests and demonstrations across Northern Ireland, including ABC Borough Council, when the Belfast City Council restricted the flying of the Union Jack at Belfast City Hall. These protests resulted in significant disruption and raised tensions in the area.
- Marching Parades: The Borough has seen contentious parades and marches, particularly those organised by loyalist or nationalist groups. These parades often involve the display of flags, emblems, and other symbols associated with each community. For example, the annual Drumcree Parade has been a long-standing source of controversy and conflict in Portadown, consequently impacting community relations.
- Bonfires: Bonfires are an integral part of cultural celebrations in many Northern Irish communities, but they have been a source of contention in some areas of the Borough. Some bonfires have been associated with the burning of flags and effigies, leading to concerns about the impact on community relations and safety.
- Cultural Symbols and Murals: Murals, often depicting flags, emblems, and historical or political figures, have been painted on buildings in the Borough. These murals can be seen as expressions of identity, but they have also been a source of division and tension.

- Tensions between Communities the Borough has a mixed population of both nationalist and unionist communities, and issues related to flags, emblems, and bonfires have at times exacerbated divisions and led to community tensions.

It is important to note that the Borough is just one of many areas in Northern Ireland that has faced issues related to flags, emblems, and bonfires. These issues are deeply rooted in the region's historical and political context and are part of the broader challenge of promoting peace, understanding, and reconciliation. Efforts to address these issues typically involve dialogue, community engagement, and seeking common ground among the different communities.

Programme Actions

Appoint independent 3rd party to develop a Cultural and Identity Awareness Programme that will refer to flags, emblems & bonfires within the Borough, in partnership with local communities and ABC Borough Council.

This programme will examine ways in which challenging issues such as flags, symbols, bonfires etc can be addressed through dialogue and learning.

The programme should explore how existing civic spaces are developed and managed in a manner that respects the rights, equality and diversity of all. The change will be reflected in how parades, flags, emblems, graffiti, and other related issues impact on the public spaces.

We will require a 3rd party to:

- Support the development and subsequent delivery of a Cultural and Identity Awareness Programme for the Borough, in partnership with local communities and ABC Council.
- Develop and deliver the project as per programme objectives.
- Monitor and evaluate the project in line with the SEUPB Output Indicator Guidance and other guidance notes and in liaison with the Lead Partner

Programme Objectives

- Provide independent, specialist advice and guidance to ABC Council on the development of a Flags, Emblems and Bonfires programme for the Borough.
- Complete a desktop scoping exercise and provide facilitated sessions with Council Officers.
- Engage key influencers including elected members, in a localised dialogue and mediation programme to identify key issues and agree the process going forward to resolve these.
- Provide mentoring and support to groups engaged in the programme and facilitate the opportunity for study visits to assist learning.
- Provide expertise to assist in the identification of relevant opportunities for groups to link with the Councils PCSP and Borough Councils Good Relations Action Plan.
- Examine and implement best practice with regard to cultural expression particularly around Flags, Emblems and Bonfires.

Additional Requirements

- Target area: Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council area.
- Cross-community breakdown: 70%PUL/30%CNR
- Groups engaged in the programme should consist of community representatives, key influencers, gate keepers and elected members.
- Timeframe for delivery: the programme must be completed by March 2026.

Programme Outputs

- Minimum of 26 hours engagement per participant.
- 14 groups engaged in facilitated group work sessions.
- 100 participants engaged on the Cultural and Identity Awareness Programme

BUDGET

The maximum budget for this project is £20,000

Project Management

The successful supplier will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the programme and will be required to prepare monthly progress reports for the Lead Partner.

Project Liaison

The successful supplier will liaise with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Peace Plus management team in relation to all aspects of programme delivery.

The project should include the following key actions:

- **Needs Assessment:** Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment to understand the specific Cultural and Identity challenges/needs in the Borough.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** engage with cultural groups, community groups, community leaders, marching bands, community representatives, key influencers, gate keepers and elected members.
- **Programme co-design:**
  - programme should examine ways in which challenging issues such as flags, symbols, bonfires etc can be addressed through dialogue and learning.
  - include structured peace-building components, such as workshops and cultural exchange activities.
  - Host cultural workshops, events, and festivals that draw participants and spectators from various communities.
- **Monitoring and evaluation:** develop a robust monitoring and evaluation system to track the impact of the program on peacebuilding, community cohesion, and individual development.

Beneficiaries

- Cultural groups
- Community groups
- Marching bands

SMART Objectives

- ✓ To deliver 1 Cultural and Identity Awareness Programme around flags, emblems, and bonfires in reflective of traditions in Northern Ireland by March 2026.
- ✓ 14 groups engaged in facilitated group work sessions.
- ✓ Minimum of 100 participants engaged in the programme.
- ✓ Engage key a minimum of 35 influencers including elected members, in a localised dialogue and mediation programme to identify key issues and agree the process going forward to resolve these.
- ✓ Participants aged 18 to 65+ on balance of 70%PUL/30%CNR community split.
- ✓ Collaborate with a minimum of 14 local cultural groups, community groups, community leaders, marching bands, etc. to explore and implement best practice around cultural expression.
- ✓ Enhance community cohesion by providing opportunities for participants to interact with peers from diverse backgrounds.
- ✓ Facilitate 7 project celebration days inclusive of cross-cultural sports events or workshops, where participants from different backgrounds share their cultural sporting traditions, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of diversity.
- ✓ Enhance 3 Flags, Emblems and Bonfires Protocol Programmes.
- ✓ Embed best practice around cultural expression.
- ✓ Engage with a minimum of 7 cultural festivals, events, and celebrations that showcase the diverse cultural identities in Northern Ireland.

Results

The Cultural and Identity Awareness Programme will result in:

- Improved celebration of culture and diversity in the Borough.
- Implement ways to make cultural celebration safe and inclusive across the Borough.
- The programme will promote a deeper and more accurate understanding of the cultural and historical significance of flags, emblems, and bonfires. This can help dispel myths and misconceptions.
- Enhance existing and develop Flags, Emblems and Bonfires Protocol Programmes.
- Embed best practice around cultural expression.

- Improved community relations as a result of the programme that will foster improved relations among different cultural and identity groups. By encouraging dialogue, understanding, and respect, it can help bridge divides and reduce tension.
- Foster a better understanding of the historical, cultural, and emotional significance of flags, emblems, and bonfires.
- better understand the 'on the ground' impact of culture and identity celebration.
- address the complex and sensitive issues related to cultural symbols, expressions, and practices, which have often been sources of tension and conflict in the Borough.
- Encourage participants to appreciate the diverse cultural heritage and identities of the Borough.
- Local communities and individuals can become empowered to take an active role in shaping and influencing cultural and identity expressions in their own areas.
- Equip individuals with conflict resolution and dialogue skills to manage disagreements or conflicts that may arise around issues of cultural symbols and expressions.
- Encourage peaceful coexistence by promoting respect for the cultural symbols and practices of all communities in Northern Ireland, regardless of one's own cultural background.
- Promote diversity and inclusivity by acknowledging and respecting the cultural identities of all communities within Northern Ireland.
- Engage young people in the programme to prevent the perpetuation of division and to promote future generations' ability to coexist peacefully.
- Empower local communities and individuals to take an active role in shaping and influencing the cultural and identity expressions in their own areas.
- Create spaces and opportunities for individuals from different cultural and identity backgrounds to engage in constructive dialogue, share perspectives, and build relationships.
- Identify and support local leaders and influencers who can play a role in diffusing tensions and promoting peaceful coexistence.

- Promote responsible behaviour during cultural celebrations, particularly around bonfires, ensuring that they are safe and respectful of local residents and the environment.
- Participants in the programme can acquire conflict resolution and communication skills, which are valuable not only in addressing issues related to flags, emblems, and bonfires but also in resolving conflicts in other aspects of life.
- Creating spaces and opportunities for individuals from different cultural backgrounds to engage in constructive dialogue can break down barriers and foster trust.

Outputs

The Cultural and Identity Awareness Programme will:

- deliver a Cultural and Identity Awareness Programme around flags, emblems, and bonfires in reflective of traditions in Northern Ireland by March 2026.
- Embed best practice around cultural expression.
- Engage key a minimum of 35 influencers including elected members, in a localised dialogue and mediation programme to identify key issues and agree the process going forward to resolve these.
- 14 groups engaged in facilitated group work sessions.
- Minimum of 100 participants engaged in the programme.
- Participants aged 18 to 65+ on balance of 70%PUL/30%CNR community split.
- Collaborate with a minimum of 14 local cultural groups, community groups, community leaders, marching bands, etc. to explore and implement best practice around cultural expression.
- The programme will offer educational workshops and sessions designed to inform participants about the history, cultural significance, and diversity of flags, emblems, and bonfires.
- Facilitate 7 project celebration days inclusive of cross-cultural sports events or workshops, where participants from different backgrounds share their cultural sporting traditions, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of diversity.
- Engage with a minimum of 7 cultural festivals, events, and celebrations that showcase the diverse cultural identities in Northern Ireland.

- Offer training sessions to participants, practitioners and leaders on cultural competency, sensitivity, and awareness to ensure they can effectively guide program activities.
- Implement activities and workshops tailored for young people to engage them in discussions about cultural symbols, identity, and diversity, promoting tolerance and understanding.

How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements

The impact of this programme is not just about addressing specific issues related to flags, emblems, and bonfires; they are about contributing to a broader culture of peace, reconciliation, and community cohesion in Northern Ireland. These results can help create a more inclusive and harmonious society where diverse cultural identities are celebrated and respected.

One of the visible aspects of the conflict or 'troubles' legacy in Northern Ireland is the high level of segregation within society. This is evidenced by residential segregation, peace walls, sectarian graffiti, public display of flags and emblems in a manner aimed to mark territory and intimidate. As well as increasing social division and tension, segregation also inhibits the potential for economic development and the efficient delivery of public services.

The Cultural and Identity Awareness Programme will explore ways to mitigate and reduce the negative impacts of cultural and identity expression by addressing sensitive issues such as flags, emblems, bonfires through dialogue and learning.

The programme is not about denying cultural expression, rather, we will aim to identify and implement ways to make cultural celebration safe and inclusive across the Borough.

The programme will contribute to enhanced peace by better understanding the 'on the ground' impact of culture and identity celebration. The programme will foster a better

understanding of the historical, cultural, and emotional significance of flags, emblems, and bonfires.

The programme will equip individuals with conflict resolution and dialogue skills to manage disagreements or conflicts that may arise around issues of cultural symbols and expressions.

Overall, the programme will encourage peaceful coexistence by promoting respect for the cultural symbols and practices of all communities in Northern Ireland, regardless of one's own cultural background. Peace will be enhanced by empowering local communities and individuals to take an active role in shaping and influencing the cultural and identity expressions in their own areas. We aim to build capacity to create spaces and opportunities for individuals from different cultural and identity backgrounds to engage in constructive dialogue, share perspectives, and build relationships.

3.14 Club and Schools Sports Connection Project

Programme Name	**Club and Schools Sports Connection Project**		
Budget	**£50,000**	**Timeframe**	**2024-2027**
Programme Aim			
The aims of the Club and Schools Sports Connection project are to: • Deliver a programme that will utilize sport as a tool to bring young people from diverse communities together using a range of physical activity sessions, educational workshops, and fun activities. • Use sport to unite communities and to break down barriers among our young people, bringing together those from different community backgrounds. • Facilitate a range of multi-sport focused activities that will be used to break down societal barriers, build friendships, and to inspire our younger generation to respect difference and promote inclusivity. • Use sport as a common cultural touchstone to address division and conflict and promote peace and reconciliation.			

- strengthen good relations between young people from different and diverse community backgrounds.
- create meaningful opportunities for the young people to better understand the sporting and community traditions of the 'other' community through direct engagement in the 'other' sports experiences.
- offer opportunities for young people from across the community to learn, develop and break down barriers around stigma, sectarianism, and different backgrounds.
- use sports as a platform to bring together individuals from diverse backgrounds, promote understanding, and contribute to peace and reconciliation efforts.
- Encourage dialogue and communication among participants from different communities, backgrounds, and identities. The project should create opportunities for individuals to get to know and understand each other.
- Foster cultural exchange by celebrating and respecting the diversity of traditions, languages, and customs among participants. This helps break down stereotypes and build respect for different cultures.
- Ensure that participants from all backgrounds have equal access to the project. This includes addressing gender, age, and socio-economic disparities to promote inclusivity.
- Raise awareness about the importance of peace and reconciliation. Use sports events and activities as platforms to share messages of tolerance, understanding, and peaceful coexistence.

Relation to Area Needs

Sport can be a symbol of religious, cultural, and political allegiances but this project will engage with young people who will work together, and Sport can be a vehicle for change. The proposed project can also assist Strategies such as the 'Children and Young People's Strategy 2020-2030' and the Active Living Sport and Physical Activity Strategy in Northern Ireland.

The reach of different Sport's and the breadth of membership of sports clubs in NI offers an ideal vehicle to pursue positive social goals and peace building.

This project has the potential to engage with multiple sports bodies who will work together to assist with the realisation of Peace Building in the Borough and delivery of government policy goals in health and individual wellbeing, social inclusion, and reconciliation. In addressing this spectrum of issues, the project can engage individual local clubs on the ground, can act more holistically and so effectively than the government could alone in terms of addressing the challenge of NI's continuing deep divisions. The link with schools will create club and school pathways creating a positive legacy beyond the project.

We have seen recent incidents of hate crime and sectarianism in wider society, these problems have also manifested in local sporting environments. Sport continues to tackle sectarianism within the wider community and the sporting environment.

The Sports Connection project will facilitate sporting activity in clubs and schools while delivering Good Relations principles embedded in the delivery as while as workshop content to tackle sectarianism, discrimination, racism etc.

Sports programming will be delivered to introduce participants to sports they may not always engage with, e.g., the Irish FA, Ulster Rugby and Ulster GAA deliver a 'Game of three halves' that allows participants to engage in different sports via multi sports sessions.

Previous Peace programme iterations have carried out evaluations with participants of the Game of Three Halves programme, finding a significant improvement in positive attitudes towards other communities after participating in the programme. Participants reporting that they would feel 'very comfortable' socialising and engaging with those from different community backgrounds rose from 43% before the programme to 76% after participating. Participants reporting that they would be 'fairly uncomfortable', 'neither' or only 'fairly comfortable' all fell, underscoring the positive impact of this programme on attitudes. 72% felt the programme could help build a peaceful society in NI (28% were 'unsure'); and 96% reported that they had fun participating.

The evaluations provide proof of concept with regards to sport successfully changing attitudes and building positive relations.

The Sports Connection project will also tackle Health and Wellbeing. Mental health and wellbeing emerged as the most pertinent issue for those completing the online survey, with 93.9% of respondents categorising this social challenge as either 'Very Important' or 'Important' to develop a thriving and peaceful community within their area. During the focus groups, consultees also stressed the need to prioritise the health and wellbeing of citizens, in particular mental health.

Programme Actions

Here is a summary of key project actions:

Needs Assessment: Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment to understand the specific challenges and needs of the target communities, schools, and clubs in the Borough.

Stakeholder Engagement: engage with local schools, sports clubs, community leaders, parents, and young people to gain their input and support for the programme delivery.

Programme co-design:

- Develop a programme that offers a variety of sports activities to cater to diverse interests and abilities.
- Include structured peace-building components, such as workshops and cultural exchange activities.
- Ensure a gender-inclusive approach to encourage participation from both boys and girls.
- Secure suitable sports facilities, equipment, and resources necessary for the program's activities.
- Promote inclusivity and peace-building by intentionally forming mixed teams and encouraging interaction among participants from different backgrounds

- Host sports tournaments, events, and festivals that draw participants and spectators from various communities.
- Involve parents, community leaders, and teachers in program activities and decision-making to ensure community support.
- Connect young participants with mentors and positive role models from the community who can inspire and guide them.

Monitoring and evaluation: develop a robust monitoring and evaluation system to track the impact of the program on peace-building, community cohesion, and individual development.

Communication and PR: raise public awareness about the project goals and achievements through social media, local media, and community engagement.

Sustainability: develop sustainable sports participation pathways that enables participants to get involved in local clubs beyond the lifespan of the Sports Connection Project.

Collaboration: collaborate with other organisations and initiatives in the Borough that share similar goals to maximize the impact and reach of peace-building efforts.

Beneficiaries

- Local sports clubs
- Schools
- Community and voluntary sector organisations
- Children and Young people

SMART Objectives

✓ To deliver 1 Sports Connect project that results in meaningful, purposeful, and sustained contact between persons from different communities across sports clubs and schools in the Borough.

✓ Facilitate 140 sessions delivered across local clubs and schools. ✓ Minimum of 30 participants per session ✓ Minimum of 4200 participants engaged in total. ✓ 4200 participants, over the 2-3 years of the project, engaging in cross-community and cross-cultural sports activity inclusive of marginalised groups (BME groups, young people, females, and those from deprived communities) ✓ Delivery to include good relations principles embedded within physical activity sessions. ✓ Anti-Sectarianism and anti-discrimination educational workshop to complement sports activity. ✓ Minimum of 30 attendees per workshop x 140 workshops = 4200 attendees ✓ Participants aged 18 to 65+ on balanced 50:50 community split CNR/PUL ✓ Collaborate with 20 local schools and 20 sports clubs to increase exposure to cross-community activities. ✓ Enhance community cohesion by providing opportunities for participants to interact with peers from diverse backgrounds. ✓ Facilitate 7 project celebration days inclusive of cross-cultural sports events or workshops, where participants from different backgrounds share their cultural sporting traditions, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of diversity.
Results

- To use sport as a tool to promote cohesion and meaningful contact between individuals from different backgrounds, resulting in a change in perception and relationships between people from different communities.
- To increase tolerance and respect amongst participants from different backgrounds and different schools/sports clubs
- Increase the skills and capacity to promote positive relations, respect, and cultural diversity, resulting in sustained peace and reconciliation activities between people from different communities through school and club sports.
- increase the regular and long-term participation in sport, thereby enhancing cohesion, respect, and tolerance.
- promote increased cohesion and sustained contact between local people via schools, groups, and local sports clubs, thereby resulting in their long-term inclusion in peace and reconciliation activities through sport.
- promote positive relations and cultural diversity through sport.
- Clubs across the Borough will be more welcoming and accessible to marginalised groups and those from across the religious divide.
- develop a pool of inclusive and welcoming clubs through shared learning, training, and capacity building, resulting in Clubs becoming more open, inclusive, and welcoming to people from different communities.
- activities should involve children and young people in Game of Three Halves, have a Go Days and Club Sport for Peace Days that will immediately influence the young participants.
- Participants will be involved in fun sporting activities and sample sports they will never have had the opportunity to experience.
- Participants will experience playing alongside children from a different school or community and experience has shown that immediately they see each other as equals.
- Sports Connect project that results in meaningful, purposeful, and sustained contact between persons from different communities across sports clubs and schools in the Borough.

- Increased understanding about the causes and consequences of sectarianism, racism and discrimination using sport to amplify learning.
- Anti-Sectarianism and anti-discrimination educational workshop to complement sports activity.
- Enhanced community cohesion through opportunities for participants to interact with peers from diverse backgrounds.
- cross-cultural sports activities, where participants from different backgrounds share their cultural sporting traditions, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of diversity.

Outputs

- To deliver a Sports Connect project that results in meaningful, purposeful, and sustained contact between persons from different communities across sports clubs and schools in the Borough.
- Increased participation in school and clubs sports
- Creation of new links between local schools and clubs across the Borough.
- Facilitate 140 sessions delivered across 20 local clubs and 20 local schools for a minimum of 4200 participants.
- Participants engaging in cross-community and cross-cultural sports activity inclusive of marginalised groups (BME groups, young people, females, and those from deprived communities)
- Delivery to include good relations principles embedded within physical activity sessions.
- Anti-Sectarianism and anti-discrimination educational workshop to complement sports activity.
- Participants aged 18 to 65+ on balanced 50:50 community split CNR/PUL
- Enhance community cohesion by providing opportunities for participants to interact with peers from diverse backgrounds.
- Facilitate celebration days inclusive of cross-cultural sports events or workshops, where participants from different backgrounds share their cultural sporting traditions, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of diversity.

- The Sports Connect project will promote equality and tolerance within wider society beyond project end.
- participants will have a better understanding of the facts around the prevalence of hate behaviours, the potential manifestations, and provide participants with the confidence and knowledge base to challenge hate behaviours if they are encountered in a sport setting or wider society, additionally, participants and clubs will cascade project learning within/across communities.
- legacy promote cohesion and meaningful, purposeful, and sustained contact between individuals from different backgrounds, resulting in a change in perception and relationships between people from different communities.
- long-term participation in sport through inclusiveness to promote positive relations and cultural diversity.

How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements

The project will contribute to enhanced peace and reconciliation; cross- community and cross border elements in the following ways:

- Support young people to unlock opportunities to engage with people from different backgrounds to improve understanding of the 'other', by myth busting and tackling negative perceptions that young people might have.
- Improve peer to peer learning between young people who are from different community backgrounds and sporting traditions. This investment will help the participants to broaden their ideas by exposing them to firsthand experience of 'other' sporting environments that are likely to have been perceived as 'no go' sports or places.
- Gain valuable insights about other sports through experiencing them through direct participation and discussion with other young people.
- the Sports Connect project will demonstrate the positive working relationship between the prominent sports while delivering positive social cohesion and engagement between young people.

- provide the young participants with memorable opportunities that will allow them to explore other sporting and community traditions. We would hope the young people would take away positive insights from each of the different sports that work together.
- This project will provide support to reconciliation, through sport, in some of the most vulnerable and hard to reach communities across the Borough.
- By engaging children and community leaders (adult coaches) this project can help repair issues that have led to division, conflict, and barriers to a deeply reconciled and peaceful society.
- Clubs can immediately become more welcoming and inclusive and start to recruit players and members from all sections of society.
- By making an impact with children in the club or school setting, there is the potential to address preconceptions of other sports or communities from an early age.
- This project endeavours to reach many different communities through the club networks and the schools. The issue of respect and tolerance will be high on the agenda in all the outlined activities and that will undoubtedly help build a strong civil society encompassing all communities for the future.
- Understanding: bringing young people together to try sports they would never get the opportunity to try, can help in understanding other traditions.
- Adult club coaches and sports leaders coming together to learn about inclusivity and engage with sports clubs from perceived community backgrounds can address understanding between people's traditions within Northern Ireland.
- Promote inter-community links: We will be encouraging communities to come together in a shared space to try out the sports. Some of our activities will be delivered in club settings that are safe, neutral facilities.
- Marginalised Communities: We will endeavour to try and introduce the sports to marginalised communities and groups. This could be BAME groups, disability groups or it could be in areas of high social deprivation.

