

CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS BOROUGH COUNCIL GOOD RELATIONS AUDIT AND STRATEGY 2023-2026

THE JUNCTION
DEIRDRE MAC BRIDE

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INTRODUCTION

This report has been commissioned by the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council in order to conduct an audit and develop strategy to guide good relations work in the borough for the next three years. It will be utilised to develop years 1 to 3 action plans. These will be in keeping with the priorities and recommendations established by the Department, the Council and in the course of the audit. The policy framework set out in Section One outlines the principal regional strategies that will impact on good relations work including Together Building A United Community and the Racial Equality Strategies. In fulfilling the requirement to be evidence-based, the report acknowledges the work of The Flags, Identity, Culture, And Tradition Commission. The Good Relations Indicators 2020 Report and other supporting evidence will inform consideration of the emerging themes and priorities. The key points relevant to the development of the audit and strategy are outlined after each strategy.

Section Two: A Local Perspective: Causeway Coast and Glens outlines the relevant context and details available data specific to the council area. This includes the operational climate, data derived from the 2021 Census, electoral representation on the council and relevant information about formal applications of cultural expression. The key points are also summarised. Attitudes to Good Relations in the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Area in comparison to Northern Ireland are explored. In view of the linkage that has developed between good relations and community safety, the issues, strategic plan and reported hate motivated crimes and incidents, the trends and numbers for the borough are detailed. This section concludes with a review of security related incidents.

Section Three: deals with the local planning framework. It reviews the key relevant plans. This includes the Equality Action Plan, A Better Future Together (Community Plan 2017-2030), the Community Development Strategy 2020-23 and the previous Good Relations Audit and Strategy 2018-2023. Again, key points for the development of the audit and strategy summarised.

Complementarity with PEACEPLUS, and other relevant policies and initiatives is required by the Department. Therefore, PEACEPLUS themes, local development strategies and the Equality and Anti-Poverty Action Plans and related regeneration, tourism, towns and villages, heritage, and youth service policies and plans are reviewed in terms of good relations in Section Four.

The final Section draws together the results of the online survey, and face-to-face workshop-based consultations and one to one interviews (in person or online). These include the community based public consultations, the targeted focus groups with asylum seekers and refugees, youth, community relations practitioners, the PCSP and community cohesion partners, and the planning session with strategic partners. Interviews were conducted with seven councillors drawn from six political parties and one independently elected Councillor, and three community representatives including LGBTQ+ representative and are also included in the report of the consultation. These are all detailed separately against T:BUC, relevant linkages to other strategies are identified, and other issues of importance to those consulted are conveyed. The good relations themes emerging from the audit are identified and linked to the policy framework, local perspective and planning context. It is expected that the final strategy will be informed by the outcomes of the previous Good Relations Strategy and value for money considerations. Therefore, the community consultations have also been mapped against the four T:BUC priorities building on the 4th Quarter Report and the proposed 2023 Action Plan. Finally, the recommendations are set out.

POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland and Good Relations

A recent legal development which relates to good relations is Article 2 of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland. The Article contains a new commitment by the UK Government to no diminution of certain human rights and equality protections. Specifically, Articles 2(1) and 2 makes the UK responsible that there is no diminution of rights, safeguards, or equality of opportunity under the 1998 Agreement; and that the government will continue to facilitate institutions and bodies to uphold those rights and equality standards.¹

In addition to these developments, the Equality Commission in September 2021 commissioned research on the impact of Brexit on the EU funding provisions for Section 75 equality groups. This research highlighted the important role of EU funding in promoting equality of opportunity and good relations in Northern Ireland in addition to various challenges, raising concerns about the measures outlined by the UK Government to replace EU funding, including a lack of clarity around replacement funds and the serious risk of a financial ‘cliff edge’ for organisations delivering key services to Section 75 groups.²

In the absence of the Assembly sitting and Executive Committee being established, the Programme for Government (PfG) setting out local priorities has not been finalised.

TOGETHER: BUILDING A UNITED COMMUNITY STRATEGY

The Together: Building a United Community Strategy³ (T: BUC) published by the Executive Office in 2013, outlines a vision of *‘a united community based on equality of opportunity, the desirability of good relations and reconciliation – one which is strengthened by its diversity, where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced and where everyone can live, learn, work and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance.’*

The Strategy reflects the Executive’s commitment to improving community relations and continuing the journey towards a more united and shared society. It represents a major change in the way in which good relations will be delivered. It provides a vision based on equality of opportunity, the desirability of good relations and reconciliation. It also acts as a framework for action in dealing with issues concerning intolerance, including sectarianism, racism and seeks to address division, hate and separation.

The following principles underpin the implementation of the Strategy:

- Cohesion
- Diversity
- Fairness
- Inclusion
- Integration
- Interdependence
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Rights
- Sharing
- Tolerance

¹ Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission. (2022). *Annual Report of the NIHRC and the ECNI on the Implementation of Protocol Article 2*. Retrieved from <https://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Delivering%20Equality/DMU/Annual-Report-Implementation-ProtocolArt2.pdf>.

² Equality Commission for Northern Ireland. (2022). *Annual Report of the NIHRC and the ECNI on the Implementation of Protocol Article 2, 2021-2022*. Retrieved from <https://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Delivering%20Equality/DMU/Annual-Report-Implementation-ProtocolArt2.pdf>.

³ The Executive Office (2013) *Together: Building a United Community*. Retrieved from https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/ofmdfm_dev/together-building-a-united-community-strategy.pdf

TBUC: Priorities

The Strategy outlines how Government, community and individuals can work together to build a united community and achieve change against the following key priorities:

1. **Our Children and Young People:** To continue to improve attitudes amongst our young people and to build a community where they can play a full and active role in building good relations.
2. **Our Shared Community:** To create a community where division does not restrict the life of individuals and where all areas are open and accessible to everyone.
3. **Our Safe Community:** To create a community where everyone feels safe in moving around and where life choices are not inhibited by fears around safety.
4. **Our Cultural Expression:** To create a community, which promotes mutual respect and understanding, is strengthened by its diversity and where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced.⁴

The District Council Good Relations Programme is an important link between high-level strategic priorities and delivery of community relations activity on a local level and is match funded, with Councils providing 25% of the overall funding for the Programme. The primary aim of the Programme (DCGRP) is firstly, to improve relations between and within Council areas, and secondly, to support local solutions to local good relations issues.⁵

As detailed in the T: BUC District Council Good Relations Programme Report 2017/18, in the Causeway Coast and Glens Council, the programme aims to provide opportunity for civic and community leaders to promote the areas as a model of best practice in developing respect, understanding and tolerance of the cultural, historical, and traditional diversity of the residents.

T: BUC Strategic Review

Since the launch of the T: BUC Strategy in 2013 significant progress has been made and some of the headline actions have been fully achieved. However, the Strategy has at times been found to be restrictive in terms of its interpretation of good relations and failing to include other Section 75 groups such as the disabled. There is further progress to be made and a need to ensure that the Strategy continues to work for all communities and to reflect the needs of all in Northern Ireland society, which has seen much change over the last decade. Officials are therefore conducting a review of the T: BUC Strategy⁶ with the aim of developing an understanding of what has worked well and what areas may require improvement.

⁴ The Executive Office. (2019). *Together: Building a United Community Annual Update*. Retrieved from <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/execoffice/tbuc-annual-report-2019-20-condensed-summary-report.pdf>

⁵The Executive Office. (2013). *Together: Building a United Community*. Retrieved from https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/ofmdfm_dev/together-building-a-united-community-strategy.pdf

⁶ Community Relations Council. (2022). *T: BUC Strategy Review*. Retrieved from <https://www.community-relations.org.uk/events/tbuc-strategy-review-workshop-dates-available>

GOOD RELATIONS ACTION PLAN, AUDIT AND STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT 2023

The Executive Office has indicated that District Councils Good relations programme (DCGRP) are an important vehicle for promoting reconciliation and building a united community. It is one of the key means of delivering effective good relations interventions. The significance of the DCGRP is noted in the Together: Building a United Community Strategy which states that the DCGRP ‘is an important link between the high-level strategic priorities outlined through this strategy and delivery of community relations locally.’ This has been reinforced through the Executive’s commitment to the full implementation of the Together: Building a United Community Strategy in the Stormont House, Fresh Start and New Decade, New Approach agreements.⁷

The draft Programme for Government (PfG) contains three outcomes which the good relations Action Plan is expected to contribute to:

- We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other,
- We are a shared, welcoming, and confident society that respects diversity.
- We have created a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest.

The Good Relations Audit, previous Action Plan outcomes, and other sources will identify evidence-based interventions. The Action Plan is expected to lead to positive good relations outcomes for the hard to reach, marginalised and isolated members of the community, and how it will tackle challenging and difficult issues that would benefit from the application of local good relations interventions. TEO will also expect information about how the projects have been designed and planned, how it will recruit participants, and how it will work in partnership with any other group(s).

Key Priorities

District Councils are asked to submit action plans that are structured around making a significant contribution across each of the T:BUC strategic four key priorities. Each individual programme in the Action Plan should contribute to one or more of the four key aims of the T:BUC Strategy:

- Our Children and Young People
- Our Shared Community
- Our Safe Community
- Our Cultural Expression

In addition, the plan is expected to be evidence based, be focused on outcomes, consider value for money, and indicate areas of complementarity and capacity building.

The complementarity of planned projects with work being conducted through other funded schemes or by other organisations, to achieve positive good relations outcomes. This would include, but is not limited to, activity in the wider community plan, PCSPs and other complementary funding schemes e.g., Minority Ethnic Development Fund (MEDF) and where relevant Urban Villages Initiative (a headline action under the T:BUC Strategy). Peace IV The European Commission will expect Peace programmes to complement the policy objectives of Northern Ireland and Ireland. The Executive Office similarly considers that it is vitally important that there is consideration of and detail in the Action Plan specific opportunities to create synergies between Peace IV and the forthcoming Peace Plus Programme and actions to ensure these are delivered.

⁷ Commissioning Letter: Applications For Funding From District Councils For The Executive Office District Council Good Relations Programme 2023-2024 Action Plan

On a separate intervention the T:BUC Trees initiative seeks to provide opportunities for people from all backgrounds to learn more about the environment in a shared good relations context. All Councils have held T:BUC Trees events in 2022/23 and TEO encourages Councils to build on this delivery in 2023/24.

Key Points For Audit And Strategy Development

- Consultation with hard to reach, marginalised and isolated members of the community and those involved in tackling difficult issues.
- Use outcome information and learning from previous action plan.
- Complementarity and links to other funding initiatives. Structure strategy and recommendations based on evidence and T: BUC four key priorities.

Good Relations: A Legislative Context

Good relations was first introduced into law by Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, which requires public authorities to comply with two related yet independent statutory duties. These duties were intended to change the practices of government and public authorities so that equality of opportunity and good relations are central to policy making and service delivery.⁸ The Equality of Opportunity Duty can be found in Section 75(1) of the Act, requiring public authorities in carrying out their functions to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between a total of nine equality categories.⁹ The Good Relations Duty in Section 75(2) states

'Without prejudice to its obligations under subsection (1), a public authority shall in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.'

This duty requires that public authorities consider how their policies affect relationships between people of different religions, political opinion and racial group and involves the consideration of ways in which to promote good relations amongst employees, services users, and others. Public authorities must also be proactive in contributing towards a shared society.¹⁰

The statutory duties introduced in Section 75 make equality and good relations central to the full range of public policy decision-making, referred to as 'mainstreaming'. As noted by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (herein referred to as the Equality Commission), experience in Northern Ireland and elsewhere shows that issues concerning equality and good relations can easily become side-lined in organisations. Focused attention on mainstreaming addresses this problem by requiring all public authorities to engage directly with equality and good relations issues throughout all stages of policy making and service delivery.¹¹

In addition to the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997, as amended, places a statutory duty on local authorities to have due regard to the need to promote good race relations and the Fair Employment and Treatment (Northern Ireland) Order

⁸ Equality Commission for Northern Ireland. (2010). *Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998: A Guide for Public Authorities*. Retrieved from <https://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Employers%20and%20Service%20Providers/S75GuideforPublicAuthoritiesApril2010.pdf>

⁹ Northern Ireland Assembly. (2022). *Draft Good Relations Action Plan 2022-25*. Retrieved from <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/about-the-assembly/corporate-information/secretariat/consultations/equality-consultations-2022/draft-good-relations-action-plan-2022-25-for-public-consultation/>

¹⁰Equality Commission for Northern Ireland. (2008). *Promoting Good Relations: A Summary Guide for Public Authorities*. Retrieved from https://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Employers%20and%20Service%20Providers/Public%20Authorities/Good_Relations_Public-Authorities-Summary_Guide.pdf (Accessed: 30 November 2022).