- Sectarianism: Sport is a great leveller and when young people play sport nothing else matters except the game being played and they work with their teammates to achieve a common goal. This project can help address issues of sectarianism as it promotes equality and respect.
- Identity: The simple act of mixing and engaging with one another can promote understanding, tolerance, and inclusivity. Sport is a tremendous vehicle to facilitate this and help people recognise what they have in common.
- Deliver a programme that will utilize sport as a tool to bring young people from diverse communities together using a range of physical activity sessions, educational workshops, and fun activities.
- Use sport to unite communities and to break down barriers among our young people, bringing together those from different community backgrounds.
- Use sport as a common cultural touchstone to address division and conflict and promote peace and reconciliation.
- Raise awareness about the importance of peace and reconciliation. Use sports events and activities as platforms to share messages of tolerance, understanding, and peaceful coexistence.

3.15 Schools Interpretive Arts Project

Programme Name	**Schools Interpretive Arts Project** **150 participants**		
Budget	**£60,000**	**Timeframe**	**2024-2027**
Programme Aim			
The "Schools Interpretive Arts Project" aims to foster cross-community understanding, inclusivity, and peaceful coexistence among young people in Craigavon. It seeks to create safe and welcoming pathways by involving primary and secondary pupils from various backgrounds in the design and installation of art works along key routes in the area. The project serves to connect young individuals with the history, nature, and community of Craigavon, ultimately contributing to the regeneration and transformation of the			

community. The initiative aspires to instil a sense of identity, belonging, and community cohesion, particularly among young participants.

Relation to Area Needs

The project addresses several pressing needs within the Central Craigavon area. It operates within a context of high deprivation and limited investment. By enhancing community spaces and fostering cross-community connections, the project aims to revitalize this deprived area and provide residents and schools with a renewed sense of pride and ownership. Additionally, the project responds to challenges such as youth crime and anti-social behaviour by engaging children and young people, providing them with constructive activities and diversion opportunities. The goal is to contribute to the creation of a thriving and peaceful community.

Programme Actions

- Collaborate with primary and secondary schools in central Craigavon.
- Develop and install art works along key pathways from South Lake Leisure Centre to Drumgor Primary School and new Lismore School.
- Facilitate youth and community engagement, encouraging cross-community involvement and shared experiences.
- Organize art-related activities, workshops, and events for participants.

Beneficiaries

- Children and young people
- Schools
- Residents
- School teachers
- Community organisations

SMART Objectives

- ✓ By the end of the project, at least 200 young people will actively participate in art activities and installations.
- ✓ To achieve an increase in community usage and shared utilization of the designated paths.

- ✓ To witness a reduction in youth crime and anti-social behaviour in the central Craigavon area.
- ✓ To foster a sense of identity, belonging, and cross-community understanding among participants, with participants expressing improved community pride and cohesion.

Results

- **Greater inclusiveness**- Increased use of communal spaces, particularly by marginalised and socio-economically disadvantaged groups, and enhanced cross-community engagement that leads to greater acceptance of cultural and social differences.
- **Enhanced quality of life-** Improved emotional well-being and life satisfaction, increased happiness, reduced fear, and higher energy levels among participants.

Outputs

- ➢ Completion of art installations along designated pathways.
- ➢ Participation records of young people.
- ➢ Documented reduction in youth crime and anti-social behaviour.
- ➢ Increased utilisation of community spaces.
- ➢ Testimonials and feedback from participants indicating improved community pride and cohesion.

How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements

CNR 45% / PUL 45%/ other 10%

The "Schools Interpretive Arts Project" will provide young individuals with a platform to collaborate and engage in creative activities, building bonds across diverse backgrounds. This process of cross-community understanding, and collaboration will foster inclusivity, improve quality of life, and contribute to a sense of pride and community cohesion. By breaking down barriers and promoting dialogue among young people, the project plays an essential role in enhancing cross-community peace and reconciliation in Central

Craigavon. It acts as a stepping stone toward building a more peaceful and thriving community

3.16 Enhancing Culture, Heritage, and Community Identity within the ABC Place Plans

Programme Name	**Enhancing Culture, Heritage, and Community Identity within the ABC Place Plans**		
Budget	£50,000	**Timeframe**	**2024-2027**
Programme Aim			
The "Enhancing Culture, Heritage, and Community Identity within the ABC Place Plans" is a community-driven initiative that seeks to revitalise, celebrate, and enrich the cultural, historical, and community aspects of the Borough. The project will work alongside residents and community organisations to develop three place plans through active community participation, consultation, and research, the project aims to develop place plans that authentically reflect the needs, desires, and cultural identities of the diverse communities residing within these urban centres. Ultimately, the programme aims to enhance the cultural identity and heritage of urban centres, drive economic growth, actively engage local communities in the planning process, and celebrate and preserve the unique heritage and identity of these vibrant urban spaces. The three areas will be selected based on a co-design process. By working collaboratively with residents, stakeholders, and partners, this project aims to harness the power of place shaping to enhance the quality of life within the Borough. Key objectives include fostering economic growth, strengthening social bonds, enriching cultural heritage, and ensuring a safe, respectful, and peaceful environment.			
Relation to Area Needs			
The programme responds to the specific needs of the Borough by focusing on cultural and community identity enhancement. This project aims to leverage those assets to improve residents' well-being. It aligns with the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council "Connected" Community Plan and seeks to revitalise and celebrate these urban centres.			

Programme Actions
Development of Place Plans The project involves developing place plans within the Borough. These plans will address economic, social, cultural, and environmental well-being. Place-shaping powers and functions will be harnessed within the Council and through partnerships with stakeholders. **Realising Community Plan Aspirations** The place plans aim to ensure that the community's aspirations, as outlined in the community plan, are realised at a local level. This includes bringing spatial elements and key messages from the Council's preferred options paper to life locally. **Community Integration** A central theme of the project is the active participation of local communities in the development and delivery of the place plans. These communities are integral to the growth and success of the urban centres. **Consultation and Research** The project will involve consultation with community members, stakeholders, and partners. Additionally, research efforts, including a Banbridge place shaping survey, will provide insights into the community's needs and desires.
Beneficiaries
• Residents • Community Groups • Marginalised groups
SMART Objectives
✓ To enhance the cultural identity and heritage of urban centres within the Borough, leading to increased community pride and cultural vibrancy. ✓ To drive economic growth within urban centres through place-shaping initiatives, creating job opportunities and supporting local businesses.

✓ To actively engage local communities in the development and delivery of place plans, ensuring their integral role in shaping the future of their urban centres. ✓ To celebrate and preserve the heritage, history, and identity of urban centres, contributing to a shared sense of place and belonging.
Results
• Enriched cultural heritage and community identity. • Economic growth and job creation within urban centres. • Active community participation in place planning. • Preservation and celebration of heritage and identity.
Outputs
➢ 3 x developed place-shaping plans for urban centres. ➢ Consultation and research reports. ➢ Community engagement initiatives. ➢ Celebratory events and activities. ➢ Heritage preservation programmes.
How the programme contributes to enhanced peace and reconciliation/ cross-community and/ or cross border elements
CNR 45% / PUL 45%/ other 10% By enhancing culture, heritage, and community identity, this programme actively contributes to peace and reconciliation. It creates a shared sense of identity, belonging, and pride among diverse community members. Through collaboration, celebration, and economic opportunities, it fosters social cohesion and understanding among residents. The project aims to create a peaceful, respectful, and vibrant environment within the ABC Borough by recognizing the value of cultural diversity and shared heritage.

Section 2: Strategic & Policy Context

PEACEPLUS Partnership

The following PEACEPLUS Partnership model was agreed by Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council at the full Council meeting in June 2022.

Elected	**9**	There are nine elected members on the present PEACE IV Partnership. Membership selected by parties from the Leisure and Community Services Committee using the d'Hondt system.
Statutory	**6**	To be selected from the Community Planning Strategic Partnership. To include Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Police Service Northern Ireland, Education Authority Southern Health and Social Care Trust and Southern Regional College.
Geographical Community Reps	**7**	To be recruited from the Community and Voluntary Sector Panel. Members to represent each of the seven District Electoral Areas - Armagh, Banbridge, Craigavon, Cusher, Lagan River, Lurgan, Portadown.
Social Partners/Communities of Interest	**5**	To be recruited from the Community and Voluntary Sector Panel based on gaps arising from recruitment of first three pillars (relating to Section 75).
TOTAL	**27**	

This approach was agreed with the Special EU Programmes Body. The Community and Voluntary Sector Panel had been selected in recent years after an extensive recruitment exercise. Recruitment to select the members from Pillars 3 and 4 was carried out in September/October 2022. The opportunity was open to all 60 members of the Community and Voluntary Sector Panel. The members from Pillar 4 represent organisations with a focus on Children and Young People, Disabilities, Women and Migrant Communities. Elected members were nominated by their parties and full Council in October 2022.

PILLAR	NAME	ORGANISATION
Elected Representative	Cllr Lavelle McIlwrath	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
Elected Representative	Cllr Ian Wilson	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
Elected Representative	Cllr Paul Greenfield	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
Elected Representative	Cllr Brona Haughey	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
Elected Representative	Cllr Ashley Mallon	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
Elected Representative	Cllr Kevin Savage	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
Elected Representative	Cllr Kyle Savage	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
Elected Representative	Cllr Robbie Alexander	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
Elected Representative	Cllr Thomas O'Hanlon *	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
Elected Representative	Alderman Paul Berry *	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
Statutory Partner	Chief Inspector Brendan Green	Police Service Northern Ireland
Statutory Partner	Paul Crooks	Education Authority
Statutory Partner	Pauline Beattie	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Statutory Partner	Paula Tally	Southern Health and Social Care Trust
Statutory Partner	Catriona Regan	Southern Regional College
Social Partner	Geraldine Lawless	Portadown 2000

Social Partner	Brendan Curran	Brownlow Ltd
Social Partner	Laura Wylie	Action Mental Health
Social Partner	Sheila McCreesh	Lislea Community Association
Social Partner	Maurice Millar	Triangle Housing Association
Social Partner	Claire Patience	Laurencetown, Lenaderg and Tullylish Community Association (LLTCA)
Social Partner	Eugene Mone	Disabled Children and Young People's Participation Project (DCYPPP)
Social Partner	Brendan McPartlin	Migrant Support Service
Social Partner	Donna Stewart	Craigavon and Banbridge Volunteer Bureau
Social Partner	Andrew McCreery	Scotch Street Youth & Community Centre
Social Partner	Eileen Murphy	Women's Aid

* Cllr O'Hanlon and Alderman Berry will annually alternate a position on the Partnership.

Summary of the Co-Design process

The development of this Action Plan represents the culmination of more than a year's dedicated effort. The journey commenced in January 2023 with the initiation of the co-design process and the subsequent actions that followed. Right from the outset, the PEACEPLUS Partnership recognised the paramount importance of ensuring the success of this Action Plan by aligning it with the aspirations and requirements of the Borough's residents, while also linking it with regional and national strategies and policies.

The PEACEPLUS Action Plan will be driven by values, emphasising accountability, collaborative partnerships, inclusive design, transparency, sustainability, and equitable opportunities.

Section 8 of this Action Plan will highlight the governance and management involved in delivering this PEACEPLUS Action Plan.

The following table provides a comprehensive breakdown of the co-design process, highlighting the distinct stages, associated activities, and the resulting outputs. For a more detailed examination of the co-design process, please refer to section 3 within this action plan.

Stage	Activities	Outputs
Stage 1 - Planning	• Formed a dedicated working group. • Identified key internal staff members. • Conducted stakeholder mapping. • Developed a communication plan	• Collaborative design framework • Communication plan • Awareness within the community • Engagement channels established
Stage 2- Desktop Research	• Conducted desktop research into existing resources and information. • Engaged with staff experienced in previous PEACE programmes	• In depth understanding of strategic context and past PEACE programmes • Contextual insights
Stage 3- Engagement	• Organised 7 public focus groups, one in each DEA. • Conducted one on one interviews. • Designed and disseminated the survey	• Community perspectives on barriers to peace and reconciliation • Project ideas for PEACEPLUS • Survey data and analysis

Stage 4- Targeted Engagement	• Analysed survey and consultation data • Organised targeted engagement sessions with expert groups and hard to reach groups. • Presented key findings to the PEACEPLUS Partnership	• Identified key themes. • In depth feedback from specialised groups • Valuable insights from expert groups
Stage 5- Expression of Interest Programme	• Information sessions were held in Banbridge (23/1/24), Craigavon (24/1/24), and Armagh (25/1/24).	• Identification of capital projects
Stage 6- Finalising Programmes and Projects	• Presented refined project concepts to the PEACEPLUS Partnership • Gathered feedback and ranked projects. • Amended projects and programmes based on feedback	• Prioritised list of projects and programmes • Refined project and programmes concepts • Projects and programmes for inclusion in the PEACEPLUS Action Plan that align with community needs

Strategic Context

The PEACEPLUS Programme in Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon Borough Council will make a significant impact by addressing a wide range of regional and local strategies and priorities. With its comprehensive scope and inclusive approach, this programme aligns with multiple key strategies that focus on fostering peace and prosperity.

The following section of the Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council PEACEPLUS Action Plan sets out the strategic context in which this Action Plan is being developed,

highlighting an alignment with a range of active strategies and policies being implemented at a local, regional, and national level.

Local Strategies

STRATEGY	AIMS/ OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGY	RELEVANCE TO ABC PEACEPLUS ACTION PLAN
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Council Corporate Plan 2018 – 2023	The ABC Council Corporate Plan 2018-2023 sets out the strategic aims for the Borough over the five-year period from 2018 – 2023, and outlines the Council's ongoing commitments to provide high quality, efficient and effective public services, facilities, projects and programmes. The vision contained within this Plan is that the successful realisation of its objectives will contribute to the creation of "a healthy, happy and connected community, a vibrant and sustainable economy and appealing places for living, working and learning." In this Corporate Plan, ABC Council also set out their strategic direction on a broader scale, outlining how the Borough will be promoted on a local, regional, national, and global stage to attract investment to the area.	The ABC Council PEACE Plus Action Plan will align with the key overarching objectives of the ABC Council Corporate Plan in that it will promote better relations between citizens of the Borough with the aim of achieving greater harmony and community cohesion. A focus of the Plan to promote mental health, community development in rural areas and regeneration will directly contribute to the Corporate Plan's ambition to improve community and public life for those living in their jurisdiction.
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Council	The ABC Council Connected Community Plan sets out the Borough's ambitions in terms of community development.	The ABC Council PEACE Plus Action Plan represents an explicit alignment with the ABC

STRATEGY	AIMS/ OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGY	RELEVANCE TO ABC PEACEPLUS ACTION PLAN
Connected Community Plan 2017 - 2030	At the forefront of all activities delivered by the Council to achieve the aims of this plan are the three cross cutting themes of: • Connectivity – improving quality of life by improving the physical, digital, and social infrastructure of the district through shared collaborative approaches. • Equality – a commitment to promoting equality, good relations and inclusions between communities and understanding these to be fundamental to improving quality of life for everyone. • Sustainability – working to improve the quality of life for citizens of the Borough economically, environmentally, and socially.	Council Connected Community Plan, as it prioritises the social needs of communities across the Council area with the aim of improving life for all citizens. The Action Plan will prioritise collaboration and co-design so as to ensure ownership of the Plan within communities and to ensure that their needs are prioritised. The Action Plan will also place the principles of Equality, Inclusion and Sustainable Development at the heart of its design and delivery and will implement a robust monitoring framework to ensure that progress and outcomes against these principles are sustained throughout.

STRATEGY	AIMS/ OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGY	RELEVANCE TO ABC PEACEPLUS ACTION PLAN
EA Local Assessment of Need: ABC- 2023	Undertaken by the Education Authority, this Assessment of Need takes into consideration demand for Youth Services across the ABC Council area in order to inform the allocation of staff and resources in response to priority policy areas. This research found that "addressing barriers to learning remains a significant need within Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon Borough Council. This need is further deepened by the pandemic, increased newcomers, high levels of SEN and children looked after." It was also clearly highlighted by the that health and wellbeing remains a priority need for our children and young people. The findings of this Assessment of Need also acknowledge that the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council area has become a much more culturally diverse place in recent years. However, in the last number of years racist hate crimes have exceeded sectarian hate crimes.	The ABC Council PEACE Plus Action Plan will address some of the challenges identified in this Education Authority Assessment of Need as follows: • A focus on improving mental health and wellbeing will be a focus of the Action Plan and its activities supported. The Action Plan will bring about initiatives to support with the successful and harmonious integration of newcomer families to the Council area and will deliver programmes and events that prioritise cultural awareness and understanding, as well as addressing identified barriers to better relations.

STRATEGY	AIMS/ OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGY	RELEVANCE TO ABC PEACEPLUS ACTION PLAN
	Children and young people in the area were also reported to be experiencing significant adversity in their home lives. Exposure to adverse childhood experiences such as domestic abuse, breakdown in family relationships, having a family member with mental illness, substance or alcohol misuse requires services to be trauma informed and supports the need for early intervention to provide support to build the skills needed to cope with and mitigate the effect of adverse experiences. Youth Services have a key role in providing these safe and supportive environments.	
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council: Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2025	The ABC Age Friendly Strategy & Action Plan sets out the ambitions of Council in supporting the development of "An age-friendly community is one in which people of all ages can live healthy and active lives and where everyone is treated with respect, regardless of their age." Contained within this Strategy is eight thematic areas to be prioritised:	The ABC Council PEACE Plus Action Plan will support the achievement of the outcomes within the ABC Council Active Ageing Strategy in several ways. Saliently, the Action Plan will prioritise participation from elderly residents of the

STRATEGY	AIMS/ OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGY	RELEVANCE TO ABC PEACEPLUS ACTION PLAN
	• Social participation • Respect and social inclusion • Civic participation and employment • Communication and information • Community support and health services • Outdoor spaces and buildings • Transportation • Housing Outcomes to be achieved over the 3-year implementation of this strategy include: Outcome 1 – As we get older, we enjoy good physical and mental health. Outcome 2 – As we get older, we participate meaningfully in community life.	Borough as well as considering their needs when delivering: • Good Relations Programmes; • Health and Wellbeing Programmes; • Inter-generational Activities; and • Capital Development Initiatives. At the forefront of the Action Plan are activities which prioritise mental health, as well as capacity building and ensuring access to services for those residing in rural areas.

STRATEGY	AIMS/ OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGY	RELEVANCE TO ABC PEACEPLUS ACTION PLAN
	Outcome 3 – As we get older, we are heard, valued and respected and involved in decisions that affect us. Outcome 4 – As we get older, we are supported to retain independence. Outcome 5 - As we get older, we are well informed about things that matter to us	
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council: Play Strategy 2018-2026	The ABC Council Play Strategy 2018-26 incorporates the following underpinning aims: • To make our parks and open spaces attractive and welcoming to children and young people, allowing them an opportunity to engage in a wide range of play activities within the natural environment. • To ensure that fixed play areas are attractive, welcoming, safe, challenging, accessible and inclusive whilst providing a high level of play value for all children and young people.	The ABC Council PEACE Plus Action Plan will complement the ABC Council Play Strategy in a range of ways. The proposed programme of activities to be delivered under the Action Plan include diversionary programmes, glow projects and the development of outdoor spaces which will engage children and young people from across the Council area positively and meaningfully, and strive to achieve better health, wellbeing, and educational development outcomes.

STRATEGY	AIMS/ OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGY	RELEVANCE TO ABC PEACEPLUS ACTION PLAN
	• To ensure that all future fixed play provision is targeted at those areas of greatest need, based on an ongoing review of underlying demographic requirements. • To encourage adults within the community to acknowledge the play needs of children and young people and recognise the positive contribution play makes to society. • To provide children, young people, parents, and communities with opportunities to engage in the planning process as it relates to meeting local play need. • To establish a portfolio of approaches to meeting play need, incorporating not only fixed play but also street and community play, play volunteer schemes and other non-fixed approaches. • To ensure that all appropriate council staff receive the training they require in order to implement and oversee the roll-out of the play strategy.	

STRATEGY	AIMS/ OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGY	RELEVANCE TO ABC PEACEPLUS ACTION PLAN
	• To embed the play strategy within the emerging Community Planning process ensuring broad, collective responsibility for meeting play need across the partnership.	
ABC Council Good Relations Audit and Strategy 2023 – 26	This Strategy is currently in development, but will outline the Good Relations Priorities for the Council area over the 3 year period from 2023-26	Assessment of Good Relations Priorities has informed the development of the ABC Council PEACE Plus Action Plan. The Action Plan will therefore align closely with the emerging findings of this Good Relations Audit, and will put in place interventions that tackle some of the most pertinent challenges relating to the obtainment of better inter- and intra-community relations in the Council area.
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council: Integration Strategy 2018-22	The aim of the strategy is to support integration between Black Minority Ethnic (BME) and local indigenous communities by identifying barriers to integration. The strategy will be enabled by a set recommended actions and associated outcomes. The strategy will be shared with all relevant statutory and community / voluntary	Although 2022 has passed, the sentiments contained within this Strategy are still very much relevant to the development of the ABC Council PEACE Plus Action Plan, which contains various programmes and initiatives which will

STRATEGY	AIMS/ OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGY	RELEVANCE TO ABC PEACEPLUS ACTION PLAN
	sector organisations to ensure actions are appropriately implemented to support integration.	stand to facilitate the breaking down of barriers to successful integration of newcomer families to the Council area, and promote greater understanding and awareness of the various cultures which are prevalent within the Borough.
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council: Tourism Strategy 2017-2022	The Guiding Principles of the ABC Council Tourism Strategy 2017 – 2022 include: • Adoption of a value versus volume proposition. The tourism offer in its widest sense will be developed on the basis of appealing to the higher spend Free Independent Traveller as opposed to pursuing a strategy of purely higher volume, lower yield business. In line with this the primary focus will be on generating overnight stays. • Reflecting Tourism NI and Tourism Ireland strategies, Mature Cosmopolitans and Culturally Curious segments in primary	The ABC Council Tourism Strategy remains relevant in the context of the ABC Council PEACE Plus Action Plan in that several aspects of the Action Plan will drive economic regeneration and the development of outdoor spaces that will make destinations across the area more attractive to external visitors, thereby supporting additional revenue generation through the showcasing of the Borough's natural and physical assets.

STRATEGY	AIMS/ OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGY	RELEVANCE TO ABC PEACEPLUS ACTION PLAN
	out-of-state markets will be the principal focus of activity for the destination team. • There will be an emphasis on authenticity, differentiation and innovation in product development. In particular, taking a design-led approach to Council-led investment and influencing partners to follow a similar approach to create iconic developments will be important. • Adopting a sustainable development philosophy to ensure the creation of a more commercially sustainable sector in partnership with the private sector. • Adopting a Responsible tourism approach and pursuing associated accreditations to gain national and international recognition. • Taking a local authority-driven approach to development of the destination with clarity of purpose and leadership uppermost together with a recognition that success will not happen overnight and there requires to be a commitment by all to growing the tourism economy. Effective	

STRATEGY	AIMS/ OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGY	RELEVANCE TO ABC PEACEPLUS ACTION PLAN
	communication and co-operation with delivery partners such as the private sector, government agencies and national tourism agencies will be central to ensure success. • Utilising the new Council powers to effect positive change and adopt a flexible, rapid and innovative approach to planning with the emerging Local Development Plan an enunciation to opportunity. • Pursuing a hub approach to the development of the destination in recognition of the fact that investment requires to be prioritised where there is most potential for international growth whilst ensuring that the economic impacts are delivered Borough wide. • Building capacity and capability across all stakeholders including Council understanding of the business of tourism	

Regional Strategies

STRATEGY	AIMS/ OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGY	RELEVANCE TO ABC PEACEPLUS ACTION PLAN
'Together: Building a United Community' (T: BUC) Strategy The Executive Office	The T: BUC Strategy sees a society founded on principles of equality of opportunity, fostering positive relationships, and promoting reconciliation. It serves as a comprehensive roadmap for government action aimed at addressing the pressing issues of sectarianism, racism, and various forms of intolerance, while simultaneously working to bridge divisions, counter hate, and promote unity. With a focus on collaboration between the Government, community, and individuals, the T: BUC Strategy outlines 4 key priorities that serve as the cornerstones of progress: 1. Empowering Our Youth: The strategy recognises the critical role of children and young people in shaping our future. By investing in their education, providing opportunities for personal growth, and nurturing their potential, we strive to	The ABC Council PEACE Plus Action plan represents a natural harmony with the sentiments contained within the T:BUC strategy, in that it will prioritise social development in the thematic areas of Youth Development, Good Relations and Increased Cultural Understanding and Awareness. This will be achieved through the implementation of a wide range of socially impactful activities that have been designed based on need and takes account of the specific challenges facing communities in the area.

STRATEGY	AIMS/ OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGY	RELEVANCE TO ABC PEACEPLUS ACTION PLAN
	create an inclusive and harmonious society for the generations to come. 2. Fostering a Shared Community: Emphasising the strength in our diversity, the T: BUC Strategy seeks to build a cohesive society where individuals from various backgrounds can come together, share experiences, and appreciate each other's cultures and perspectives. 3. Cultivating a Safe Community: Ensuring the safety and security of every citizen is of paramount importance. The strategy aims to address the root causes of violence and hostility, promoting a safe environment where everyone can thrive without fear of discrimination or prejudice. 4. Celebrating Cultural Expression: Acknowledging the richness of our cultural heritage, the T: BUC Strategy encourages the celebration and preservation of diverse cultural expressions, fostering an environment where creativity and identity flourish harmoniously.	Initiatives under the ABC Council PEACE Plus Action Plan will be delivered across three key areas of Regeneration, Thriving Communities and Cultural Expression, and will seek to achieve better community relations, social cohesion and resilience/capacity within communities and organisations.

STRATEGY	AIMS/ OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGY	RELEVANCE TO ABC PEACEPLUS ACTION PLAN
	Through the collaborative efforts of the Government, communities, and individuals, the T: BUC Strategy seeks to forge a path toward a society that embodies inclusivity, respect, and solidarity. By addressing these key priorities, we can create a more unified and progressive nation, leaving behind the burdens of division and intolerance and embracing a brighter, shared future for all.	
New Decade, New Approach	The "New Decade, New Approach" deal, jointly published by the British and Irish governments on 9th January 2020, marked a significant step towards a fresh start for the Executive. This comprehensive plan of action outlined a set of priorities and specific commitments from both governments, aimed at revitalizing the region and fostering cooperation. The "New Decade, New Approach" agreement represented a new approach to address pressing issues and challenges faced by the Executive. By jointly formulating this plan, the British and Irish	The New Decade, New Approach agreement represents a strong alignment with the ambitions of the ABC Council PEACE Plus Action Plan as it represents a commitment to Peace and Reconciliation, Economic Development and Inclusivity. The broad range of programmes and initiatives to be delivered under the ABC Action Plan will aim to contribute to the alleviation of social challenges identified within communities

STRATEGY	AIMS/ OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGY	RELEVANCE TO ABC PEACEPLUS ACTION PLAN
	governments have demonstrated their dedication to promoting stability, growth, and prosperity for the region. Through this deal, a clear roadmap was laid out to guide the Executive's actions and policies. The plan encompasses a range of critical areas, including economic development, public services, reconciliation, and political reform. This holistic approach aims to tackle various aspects of governance to ensure balanced and sustainable progress. Priorities of the Restored Executive • Transforming our health service (with a long-term funding strategy) • Transforming other public services (particularly in education and justice) • Investing for the future (to ensure Northern Ireland is equipped to harness opportunities and drive sustainable	across the Borough that can be categorised under each of these three thematic areas.

STRATEGY	AIMS/ OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGY	RELEVANCE TO ABC PEACEPLUS ACTION PLAN
	productivity, including opportunities for future trade as we leave the EU) • Delivering a fair and compassionate society (that supports working families and the most vulnerable) • Developing a new Programme for Government NI Executive Formation Agreement Aimed at enabling the restoration of all the institutions of the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and making government better, it contains a range of specific proposals including changes to the ministerial code, a new approach to the Petition of Concern and a commitment to further reform to take account of the outcome of the RHI inquiry.	
Draft Programme for Government Outcomes Framework	The Draft Programme for Government (PfG) Outcomes Framework in Northern Ireland is a set of proposed strategic objectives and indicators that aim to guide the government's priorities and actions The Programme for Government Draft Outcomes Framework is	The Draft Programme for Government (PfG) Outcomes Framework holds significant strategic relevance for the PeacePlus action plan as it provides a broader strategic context within which the peace-building initiatives can

STRATEGY	AIMS/ OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGY	RELEVANCE TO ABC PEACEPLUS ACTION PLAN
	comprised of 9 outcomes, and the Executive Office contributes to all 9. The 9 outcomes are: 1. Our children and young people have the best start in life 2. We live and work sustainably – protecting the environment 3. We have an equal and inclusive society where everyone is valued and treated with respect 4. We all enjoy long, healthy active lives 5. Everyone can reach their potential 6. Our economy is globally competitive, regionally balanced and carbon-neutral 7. Everyone feels safe – we all respect the law and each other 8. We have a caring society that supports people throughout their lives 9. People want to live, work, and visit here	thrive. By aligning with the PfG Outcomes Framework, this PEACEPLUS Action Plan ensures its activities contribute to the overarching goals and priorities outlined by the government. This alignment enhances coordination, promotes synergy with other government initiatives, and maximises the impact of PeacePlus interventions in fostering peace, reconciliation, and community cohesion.
Northern Ireland Racial Equality Strategy 2015-2025	The Racial Equality Strategy 2015-2025 plays a pivotal role as an all-encompassing framework, guiding government departments and other stakeholders in their concerted efforts to effectively address	The Racial Equality Strategy 2015-2025 has a significant link with PEACEPLUS. The seven shared aims listed here have a clear link with

STRATEGY	AIMS/ OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGY	RELEVANCE TO ABC PEACEPLUS ACTION PLAN
	racial inequalities. Its core purpose is to combat racism and hate crime while concurrently nurturing harmonious race relations and social cohesion, in perfect alignment with the T: BUC strategy. This strategy presents a systematic approach, strategically designed to confront and overcome racial disparities head-on. It staunchly advocates for a society where no individual or community suffers discrimination or injustice based on race or ethnicity. The strategy consists of seven shared aims: Shared Aim 1: Elimination of racial inequality Shared Aim 2: Combating racism and hate crime Shared Aim 3: Equality of service provision Shared Aim 4: Participation Shared Aim 5: Social cohesion Shared Aim 6: Capacity building Shared Aim 7: Cultural identity	the three thematic strands in the Local Action Plan. By addressing racial inequalities, combating racism, and fostering positive race relations and social cohesion, the Racial Equality Strategy contributes to the overarching goals of PEACEPLUS. Both initiatives share a common commitment to creating a more inclusive and prosperous society where diverse communities can thrive.

STRATEGY	AIMS/ OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGY	RELEVANCE TO ABC PEACEPLUS ACTION PLAN
The Executive Office- Draft Refugee Integration Strategy 2022-2027	As part of the 2015-2025 Racial Equality Strategy, a dedicated effort was made to establish a comprehensive Refugee Integration Strategy. In recent years, the global count of displaced individuals has surged, and although immigration falls beyond devolved responsibilities, the Executive assumes a crucial role in providing support and assistance to those seeking refuge from conflict and persecution within its borders. In the strategy, the Executives commitment is to ensure that refugees and asylum seekers are provided with ample opportunities to realise their full potential. Additionally, the Executive aims to extend their support to both these individuals and the communities they settle in, fostering a genuinely integrated and inclusive society, irrespective of race or ethnicity. To achieve this vision this Refugee Integration Strategy identifies four High Level Outcomes and associated actions: 1. Refugees and Asylum Seekers are valued and respected.	The ABC Council PEACE Plus Action plan aligns strongly with this Strategy in that initiatives will be developed and implemented which prioritise the successful integration of newcomer communities to the area, and dispel myths and preconceptions that fuel cultural misunderstanding.

STRATEGY	AIMS/ OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGY	RELEVANCE TO ABC PEACEPLUS ACTION PLAN
	2. Refugees and Asylum Seekers are safe and feel secure. 3. Refugees and Asylum Seekers exercise their rights and responsibilities. 4. Refugees and Asylum Seekers are supported to reach their full potential.	
The Executive Office: Draft Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Framework	The development of a strategy and action plan to end violence against women's and girls. A call for views was held in 2022 and a period of co-design began in autumn of 2022. The aim is to develop a 7 year. strategic framework and action The action plan, published in summer 2023, outlines four actions: 1. <u>Prevention</u> Changed Attitudes, Behaviours & Social Norms Healthy, Respectful Relationships Women and girls are safe and feel safe everywhere 2. <u>Protection and Provision</u>	The ABC Council PEACE Plus Action Plan will prioritise the importance of changing behaviours and attitudes and developing healthy, respectful relationships, thereby aligning strongly with the ambitions and goals of this TEO Policy and Strategic Plan.

STRATEGY	AIMS/ OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGY	RELEVANCE TO ABC PEACEPLUS ACTION PLAN
	Quality frontline services, protection, and provision for victims and survivors of violence against women ad girls. 3. <u>Justice System</u> A justice system which has the confidence of victims, survivors and the public in its ability to address violence against women and girls, 4. <u>Working Better Together</u> All of government and society working better together to end violence against women and girls	
The Executive Office: Draft Victims and Survivors Strategy (Published in 2009, ended in 2019- extended to April 2024)	This strategy aims to present a well-structured and all-encompassing approach to address the concerns of victims and survivors. It acknowledges the extensive and intricate nature of these issues, which elicit profound emotions and sentiments. Furthermore, given that fear and trauma persist for many individuals in the present, this strategy prioritises the sense of safety	The ABC Council PEACE Plus Action Plan will align closely with this strategy which prioritises the needs of Victims and Survivors by developing and delivering a series of targeted interventions which are specifically aimed at supporting those adversely impacted by the Northern Ireland Conflict, as well as addressing

STRATEGY	AIMS/ OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGY	RELEVANCE TO ABC PEACEPLUS ACTION PLAN
	for victims and survivors amidst a constantly evolving environment. The overall aims of the strategy are to: • put in place comprehensive arrangements to ensure that the voice of victims and survivors is represented and acted upon at a governmental and policy level; • secure through the provision of an appropriate range of support services and other initiatives a measurable improvement in the wellbeing of victims and survivors. • assist victims and survivors, where this is consistent with their wishes and wellbeing, to play a central role, as part of wider society in addressing the legacy of the past; and • assist victims and survivors to contribute to building a shared and better future.	the legacy of the Troubles and the manifestations of divisions which continue to prevail within society and communities in the ABC Council area. A focus on mental health and wellbeing will also feature heavily in the Action Plan, a thematic area which resonates heavily with Victims, Survivors and those impacted by the Conflict.

STRATEGY	AIMS/ OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGY	RELEVANCE TO ABC PEACEPLUS ACTION PLAN
	Note- The Executive Office are currently working to develop a new Victims and Survivors Strategy	
Department of Education - Children & Young People's Strategy 2020-2030	This strategy, spanning from 2020 to 2030, supersedes the previous Cross-departmental Children and Young People's Strategy that covered the period from 2019 to 2029. The new strategy serves as a comprehensive framework to advance various children's issues effectively. Its main purpose is to establish an all-encompassing and cohesive structure that guides and monitors departments in their efforts to achieve eight specific outcomes, all aimed at enhancing the well-being of children and young people. By doing so, the strategy aims to drive positive progress and improvements in the lives of children and young individuals across the region. The eight specific outcomes are: • Children and young people live in a society in which equality of opportunity and good relations are promoted • Children and young people are physically and mentally healthy	The ABC Council PEACE Plus Action Plan will support the realisation of the goals set out in DE's Children and Young People's Strategy by: • Championing a wide range of programmes aimed at bringing together young people from across communities in the ABC Council area which promote increased cultural awareness, understanding and education. • Prioritising and Supporting the mental and emotional development of young people. • Giving young people in both towns and rural communities the opportunity to

STRATEGY	AIMS/ OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGY	RELEVANCE TO ABC PEACEPLUS ACTION PLAN
	• Children and young people enjoy play and leisure • Children and young people learn and achieve • Children and young people live in safety and stability • Children and young people experience economic and environmental well-being • Children and young people make a positive contribution to society • Children and young people live in a society which respects their rights	develop new skills and increase their employability.
Department of Justice- Executive Programme for Tackling Paramilitary Activity and Organised Crime	The Tackling Paramilitarism, Criminality, and Organised Crime Programme plays a crucial role in assisting vulnerable individuals and communities across Northern Ireland who may be under the influence of paramilitary groups. The Programme has been in operation since 2016 and receives funding from both the NI Executive and UK Government. During its initial Phase 1, which extended until March 2021, the Programme pursued 38 diverse commitments outlined in the original Executive Action Plan on paramilitarism, criminality, and organised crime. A thorough review	This programme supports the objectives of PEACEPLUS as both aim to foster peace, reconciliation, and stability in Northern Ireland by addressing deep-rooted issues related to paramilitary activity and organised crime. This aligns perfectly with PEACEPLUS, which seeks to develop projects that encourage community engagement, enhance social

STRATEGY	AIMS/ OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGY	RELEVANCE TO ABC PEACEPLUS ACTION PLAN
	of the Programme was conducted in 2020, resulting in the commencement of a new phase (Phase 2) in April 2021. The Programme has secured funding until 2024, ensuring its continued efforts in addressing the pressing issues of paramilitarism, criminality, and organised crime, and working towards a safer and more resilient society. Its primary focus is twofold: immediate harm prevention and early interventions to safeguard future generations from falling victim to paramilitary coercion, control, and violence. The ultimate objective of the Programme is to create safer communities that are resilient against paramilitarism, criminality, and coercive control. With the implementation of over 80 projects and interventions, the Programme addresses deep-rooted and complex issues that have persisted for a long time. All activities within the Programme are aligned with two key long-term objectives:	cohesion, and support the transition to a more peaceful and prosperous society in Northern Ireland and its border regions.

STRATEGY	AIMS/ OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGY	RELEVANCE TO ABC PEACEPLUS ACTION PLAN
	1. Ensuring people and communities are protected from the harm caused by paramilitarism. 2. Strengthening people and communities, making them less susceptible to paramilitary influence and involvement in paramilitarism, criminality, and organized crime.	
Department of Education- Mainstreaming Shared Education Strategy	On September 21, 2022, the Education Minister introduced the Mainstreaming Shared Education Strategy, outlining a comprehensive plan to integrate Shared Education thoroughly into the Northern Ireland education system. The Strategy's primary objective is to foster collaboration across religious and socio-economic barriers, establishing Shared Education as an integral aspect of educational provision that is affordable, sustainable, and accessible to all. By expanding the scope of Shared Education, the strategy aims to offer diverse learning experiences, benefiting every child and young person in the region. Its overarching vision is to create an education system where Shared Education is deeply ingrained in partnership efforts across religious and socio-economic divides, resulting in educational advantages and promoting a culture	The ABC Council PEACE Plus Action Plan will contribute positively to the aims of this Department for Education Strategy in that it will deliver education and learning in non-formal environments. Building on needs identified and evidenced through consultation, the Action Plan will prioritise capacity building within communities across the ABC Council area by delivering training programmes which support volunteers and foster collaboration and links between communities.

STRATEGY	AIMS/ OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGY	RELEVANCE TO ABC PEACEPLUS ACTION PLAN
	of inclusivity, respect, and mutual understanding. Ultimately, this approach contributes significantly to community cohesion and fosters better relations among individuals and communities. The objectives identified to support implementation of the Strategy are formulated around six key areas are: 1. Participation and Collaboration: To provide the opportunity for all children and young people to participate in quality Shared Education, on a continued and progressive basis. 2. Capacity Building: To develop the education workforce, so it is equipped to deliver and support quality Shared Education. 3. Support and Resources: To provide the infrastructure and resources to support Shared Education partnerships to deliver quality Shared Education.	A focus of the Action Plan will be to place an emphasis on quality, effective communication as a means of maximising impact and social benefits.

STRATEGY	AIMS/ OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGY	RELEVANCE TO ABC PEACEPLUS ACTION PLAN
	4. Communication: To promote a common and widespread understanding of the definition of Shared Education, its purpose, benefits, how to get involved, and its relationship to other policy areas. 5. Monitoring and Evaluation: To measure the impacts of Shared Education, including the evaluation of attitudinal change, at both a partnership and system level. 6. Governance and Accountability: To implement delivery arrangements for Shared Education over the longer term that are sustainable and provide value for money, accountability and governance of public funds.	
Department for Communities- Active Living- The Sport and Physical Activity	Sport NI, in collaboration with the Department for Communities (DfC), launched Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Northern Ireland, known as "Active Living," in March 2022. This strategy sets forth a collective vision for sports, emphasising the importance of	A focus of the ABC Council PEACE Plus Action Plan will be to utilise sport and physical activity to promote regeneration, reconciliation and

STRATEGY	AIMS/ OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGY	RELEVANCE TO ABC PEACEPLUS ACTION PLAN
Strategy for Northern Ireland	lifelong involvement in sports and physical activity over the next decade. Its overarching goal is to cultivate an active, healthy, resilient, and inclusive society that values and embraces participation and excellence in sports. Built upon key strategic priorities, Active Living centres around the mission of getting more people, more active, and more often. It charts a clear course for sports and physical activity in Northern Ireland, with a strong focus on inclusion, community engagement, excellence, partnership, collaboration, and the utilisation of shared spaces. By leveraging these elements, the strategy aims to maximise the benefits derived from increased participation, physical activity, and engagement across the population. In addition to outlining the roadmap for the development and financial support of sports in Northern Ireland over the next ten years, Active Living also underscores the government's commitment to establishing effective structures and mechanisms that ensure accessibility for all individuals engaging in sports and physical activity. Through this holistic approach, the strategy strives to create	better health outcomes across communities within the Council area. This will be achieved by successfully delivering programmes which foster good relations and cultural understanding through the medium of sport, as well as driving regeneration and capital development through creating new sporting facilities and enhancing existing provisions. Participation in sports and good relations programmes will be encouraged from all communities across the Borough, with specific engagement actions implemented to ensure participation from marginalised and/or vulnerable groups.

STRATEGY	AIMS/ OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGY	RELEVANCE TO ABC PEACEPLUS ACTION PLAN
	a vibrant and active society that promotes the well-being and enjoyment of sports for all. The strategy consists of 6 themes: • Recovery from the Impact of the Pandemic • Promoting Participation, Inclusion and Community Engagement • Promoting Excellence in Sport • Partnership and Integration • Providing Inclusive, Shared Spaces and Places • Promoting the Benefits of Sport and Physical Activity	
Department of Health: Mental Health Strategy 2021-2031	The Department of Health introduced a Mental Health Strategy for 2021 to 2031. This plan aims to confront the increasing mental health challenges faced by individuals across Northern Ireland and establish a solid framework for enhancing mental health services and support. The strategy prioritises the promotion of mental well-being, early intervention, and prevention efforts. Equitable access to high-	A significant focus of the ABC Council PEACE Plus Action Plan will be to prioritise improved mental health and wellbeing outcomes for all citizens. This thematic area emerged strongly as an important issue throughout all consultation exercises undertaken to inform the

STRATEGY	AIMS/ OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGY	RELEVANCE TO ABC PEACEPLUS ACTION PLAN
	quality mental health services for all individuals is a central focus, acknowledging the need to combat stigma and discrimination while fostering a culture of empathy and understanding through public awareness and education. Key areas of emphasis within the strategy include the enhancement of community-based services, bolstering crisis response and suicide prevention measures, and improving mental health services tailored to children and young people. Addressing the specific needs of vulnerable populations is also a key goal. The strategy consists of three themes: Theme 1 – Promoting mental wellbeing, resilience and good mental health across society Theme 2: Providing the right support at the right time Theme 3: New ways of working	development of this strategy, and all activities delivered under the Action Plan will represent a commitment to the promotion of health and mental wellbeing wherever possible.

STRATEGY	AIMS/ OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGY	RELEVANCE TO ABC PEACEPLUS ACTION PLAN
European Commission- European Green Deal	The European Green Deal encompasses a comprehensive package of policy initiatives, with the primary objective of propelling the EU towards a green transition and achieving climate neutrality by 2050. This transformative strategy seeks to create a just and prosperous society while fostering a modern and competitive economy. Emphasizing a holistic and cross-sectoral approach, the Green Deal acknowledges the interconnectedness of various policy areas in contributing to the overarching climate-related goal. Encompassing initiatives covering climate, environment, energy, transport, industry, agriculture, and sustainable finance, the European Green Deal outlines a cohesive plan to address these critical aspects of sustainability in tandem. Introduced by the Commission in December 2019 and subsequently noted by the European Council during its December meeting, the European Green Deal marks a significant step towards shaping a sustainable future for the EU. By driving collective efforts in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting renewable energy sources,	The ABC Council PEACE Plus Action Plan has been designed with the priorities of the European Commission's Green Deal taking prominence. Wherever possible, the activities and Programmes delivered under the Action Plan will integrate green and sustainable development principles and promote increased responsibility and ownership of these principles amongst citizens. Any capital projects delivered under the Action Plan will prioritise environmental sustainability and best practice in their design and long-term operation, governance and management.