¹¹ Equality Commission for Northern Ireland. (2010). *Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998: A Guide for Public Authorities*. Retrieved from <https://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Employers%20and%20Service%20Providers/S75GuideforPublicAuthoritiesApril2010.pdf>

1998, as amended, prohibits discrimination on the ground of race, religious belief, or political opinion. Additionally, the Fair Employment Code of Practice provides guidance for employers regarding their responsibility for ensuring equality of opportunity.¹²

A Working Definition of ‘Good Relations’

It is noted that ‘good relations’ is not defined in legislation. The Equality Commission has therefore developed the following working definition:

*The growth of relationships and structures for Northern Ireland that acknowledge the religious, political, and racial context of this society, and that seek to promote respect, equity, and trust, and embrace diversity in all its forms.*¹³

Promoting good relations may involve proactive steps to challenge issues such as sectarianism and racism, which not only requires monitoring and swift action but also education and training in an effort to promote understanding and change misconceptions. It may also mean the promotion of good relations and engagement both within and between communities in order to try to change not only behaviours but hearts and minds also. Issues involved may range from the display of flags and emblems to the creation of a safe, shared space.

The government’s vision for good relations work can be found in *A Shared Future: Policy and Strategic Framework for Good Relations in Northern Ireland* (2005), which is complemented by the Northern Ireland Racial Equality Strategy 2015-25. Both documents detail policy objective, priority areas and identify specific actions for both government departments and non-departmental public bodies to take.¹⁴

¹² Equality Commission for Northern Ireland. (2008). *Promoting Good Relations: A Summary Guide for Public Authorities*. Retrieved from https://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Employers%20and%20Service%20Providers/Public%20Authorities/Good_Relations_Public-Authorities-Summary_Guide.pdf.

¹³ Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister. (2005). *A Shared Future: Policy and Strategic Framework for Good Relations in Northern Ireland*. Retrieved from <https://www.niacro.co.uk/sites/default/files/publications/A%20Shared%20Future-%20OFMDFM-Mar%202005.pdf>

¹⁴ Equality Commission for Northern Ireland. (2008). *Promoting Good Relations: A Summary Guide for Public Authorities*. Retrieved from https://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Employers%20and%20Service%20Providers/Public%20Authorities/Good_Relations_Public-Authorities-Summary_Guide.pdf

NORTHERN IRELAND GOOD RELATIONS INDICATORS 2020 REPORT

The Good Relations Indicators Report¹⁵ produced by the Executive Office and NISRA, monitors changes in opinions and attitudes in the four priority areas of the T: BUC Strategy: our children and young people; our shared community; our safe community; and our cultural expression. The latest Northern Ireland Good Relations Indicators Report from 2020, provides some of the following key insights into good relations in Northern Ireland as a whole.

Our Children and Young People

- Forty percent of adults in 2020 and 44% of young people in 2019¹⁶ thought that relations between Protestants and Catholics are better now than they were five years ago. This was a significant decrease of 1% on the 2019 figure and 4% on the 2018 figure for adults, with no significant change in the response from young people.
- Fifty-four percent of young people had ‘done projects’ with pupils from other schools where the pupils were from a different religious background, 52% had ‘shared classes’ and 25% had ‘shared sports facilities or equipment’ with pupils from other schools where the pupils were from a different religious background. These figures represent almost no change with 2019.
- Thirty-five percent of adults think that relations between Protestants and Catholics will be better in five years’ time. This is significant increase of seven percentage points.
- Sixty-three percent of young people in 2019 responded that they feel favourable towards people from Catholic communities; 57% towards people from Protestant communities; and 55% towards people from Minority Ethnic communities. This is significantly lower than the proportion of adults in 2020 who feel favourable towards people from: Catholic communities, 70%; Protestant communities, 69%; and Minority Ethnic communities, 61%. There has been an overall decrease since 2014 in the proportion of adult respondents who feel favourable towards Catholic and Protestant communities (in 2014, each at 84%).
- Sixty-six percent of young people ‘very often’ or ‘sometimes’ socialise or play sport with people from a different religious community. A significantly lower proportion of Catholic young people report this (60%) than Protestant young people (69%) or young people with no religion (70%). There is no significant difference in the proportions of young male people and young female people who report this.

Our Shared Community

- Ninety-one percent of those questioned thought that leisure centres and parks in their area were ‘shared and open’ to both Catholics and Protestants. Ninety-six percent of respondents also thought this about libraries and shopping centres.
- Eighty-nine percent of respondents said that they would prefer a mixed religion workplace, 79% a mixed religion neighbourhood and 69% (in 2019, 61% prefer) mixed religion schools.
- However, since 2019 there have been significant shifts. Since 2019, there has been a significant increase in the proportion of adults who think Catholics and Protestant tend to go to different local shops or use different GP surgeries and other services in their area (35 percentage points, from 23% in 2019 to 58% in 2020) and there was a

¹⁵ Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. (2020). *Northern Ireland Good Relations Indicators 2020 Report*. Retrieved from <https://datavis.nisra.gov.uk/executiveofficeni/ni-good-relations-2020-report.html>

¹⁶ Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. (2019). Northern Ireland Good Relations Indicators 2019 Report. Retrieved from <https://datavis.nisra.gov.uk/executiveofficeni/ni-good-relations-indicators-2019-report.html#>

significant decrease in the proportion of adults who think this does not happen (33 percentage points, from 63% in 2019 to 30% in 2020).