STRATEGY	AIMS/ OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGY	RELEVANCE TO ABC PEACEPLUS ACTION PLAN
	and fostering green innovation, the EU aims to lead the global fight against climate change. The Green Deal reflects the EU's commitment to a more environmentally conscious and resilient future, emphasizing the importance of collaboration among member states, businesses, and citizens in achieving a greener and more prosperous Europe.	
European Commission- Territorial Agenda- 2030	The European Commission's Territorial Agenda 2030 is a strategic framework that sets out the vision for spatial development and territorial cohesion within the European Union until the year 2030. Adopted by EU member states and regions, this agenda aims to provide a coordinated approach to territorial development, ensuring balanced growth and sustainable development across the continent. The Territorial Agenda 2030 addresses various challenges, including urban-rural divides, demographic shifts, and climate change, by fostering cooperation and collaboration between different territories. By promoting integrated and place-based policies, the agenda seeks to enhance the quality of life for all EU	The ABC Council PEACE Plus Action Plan aligns with the European Commission's Territorial Agenda 2030 in that it will prioritise sustainable development in the design and delivery of all activities, as well as ensuring that the needs of the rural population of the Borough are incorporated and given due consideration and importance.

STRATEGY	AIMS/ OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGY	RELEVANCE TO ABC PEACEPLUS ACTION PLAN
	citizens, create opportunities for economic development, and strengthen territorial resilience.	

Section 3: The Co-Design Process

This section of the Action Plan delves into the co-design process that was undertaken to identify and select programmes for inclusion in the PEACEPLUS Action Plan. It provides an in-depth exploration of the stages involved in the co-design process, their respective aims, actions taken, and the results achieved.

PEACE IV Insights

Before embarking on the co-design process for the PEACEPLUS Programme, a crucial step was to assess the PEACE IV programme to ascertain its achievements and areas for improvement. This exercise aimed to extract valuable learnings that could be applied to the development of the PEACEPLUS programme. The PEACE IV delivery team undertook a comprehensive research process, engaging in conversations with various delivery agents and participants involved in diverse PEACE IV programs. As a cohesive unit, they also contributed feedback on the successes of programmes and initiatives within the PEACE IV framework. Following this insightful process, the forthcoming Action Plan will incorporate new iterations of programmes previously executed under PEACE IV, such as the GLOW Programme and the Reboot Your Life Programme.

Key Takeaways:

Promoting Cross-Cultural Connections	Delivering multi-sports programmes that offer children from diverse backgrounds opportunities to bond through sports.
Engaging Hard-to-Reach Groups	Ensuring concerted efforts to reach and engage hard-to-reach communities.
Artistic and Creative Programmes	Developing programs that facilitate interpersonal connections through arts and crafts.
Embracing the Outdoors and Environment	Designing programmes that are linked to outdoor and environmental experiences.
Community Restorative Justice	Developing our programme that focused on community restorative justice.

Mental Health, Addictions, and Isolation	Implementing programs with a primary focus on mental health, addiction support, and combating social isolation.
Community Leadership and Skill Development	Importance of programmes that equip community leaders with new skills and training.
Fostering Future Leaders	Programmes designed to nurture and develop future leaders.
Community Collaboration	Importance of programmes that encourage local residents to come together and develop community projects.
Empowering Participants	Providing participants with opportunities to shape and contribute to project and programme development.
Cultural and Social Events	Hosting events and festivals that unite people.
Collaboration Across Council Departments	Sustaining successful collaborations with different departments across the council to recruit participants.
Adaptability in Program Delivery	The importance of flexibility in programme delivery, underscored by the lessons from the challenges posed by Covid-19.
Shared Spaces	Recognizing the significance of shared spaces for community cohesion.
Capacity Building	The importance of supporting community organisations with assistance to sustain or grow, depending on their needs.
Exploring Shared History	Continuing shared history programmes that promote mutual understanding.

Crucially, the PEACE Manager overseeing this process possesses extensive experience in PEACE programmes and has been at the helm of PEACE initiatives within the Borough since the PEACE IV era.



Stage 1- Planning

During this phase, a foundational framework was created for the co-design process. Collaboration was paramount, and therefore, a collaborative design approach was selected as the guiding principle. For this co-creation effort to succeed, methodologies were carefully chosen. Critical to the success of the process was the identification of internal ABC staff members who would be integral to its execution. To support this process a dedicated working group was created by the PEACE Manager, their role being was to steer the co-design process effectively. The working group consisted of the PEACE Manager, other internal Council staff and the team from Third Sector Connect.

To ensure that no voice was left unheard, the project team conducted a stakeholder mapping activity. This exercise highlighted key community groups, individuals and external organisations that needed to be engaged in the co-design process. Recognising the importance of outreach, a communication plan was developed. The communications plan aimed to build awareness of the co-design process. Staff at the Council utilised channels such as targeted emails, phone calls by community development staff, social media adverts, and traditional print, to reach every corner of the community. The process was also shared with the PEACEPLUS Partnership to support the recruitment for local events.

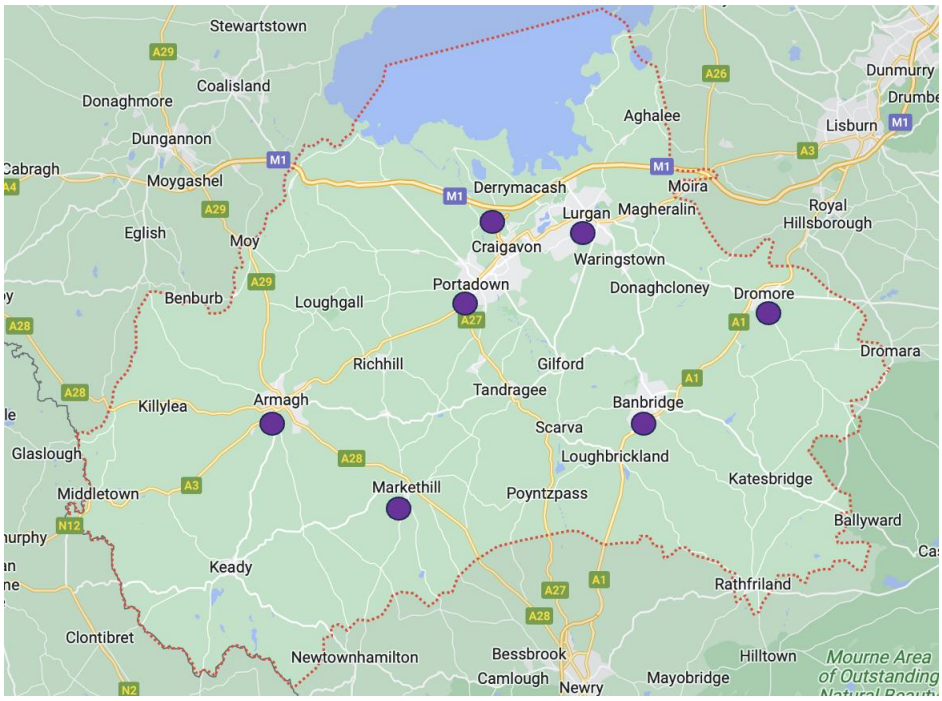


Figure 2: Geographical spread of public focus groups (Image- Google Maps)

Venue	The Palace Chamber	Old Town Hall	Brownlow Community Hub	Courtrooms Restaurant	Dromore Community Centre	Lurgan Town Hall	Portadown Town Hall
Age Group/ DEA	**Armagh**	**Banbridge**	**Craigavon**	**Cusher**	**Lagan River**	**Lurgan**	**Portadown**
0 – 15 years	7,364	7,392	6,901	5,854	5,308	8,277	7,158
16 – 39 years	9,611	9,799	9,073	7,375	7,147	11,882	10,002
40 – 64 years	10,055	11,747	9,169	8,451	8,419	12,243	10,459
65 and over	5,371	6,005	4,053	4,525	3,931	5,800	5,314
Total	**32,401**	**34,943**	**29,196**	**26,205**	**24,805**	**38,202**	**32,933**

Table X: Age profile on Census Day 2021 for District Electoral Areas of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: Usual Resident Population – Single year of age and sex – Table MS-A09. Census 2021, NISRA.

Stage 2- Desktop Research

The project team conducted deep dive into existing resources and information available to better understand the strategic context of the programme. This phase entailed extensive research into relevant local strategies, regional strategies, and local research. Understanding the socio-economic needs of the area and gaining insights from past PEACE programmes were critical components of this research phase. Conversations with staff who had participated in previous PEACE initiatives provided invaluable context and lessons that would inform the co-design process.

Stage 3-Engagement

This phase was designed to draw direct input from the community. Seven public focus groups were convened, each strategically located in a different District Electoral Area (DEA). Sessions were scheduled to cater to a wide range of schedules, including day and night sessions, ensuring accessibility to working individuals. Council-owned facilities were selected as venues, ensuring a welcoming and inclusive environment for all community members.



Figure 3: JPEG distributed via social media

Participants were provided with essential information about PEACEPLUS and the co-design process, empowering them to provide insightful feedback. They were encouraged to share their perspectives on barriers to good relations in their areas and to prioritise their good relations objectives. Discussions were then structured around the three thematic areas of the local action plan and participants were able to provide project ideas. Participants were provided with contact details at the end of each consultation where they could send through any follow up ideas or throughs.

DATE	VENUE	TIME
5/6/23	Portadown Town Hall, Portadown	7-9pm
6/6/23	The Palace Chamber, Armagh	2-4pm
6/6/23	Courtrooms Restaurant, Markethill	7-9pm
7/6/23	Brownlow Community Hub, Craigavon	2-4pm
7/6/23	Lurgan Town Hall, Lurgan	7-9pm
8/6/23	Old Town Hall, Banbridge	2-4pm
8/6/23	Dromore Community Centre, Dromore	6-8pm

Figure 4: time and dates of public focus groups

In recognition of the fact that not everyone could attend the focus groups, one-on-one interviews were conducted via phone calls and Microsoft Teams/ Zoom. This ensured that the voices of those who might otherwise be excluded from in-person sessions were still incorporated into the co-design process. In addition to these engagement efforts, a survey was designed and disseminated through ABC's social media channels and council staff. The survey sought to broaden community input, allowing participants to rank their priorities for PEACEPLUS projects/ programmes and contribute ideas for potential projects. The survey was open for a month, from July 15th to August 16th, 2023.

The project team also understood the importance of gaining the views of council staff who were working in different departments and held a PEACEPLUS consultation for them. The

internal consultation, held on July 25, 2023, from 11 am to 1 pm, drew participants from diverse departments including Community Development, Health and Recreation, Community Planning, Economic Development, Environmental Services, Estates and Asset Management, Strategy and Performance, Tourism, Arts, and Culture, and the Programme Management Office.

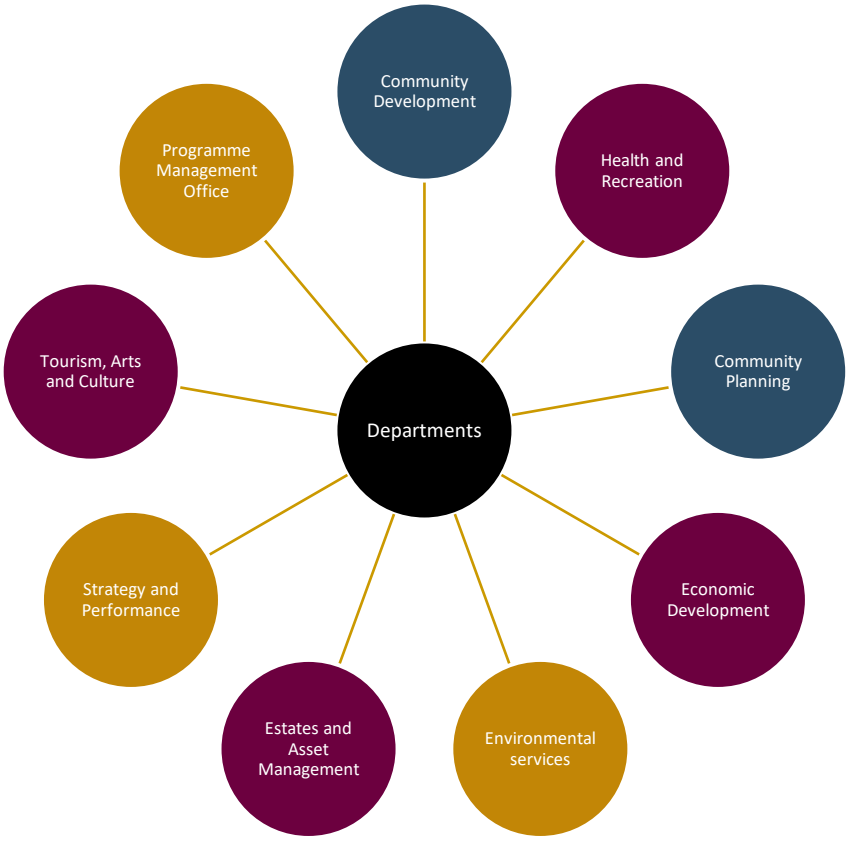


Figure 5: Departments from Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough council that were involved in the staff consultation event.

Stage 4- Targeted Engagement

In this stage, the data collected from surveys and community consultations underwent rigorous analysis. This process identified key themes and gathered feedback from various community groups. Building on this, targeted engagement sessions were organised with groups that specialised in the identified key themes. These engagement sessions facilitated

in-depth discussions and allowed experts in their respective fields to provide invaluable feedback and additional insights.

DATE	GROUP	TIME
8/8/23	Anti-Poverty and Wraparound Support Partners (Advice Services, SVP, Salvation Army, Social Supermarkets etc.	10am-12pm
9/8/23	Southern Outcomes Group – includes YJA, SHSCT, PSNI, Barnardo's, NIACRO, CYPSP, PHA, EA etc.	10am-12pm
16/8/23	NIHE	11.00am-12.00pm
16/8/23	Age Friendly Officer- Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council	12.00-1.00pm
16/8/23	LGBTQIA+ Groups	1.00-2.00pm
24/8/23	Locality Development Officer, Southern Trust Area	
25/8/23	Faith based groups	10.00am-12.00pm
12/9/23	Promoting Wellbeing Division- Southern Trust	9.00-10.00am

During this stage, the PEACEPLUS Partnership, was presented with the key findings derived from each thematic area. The Partnership was subdivided into three groups, each taking the lead in providing feedback and insights related to specific themes and potential project ideas. This approach ensured that the expertise of the Partnership was fully harnessed to inform the subsequent stages of the co-design process.

With the insights gathered from targeted engagement sessions and the invaluable feedback of the PEACEPLUS Partnership, the project team proceeded to develop potential project concepts. This involved collaboration with experts in the respective fields and extensive consultations with council staff who possessed relevant expertise.

Stage 5- Expression of Interest Programme

This process opened on 10/1/24, with a Pre-Application Call in Phase One, during which rigorous due diligence was conducted to ensure adherence to principles of good governance. Information sessions led by council officers were held in Banbridge, Craigavon, and Armagh, to build awareness and provide guidance for prospective applicants.

The deadlines for submission were 20/2/24 and then an expert panel prioritised projects based on their alignment with PEACE Plus objectives and feasibility. This evaluation process, coupled with the insights learned from the information sessions, ensured that the selected projects were well-positioned to make meaningful contributions to community advancement and reconciliation. More information on this process can be found in section 4 of this action plan.

Stage 6- Action Plan Development

The PEACEPLUS Partnership was presented with refined project concepts. Their feedback was sought, and the projects were ranked based on their perceived priority, legacy and impact. Projects were further tweaked and adjusted based on this feedback before being formally included in the action plan.

To summarise, the PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan Co-Design Process was a meticulously structured and highly collaborative effort that sought to engage a wide array of stakeholders to ensure the creation of an action plan that truly represented the needs, aspirations, and expertise of the community it aimed to serve. This process exemplified the commitment to inclusivity and holistic perspectives, with each stage building upon the insights gathered in the preceding phases.

Activity/ Month	2023												2024			
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Stage 1: Planning																
Building awareness of PEACEPLUS																
Development of co-Design Process																
Stage 2: Desktop Research																
Identification of strategies/ policies and resources																
Research of socio-economic information																
Report on key policies																
Stage 3: Engagement																
7x DEA Workshops																
Attended SEUPB Roadshow in Belfast																
Survey																
Stage 4: Targeted Engagement																
Staff Consultation																
One to one meetings																
Targeted online sessions																
Report on early findings from focus groups																
Partnership Focus Groups – review of findings and potential programmes																
Stage 5: Action Plan Development																
Development of programmes following feedback																
Presentation of programmes to partnership																
Changes made following feedback																
SEUPB Meeting																
EOI Process																
Approval by Council																
Submission																

Figure 6: GANTT Chart of the Action Plan Development

Key Decision Makers in the Area

Community Development	Health and Wellbeing	Education
• ABC Community Development Department • Community Groups • Voluntary Groups • Sports Clubs • National Governing Bodies of Sport • Faith Based Organisations • Charities • Youth Organisations • Community Support Networks • Community Planning Partnership	• Southern Health and Social Care Trust • Health Centres • Mental Health Charities • GPS • Dentists • Health and Wellbeing organisations	• Education Authority • Primary Schools • High Schools • Nurseries • Regional Colleges • Youth Clubs
Sustainability	**Safety**	**Economic Development**
• Environmental Groups • Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful	• PSNI • PCSP • Community Practitioners • Youth Justice Agency	• NIHE • Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Economic and Regeneration Committee • Invest NI • Enterprise Centres • Business Chamber • Labour Market Partnership

Socio Economic Profile

Figures obtained from the 2021 UK Census highlight a range of trends and statistics which can be attributed to the population of the Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Council area.

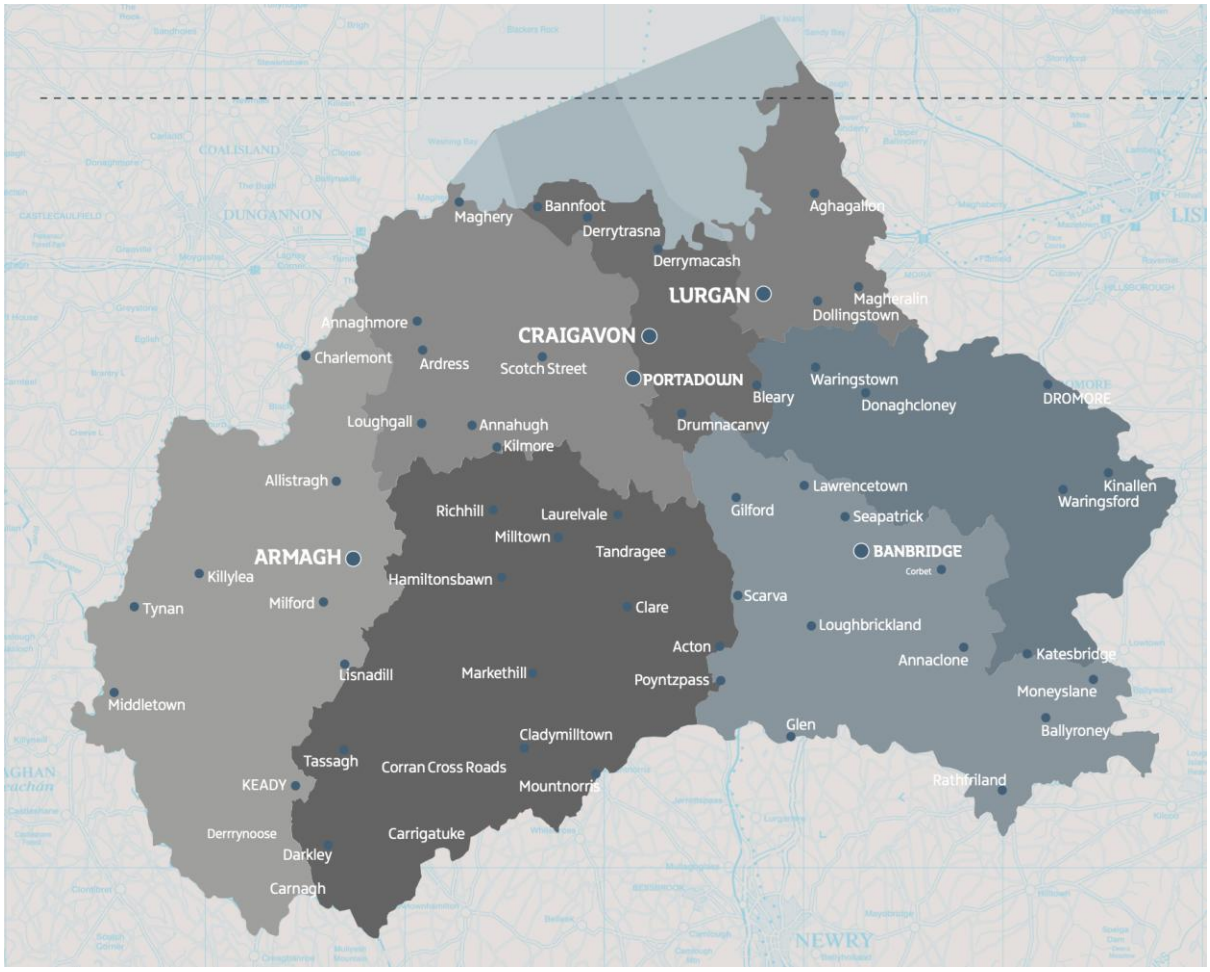


Figure 7: Map of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Area

Population

The population of the Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council area was recorded as being 218,656 – an increase of 9.5% since 2011. This represented the second highest increase of any local government jurisdiction in Northern Ireland and was significantly higher than the national rate of population growth, which stood at 5.1% for the same period.

Ethic Groups

On Census Day in 2021, the resident population of Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council area was composed of 3.3% citizens from an ethic minority background. Further details of this are presented in the Table below:

Ethnic Background	ABC Council	Northern Ireland
White	96.69%	96.55%
Irish Traveller	0.24%	0.14%
Roma	0.09%	0.08%
Indian	0.28%	0.52%
Chinese	0.31%	0.5%
Filipino	0.19%	0.23%
Pakistani	0.13%	0.08%
Arab	0.05%	0.1%
Other Asian	0.27%	0.28%
Black African	0.52%	0.42%
Black Other	0.24%	0.16%
Mixed	0.76%	0.76%
Other	0.23%	0.19%

Overall, the ABC Council area has a slightly higher percentage of residents who are ethnically white than the Northern Ireland average.

The number of people born outside of the UK and Ireland rose from 10,816 in 2011 to 18,836 in 2021. Of those 18,836, approximately 20% were from Poland, with a further 16% from Lithuania and 9% born in Bulgaria. Census data also noted that 6.8% of the population did not consider English to be their main language.

Main Language

Main Language	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	%
English	196,026	93.17%
Polish	3,551	1.69%
Lithuanian	2,611	1.24%
Irish	429	0.20%
Romanian	768	0.37%
Portuguese	1,777	0.84%
Arabic	234	0.11%
Bulgarian	1,469	0.70%
Chinese (not otherwise specified)	183	0.09%
Slovak	375	0.18%

Hungarian	357	0.17%
Spanish	116	0.06%
Latvian	468	0.22%
Russian	322	0.15%
Tetun	269	0.13%
Other languages	1,447	0.69%
Total (Aged 3+)	210,402	100%

Figure 8: Main language of residents aged 3+ in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: Table MS-B12 Main Language, Census 2021, NISRA.

Religious Composition

The 2021 Census asked two questions pertaining to the religious backgrounds of participants. The first question asked the 'current religion' of residents, whilst a secondary question sought to ascertain their 'religion of upbringing.' The results brought to light that approximately 41.0% of ABC Council residents describe their religion as 'Catholic', with Protestant and Other Christian Denominations accounting for 41.7%, Other Religions making up 1.1% of the population and 14.7% stating that they had 'No Religion'. The Borough also reflected a diversity of National Identity, with 44.2% of citizens stating that they had a British identity, 29.8% identifying as Irish and 30.4% identifying as Northern Irish.

Health

Questions relating to the general health of citizens brought to the fore a range of considerations, including:

- The percentage of citizens claiming that their health was 'Very God' increased from 48.7% to 52.0%
- The percentage of citizens claiming that their health was 'Good' decreased from 31.5% to 28.4%
- The percentage of citizens claiming that their health was 'Fair' decreased from 14.6% to 12.7%
- The percentage of citizens claiming that their health was 'Bad' increased from 4.2% to 5.2%

- The percentage of citizens claiming that their health was 'Very Bad' increased from 1.1% to 1.7%

When health information was analysed in the context of age demographics, the overall standard of health decreases within the older age categories. With 22,3%, Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Council also ranked as the second lowest local government jurisdiction in relation to the percentage of the population stating that they had a limiting long term health problem or disability.

Economy

On Census Day in 2021:

- 59.4% of the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council Population were in Employment
- 2.4% were unemployed; and
- 38.2% were economically inactive.

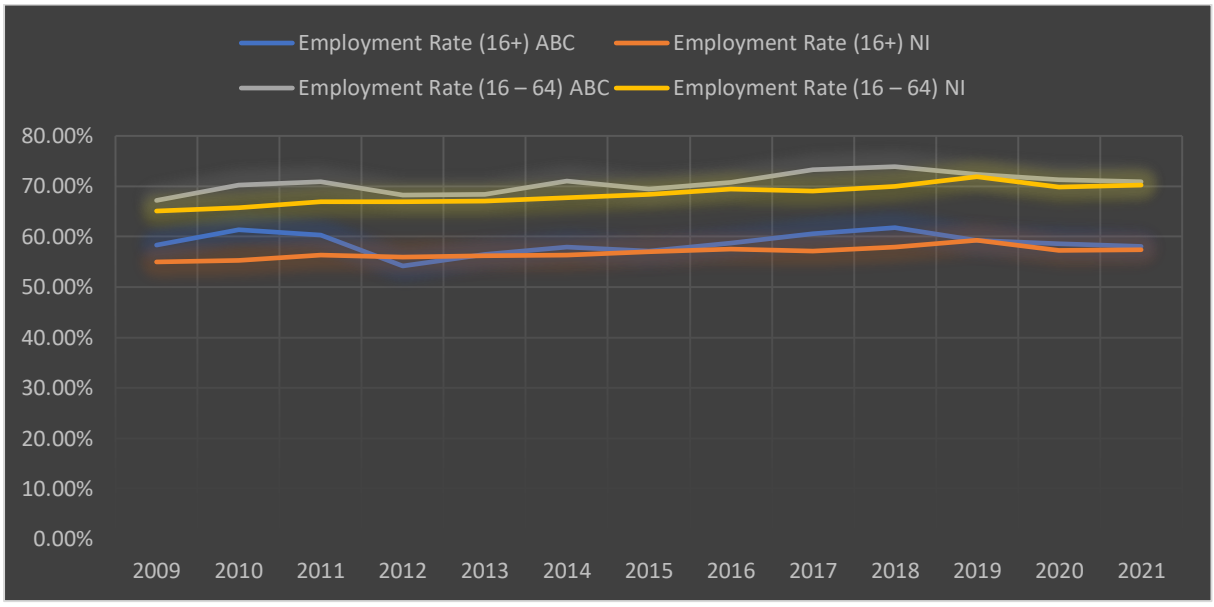


Image 1: Employment rate for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland between 2009 and 2021. Source: Labour Force Survey, NISRA.

Of those who were in employment:

- 81.8% were employed (on a full-time or part-time basis);
- 14.6% were self-employed; and
- 3.5% were full time students also in employment.

Of those who were economically inactive:

- 49.8% were retired;
- 12.0% were students;
- 12.7% were looking after home or family;
- 17.9% were long term sick or disabled.

The ABC Council area had one of the lowest rates of economic inactivity of all Council areas in Northern Ireland and was 3 percentage points below the Northern Ireland average. At 17.3% The most common industry in which those within the Council area are employed is Wholesale and Retail Trade, however Human Health and Social Work and also Manufacturing also accounted for large swathes of the employed population. The Arts, Entertainment and Recreation sectors were the lowest scoring industry, accounting for just 1.3% of the Council's employment profile.

Skills

Analysis of the skills profile of the local population yielded a range of results:

- 25.2% of the population stated that they had No Qualifications
- 5.8% of the population stated that the highest level of qualification held was Level 1 (1-4 GCSE's)
- 14.1% of the population stated that the highest level of qualification held was Level 2 (5+ GCSE's)
- 6.5% of the population stated that the highest level of qualification held was an Apprenticeship.

- 15.5% of the population stated that the highest level of qualification held was Level 2 (2+ A-Levels)
- 30.4% of the population stated that the highest level of qualification held was Level 2 (Foundation Degree or Higher)

In relation to the percentage of the local population without any qualifications, Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Council ranked the fifth highest of all eleven Council area, 1.4 percentage points above the Northern Ireland average. In relation to the percentage of the local population with a Level 4 qualification, the Council area ranked in seventh place, 1.7 percentage points below the Northern Ireland average.

Crime

The data shows that the recorded crime rate in Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon Borough has generally followed the same trend as Northern Ireland as a whole, although there have been some variations in individual years. The increase in recorded crime in 2021/22 in the borough is of concern, and it will be important to monitor trends in future years to ensure the safety and security of the local community.

	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	Northern Ireland
2010/11	9,497	103,676
2011/12	9,695	102,009
2012/13	9,023	98,558
2013/14	9,287	100,917
2014/15	9,877	103,178
2015/16	10,057	104,932
2016/17	9,373	98,033
2017/18	9,680	98,123
2018/19	9,451	100,853
2019/20	10,570	106,492

	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	Northern Ireland
2020/21	9,585	94,231
2021/22	10,808	106,621

Figure 9: Recorded crime in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland 2010/11 to 2020/21. Source: Police Service of Northern Ireland Statistics.

Anti-social Behaviour Incidents in ABC

	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	Northern Ireland
2010/11	6,318	76,947
2011/12	5,317	64,184
2012/13	5,606	65,357
2013/14	5,393	60,706
2014/15	5,789	60,982
2015/16	5,614	59,502
2016/17	6,108	59,703
2017/18	6,382	61,207
2018/19	6,109	56,503
2019/20	5,730	55,031
2020/21	7,979	76,063
2021/22	6,290	57,732

Figure 10: Anti-social behaviour incidents in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland 2010/11 to 2020/21. Source: Police Service of Northern Ireland Statistics.

Hate Motivated Incidents

	Racist	Sectarian	Homophobic	Disability	Transphobic	Faith / Religion
2010/11	57	70	10	9	1	2
2011/12	53	71	15	6	0	2
2012/13	68	77	11	11	1	1
2013/14	79	84	26	7	0	1
2014/15	133	92	36	10	2	1
2015/16	117	92	43	15	3	3
2016/17	118	67	21	8	2	3
2017/18	106	89	27	6	0	5
2018/19	126	77	34	6	4	3
2019/20	84	89	33	11	8	6
2020/21	103	86	36	11	3	1
2021/22	145	93	56	8	11	4

Figure 11: Hate motivated incidents by type of motivation in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2010/11 to 2020/21. Source: Police Service of Northern Ireland Statistics.

Disability

	Population	With a limiting long term health problem or disability	Percentage
0-14	45,420	2,759	6.1%
15-39	67,700	7,367	10.9%
40-64	70,547	18,715	26.5%
65+	34,990	19,885	56.8%
All ages	**218,657**	**48,726**	**22.3%**

Figure 12: Limiting long-term health problem or disability by age band, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: Table MS-D02, Census 2021.

Summary of Socio-Economic Profile and Population Stats

Overall, it can be concluded that the population of the ABC Council area has various strengths and challenges in terms of its socio-economic profile. Residents of the Borough enjoy comparatively healthier lives than counterparts in other local jurisdictions, as well as access to employment and economic development opportunities. There is however scope to contribute to the educational attainment and skills profile of the Borough.

Consultations

Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Council, in order to inform the development of their PEACE Plus Action Plan, held a series of consultation exercises in order to ensure that the residents of the Borough and organisations which are active in the area were able to make a meaningful contribution to the development of this Action Plan, which would inform a range of activities and Programmes to be delivered across the Borough over the next 3-4 years. These consultation exercises took the form of consultation workshops with both residents and staff, as well as a residents' survey. A total of seven consultation workshops were held in each DEA (Armagh, Banbridge, Craigavon, Cusher, Lagan River, Lurgan, and Portadown). A summary of the most salient emerging themes from each strand of consultation undertaken is presented as follows:

Consultation Workshops

Consultation workshops were held between 5th June, 6th to 7th July 2023 in each of Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon's District Electoral Areas. Each consultation workshop followed a similar structure, whereby those in attendance were encouraged to provide their views in relation to several themes relating to Good Relations, Peace and Reconciliation, and how these could be improved across the Borough. Topics covered were along the following themes:

1. Barriers to Good Relations in the Borough
2. Examples of Successful Good Relations Initiatives that had been previously delivered
3. Proposals to Support the Improved Delivery of Good Relations Services
4. Ideas for Initiatives along the Theme of Regeneration and Transformation

5. Ideas for Initiatives to be delivered along the Theme of Thriving and Peaceful Communities
6. Ideas for Initiatives to be delivered along the Theme of Respect for Cultural Identities

The consultation sessions brought to the fore a range of responses that incorporated a wide range of citizens' perspectives.

Barriers to Good Relations

The participants of each consultation workshop brought to the fore a range of challenges which they believed were hindering the development of Good Relations between citizens and communities across the ABC Borough. The most commonly recurring challenges identified included:

- Availability of Funding;
- Overcoming Entrenched Divisions within Society;
- Quality of Communications and Successful Promotion of Good Relations Activities;
- Limited Collaborative Working;
- Lack of Support for Groups in Rural Areas; and
- Limited availability of suitable shared spaces.

The emerging themes illustrate a range of considerations that should be considered during the development of the ABC Council PEACE Plus Action Plan, and place importance on community engagement as well as ensuring that activities and Good Relations work is not solely focused within the larger towns and urbanised areas of the Borough.

Examples of Successful Initiatives

To inform the development of the ABC Council PEACE Plus Action Plan, participants were asked to provide examples of initiatives which they felt had worked well previously and had delivered positive Good Relations outcomes. Examples of programmes and activities which had left a positive impression on attendees included:

- Programmes that had been led by local Community Organisations;

- Festivals and Cultural Days;
- Training Programmes;
- Employability initiatives;
- Programmes which built good relations through Sport.

The responses provided highlight the breadth of Programming which has worked well previously. It is important to note that examples provided have had a focus on areas of common need and/or areas of interest across communities.

Better Delivery

Participants were asked to provide insights as to what they believed to be key ingredients to ensure the successful delivery of any activities or programmes delivered within the ABC Council PEACE Plus Action Plan. The most common themes within responses provided alluded to a need for collaboration and co-design to ensure that programmes met the needs of citizens and communities. The use of suitable shared spaces was highlighted as a factor which influenced success, highlighting a need for the use of venues and/or public spaces at which all participants will feel safe and welcomed.

A need to ensure quality of communications was re-iterated – this included a focus on the successful promotion of good news stories associated with successful initiatives delivered.
Ideas for Initiatives along the Theme of Regeneration and Transformation

The responses to this line of consultation prompted a series of varied responses across each District Electoral Area, with participants highlighting projects which they felt strongly about within their own respective local areas. However, a range of recurrent themes emerged across the variety of responses received, namely:

- Delivery of Riverfront improvement and regeneration schemes;
- Redevelopments to outdoor spaces and country parks;
- Regeneration of derelict buildings for community uses;
- Horticultural programmes and allotments projects;

- Development of sporting facilities; and
- Supporting with regeneration initiatives in rural areas.

The responses provided emphasise the appetite for investment in strategic capital projects across the ABC Council area that will bring about environmental as well as social and economic benefits.

Ideas for Initiatives to be delivered along the Theme of Thriving and Peaceful Communities

A range of considerations were brought to the fore as priorities for inclusion in any ABC PEACE Plus Action Plan which would contribute towards the development of Thriving and Peaceful Communities across the Borough. These included:

- Prioritising health and wellbeing of citizens, and in particular mental health.
- Focusing on the implementation of successful initiatives which brought young people together.
- Training Programmes and Capacity Building for Volunteers.
- The development and delivery of Leadership Programmes for community champions.
- Recreational skills and education Programmes such as cooking, arts, crafts and/or horticulture.

Salient ideas for cultural identity and awareness Programmes included:

- Cultural awareness programmes;
- Multi-cultural events and public festivals;
- History and shared heritage awareness initiatives;
- Activities for newcomer communities;
- Fostering community development through the arts.

In addition to participation in these focus groups, participants were asked to complete a short survey to supplement the consultation findings uncovered. The key conclusions which were drawn have been summarised as follows:

- An overarching sentiment was expressed in relation to the need for more information and signposting to relevant funding opportunities, as well as support with proposal development and application processes.
- A need for collaboration and co-design was highlighted in terms of the delivery of Programmes to ensure successful outcomes.
- The dominance of single-identity work was recognised as an ongoing challenge, creating barriers to good relations caused by entrenched divisions.
- The need for effective community leadership and capacity building was deemed essential to promote good relations.
- The importance of clear, concise, relevant and timely communications were also stressed as being fundamental to the success of any Programme.
- The importance of education, integration and cultural awareness was deemed to be important to overcoming historical divisions.

Key priorities in terms of Programming included.

- Training Programmes, including non-formal learning.
- Capacity Building.
- Building Good Relations through Sport.
- Cultural showcasing events and festivals.
- Supporting Newcomer Communities.
- Development of welcoming shared spaces.
- Mental health and wellbeing.

The findings which emerged through this complementary engagement exercise aligned with the priorities and themes which emerged from the focus groups.

Online Survey

In order to further increase the evidence base on which to inform decision making in relation to the Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Council PEACE Plus Action Plan, a survey was designed

and launched so as to capture the views of citizens within the Borough who wished to put forward their thoughts and opinions in relation to a range of Themes related to PEACE Plus, as well as highlighting priorities in relation to programming and the nature of events to be organised.

The survey questions covered a range of pertinent Themes, including:

- Awareness & Participation in Previous Good Relations Activities undertaken in the Council area;
- Priorities in relation to future Good Relations Programmes.
- Barriers to better community cohesion in the Council area, including inter-community relations and integrating new communities.
- Priorities in relation to future Community Regeneration Programmes.
- Priorities in relation to future Programmes which contribute to a Thriving and Peaceful Borough.

The survey was launched on 15th July and closed on 15th August. Participation in the consultation exercises was promoted through a range of channels, including the ABC Council community database (via direct email). Participation in the survey was also posted multiple times on the Council's various social media channels as well as being advertised in local newspapers.

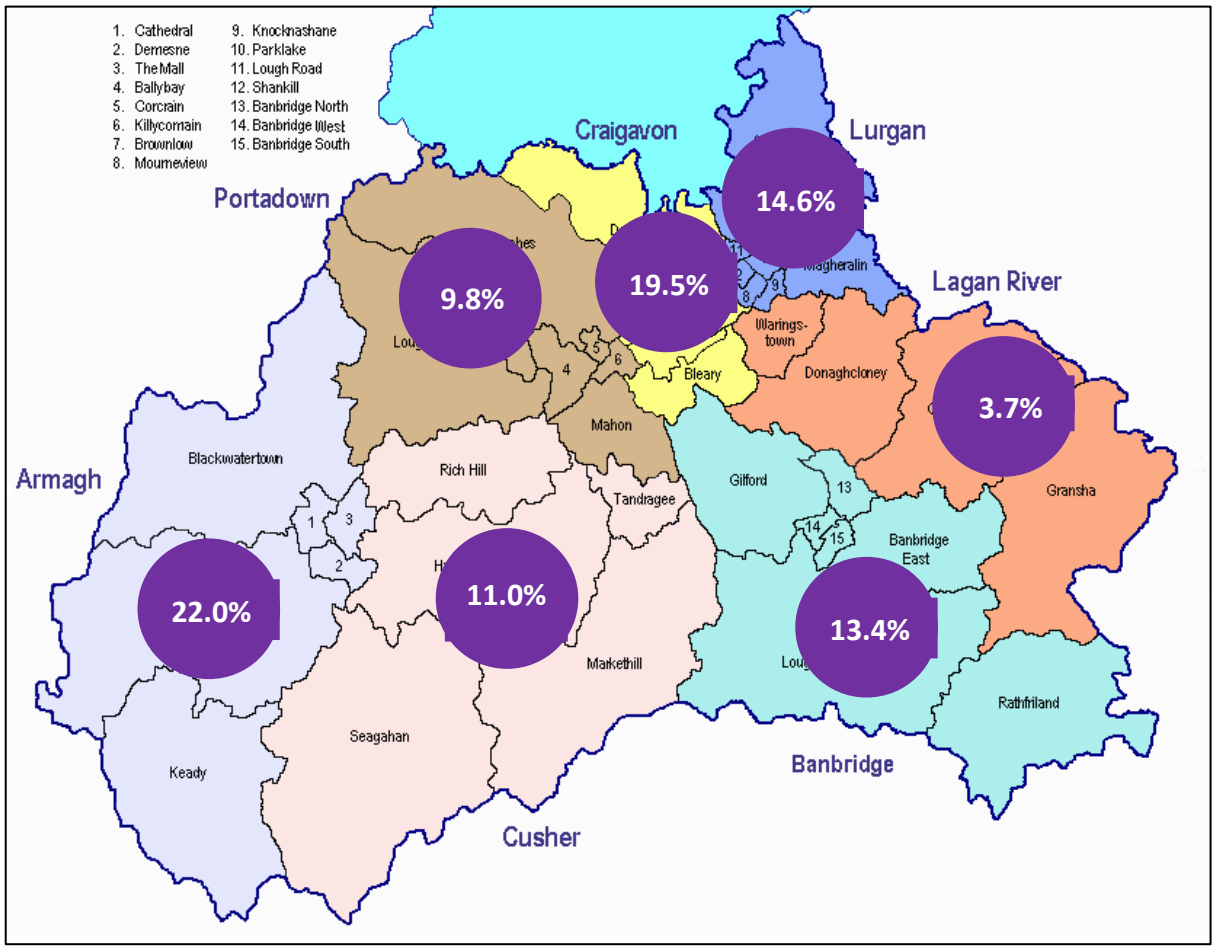


Figure 13: Geographic Spread of Respondents Map Source: ark.ac.uk

Awareness and Participation in Good Relations Programmes

Most respondents stated that they had an awareness of Good Relations Programmes delivered by the Council (56.1%), and just under half of respondents (48.8%) stated that they had participated in Good Relations Programmes. 31 respondents (37.8%) had responded "Yes" to both these questions.

The responses to this question show a good level of engagement with previous Good Relations initiatives and Programmes which have been delivered across communities throughout the Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Council area, however it also demonstrates

that there is capacity for increased awareness and participation in Good Relations activities delivered in future.

Good Relations Priorities

Respondents were asked to rank the importance of five Good Relations priorities presented in the survey. 'Bringing children and young people from different communities together' stood out as the most important priority, with 'Celebrating cultural diversity' ranking as the least important by a sizeable margin. 'Increased sense of community belonging,' 'Increasing the use of Shared Spaces' and 'Reducing hate crime and intimidation' ranked second, third and fourth respectively, however the difference in average scores across these three priority areas was noticeably small.

Good Relations Priority	Average Ranking (1 = Highest Priority, 5 = Lowest Priority)
Bringing children and young people from different communities together	2.3
Increasing a sense of community belonging	2.8
Increasing the use of shared spaces	2.9
Reducing hate crime and intimidation	3.1
Celebrating cultural diversity	3.8

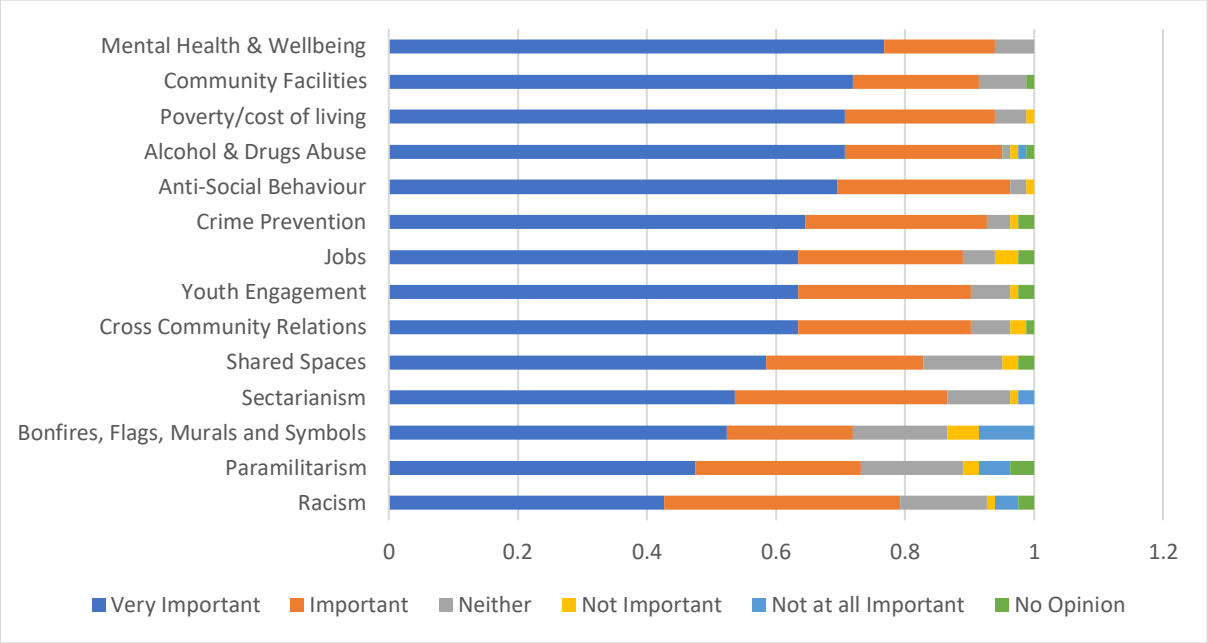
Positive Good Relations Stories

Respondents were asked to provide positive examples of Good Relations Stories that they had witnessed or previously been a part of. Some pertinent examples include:

- Cross community programmes involving young people from across the Council area.
- Older People's use of Laurencetown Community Centre.
- Use of Banbridge Leisure Centre for cancer support activities.
- Community festivals and social activities which bring everyone together; and
- Food distribution programmes during the pandemic.