- Since 2013, there has been a significant overall increase in the proportion who think this happens either a little or a lot (34% in 2013; 58% in 2020).
- Since 2019, there has been no significant change in the proportion of those with children at school who think that their child's school is somewhere they can be open about their cultural identity (86% in 2020),
- In the last available year, 63% of schools were involved in shared education with another school in the last academic year. Of those schools who were involved in shared education with another school in the last academic year; 80% had participated in projects; 63% shared resources; 54% have shared classes which are provided other than through the entitlement framework; 37% have shared extra-curricular activities; 33% have shared classes under the entitlement framework; 31% of schools have developed shared policies; 25% shared teachers; 25% share equipment; and 20% have shared education in 'other' ways.¹⁷
- Preference for mixed religion neighbourhoods among all adult respondents is currently 79%. This is significantly lower than the proportion of all adult respondents who prefer to work in a mixed religion workplace (89%). A significantly lower proportion of all adult respondents would prefer to send their children to a mixed religion school (69%) than live in a mixed religion neighbourhood or work in a mixed religion workplace. A significantly higher proportion of those with no religion (78%) would prefer mixed religion schools when compared with Catholic respondents (62%) and Protestant respondents (66%).
- The analysis of first preference applications and admission data indicates that there is an increasing over-subscription to popular post-primary integrated schools.¹⁸

Our Safe Community

- In 2020/21 718 racially motivated, and 674 sectarian hate crimes were recorded. All other categories of hate crimes when combined accounted for 21% of hate crimes. It should be noted that increases or decreases in the number of crimes may be attributed to changes in reporting; detection; or confidence in the police. Declining numbers of households have been reporting to the NIHE as homeless due to intimidation. Paramilitary intimidation exceeds all other causes over fivefold.
- In 2020 there was a significant number of adults who were annoyed or intimidated by murals, kerb-painting, or flags in the past year. Since 2019 there has been a significant increase in the proportion of adults who felt annoyed by loyalist murals (20 percentage points, from 30% in 2019 to 50% in 2020) and there was also a significant increase in the proportion of adults who felt annoyed by republican murals (18 percentage points, from 25% in 2019 to 43% in 2020). There have been similar increases when considering those intimidated by murals: 20 percentage points, from 14% in 2019 to 34% in 2020 for those intimidated by loyalist murals; and 18 percentage points, from 10% in 2019 to 28% in 2020 for those intimidated by republican murals.
- 54% of those questioned said that they saw town centres as safe and welcoming places for people from all walks of life, which was a significant reduction of 9% since 2019 (63%) and 4% since 2018.
- 85% (in 2019, 91%) of respondents said that they would feel 'very', or 'quite' safe attending events held in a Protestant secondary school and 81% (89% in 2019) to events held in a Catholic secondary school.

¹⁷ School Omnibus Survey 2018. Note: Following the 2016 School Omnibus Survey a decision was taken to move the School Omnibus Survey from an annual survey to a biennial survey.

¹⁸ NI School Census.

- 64% of respondents said that they would feel safe attending events held in a GAA club and 60% to events held in an Orange Hall. This compares to 70% and 66% respectively in 2019.
- Feelings of safety have significantly decreased since 2013 by six percentage points in GAA Clubs (70% in 2013; 64% in 2020), by four percentage points in Protestant secondary schools (89% in 2013; 85% in 2020) and by 6 percentage points in Catholic Schools (87% in 2013; 81% in 2020). However, there were no significant changes in feelings of safety in Orange Halls.

Our Cultural Expression

- In 2020 83% of adult respondents feel a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood; and the same proportion feel a sense of belonging to Northern Ireland. A significantly lower proportion of young people in 2019 say the same (72% belonging to their neighbourhood; 69% to Northern Ireland).
- The importance of feeling like they have an influence on decision making is linked to how they feel they belong to their community. In 2020 there were just 24% of adults who feel they have an influence on decisions in their neighbourhood. In 2019 there was a 6% increase to 25%. In terms of decisions made in Northern Ireland decisions, only 18% feel they have an influence. Young people (2019) feel they have even less influence on the decisions made in their neighbourhood (9%) and in Northern Ireland (7%),
- In terms of whether culture and traditions enrich Northern Ireland society, there was a significant decrease in 2020 compared to 2019. Sixty-seven percent of adults think that the culture and traditions of Catholic communities add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society; and 65% think this about Protestant communities. Sixty-six per cent think this about Minority Ethnic communities in 2020, compared to 61% in 2019.
- In 2019 76% of respondents thought that the culture and traditions of Protestant communities added to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society; 73% thought this about Catholic communities.
- Half of adult respondents (50%) feel that their own cultural identity is respected by society. Fifty-seven percent of Catholic respondents feel this, while a significantly lower proportion of Protestant respondents feel the same way (49%). A significantly lower proportion of those with no religion than either Catholics or Protestants think that their own cultural identity is respected by society (44%).
- Since 2019, there has been a significant decrease in the proportion of those who feel their own cultural identity is respected by society (62% in 2019; 50% in 2020).

The report includes a timeline for the indicator 1.1a, the percentage who think that relations between Protestants and Catholics are better now than they were five years ago. This indicates the percentages rise in tandem with community tensions. Since 1990 there has been marked increases and decreases in the number of adults who think that relationships are better than they were in the previous five years.

From the high points of the 1994 ceasefire, 1998 Good Friday agreement in 2007 settled devolution, the number of adults who believe that relationships are better has fallen with the 2012 flag protests, the percentage rose again with the 2015 Fresh Start Agreement, fell with the 2017 Assembly suspension, and have continued to fall since then.

Key Points For Audit And Strategy Development

The indicator that reports on how relations between Protestants and Catholics are perceived indicates that the percentages rise in tandem with community tensions. Overall, the Good Relations Indicators (2020) report indicates that the Good Relations audit, Strategy and Plan could usefully consider the issues reported in terms of :

Children and Young People

- Young people feel less favourable towards people of another group than adults and that they have less influence on decision making.
- Schools remain places where young people can be open about their cultural identity. There continue to be significant outcomes in terms of numbers of young people who have ‘done projects’ with pupils from other schools, ‘done projects’ or ‘shared sports facilities or equipment’ with pupils from other schools where the pupils were from a different religious background. Young people ‘very often’ or ‘sometimes’ socialise or play sport with people from a different religious community. Consequently, these are opportunities for good relations interventions.

Shared Community

- Libraries, shopping centres, leisure centres and parks in their area were perceived to be ‘shared and open’ to both Catholics and Protestants and consequently represent significant opportunities for good relations interventions. This also draws attention to the sporting, cultural and community venues that could become more open.
- Shared space remains a goal as evidenced by the increased recognition by Catholics and Protestants (and more so by those of no religion) that shops, facilities, and services are not wholly shared.

Safe Community

- The trend while stable is that adults and young people feel less safe in town centres and in attending events in schools, cultural and sporting centres. Good relations interventions could support communities to increase their welcome.
- Flags, kerb-painting and murals loyalist and republican remain sensitive and in 2020 there was a significant increase in the region of 18-20 percentage points in the number of adults who were annoyed or intimidated by murals, kerb-painting, or flags.
- Numbers of reported racially motivated and sectarian hate crime follow a reducing trend, however, they have risen in 2020/21. Homophobic hate crime continues to rise year on year.

Cultural Expression

- The sense of belonging to neighbourhood while decreasing remains high at over 70-85%. For people to feel they belong to their community, the report links this to the importance of feeling that they have an influence in decision-making in their neighbourhood. Therefore, it is significant that the percentages who feel they are influenced are remarkably low. Only 24% of adults and 9% of young people felt had had such influence on decisions made in the neighbourhood, or Northern Ireland.
- Cultural expressions continue to annoy adults, who also think that their own cultural identity is not respected.
- The percentage who feel that their cultural identity is respected is 50% - down twelve percentage points from 2019.

- Those who think In terms of whether culture and traditions of Catholic and Protestant communities add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society, there was a significant decrease in 2020 compared to 2019 of 6-11 percentage points.
- Sixty-six per cent think this about Minority Ethnic communities in 2020, compared to 61% in 2019.

FLAGS, IDENTITY, CULTURE AND TRADITION REPORT

This report, published in December 2021, contains the findings and recommendations of the Commission on Flags, Identity, Culture and Tradition.¹⁹

Within the report it is noted by the Commission that Section 75(2) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 contains no definition of the term 'good relations'. However, Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, which does not extend to Northern Ireland, imposes a duty that commits public bodies to:

- a) Tackle prejudice.
- b) Promote understanding, and
- c) Fostering good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Section 149(5) states:

"Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves have due regard, in particular, to the need to –

- a) *Tackle prejudice, and*
- b) *Promote understanding"*

The protected characteristics referred to in the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

It is also noted that equality and good relations are interdependent of each other, and both are essential in building a shared, peaceful, and equal society.

Within this section of the report, the following recommendations are made:

- The NI Human Rights commission, Equality Commission and other appropriate agencies and NGOs continue to work on the development of a culture of rights within our society. Awareness of rights related issues should also be encouraged through the education system.
- The Human Rights Commission and the Equality Commission bring forward recommendations to the Executive for publicly funded measures to assist the development of capacity within groups who have not previously availed of a rights-based framework.
- The legal duty of good relations should be clearly defined in law.
- The delivery of good relations interventions has reductions of sectarian and race hate incidents as key outcomes.

It is noted that the following challenges remain:

- The Commission discussed how to measure Equity, Diversity, and Interdependence (EDI) within our society. However, the model of assessing EDI through respect, recognition, representation, and resources was not one that the Commission could reach consensus on.
- Two proposals related to reflection on policy outcomes in terms of the cultural identity of all minorities and the auditing of public authorities for good relations were also discussed but could not be agreed upon.

¹⁹ The Executive Office. (2021). *Commission on Flags, Identity Culture and Tradition: Final Report*. Retrieved from <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/execoffice/commission-on-fict-final-report.pdf>

The Commission also commented on the approach to cultural rights taken in the New Decade, New Approach. The document contains details of a new Office of Identity and Cultural Expression as the central point for giving effect to new legislation. The Office would be responsible for ensuring that society and all public bodies uphold the need to respect the freedom of all people in Northern Ireland to choose their own national and cultural identity, and also for the need to promote reconciliation, tolerance, and meaningful dialogue amongst those from different national and cultural identities.

In addition, the following points are of particular relevance to good relations work at Local Council Level:

- In looking at the importance of leadership for a shared society. The commission considered the challenges of reducing the fear, distrust and disrespect often associated with public expressions of cultural identity and of developing a culture of lawfulness and the role of public leaders, civic leaders and the role of public agencies.
- In terms of shared space, it was noted that in improving social cohesion and good relations the objective of public authorities is to create a space that fosters engagement, interaction, and relationships. The interface between shared space and good relations is therefore about the right to access areas, and the opportunity to experience the space together with other members of our diverse society.
- The Commission acknowledged that there is evidence of the positive impact that band culture, drama, performance arts, festivals and public art institutions have in promoting good relations with and between communities. The impact can be both social and economic.
- The flying of flags by local government is left to the discretion of each local authority. Developing or reviewing a policy on the flying of the Union Flag requires councils to consider their policy aims, objectives, rationale. Such policies must not cause unlawful discrimination or harassment, unintentionally or indirectly through the effects or impacts of the policy. While the policy aims and objective must be legitimate, the policy is a matter for each Council to decide for itself. In reaching an outcome on any review of the policy, a Council must comply with its Section 75 duties, namely, to “have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity and have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations”.

Key Points For Audit And Strategy Development

- The delivery of good relations interventions has reductions of sectarian and race hate incidents as key outcomes.
- The report points to the importance of civic leadership for a shared society in meeting the challenges of reducing the fear, distrust and disrespect often associated with public expressions of cultural identity and of developing a culture of lawfulness.
- Through improving Shared space and social cohesion the objective is to create a space that fosters engagement, interaction, and relationships.
- Shared space and good relations is about both the right to access areas and to experience the space together with other members of our diverse society.
- There is evidence of the positive impact that band culture, drama, performance arts, festivals and public art institutions have in promoting good relations with and between communities.
- While flag protocols are left to each local council the flying of union flags is subject to section 75.

RACIAL EQUALITY STRATEGY 2015-25

The Racial Equality Strategy 2015-2025²⁰ establishes a framework for action by government departments and others:

- To tackle racial inequalities and to open up opportunities for all.
- To eradicate racism and hate crime; and
- Along with Together: Building a United Community policy, to promote good race relations and social cohesion.