Importance of Good Relations Priorities

To determine the social issues which, hold highest prominence, respondents were asked to provide insights as to how important they felt certain issues were as challenges in need of addressing within their local area. The findings are presented as follows:



Mental health and wellbeing emerged as the most pertinent issue for those completing the survey, with 93.9% of respondents categorising this social challenge as either 'Very Important' or 'Important'.

Community facilities and Poverty/Cost of Living also featured strongly, with 71.9% and 70.7% of respondents regarding these challenges as 'Very Important'.

Although racism and tackling paramilitarism were considered either very important issues or important issues by most respondents, these thematic areas did not take as prominent a role as other social challenges and good relations priorities.

Barriers to Good Relations

Respondents were asked to provide a summary of the key barriers to good relations in the Council area. Respondents were asked to provide qualitative feedback, and as such brought to the fore a range of key considerations which should factor into the design of interventions delivered under the ABC Council PEACE Plus Strategy, namely:

- Lack of sustained interventions aimed at young people.
- Delivering fit for purpose programmes and encouraging access within the rural population.
- A need to overcoming entrenched views.
- Divisions within housing and education.
- Influence of paramilitarism; and
- Lack of fit for purpose facilities in which to hold events.

The range of responses provided highlight a range of key factors which have been identified as being detrimental to the overall goal of promoting better relations between communities who reside in the Borough. It is therefore a matter of importance that these issues are addressed and considered during the design of activities, projects and programmes to be delivered under the ABC Council PEACE Plus Strategy, as failure to do so could result in sub-optimal peace and reconciliation outcomes being realised.

Barriers to Integrating New Communities

Participants were also asked to provide their thoughts and opinions on the key challenges facing the successful integration of newcomer communities into the resident population. The following themes emerged as the most common within the insights provided:

- Language barriers;
- Affordable housing;
- General intolerance/ignorance;
- Lack of funding.

The high levels of responses received to this non-mandatory question suggest that the Borough faces frequent challenges regarding the successful integration of newcomer

communities – just one response suggested that there were no barriers to integration and that the Borough was somewhere where newcomer families transitioned seamlessly into the existing community and social structures. The responses therefore also point for a need for the ABC Council PEACE Plus Strategy to incorporate activities which stand to address this identified challenge.

Supporting Communities Priorities

Respondents were asked to give their insights as to what they believed to be the most salient priorities in relation to Supporting Communities across the Council Borough.

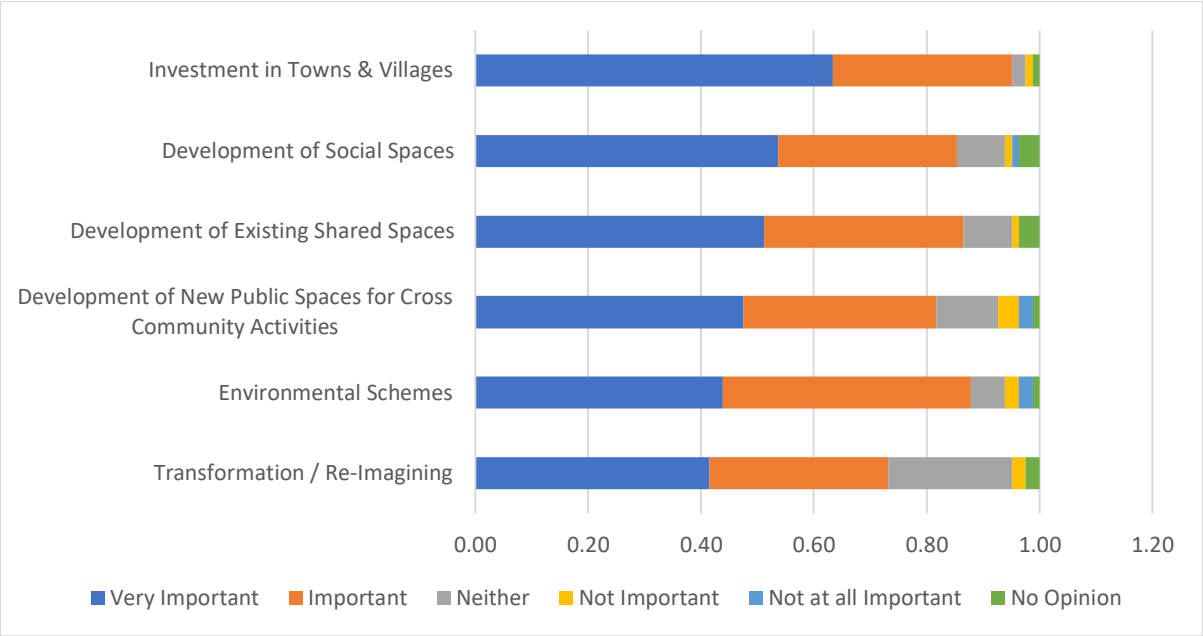
Policy Area	Average Score (1 = highest priority, 7 = lowest priority)
Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities	3.0
Healthy and Inclusive Communities	3.3
Empowering and Investing in Youth	3.6
Delivering Economic Regeneration	3.7
Supporting Sustainable and Better Connected Communities	4.0
Shared Events and Activities	4.5
Opportunities for Cultural Expression	5.5

The responses provided show that, as an overall trend, building peaceful communities and prioritising health and inclusivity stand out as the most important themes for participants.

Shared events and activities, as well as developing Programmes to promote and raise awareness of cultural expression, scored comparatively poorly.

Community Regeneration

With the focus of the consultation moving to Community Regeneration, survey participants were asked to provide their views on the importance of a range of themes linked to regeneration and revitalisation of communities. The results of this question are presented below:

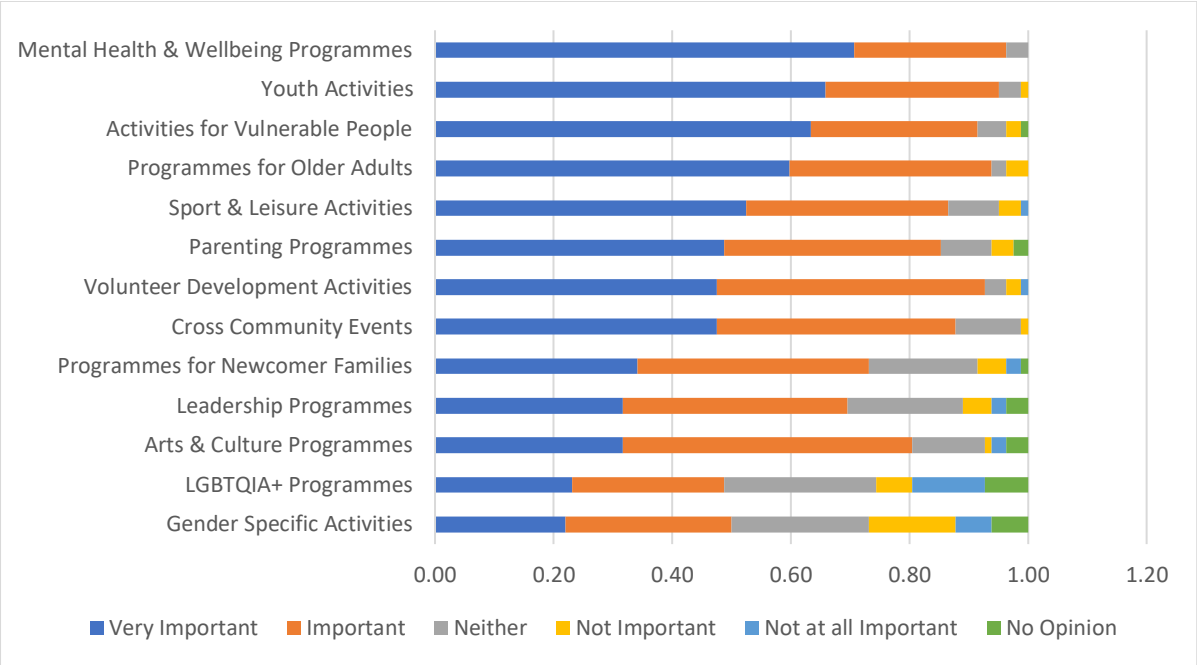


Analysis of the results show that 'Investment in Towns and Villages' and the 'Development of Social Spaces' were considered the most pressing needs, with 95.1% and 85.4% respondents regarding each respective issue as either 'Very Important' or 'Important'.

Conversely, by comparison just 73.2% of respondents considered Community Re-Imagining to be of any importance.

Thriving & Peaceful Borough

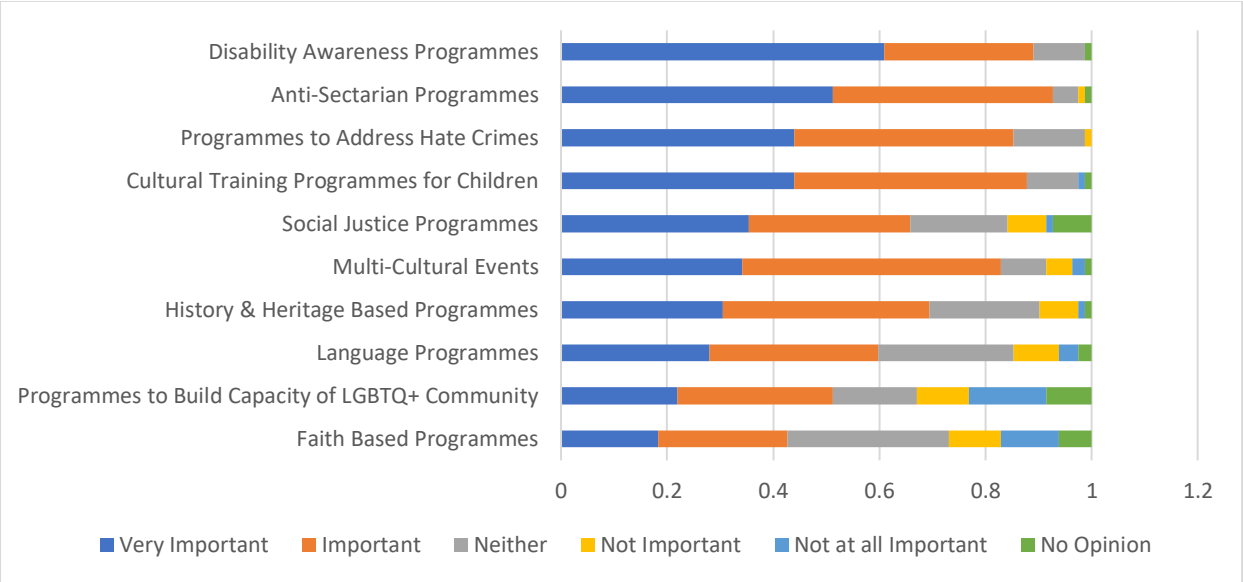
Similarly, respondents were asked to provide a summary of their thoughts and opinions regarding themes which would contribute to a 'Thriving and Peaceful Borough'. These themes covered a broad range of policy areas. A summary of the perceived importance of each is presented in the table below:



Widely regarded as the most important emerging themes are a need to prioritise mental health and wellbeing programmes, as well as developing activities for the young people of the Borough. Whilst Gender Specific activities and programmes aimed at supporting LGBTQIA+ citizens were not considered as high a priority for survey respondents, other external research and statistics points to a need for these themes to not be completely discounted from inclusion in any PEACE Plus Strategy delivered within the Borough.

Specific Types of Programmes

The final structured question of this consultation exercise provided the opportunity for respondents to provide insights into the types of Programmes which they deemed to be of importance for inclusion in the ABC Council PEACEPLUS Strategy. The responses prioritised the following programmes to be delivered:



As shown, Disability Awareness Programmes and Anti-Sectatian Programmes were considered to be the most important to respondents, with Programmes to Address Hate Crimes and Cultural Training Programmes for Children also scoring strongly. The evidence of need for Faith Based Programmes and LGBTQIA+ capacity building Programmes was least strong when compared to other thematic areas.

Any Other Comments

Before concluding the survey, respondents were afforded the opportunity to provide final comments to be factored into consideration by ABC Council when designing and developing their PEACE Plus Strategy.

- All need for collaboration and resources to be allocated to delivery as opposed to bureaucracy and administration.
- Prioritising the needs of rural communities should be a key focus of the implementation of the Action Plan.
- Effective communication, including the dissemination of good practice and good news stories, will be important in helping citizens recognise the impact of the Action Plan.

- There is a need for a wide breadth of programmes to address social challenges which span multiple Thematic Areas to promote better relations across the Borough.

Staff Consultation

As part of this engagement and information accumulation exercise, a consultation was held with relevant staff within Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Council on 25th July 2023. Adopting a similar approach to the consultations undertaken with residents, staff were asked to provide their thoughts in relation to the priorities and needs of the Borough across the three prominent themes of:

- Regeneration and Transformation;
- Thriving and Peaceful Communities; and
- Building Respect for All Cultural Identities.

A summary of the key finding of this engagement is presented below:

Regeneration and Transformation

Staff took this opportunity to present examples of key projects which they deem to be of high priority across the Council area. These projects were nearly all capital development projects in nature. For example:

- Investment in, and upgrade of, community centres.
- Revitalisation of key outdoor assets across the Borough, such as the visitor experience offerings at Gosford Forest Park and Oxford Island.
- Sustainable Christmas Tree Programme.
- Investment in the provision of alternative sporting facilities, such as a skate park, scrambler track and/or urban sports facilities.
- Development of further walking trails across the Borough.
- Youth shelters; and
- Community gardens in rural areas.

The responses provided highlight the breadth of projects which Council staff believe could bring about Good Relations benefits within the ABC Council area. An overarching focus on capital projects which enhance opportunities and access to physical wellbeing activities is a commonality across many of these suggested proposals.

Thriving and Peaceful Communities

A diverse range of project and programme ideas were brought to the fore under the theme of building Thriving and Peaceful Communities. Examples of ideas included:

- Intergenerational projects;
- Volunteer support and training;
- Life skills programmes;
- Men's Sheds;
- Employability and entrepreneurship programmes for young people;
- Events programme focused on health and wellbeing;
- Outdoor awareness programme.

A key focus of many of the above activities proposed is a need to promote skills development and capacity building at both an individual and organisational level.

Building Respect for All Cultural Identities

ABC Council staff believed that fostering increased respect for all cultural identities and backgrounds across the Borough could be improved through the delivery of a range of targeted initiatives, including:

- Schools' events.
- Arts and cultural festivals.
- Rural engagement projects.
- Language, food, and music showcase events.
- Historical lecture series and heritage awareness events.
- Gender identity awareness programmes; and
- Increasing disability awareness through sport.

The successful implementation of many of the above listed programmes would see all communities across the ABC Council area engaged, including newcomer families and marginalised groups.

Overall Summary of Needs Analysis from Socio Economic Info and Public Consultations

The multiple aspects of research, analysis and consultation which have informed the development of this PEACE Plus Action Plan have brought to light a range of key considerations and priority areas. These have been summarised in detail below:

Regeneration & Transformation

An overall need was identified to prioritise investment in, and upgrade of key community assets, especially sport and recreational facilities, as a means of using regeneration to inspire peace and prosperity across the Borough area.

The themes which emerged during consultation support a need for all areas of the ABC Council area to benefit from regeneration projects delivered under this PEACE Plus Action Plan, including rural communities which face challenges rooted in limited or no access to fit for purpose basic services.

Thriving & Peaceful Communities

A wide range of initiatives were put forward for consideration which would contribute towards community and social development in the Borough by investing in the skills, capacity and confidence of residents and volunteers.

Salient themes which emerged across consultation and through analysis of relevant statistics pertaining to the local population included:

- A need to focus on mental health and wellbeing.
- A need to develop the skills, life skills, confidence and qualifications of the local population.

- A need to improve employability and access to economic opportunities;
- A need to invest in young people and improving relationships between young people from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

Similar to the responses garnered within the context of Regeneration & Transformation, there was a focus on ensuring that the benefits of the PEACE Plus Action Plan would be realised across all communities which fall under the ABC Council's jurisdiction, and that the needs of the most vulnerable in society should be given due consideration in the design and delivery of any activities and programmes brought about under this Action Plan.

Building Respect for All Cultural Identities

The need to facilitate the smoother integration of newcomer families to the area was a recurrent priority which emerged during both research and consultation carried out during this analysis of need.

Anti-Sectarian Programmes, Programmes to Address Hate Crimes, Cultural Training Programmes and Multi-Cultural Events all featured strongly as initiatives which consultees felt warranted inclusion in the Council's PEACE Plus Action Plan.

This evidence of need was further strengthened by population-level statistics which demonstrated that the number of people residing in the Borough who were born outside of the UK and Ireland rose by almost 75% between 2011 and 2021. The 2021 Census Data also highlighted that almost 7% of the resident population did not consider English to be their main language. Supporting the integration of newcomer communities as well as celebrating their cultural identity was seen to be important in achieving better relations between communities across the Borough.

Section 4: Project Options Considered and Preferred Option

In the development of the PEACEPLUS Action Plan, members of the PEACEPLUS Partnership meticulously assessed and evaluated various project options to determine the most suitable path forward. This section outlines the key aspects considered during this process.

The PEACEPLUS Partnership played an instrumental and central role at every stage of the process. Their proactive involvement and crucial contributions were evident from the outset. The partnership not only approved the engagement process but also assisted to promote and publicise the consultations, effectively raising awareness among the community and stakeholders. In a demonstration of their commitment, members of the partnership actively participated in these consultations, further underlining their dedication to the cause. Their presence and participation provided a valuable connection between the community's aspirations and the partnership's vision.

After the conclusion of the extensive public engagement sessions, targeted engagement meetings, one-on-one interactions, and the closure of the survey, the Partnership was presented with a comprehensive overview of the key themes and findings that emerged from these engagement efforts. Recognising the need for in-depth exploration, the partnership subsequently divided into distinct working groups, each focusing on one of the three thematic areas identified. Within these working groups, members were equipped with information pertaining to all three thematic areas, allowing them to gain a comprehensive understanding of the various aspects involved. Subsequently, these groups engaged in detailed discussions centred around the specific theme they were tasked with. During these sessions, participants had the opportunity to provide valuable feedback, contributing to the refinement and enhancement of the proposed initiatives. To ensure a well-rounded perspective, members were encouraged to participate in multiple working groups, enabling them to offer insights and feedback across a range of thematic areas. Additionally, avenues for submitting written feedback were made available, promoting inclusivity and thorough engagement. Throughout this process, Council Officers dedicated efforts to facilitating one-on-one conversations with partnership members. These conversations took place both in person and through virtual platforms such as phone calls, Teams, or Zoom. The combination of group discussions and

one-on-one interactions further underscored the commitment to a comprehensive and inclusive approach in shaping the future of the Action Plan.

The selection process for the inclusion of community capital programmes in the action plan under the regeneration and transformation theme was led by council officers and supported by Atkins Realis, the process was guided by principles of good governance and aligned with SEUPB guidance. Initially, council officers developed applicant due diligence procedures to ensure adherence to governance requirements. Subsequently, they formulated criteria and applications for both Expression of Interest (EOI) and Full Application phases, drawing upon SEUPB guidance and incorporating a comprehensive scoring matrix to assess project viability and alignment with programme goals. The process involved an open call for submissions between January- February 2024, with Council Officers hosting 3 information sessions across the Borough. Subsequently, an assessment panel, comprising of experts, evaluated each application against the established guidelines and procedures. This assessment included a professional review of project requirements, considering factors such as budget, statutory approvals, and compliance with relevant standards. Furthermore, the assessment panel engaged in a thorough review of each project's scope in consultation with applicants. Adjustments were made as necessary to ensure that projects were both achievable and capable of delivering tangible PEACE Plus outcomes. Applications were then prioritised based on their scores, facilitating the allocation of funding and the creation of a reserve list. This prioritisation process adhered strictly to predefined criteria, ensuring fairness and transparency in the selection process. Ultimately, the EOI assessment panel provided recommendations to the PEACE Plus Partnership, which, in turn, offered recommendations to the council.

In the selection process for a Council signature project to be included in the action plan, a structured approach was followed, comprised of three key stages. Firstly, in Stage 1, the PEACEPLUS Partnership scrutinised the Council's signature project options to pinpoint projects aligning with the objectives of both the PEACEPLUS Programme and the Local Community Action Plan. These projects were categorised into Priority A, B, C, and Core

Projects, with Priority A representing those already backed by secured funding. Priority B encompassed projects with formal commitments, while Priority C included new investment ventures. Core Projects, on the other hand, constituted annual ringfenced budgets for essential capital requirements. Priority areas were then agreed upon, delineating which projects were eligible for consideration as a "Peace Plus Signature Project". Moving on to Stage 2, a panel of three council officers meticulously reviewed each shortlisted project alongside the sponsoring officer, evaluating them against predetermined criteria. Finally, in Stage 3, the preferred project underwent scrutiny for inclusion in the PEACEPLUS Action Plan.

In the development of the PEACEPLUS Action Plan, members of the PEACEPLUS Partnership were provided with detailed information on the various projects included in the final draft to review at the Partnership meeting on 21/3/24. This information was presented to partnership members in advance, allowing them to thoroughly assess and provide feedback on the proposed programmes. During this meeting, partnership members expressed their unanimous support and appreciation for the inclusion of programmes that demonstrated a commitment to empowering community groups, supporting volunteers and community leaders, enhancing mental health initiatives across the Borough, and addressing common needs within the community. The partnership praised the approach of these programmes, recognising their potential to make a significant and positive impact on the local community.

It is important to note that the selected projects, based on their alignment with these key considerations, have been outlined in Section 1 of the PEACEPLUS Action Plan. These projects have been carefully chosen to address the unique needs of the Borough and to foster positive change, sustainability, equality, value for money, and peace and reconciliation within the community and beyond. The projects considered in the Action Plan took these factors into consideration:

Relation to Local Needs

The primary consideration was the extent to which each project addressed and aligned with the specific needs and priorities of Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon and how they aligned with PEACEPLUS. Members scrutinised how effectively the proposed projects

engaged with local stakeholders and how well they demonstrated an understanding and respect for the cultural and social context of the local area. This is highlighted beside each programme/ project in section 1.

Impact

Members sought to identify the potential positive outcomes and changes that the selected projects would bring to the area. They also assessed the scalability and replicability of these projects in other regions or communities. Moreover, they examined whether the projects were expected to have an impact beyond the duration of the PEACEPLUS programme.

Legacy

The lasting and positive legacy in ABC was a crucial factor in project selection. Members considered whether the project plans would result in long-lasting social and economic benefits for the local community and future generations.

Horizontal Theme - Sustainability

Projects were evaluated based on their effectiveness in addressing environmental concerns and promoting sustainable practices. The incorporation of innovative solutions and technologies to support sustainability goals was also taken into account. More details on these can be found in section 7.

Horizontal Theme - Equality

Members assessed the degree to which the selected projects promoted inclusivity and equal access to their benefits for all members of the community, regardless of gender, age, or other demographics. Actively seeking to involve hard-to-reach groups and ensuring their participation was a key consideration. Additionally, projects were scrutinised for their potential to address existing social disparities in ABC and promote fairness and justice within the local community. More details on these can be found in section 7.

Value for Money

Efficiency in the use of financial resources to achieve project objectives and desired outcomes was closely examined. The members evaluated whether there would be a good return on investment or economic benefit to the community in relation to the project's costs.

Contribution to Peace & Reconciliation

The extent to which the selected projects contributed to resolving conflicts or tensions within the community or region was a central concern. Members assessed whether the projects promoted unity, trust, and cooperation among diverse groups or individuals. This is highlighted in section 1 alongside each programme/ project.

Section 5: Budget & Financial Projections

Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon Borough Council are requesting a total amount of £6,759,997. Deducting a drawdown of £87,000, the remaining balance available for distribution stands at £6,672,997. The table below offers a high-level overview of the budget, categorised by theme, and outlines costs per year not allocated to specific projects. These costs encompass primary staffing expenditures, verification audit allowances, overheads, travel expenses, equipment procurement, communications/public relations, evaluation expenditures, and external services.

Item	Percentage of Budget (excluding initial drawdown of £87k)	Amount
Costs per year not assigned to specific project	15.93%	£1,062,758
Local Community Regeneration & Transformation	32.72%	£2,183,141
Thriving & Peaceful Communities	30.99%	£2,068,194
Building Respect for All Cultural Identities	20.36%	£1,358,903
Total	**100%**	**£6,672,997**

A more detailed breakdown of the budget can be found in Appendix 1.

Section 6: Risk Analysis (Risks, Uncertainty & Constraints

Lack of stakeholder engagement causing lower participant numbers and impacting on overall delivery outcomes – communications plan in place, ongoing work with agencies and local communities to promote activities and to ensure cross community participation. Regular meetings with communications team, Peace Plus partnership and recording of attendance during all programme activity. Proactive monitoring of engagement throughout the programme, to ensure action can be taken as required.

Insufficient planning, impacting on delivery timescales and/or anticipated cost – Peace partnership and Council will review the programme on an ongoing basis to ensure delivery is adhering to timescales and any issues are identified and resolved in a timely manner. Service Area reviews in place to ensure milestones are met and are reviewed on a quarterly basis. Ongoing meetings with finance in place to monitor financial planning.

Delays within capital programme causing delays which impact on end of programme timeline – regular review with providers, legal and relevant council departments, quarterly updates to be provided via Service Reviews, Peace Partnership meetings and via SEUPB claims process. Ongoing meetings with delivery agents to ensure issues are identified early and action taken to resolve these in a timely manner.

Lack of adherence to process which has the potential to undermine the success of the action plan or to cause reputational damage – ensure appropriate governance measures are in place. All Council staff are required to adhere to Council policies and procedures, these include adherence to financial regulations, procurement policy, equality, social media policy etc. Peace Partnership, Leisure and Community Services Committee and full Council will have oversight of the full programme of activity and regular updates will be provided with decisions being ratified by Council Committee and full Council to ensure appropriate accountability and considered oversight.

Safeguarding, the programmes will involve work with children and young people and adults who may be at risk of harm, therefore it is imperative that safeguarding processes are followed. Council has in place a safeguarding policy, all staff are trained in safeguarding and appropriate escalation procedures should a concern be raised. Providers will also be required to have a safeguarding policy in place and appropriate levels of vetting. The Council safeguarding officer will be available for any queries, safeguarding is on the agenda at all team meeting and kept under monthly review.

Health and safety to staff and service users, in order to ensure the safety of staff and service users, activities will be subject to risk assessments. Consultation and advice will be taken from corporate health and safety within Council as required. Programme activity is included in the Community Development and Corporate Risk Register for Council and is reviewed on a quarterly basis.

Financial accountability and management, in the event there is financial mismanagement, this could have a major impact on the programme and reputation for both SEUPB and Council. All staff are required to adhere to financial regulations, appropriate staff trained in fraud awareness, financial training is available to all staff which includes procurement training. Regular meetings are held with Finance, quarterly financial reporting is in place, monthly team meetings also review delivery against financial planning. The programme will also have access to an independent auditor throughout the duration of the programme, to ensure effective financial oversight. Council internal auditor will also provide guidance on any issues arising and the programme will be subject to both internal and external audit to ensure robust financial accountability is in place.

Section 7: Horizontal Themes – Sustainable Development and Equality

Sustainable Development

The Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Council PEACE Plus Action Plan will place sustainable development at the heart of its design, both in terms of its capital development and programmes. The activities to be delivered throughout the duration of the Programme will adhere to the PEACE Plus Horizontal Principle of Sustainable Development by contributing towards the following of the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals:

Goal 1 – No Poverty	Ending poverty in all its forms, everywhere
Goal 2 – Zero Hunger	Ending hunger Achieving food security and nutrition Promoting sustainable agriculture
Goal 3 – Good Health & Wellbeing	Ensuring healthy lives and promoting wellbeing for all at all ages
Goal 4 – Quality Education	Ensuring inclusive and quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all
Goal 5 – Achieve Gender Equality	Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls
Goal 9 – Industry, Infrastructure, and Innovation	Building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, and fostering innovation
Goal 10 – Reduced Inequalities	Reduced inequality within and amongst countries
Goal 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities	Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable
Goal 15 – Life on Land	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and

	halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
Goal 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
Goal 17 – Partnership for the Goals	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

After due consideration, it was concluded that the Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon PEACE Plus Action Plan would bear little to no contribution following sustainability goals:

Goal 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation

Goal 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy

Goal 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth

Goal 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production

Goal 13 – Climate Action

Goal 14 - Life Below Water

Sustainable Development Goals

Programme	Description	Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Goal 4	Goal 5	Goal 9	Goal 10	Goal 11	Goal 15	Goal 16	Goal 17
1.1	Community Capital Advantage Programme			X			X		X			
1.2	Capacity Building Programme				X	X		X	X			
1.3	PEACE Plus Signature Capital Project			X			X		X			
2.1	Mental Health training			X	X							
2.2	ABC Crisis Cafe	X	X			X						
2.3	Volunteer Resilience & Wellbeing Programme				X	X						
2.4	Sheds for Life			X		X			X			
2.5	Positive Pathways – Reboot Your Life Camp	X						X	X			
2.6	Good to Chat			X		X		X	X			
2.7	Social Supermarket	X	X									X

Programme	Description	Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Goal 4	Goal 5	Goal 9	Goal 10	Goal 11	Goal 15	Goal 16	Goal 17
2.8	Community Forums							X	X			X
2.9	Community Resilience Programme								X		X	
2.10	Forest Schools Programme				X				X	X		
2.11	Community Growing and Sustainable Lifestyles		X							X		
2.12	Community Engagement Programme			X					X			
2.13	GLOW Projects			X					X			
2.14	Diversionary Sport Programmes			X					X			
2.15	Barge and Play Space Programme								X			
2.16	Age Friendly Projects					X		X				

Programme	Description	Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Goal 4	Goal 5	Goal 9	Goal 10	Goal 11	Goal 15	Goal 16	Goal 17
2.17	Community Restorative Justice	X						X			X	
2.18	Cross Community Volunteer Development Programme				X				X			
2.19	Sustainable Living Programme – Outdoor Spaces			X					X	X		
2.20	Rural Citizenship & Future Leadership Programme				X				X			
2.21	Youth Leadership Projects				X		X		X			
2.22	Young enterprise programme				X		X		X			

Programme	Description	Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Goal 4	Goal 5	Goal 9	Goal 10	Goal 11	Goal 15	Goal 16	Goal 17
3.1	Local Cultural & Heritage Awareness Projects				X						X	X
3.2	Online History Lecture Talk Series on Local, Regional and National Histories				X							
3.3	Borders, Boundaries, Belonging & Bonds				X							
3.4	The Great Hunger – The Famine				X							
3.5	Online History Courses on Modern Ireland				X							
3.6	OCN Level 2 Shared History Educational Programme				X							
3.7	Multicultural events & festivals								X		X	X

Programme	Description	Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Goal 4	Goal 5	Goal 9	Goal 10	Goal 11	Goal 15	Goal 16	Goal 17
3.8	Wellbeing Events at Oxford Island			X		X						
3.9	Battle of the Bands				X							
3.10	ABC Community Awards			X								
3.11	One Community			X		X			X			
3.12	Language Empowerment for Newcomer Communities				X				X		X	X
3.13	Cultural Identity & Awareness Programme			X					X		X	X
3.14	Club & Schools Sports Connection Project			X					X			
3.15	Schools & Communities Interpretive Arts Project			X					X			
3.16	Enhancing Culture, Heritage, and								X			X

Programme	Description	Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Goal 4	Goal 5	Goal 9	Goal 10	Goal 11	Goal 15	Goal 16	Goal 17
	Community Identity within ABC Place Plans											

Equal opportunities and non-discrimination

The design of the Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Council PEACE Plus Strategy has incorporated an assessment of equality impacts and has considered the impact on protected and vulnerable groups.

The Programme will prioritise equality of access and participation by:

- Embedding a culture of co-design from the offset of the Programme's development.
- Developing and implementing a robust monitoring framework will ensure that equality outcomes are tracked, with mitigating action taken where it is identified that a particular group or demographic is deemed to be under-represented.
- Inclusion of a specific LGBTQIA+ strand of the Programme to that will ensure that the needs of young people from an LGBTQIA+ background will be specifically catered for.
- The dissemination of best practice when working with and supporting young people will ensure that people across all backgrounds will benefit from high quality service provision.
- Training and capacity building exercises that form part of the Strategy will bring about legacy impacts that will ensure that good practice is embedded and a culture of supporting young people continues following the cessation of the Programme.

The design of the Strategy has incorporated an assessment of equality impacts, and participation will be based on need. However, efforts will be made throughout delivery to ensure that all young people and adults participating in training programmes are encouraged and that no barriers to access emerge because of gender. Where participation is deemed to be unequal, mitigating efforts will be made to address imbalances.

Section 8: Management Arrangements (Project Delivery, Resourcing and Governance)

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council has put in place robust project management arrangements and has sought to leverage additional knowledge, skills and experience to add value and ensure that it delivers on the programme outlined within the Action Plan.

The PEACEPLUS Partnership was established in November/December 2022, comprising a broad range of community and public sector leaders living and/or working within the borough, to provide strategic guidance, governance, effective risk management, planning, and oversight of the project. Importantly, the PEACEPLUS Partnership has reflected a diverse community and gender representation which has helped shape and inform the development of this project at all stages.

The Partnership will meet a minimum of six times each year (and more regularly when needed during periods of intense activity) to provide overall direction and management for the project and to identify necessary actions, with main responsibilities including:

- Develop and review progress against the Letter of Offer/Work Packages;
- Enable good communication among organisations and wider stakeholders, alongside all external communications;
- Ensure project delivers within agreed boundaries, as per objectives, on time and within budget;
- Risk Management;
- Resolve strategic/operational issues;
- Ensure appropriate levels of community engagement / participation;
- Receive/consider updates from the PEACEPLUS Officer Team;
- Financial and Procurement Management
- Ensure compliance with SEUPB (e.g. monitoring/evaluation, reporting, risk assessment);

Officers within the Council staff will have the relevant skills to oversee the development and delivery of the projects. We will operate with the following operational structure:

- Management team - to include Head of Community Development, Community Services Manager, Business Support Manager and PEACEPLUS Programme Manager; will have approval and oversight responsibility for the PEACEPLUS Programme.
- Officer Working Group - includes a range of internal officers on a cross-departmental basis – responsibility for development of projects/programmes.
- Capital Working Group - includes a range of internal officers on a cross-departmental basis – responsibility for oversight of capital processes and potential projects.

The Proposed PEACEPLUS Programme team will include;

- The Programme Manager will contribute to the strategic vision, direction, development and management of the PEACEPLUS 1.1 Programme. They will lead the development and implementation of Council's PEACEPLUS 1.1 Programme and Action Plan to ensure the aims, objectives, priorities and procedures of the Programme are adhered to and will also be the key point of contact with SEUPB. They will also support the PEACEPLUS Partnership Board. More detailed information on their roles and responsibilities are included in the Job Description along with a Person Specification, both of which are appended to this application. The Programme Manager will report to the Community Services Manager in the Community Development Department of Council.
- Three Programme Officers will be responsible for the implementation and delivery of the PEACEPLUS 1.1 Co-Designed Local Community Action Plan under the three themes of Local Community Regeneration & Transformation, Thriving & Peaceful Communities, and Celebrating Cultures & Diversity. They will provide support to the Programme Manager and the PEACEPLUS Partnership through effectively managing the development and delivery of the programmes and projects contained within the Action Plan. The Programme Officers will report to the PEACEPLUS Programme Manager.
- The Business Support Officer will be responsible for providing a comprehensive administrative and financial support service for the 1.1 PEACEPLUS Programme. They

will be responsible for developing, implementing and maintaining financial procedures and processes, along with the management, monitoring and evaluation of project budgets and appropriate administrative and support services to the Programme Manger as well as the Programme Officers and PEACEPLUS. The Business Support Officer will report to the PEACEPLUS Programme Manager.

Additional support officer/s time has been identified within the Community Development Department to support PEACE Programme Manager with the development of the Action plan, with specific focus on financial & administrative support.

In relation to Financial Management, we will adhere to and will implement the financial regulations as detailed in the PEACEPLUS Programme Manual 2021-2027, with specific adherence to the directives relating to financial rules, eligibility of costs and control & audit.

In addition, we will also be working to the Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council Financial Regulations, which govern and direct on internal financial procedures and processes. A copy of the Council Financial Regulations are appended to this application. The Programme Manager, supported by the Business Support Officer will liaise both with SEUPB and the Council Finance department to establish and develop correct financial process and procedures.

Section 9: Communication (and Marketing) Plan

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council recognises the strong emphasis that the European Commission and SEUPB places upon information and communication activities and therefore is fully committed to maximising awareness of European Union funding throughout the borough and beyond over the duration of the programme. The overall aim of a communications plan will be to promote awareness and understanding of the positive contribution that the European Union's PEACEPLUS programme will have on improving the lives of citizens within the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon council area. Any increase in awareness should be deliberately designed to create a positive attitude or opinion about the PEACE IV programme and the projects it is funding in the borough.

The specific objectives of the plan are to:

- Promote the PEACEPLUS programme as a key initiative in building and sustaining peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Counties.
- Ensure that all projects acknowledge the funding role of the European Union and the SEUPB as the managing authority of this programme.
- Raise awareness of the outputs and achievements of all projects to key stakeholders at local, regional, national and European level.
- Employ a comprehensive range of both traditional and new marketing channels to extend the reach of communication activities to the widest audience possible.
- Ensure that messages are targeted at certain stakeholder groups at different stages of the programme lifecycle.
- Work closely with all stakeholders to ensure all communication activity meets the minimum publicity requirements and logo(s) are reproduced in all marketing collateral in the correct manner. The same applies to textual references.
- Maximise accessibility of information about the programme and funded projects to people with disabilities.
- Continuously monitor the effectiveness of all marketing activity with a view to exploiting additional PR and promotional opportunities as they arise throughout the duration of projects.

- Given that PEACE is a well-established and highly reputable funding brand in the Northern Ireland marketplace, all communication activity should help build upon the brand equity.
- Where necessary, information will be tailored to the communication needs of each defined stakeholder group.
- Ensure all communication activity will focus on enhancing relationships and leveraging additional support for the programme.
- Ensure all marketing collateral about the programme/projects are produced to a high standard and clearly articulate the role of the European Union and SEUPB.

We will work closely with the Communication Team of SEUPB at all stages to ensure compliance with all requirements and to ensure opportunities for PR and dissemination of positive messaging is maximised. The Communication Lead will also attend all Network Meetings/ Workshops held by the SEUPB.

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council will take the following approach:

- A member of the PEACEPLUS team will be nominated as Communications Lead with responsibility for collaborating with Council's Communications Team for additional support and appointed individuals (with similar responsibilities) from partner organisations. He/she will work closely with Council's Communications Team and partner organisations to ensure a pro-active, professional and joined-up approach to external communications.
- Development of a Communications and Marketing Plan, led by the Communications Lead with implementation overseen by PEACEPLUS Partnership and responsibilities, timescales and tasks defined.
- The Communications Lead will report on Communications activities to SEUPB as agreed.
- The Communications Lead will work with SEUPB Communications Team where possible to maximise publicity.

The full spectrum of marketing channels will be used to ensure key messages are delivered: press releases, social media, adverts, digital marketing, internal communications, staff briefings, publications and printed materials, website, events, promotional items, internal and external magazines billboards plaques posters.

The mixed method approach to communications and marketing will include:

- Opening and Closing Events – Commencement and closure events will be held for the project in order to engage stakeholders, recognise funders and develop strong PR around project ambitions and achievements. The project will close with a celebration event highlighting achievements and outcomes associated with the project, with funders present in order to show appreciation to the opportunity presented through PEACE PLUS.
- Digital Presence/Communication – A strong digital presence will be prioritised throughout the project through Council social media pages and website in order to engage a wider, transnational and cross-border audience.
- Press releases – Where possible, and during notable events and achievements with min of 3 per year (e.g. commencement/closure events, project events, achievements, programmes activities).
- TV/Radio coverage – will be utilised where possible to showcase key highlights of the project to a wide audience via local and regional broadcasters.
- Video footage to showcase the project on digital platforms. This will help promote and engage more people in the project and can contribute to evaluation processes.
- Photocalls – will be delivered during key moments with good news stories shared via digital and traditional media and within newsletter.
- Case Studies – we will collate and disseminate positive impact stories of change which relate directly to the project.

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council understands the requirements detailed within the guidance relating to statements of support, logo and branding use and will adhere to the Publicity Toolkit guidance at all stages. We will work with stakeholders

and SEUPB Communications Team to ensure development of communication and marketing processes which are inclusive, cater for marginalized communities and those with additional needs.

We understand the additional requirements for capital projects and will ensure:

- Erection of durable billboard, clearly visible on site in line with regulations presented in the Programme Manual from the capital works start. This will include project name, branding, description, aims, results and funding received alongside appropriate logos and detail.
- SEUPB Representative(s) will be invited to all events and notable activities.

A wide range of evaluation tools will be employed to monitor the effectiveness of communication.

- Press coverage: number of news articles/total Advertising Value Equivalency equivalent.
- Web content.
- Events and project launches: registration/attendance figures.
- Social media: Analytics to record number of posts, audience reach/likes.
- Projects: Number of participants.
- Stakeholder awareness survey – number of respondents.
- Programme update briefings - attendance rate from total number of invites.

Section 10: Monitoring & Evaluation Plan

Monitoring and evaluating the PEACEPLUS Action Plan is crucial for ensuring its effectiveness and making informed decisions regarding its implementation. Our PEACEPLUS Manager brings extensive experience in delivering peace programmes, having previously spearheaded the successful implementation of our PEACE IV initiative. Under his leadership, along with his seasoned team, we entrust the crucial task of overseeing the monitoring and evaluation processes for our PEACEPLUS programme.

Throughout project delivery, a variety of monitoring techniques will be employed, including regular progress reviews, stakeholder consultations, and data collection activities such as surveys, interviews, and focus groups. Data will be collected at defined intervals, with frequency determined by project milestones and activities. Project partners will be responsible for collecting project-specific data and reporting progress against established KPIs. Data collected during project implementation will be analysed by designated personnel within each project partner organisation. Analysis will involve assessing progress towards stated objectives, identifying any deviations from the planned course, and determining corrective actions where necessary. This information will be used to inform project delivery and ensure alignment with the overarching goals of the action plan.

Our PEACE team will employ an Outcome Based Accountability (OBA) Monitoring and Evaluation process, which focuses on measuring outcomes and impacts rather than just inputs and outputs. Here's how the Council will successfully monitor and evaluate the action plan using OBA:

Define Clear Outcomes and Indicators: The first step is to clearly define the desired outcomes for each programme. These outcomes listed as part of each programme in section of this action plan are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART). The key performance indicators (KPIs) that align with each outcome will be used to track progress effectively.

Data Collection and Analysis: The Council will implement robust data collection mechanisms to gather relevant information on the progress of the action plan. This will involve surveys, interviews, focus groups, and data from relevant stakeholders and partners. The collected data will be analysed regularly to assess progress towards the defined outcomes.

Regular Monitoring and Reporting: The Council will establish a schedule for regular monitoring and reporting on the progress of the PEACEPLUS action plan. This will involve monthly, quarterly, or annual reports, depending on the nature of the activities and timelines outlined in the plan. Regular monitoring allows the Council to identify any deviations from the intended course and take corrective actions promptly.

Stakeholder Engagement: Engaging with stakeholders will be vital for the success of the monitoring and evaluation process. The Council will involve relevant stakeholders, including community members, partner organisations, and elected members, in the monitoring and

evaluation activities. Their input and feedback will provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of the action plan and potential areas for improvement.

Utilizing OBA Framework: The Council will use the OBA framework to assess the outcomes of the PEACEPLUS action plan. This will involve asking key questions such as "What are we trying to achieve?", "How will we know if we are successful?", and "What actions are needed to achieve our desired outcomes?". By focusing on outcomes and impacts, rather than just outputs, the Council can better understand the effectiveness of the action plan in promoting peace and stability.



Adaptive Management: The Council will adopt an adaptive management approach, allowing for flexibility and adjustments as needed based on the monitoring and evaluation findings. If certain activities are not yielding the expected results, the Council will be proactive in making necessary changes to enhance the effectiveness of the action plan.

Learning and Knowledge Sharing: The Council will promote a culture of learning and knowledge sharing within the organisation and with external stakeholders. Lessons learned from the monitoring and evaluation process will be documented and shared widely to inform future decision-making and improve the implementation of similar initiatives.

By following these steps and utilising the OBA Monitoring and Evaluation process, the Council can successfully monitor and evaluate the PEACEPLUS action plan, ensuring that it achieves its intended outcomes of promoting peace and stability in the region. Additionally, an annual report will be prepared to review achievements against the action plan, incorporating evaluation findings and feedback from stakeholders. This report will be presented at yearly community events, providing an opportunity for further input and collaboration.

Exit Strategy

This chapter will discuss the exit strategies that have been strategically developed to secure the enduring impact of the programmes and projects that have been included in the Action Plan. Sustainability and legacy have been at the forefront of the decision-making process throughout the selection of these programmes, recognising their significance in ensuring the long-term well-being and prosperity of our communities. The section below will outline the measures, commitments, and actions that will be put in place to safeguard the continued success and positive outcomes of these efforts, underscoring our commitment to leaving a lasting and transformative mark on the Borough.