Within the Strategy, it is emphasised that the policy approach taken is intended to be one of ‘interculturalism’ rather than ‘multiculturalism’, where ‘*we have pride in our particular identity or identities, but also where people have intercultural education which gives them the competence and confidence to relate to people who are different to themselves and see others as an opportunity to learn and develop, rather than a threat*’.

An important element of this vision must be for open communities in which people live within shared spaces, which “... does not mean creating environments where groups lose their culture or heritage but rather seeking to avoid segregated environments and promoting good relations”.

It is noted that the Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997, as amended, places a statutory duty on district councils to make appropriate arrangements with a view to ensuring that their various functions are conducted with due regard to the need to:

- a) Eliminate unlawful racial discrimination; and
- b) Promote equality of opportunity, and good relations, between persons of different racial groups.

In 2009, the Order was amended to extend the definition of indirect discrimination to include those who would be put at a disadvantage by a discriminatory provision or practice. Despite a further amendment in 2012 in respect of seafarers, occasion was not found to rectify the anomaly that the 2003 Regulations did not extend to cover colour and nationality, which were covered by the original Order. Since the Equality Act 2010 was introduced in England, Scotland and Wales, a significant gap has developed between protections offered in Great Britain and those available in Northern Ireland, which the UN Committee on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination has highlighted.

The Strategy identified four main manifestations of racism:

1. Racist harassment (including assaults, racist graffiti, threatening behaviour and incitement).
2. Discrimination.
3. Stereotyping; and
4. Institutional (or systemic) racism.

²⁰ The Executive Office. (2015). *Racial Equality Strategy 2015-2025*. Retrieved from <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/ofmdfm/racial-equality-strategy-2015-2025.pdf>

Shared Aims

- Elimination of Racial Inequality: To eliminate racial inequality and promote equality of opportunity in all aspects of economic, social, cultural, political, and public life, for people of different ethnic backgrounds.
- Combatting Racism and Hate Crime: To combat racism and race hate and to provide effective protection against all manifestations of racism and racist crime. To provide redress and to have a victim-centred approach.
- Equality of Service Provision: To ensure that people from a minority ethnic background access and benefit equally from all public services.
- Participation: To increase the participation, representation, and sense of “belonging” of people from minority ethnic backgrounds in all aspects of public, political, economic, social, and cultural life.
- Social Cohesion: To strengthen social relations and interaction between people of different faiths and cultural backgrounds, both long standing within Northern Ireland and recent arrivals to these shores.
- Cultural Identity: To safeguard people’s rights to maintain their cultural identity and to pass it on to subsequent generations.

According to the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) on Census Day 2021, 3.4% of the population (65,600) belonged to a minority ethnic group, which is double the 2011 figure (1.8%, 32,400) and four times the 2001 figure (0.8%, 14,300). The least diverse Local Government District in 2021 was the Causeway Coast and Glens (1.4%). It is, however, more diverse than the most diverse Local Government District in 2001 (Belfast, 1.3%).²¹ A robust legislative and policy response is therefore vital to ensuring the building of good relations, safe spaces, and equality of opportunity for all.

Key Points For Audit And Strategy Development

- Based on ‘interculturalism’ the emphasis of good relations interventions would support:
 - pride in our particular identity or identities, and that
 - people have intercultural education which gives them the competence and confidence to relate to people who are different to themselves and see others as an opportunity to gain experience and develop, rather than a threat.

Target good relations actions that would contribute to the RES’s shared aims in terms of:

- Promote equality of opportunity in the social and cultural life.
- Combatting Racism and Hate Crime locally with partners.
- Promote through shared spaces and signposting access to services.
- Increase the participation, representation, and sense of “belonging” of people from minority ethnic backgrounds in all aspects of public, social, and cultural life.
- Strengthen social cohesion.
- Safeguard right to maintain their cultural identity and pass this to subsequent generation as part of cultural expression.

²¹ Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. (2022). *Census 2021: Main Statistics for Northern Ireland. Statistics Bulletin – Ethnic Group*. Retrieved from <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/system/files/statistics/census-2021-main-statistics-for-northern-ireland-phase-1-statistical-bulletin-ethnic-group.pdf>

A LOCAL PERSPECTIVE: CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS

A Challenging Operational Climate

The exit of the UK from the European Union (EU) is the most significant change to the complex political, social, and economic landscape of Northern Ireland since the Good Friday Agreement came into place. Brexit, which was supported by some politicians but rejected by a majority of Northern Irish voters, has reignited tensions and fuelled debate on the future of Northern Ireland. In April 2021, tensions over the fallout from Brexit spilled over into week-long protests amid anger from unionists concerned they are being isolated from the United Kingdom and potentially pushed into a union with the Republic of Ireland due to post-Brexit trade rules.

The NI Protocol allows access to the British market for Northern Irish exporters. However, the controls operating between Great Britain and Northern Ireland are impacting both consumers and businesses. There are challenging, constitutional and political issues to negotiate and unionist tensions are heightened by demographic and societal change as the latest NI Census results highlight that unionists no longer constitute a majority in Northern Ireland.

The recent Northern Ireland Assembly election which has not led to the formation of an Executive or a fully functioning Assembly. The absence of power-sharing institutions means that pressing public policy issues are not being given the focus they require at a time when the cost-of-living crisis is acute.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted greatly on day-to-day life affecting employment, work-life balance, friend and family interactions and health service delivery. It is predicted these changes, along with the threat of infection and effects of the virus itself, will have a major impact on population mental health. Increased isolation, unemployment and financial concerns are known to be associated with an increased risk of poor mental health. The Department for Communities acknowledged the important contributions made by, among other, local council and the community and voluntary sectors.²²

According to research by University of York,²³ 76.3% of families in NI will be battling to make ends meet by January 2023. Local households are dealing with spiralling living costs. Energy bills have increased by hundreds of pounds per year, record levels of inflation are making essentials like food and fuel unaffordable and wages nor social security support have risen sufficiently to cushion the blow. The research predicts a fuel poverty rate of over 70% by January 2023. This means over 1.4 million people will be struggling to afford their energy bills.

As the cost-of-living crisis continues, food banks in Northern Ireland are under increasing demand. Over 61,500 food parcels were given out from April 2021 to March 2022 by the Trussell Trust - almost 170 parcels each day on average and represents a 36% increase compared to the same period in 2019/2020.

Of concern, a survey carried out by the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA) has revealed that voluntary and community organisations across Northern Ireland have faced a detrimental impact upon their ability to provide their core services due to the ongoing Covid-19 crisis.²⁴ Nearly three quarters (73%) of organisations stated that services or activities had been stopped due to Covid-19, with over a quarter (25.3%) only able to deliver between 1-25% of their normal services or activities.

²² COVID-19 Support Achievements Summary. <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/communities/Summary%20of%20the%20Department%20for%20Communities%20COVID-19%20Support%20achievements%20March%202020%20-%20March%202021.pdf>

²³ <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/business/northern-ireland/warning-almost-three-quarters-of-ni-households-in-fuel-poverty-by-next-year-41885934.html>

²⁴ NICVA, (2020). Covid 19 Impact Research

Higher unemployment, poorer health, lower incomes, reduced educational attainment and poor living environments deepen instability and exacerbate division. The UK Peace Index (2013)²⁵ demonstrates a correlation between deprivation and peace: 'By tackling deprivation it is possible to have large impacts on peace'.

Demographics of The 2021 Census

According to the 2021 Census,²⁶ the population of the Causeway Coast and Glens Local Government District is 141,746, of which 71,898 (51%) are female and 69,848 (49%) are male. It is made up of 57,576 households of which the average size is 2.43 residents.

Age

The median age of females in the area is 43 years, whilst the median age of males is 41 years. The table below details a full breakdown of the Causeway Coast and Glens population by age band. (Table 1) The most recent figures indicate that the area has an older population, with 19% aged 65+ years compared to the NI average of 17%.

(Table 1) Age

| Age Band (years) | Number of Residents | Percentage of Overall District Population |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| 0 - 4 | 7,973 | 5.6% |
| 5 - 9 | 8,878 | 6.3% |
| 10 - 14 | 9,113 | 6.4% |
| 15 - 19 | 8,326 | 5.9% |
| 20 - 24 | 7,873 | 5.6% |
| 25 - 29 | 7,713 | 5.4% |
| 30 - 34 | 8,460 | 6% |
| 35 - 39 | 8,528 | 6% |
| 40 - 44 | 8,513 | 6% |
| 45 - 49 | 9,322 | 6.6% |
| 50 - 54 | 10,412 | 7.4% |
| 55 - 59 | 10,150 | 7.2% |
| 60 - 64 | 9,171 | 6.5% |
| 65 - 69 | 7,769 | 5.5% |
| 70 - 74 | 6,990 | 4.9% |
| 75 - 79 | 5,659 | 4% |
| 80 - 84 | 3,718 | 2.6% |
| 85 - 89 | 2,126 | 1.5% |
| 90+ | 1,051 | 0.7% |

The following data from Phase 1 of the main Census 2021 statistics released by NISRA in September 2022 and refers to religion, political opinion, and racial group, all of which fall under the Good Relations Duty of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 S75(2). Almost eighty-eight nine percent of residents in the borough were born in Northern Ireland, 38.5% identify as British only, and 21.5% as Irish only. Identities stretching across the two islands with the varying emphasis accounted for a further 6.9% of resident. (Tables 2-3)

²⁵ Institute for Economics and Peace (2013). UK Peace Index: Exploring the fabric of peace in the UK from 2003 to 2012

²⁶ Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. (2022). *Census 2021 Main Statistics for Northern Ireland (Phase 1)*. Retrieved from <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-for-northern-ireland-phase-1>

(Table 2) Country of Birth

| Country | Number of Residents | Percentage of Overall District Population |
|---|---------------------|---|
| Northern Ireland | 127,171 | 89.7% |
| England | 5,991 | 4.2% |
| Scotland | 1,556 | 1.1% |
| Wales | 234 | 0.2% |
| Republic of Ireland | 1,931 | 1.4% |
| Europe: Other EU Countries | 2,733 | 1.9% |
| Europe: Other Non-EU Countries | 149 | 0.1% |
| Africa | 384 | 0.3% |
| Middle East and Asia | 825 | 0.6% |
| North America, Central America, and Caribbean | 499 | 0.4% |
| South America | 55 | 0.04% |
| Antarctica, Oceania and Other | 219 | 0.2% |

(Table 3) National Identity

| Identity Group | Number of Residents | Percentage of Total Population |
|--|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| British only | 54,379 | 38.4% |
| Irish only | 30,486 | 21.5% |
| Northern Irish only | 32,689 | 23.1% |
| British and Irish only | 872 | 0.6% |
| British and Northern Irish only | 12,301 | 8.7% |
| Irish and Northern Irish only | 2,158 | 1.5% |
| British, Irish and Northern Irish only | 2,117 | 1.5% |
| Other | 6,744 | 4.8% |

Language

In the Causeway Coast and Glens, 98% (134,147) stated that English is their main language with a further 1.1% (1,524) responding that their main language is Polish. All other options were selected by less than 1% of the population. It is notable that 10% said that they have some ability in Irish and 19% some ability in Ulster Scots. (Table 4)

(Table 4) Ethnic Group

| Ethnic Group | Number of Residents | Total Percentage of Population |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| White | 139,696 | 98.6% |
| Irish Traveller | 42 | 0.03% |
| Roma | 15 | 0.01% |
| Indian | 208 | 0.2% |
| Chinese | 313 | 0.2% |
| Filipino | 139 | 0.1% |
| Pakistani | 41 | 0.03% |
| Arab | 44 | 0.03% |
| Other Asian | 148 | 0.1% |
| Black African | 176 | 0.1% |
| Black Other | 53 | 0.04% |
| Mixed | 721 | 0.5% |
| Other Ethnicities | 150 | 0.1% |

Religion

On Census Day 2021, 46% of the NI population identified as Catholic (n869,753) and 43% identified as Protestant (n827,545). Within Causeway Coast and Glens, 40% of residents stated they had been brought up in the Catholic religion (n 56,862) and 51% in the Protestant and other Christian religion (n72,530).