Local Community Regeneration and Transformation

Exit Strategy
To ensure the sustained impact of the Community Advantage Programme (1.1), Capacity Building Programme (1.2), and the PEACEPLUS Signature Capital Project (1.3), the community facilities in the community advantage programme will be managed by the community organisations. This strategy will involve actively involving and empowering local community groups and organisations to take on a significant role in the planning, execution, and sustainability of these projects. By imparting the necessary skills, knowledge, and resources to these stakeholders, the programmes can pave the way for continued peace-building efforts and social cohesion within the community, long after the formal execution period has concluded.
Legacy
These programmes - the Community Capital Advantage Programme (1.1), the Capacity Building Programme (1.2), and the PEACEPLUS Signature Capital Project (1.3) - are envisioned not only to make immediate impacts but to resonate for generations to come. Their enduring legacy will be the creation of shared spaces, the nurturing of transformative services, and the fostering of peace and reconciliation. Each project, whether it's the strategic capital investments in City of Armagh Rugby Club, Laurelvale Cricket Club, and Aghaderg GAA/New-Bridge Integrated College under the Community Capital Advantage

Programme (1.1), or the capacity-building initiatives empowering local organisations across the Borough through the Capacity Building Programme (1.2), or the creation of inclusive play spaces across nine strategically chosen sites within the Borough as part of the PEACEPLUS Signature Capital Project (1.3), will continue to serve as a cornerstone for building a more cohesive society. These initiatives will promote cross-community integration and bridge cultural divides, leaving a profound and lasting impact on the community. They are not just projects; they are catalysts for enduring change and unity within the Borough.

Thriving and Peaceful Communities

Mental Health and Wellbeing Programmes

Exit Strategy
Having a strategic exit plan for the Mental Health and Wellbeing Programmes is crucial to ensure their continued positive influence. As these programmes near their completion, a key aspect of the exit strategy will involve transitioning the knowledge, skills, and responsibilities to local stakeholders. By facilitating the transfer of expertise and control to community-based organisations and individuals, the sustainability of the mental health programmes can be upheld. This will entail enabling local community groups/ organisations to take the lead in training, crisis support, volunteer programmes, and community engagement efforts. These programmes will not only leave behind improved mental health services but also a network of empowered community members capable of carrying on the essential work of promoting mental wellbeing in the Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon Borough Council area.
Legacy
The effect of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Programmes will extend far beyond their immediate implementation. These programmes, including Mental Health Training (2.1), the ABC Crisis Café (2.2), the Volunteer Resilience and Wellbeing Programme (2.3), the Sheds for Life Programme (2.4), and Positive Pathways - Reboot your Life Camp (2.5), are designed

to nurture a lasting impact. Their legacy will be seen in the improved mental health and resilience of community members, reduced isolation, and loneliness, and strengthened cross-community connections. Furthermore, these programmes will be remembered for fostering a sense of cohesion and community in the Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon Borough Council area. The ripple effect of improved mental wellbeing, addiction support, and sustainable living will continue to resonate, promoting positive lifestyle choices and encouraging individuals to live independently and sustainably. These programmes will leave a profound and enduring legacy by enhancing the physical and mental health of participants and empowering communities to address mental health challenges proactively.

Connecting Communities

Exit Strategy
To ensure a smooth and impactful exit strategy for Connecting Communities programmes, we will empower local communities and organisations to carry forward the mission of combating loneliness, promoting social cohesion, and addressing food insecurity. As these programmes conclude, a gradual handover of responsibilities, knowledge, and resources to local stakeholders will be key. This transition will involve providing training and support to community groups to maintain and expand the Chatty Benches and Chatty Cafes (2.6), Social Supermarkets (2.7), Community Forums (2.8), and the Community Resilience Programme (2.9). By enabling these organisations to continue the work and tailor it to their specific needs, the initiatives can become self-sustaining. This approach ensures that the positive impact of the programmes remains alive and relevant in the local community, aligning with PEACEPLUS objectives to foster a thriving, peaceful, and connected community.
Legacy
The legacy of the Connecting Communities programme will be the creation of vibrant, inclusive, and closely-knit communities that continue to thrive. The Chatty Benches and Chatty Cafes (2.6) act as symbols of human connection, where individuals come together to combat loneliness and isolation. The Social Supermarket Programme (2.7) will establish

itself as an essential bridge between food security and social inclusion, not only providing affordable and accessible goods but also serving as a hub for diverse communities to interact and cooperate. The Community Forums (2.8) act as vital gathering spaces for community organisations, fostering networking, collaboration, and community-driven change. The Community Resilience Programme (2.9) empowers communities to face challenges with resilience, bolstering peace, reconciliation, and cross-community connections.

Outdoor and Environment Programme

Exit Strategy
The exit strategy for the Outdoor and Environment Programmes will revolve around empowering local communities and organisations to take on the mantle of promoting holistic development, social inclusion, and sustainable living. By facilitating the transfer of knowledge, resources, and responsibility to these community stakeholders, the programmes will evolve and continue to thrive. This transition will include capacity-building and training for local groups to enable them to carry on these projects tailored to their specific needs and priorities. In doing so, the initiatives foster a legacy that aligns with PEACEPLUS objectives, further developing thriving and peaceful communities that appreciate the value of the outdoors, holistic growth, and sustainable lifestyles.
Legacy
The legacy of the Outdoor and Environment Programmes will be the transformation of communities into thriving and peaceful hubs of holistic development, social interaction, and sustainability. The Forest Schools Programme (2.10) will foster a love for outdoor, nature-based learning that transcends boundaries and abilities, encouraging conversations and relationships in natural spaces. Community Growing and Sustainable Lifestyles (2.11) will promote the growth of food, community, and resilience while emphasising the importance of sustainable living. These initiatives will leave a profound impact by cultivating a shared ethos of community and sustainability, raising awareness about the positive effects of the outdoors on mental and physical well-being. The legacy of these programs will extend into the future, as communities continue to prioritise holistic

development, social inclusion, and sustainable practices, further aligning with PEACEPLUS objectives and contributing to thriving and peaceful neighbourhoods.

Building Positive Relationships

Exit Strategy
This exit strategy for these programmes will prioritise the empowerment of local communities and organisations to take on the mantle of fostering cross-community activities, personal development, and social cohesion. This transition will encompass capacity-building and the transfer of knowledge, resources, and responsibility to local stakeholders, enabling them to sustain and expand these initiatives. By doing so, the programmes will leave an enduring legacy that aligns with PEACEPLUS objectives, contributing to thriving and peaceful communities. The emphasis on interaction, cooperation, and shared spaces, in the Community Engagement Programme (2.12), GLOW Projects (2.13), Diversionary Sport Programmes (2.14), Barge and Play Space Programme (2.15), Age-Friendly Projects (2.16), and Community Restorative Justice (2.17), will continue to promote peaceful cross-community relationships, personal development, and community connections long after the formal execution period has concluded.
Legacy
The legacy of these Building Positive Relationships programmes will be reflected in the transformation of communities into thriving and peaceful hubs that value cross-community activities, personal development, and social cohesion. The Community Engagement Programme (2.12) facilitates interactions and personal growth, enhancing community cohesion through shared spaces. The GLOW Projects (2.13) inspire girls to become more active and creative, fostering cross-community relationships. Diversionary Sport Programmes (2.14) address anti-social behaviour, providing a safe, positive, and fun environment that fosters personal development and community connections. The Barge and Play Space Programme (2.15) enhances provisions and supports interventions around mental health, suicide awareness, addiction, and cross-community interaction. Age-Friendly Projects (2.16) promote physical activity, health, and wellbeing, fostering

intergenerational connections. Community Restorative Justice (2.17) facilitates community dialogue, mutual understanding, and respect, challenging and changing attitudes.

Develop Our Future

Exit Strategy
The exit strategy for Developing Our Future will focus on providing comprehensive training and resources to community groups and volunteers, allowing them to continue fostering a thriving and peaceful community, upskilling new volunteers, and supporting existing volunteers/ community leaders to be more effective. By transferring ownership and responsibility to these local groups, the programmes will maintain their momentum. The Cross Community Volunteer Development Programme (2.18) equips volunteers to contribute to peace and reconciliation, enhancing their ability to drive change in their communities. The Sustainable Living Programme - Outdoor Spaces (2.19) empowers participants with practical skills and environmental knowledge, promoting community well-being and environmental stewardship. The Rural Citizenship & Future Leadership Programme (2.20) addresses the needs of rural communities, fostering community leadership. The Youth Leadership Projects (2.21) instil health awareness and leadership skills in young participants, encouraging community engagement. The Young Enterprise Programme (2.22) equips young people with entrepreneurship skills, promoting innovation and dialogue among different communities. With community groups finding it more difficult to recruit and retain volunteers/ community leaders, these programmes will assist to develop the sustainability of community organisations.
Legacy
The legacy of Developing Our Future will be the continued growth of communities into thriving and peaceful hubs of empowerment, environmental stewardship, leadership, and entrepreneurship. The Cross Community Volunteer Development Programme (2.18) empowers local volunteers to become agents of change in their communities, contributing

to peace and reconciliation efforts. The Sustainable Living Programme - Outdoor Spaces (2.19) nurtures practical skills, environmental knowledge, and community well-being, fostering a sense of purpose. The Rural Citizenship & Future Leadership Programme (2.20) strengthens rural communities and future leaders. The Youth Leadership Projects (2.21) promote health awareness, self-esteem, and community engagement among young participants. The Young Enterprise Programme (2.22) encourages entrepreneurship and cross-community dialogue. The legacy of these programmes will extend into the future, with empowered volunteers and participants driving thriving and peaceful communities, in alignment with PEACEPLUS objectives, and making a sustained positive impact.

Building Respect for All Cultural Identities

History and Heritage

Exit Strategy
The exit plan for this element of the PEACEPLUS Action Plan will focus on knowledge transfer and community engagement. These programmes will empower local communities and organisations to carry forward the rich historical and cultural awareness nurtured by these programmes, respect for diverse cultural identities can continue to thrive. This will include establishing local heritage groups or organisations, conducting workshops on living heritage preservation, and encouraging ongoing research and storytelling about key historical figures and events. It will also involve providing access to historical resources and archives, ensuring the legacy of respect for all cultural identities remains a core value in the community.
Legacy
The legacy of these History and Heritage Programmes will be the ongoing celebration and preservation of cultural identities and histories. The local cultural and heritage awareness projects (3.1) will inspire a deep connection to places and history. The Online History Lecture & Talk Series (3.2) will promote understanding of local, regional, and national histories, fostering appreciation for diverse identities and their impact on society. The

Borders, Boundaries, Belonging and Bonds Project (3.3) will encourage a broader perspective on shared experiences related to borders, highlighting the commonality in diverse regions. The Online History Courses (3.5) will provide education on critical historical periods, fostering cultural appreciation. The OCN Level 2 Shared History Educational Programme (3.6) will strengthen international connections and promote understanding of shared history. The legacy of these programme will extend into the future, with communities continuing to honour and respect all cultural identities, contributing to a more inclusive and peaceful society.

Multi-Cultural Events and Festivals

Exit Strategy
The Multi-Cultural Events and Festivals programme will aim to empower local communities and organisations to continue celebrating diverse cultures and identities. By providing training, resources, and support, these local organisations and groups can organise and host cultural events and festivals independently, ensuring the spirit of respect for cultural diversity lives on. This strategy will involve capacity-building for event planning and execution, promoting partnerships and collaborations, and assisting in securing funding or resources. It should encourage the active participation of community members in organising and attending these events, fostering an ongoing appreciation for various cultural identities and heritage.
Legacy
The legacy of these Multi-Cultural Events and Festivals programmes will be displayed in the continued celebration and respect for diverse cultural identities across the Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon Borough Council area. The annual and one-off events and festivals (3.7) will provide platforms for the celebration of cultures, identities, and heritage, promoting inclusivity through music, food, and sports. Wellbeing Events at Oxford Island (3.8) will showcase creativity, well-being, and self-sufficiency, connecting people through exhibits, demonstrations, and outdoor activities. The Battle of the Bands programme (3.9) will support musical talent and interclub competition, bringing young people from various

backgrounds together. The ABC Community Awards (3.10) will celebrate community achievements, empowering volunteers, and group leaders.

Inclusion Programmes

Exit Strategy
The Inclusion Programmes exit strategy should focus on creating sustainable and inclusive communities that respect all cultural identities. The exit plan will involve the transition of programme responsibilities to local organisations and professionals who have been trained to work with marginalised groups effectively. This transition will include providing OCN accredited training to community representatives and professionals, enabling them to integrate the principles of inclusion and respect into their daily work. By building the capacity of local individuals and organisations, these programmes can continue to create inclusive environments that celebrate diverse cultural identities, even after the PEACEPLUS programme finishes. Additionally, the development of community-led inclusion programmes can help ensure that respect, dignity, and empathy remain central values in the community.
Legacy
The impact of the Inclusion Programmes will be a society where individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds and marginalised groups are not only respected but also actively integrated into the community. The One Community programme (3.11) will foster awareness and empathy for various marginalised groups, promote respect and understanding. The Language Empowerment for Newcomer Communities programme (3.12) will empower individuals from newcomer communities to integrate by enhancing their language skills and leadership capacity. The legacy of these programmes will be a more inclusive and respectful community, where diverse cultural identities are celebrated, and every individual is treated with dignity and empathy. This legacy will contribute to a peaceful and culturally diverse society in the Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon Borough Council area.

Cultural Identity Programme

Exit Strategy
The exit strategy for the Cultural Identity Programmes will focus on fostering lasting respect and understanding among diverse cultural identities. This exit plan will include a shift towards community-led initiatives where local organisations and schools take the lead in promoting cultural awareness and respect. One approach will be the establishment of cultural awareness committees or forums involving community representatives, schools, and local clubs to continue promoting dialogue and learning around sensitive issues like flags, symbols, and bonfires. These local committees will act as ongoing platforms for addressing cultural identity matters through peaceful dialogue and education, ensuring that the community remains committed to building respect and mutual understanding.
Legacy
The legacy of the Cultural Identity Programmes is a community that embraces and celebrates its diverse cultural identities. The Cultural and Identity Awareness Programme (3.13) focuses on addressing challenging issues through dialogue and learning, helping the community navigate complex cultural topics with understanding. The Club and Schools Sports Connection Project (3.14) and Schools and Communities Interpretive Arts Project (3.15) create shared spaces where young individuals from diverse backgrounds learn to respect one another, fostering positive relationships and mutual understanding. Enhancing Culture, Heritage, and Community Identity within the ABC Place Plans (3.16) ensures that heritage, culture, and community identity remain central to community development and place planning. The enduring legacy is a community that values its cultural diversity, and the programmes contribute to building respect and understanding among cultural identities within the Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon Borough Council area.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1- Budget and Financial Projections

Overall indicative budget			**£6,759,997**
Less : Initial Drawdown of Budget			**-£87,000**
Balance of £6.6m available for distribution			**£6,672,997**
Less	%		
Costs per year not assigned to specific project	15.93%	£1,062,758	
Local Community Regeneration & Transformation	32.72%	£2,183,141	
Thriving & Peaceful Communities	30.99%	£2,068,194	
Celebrating cultures & Diversity	20.36%	£1,358,903	
	100.00%		£6,672,997
BREAKEVEN			£0
	Costs	Employee Costs	Balance for Programmes
Costs per year not assigned to specific project	£1,062,758	£562,313	£500,446
Local Community Regeneration & Transformation	£2,183,141	£226,769	£1,956,372
Thriving & Peaceful Communities	£2,068,194	£226,769	£1,841,425
Celebrating cultures & Diversity	£1,358,903	£226,769	£1,132,134
	£6,672,997	**£1,242,620**	**£5,430,377**

Costs Per Year

Costs per Year							
	Mar 25	Mar 26	Mar 27	Mar 28	Mar 29	2029	Total
Main Staffing	£95,205	£110,924	£114,826	£118,728	£122,630	£0	£562,313
Verification Audit Allowance	£15,022	£30,044	£30,045	£30,044	£30,044	£0	£135,200
Overheads	£25,356	£39,668	£41,132	£42,595	£37,642	£0	£186,393
Travel expenses	£10,988	£17,190	£17,824	£18,458	£16,312	£0	£80,770
Equipment	£2,700	£2,700	£2,700	£2,700	£2,496	£0	£13,296
Comms/PR	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£0	£25,000
Evaluation Costs	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£0	£25,000
External expertise/services/ research/ training	£6,960	£6,960	£6,960	£6,960	£6,946	£0	£34,786
Total	**£166,231**	**£217,486**	**£223,486**	**£229,485**	**£226,070**	**£0**	**£1,062,758**

Draft Cashflow Statement

Draft Cashflow Statement																							
	Qtr to	Qtr to	Qtr to	Qtr to	Qtr to	Qtr to	Qtr to	Qtr to	Qtr to	Qtr to	Qtr to	Qtr to	Qtr to	Qtr to	Qtr to	Qtr to	Qtr to	Qtr to	Qtr to	Qtr to	Qtr to	Qtr to	
Expenditure to Year 31st March 2025	30/6/24	30/9/24	31/12/24	31/03/25	30/6/25	30/9/25	31/12/25	31/03/26	30/6/26	30/9/26	31/12/26	31/03/27	30/6/27	30/9/27	31/12/27	31/03/28	30/6/28	30/9/28	31/12/28	31/03/29	30/06/2029	30/09/2029	Total
Local Community Regeneration and Transformation	£0	£0	£0	£25,000	£203,524	£203,524	£203,524	£203,524	£203,524	£203,524	£203,524	£228,524	£69,546	£69,546	£69,546	£69,546	£0	£0	£0	£0			£1,956,372
Thriving and Peaceful Communities	£0	£0	£0	£135,450	£138,406	£138,406	£138,406	£138,406	£126,250	£126,250	£126,250	£126,250	£111,225	£111,225	£111,225	£111,225	£101,225	£101,225	£0	£0			£1,841,425
Celebrating Cultures and Diversity	£0	£0	£0	£49,000	£82,212	£82,212	£82,212	£82,212	£76,896	£76,896	£76,896	£76,896	£82,213	£82,213	£82,213	£82,213	£58,925	£58,925	£0	£0			£1,132,135
Total for Projects	**£0**	**£0**	**£0**	**£209,450**	**£424,142**	**£424,142**	**£424,142**	**£424,142**	**£406,670**	**£406,670**	**£406,670**	**£431,670**	**£262,983**	**£262,983**	**£262,983**	**£262,983**	**£160,150**	**£160,150**	**£0**	**£0**			**£4,929,932**
Total Salaries	£14,937	£26,756	£63,675	£63,675	£66,114	£66,113	£66,114	£66,114	£68,553	£68,552	£68,553	£68,552	£70,991	£70,991	£70,991	£70,992	£73,431	£73,430	£73,430	£30,656			£1,242,620
Verification Audit Allowance	£0	£0	£7,511	£7,511	£7,511	£7,511	£7,511	£7,511	£7,511	£7,511	£7,511	£7,511	£7,511	£7,511	£7,511	£7,511	£7,511	£7,511	£7,511	£7,511			£135,200
Overheads / Travel Expenses / Equipment / Comms	£3,211	£9,603	£13,690	£17,540	£14,215	£18,064	£14,215	£18,065	£14,739	£18,589	£14,739	£18,589	£15,263	£19,113	£15,263	£19,113	£15,788	£19,535	£15,787	£10,339			£305,459
External expertise/services/ research / Evaluation Costs	£0	£0	£0	£11,960	£0	£5,980	£0	£5,980	£0	£5,980	£0	£5,980		£5,980		£5,980		£5,973		£5,973			£59,786
Quarterly Total	**£18,148**	**£36,359**	**£84,876**	**£310,136**	**£511,982**	**£521,811**	**£511,982**	**£521,812**	**£497,473**	**£507,302**	**£497,473**	**£532,302**	**£356,748**	**£366,578**	**£356,748**	**£366,579**	**£256,880**	**£266,600**	**£96,729**	**£54,479**			**£6,672,997**
Income assumed six monthly in arrears	£0	£0	-£18,148	-£36,359	-£84,876	-£310,136	-£511,982	-£521,811	-£511,982	-£521,812	-£497,473	-£507,302	-£497,473	-£532,302	-£356,748	-£366,578	-£356,748	-£366,579	-£256,880	-£266,600	-£96,729	-£54,479	-£6,672,997
Net Cashflow	£18,148	£54,507	£121,235	£395,012	£822,118	£1,033,793	£1,033,793	£1,033,794	£1,019,285	£1,004,775	£1,004,775	£1,029,775	£889,050	£723,326	£723,326	£723,328	£623,459	£523,479	£363,328	£151,208	£54,479	£0	

Staff Structure

Staff Structure			Project	Start	End		Year to 31 March 2025	Year to 31 March 2026	Year to 31 March 2027	Year to 31 March 2028	Year to 31 March 2029	Year to 31 March 2030	
		Grade		Date	Date	Cost							Total
	Programme Manager	PO3	Main	01/04/2024	31/03/2029	£57,801	£59,752	£61,703	£63,654	£65,605	£67,556	£0	**£318,270**
	Finance & Admin Officer - SO1	SO1	Main	01/07/2024	31/03/2029	£45,319	£35,453	£49,221	£51,172	£53,123	£55,074	£0	**£244,043**
	Programme Officer	SO2	Capital	01/10/2024	31/12/2028	£47,679	£24,613	£51,177	£53,128	£55,079	£42,773	£0	**£226,769**
	Programme Officer	SO2	T& PC	01/10/2024	31/12/2028	£47,679	£24,613	£51,177	£53,128	£55,079	£42,773	£0	**£226,769**
	Programme Officer	SO2	Cultures / Diversity	01/10/2024	31/12/2028	£47,679	£24,613	£51,177	£53,128	£55,079	£42,773	£0	**£226,769**
						£246,157	**£169,043**	**£264,455**	**£274,210**	**£283,965**	**£250,948**	**£0**	**£1,242,620**
	Main						£95,205	£110,924	£114,826	£118,728	£122,630	£0	£562,313
	Capital				£14,938		£24,613	£51,177	£53,128	£55,079	£42,773	£0	£226,769
	T&PC				£3,545.25		£24,613	£51,177	£53,128	£55,079	£42,773	£0	£226,769
	Diversity						£24,613	£51,177	£53,128	£55,079	£42,773	£0	£226,769
							£169,043	**£264,455**	**£274,210**	**£283,965**	**£250,948**	**£0**	**£1,242,620**
	Overheads	15%					**£25,356**	**£39,668**	**£41,132**	**£42,595**	**£37,642**	**£0**	**£186,393**
	Travel	6.50%					**£10,988**	**£17,190**	**£17,824**	**£18,458**	**£16,312**	**£0**	**£80,770**