Causeway Coast and Glens is following the wider NI trend, whereby fewer people identify with the Protestant religion compared to the previous census (n72,530; -4%). Similarly, an increasing proportion state they have no religion (n11,252; +4%).²⁷

(Table 5) Population by DEA Mid-Year 2020 Population Estimates

| DEA | Mid-Year Population Estimates | % of CCG Population |
|--------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Ballymoney | 25,170 | 17 |
| Bann | 17,730 | 12 |
| Benbradagh | 18,280 | 13 |
| Causeway | 25,110 | 17 |
| Coleraine | 24,540 | 17 |
| Limavady | 16,480 | 11 |
| The Glens | 17,630 | 12 |
| Total | 144,940 | 100 |

Although the estimated population of the Borough was expected to remain stable, the Benbradagh (+6%), Ballymoney (+4%) and Coleraine (+4%) DEAs were estimated to experience the greatest proportional increases in population between 2011 and 2020. Causeway and Limavady were estimated to increase the least.

²⁷ NISRA, (2022). Census 2021, MS-B01: Ethnic group

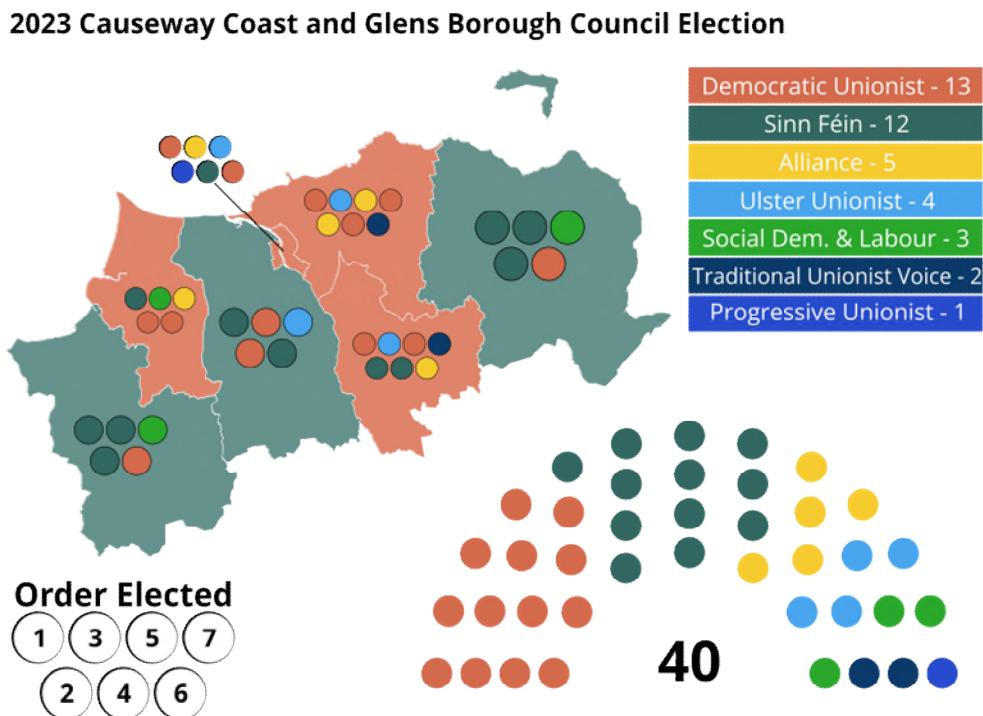
Electoral Representation

At the time of carrying out the audit the electoral representation of each political party is represented in Table 6 under 2023. The table also shows the electorate since the May 23 elections. Figure 1 illustrating their respective electoral strengths in each of the 7 DEAs. While each DEA in 2019 included councillors representing nationalist and unionist political parties, The Glens and Benbradagh DEAS have a nationalist-orientated majority, the other four DEA, Limavady, Bann, Causeway, and Ballymoney have a unionist orientated majority of representation.

(Table 6) Elected Representation of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, 2023²⁸

| Political Party | Seats | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | After 2023 Election | 2023 | 2019 |
| Sinn Féin | 12 | 9 | 9 |
| SDLP | 3 | 4 | 6 |
| DUP | 13 | 13 | 14 |
| UUP | 4 | 6 | 7 |
| Alliance | 5 | 2 | 2 |
| PUP | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Independent | 0 | 5 | 1 |
| TUV | 2 | | |
| Total | 40 | 40 | 40 |

Figure 1



Cultural Expression

In 2022 six communities in Causeway Coast and Glens have chosen to celebrate the 11 July with Beacons (i.e., Cloughmills, Mossside, Ballybogey, Maccosquin, Windyhall and Finvoy). A

²⁸ <https://www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/council/councillors>

further fifteen communities in Coleraine (n5), in Ballymoney (n7) and Limavady (n3) celebrate with traditional bonfires.

There are three bands forum that geographically represent different bands in the area - East Londonderry Bands Forum, North Antrim Bands Forum, and Limavady Bands Forum. Data from The Parades Commission indicates that during 2021/22, 290 notifications were received for parades and protests within the Council area, compared to 134 during 2020/21 (+116%).²⁹ (Table 8)

Table 8 Notifications and determinations based in Causeway Coast and Glens made to The Parades Commission, 2021/22 and 2020/21

| Causeway Coast and Glens | 2021/22 | 2020/21 |
|--|------------|------------|
| Total Notifications | 290 | 134 |
| Protestant/Unionist/Loyalist notifications | 222 | 100 |
| Catholic/Republican/Nationalist notifications | 4 | 0 |
| Other notifications | 62 | 34 |
| Total notifications considered sensitive | 12 | 4 |
| Protestant/Unionist/Loyalist sensitive | 12 | 4 |
| Catholic/Republican/Nationalist sensitive | 0 | 0 |
| Other sensitive | 0 | 0 |
| Number of parades or parade-related protests on which conditions were imposed | 12 | 4 |
| Protestant/Unionist/Loyalist conditions | 12 | 4 |
| Catholic/Republican/Nationalist conditions | 0 | 0 |
| Other conditions | 0 | 0 |

Key Points For Audit And Strategy Development

Population

- Older population than NI average.
- Almost 90% of the population was born in Northern Ireland.
- In terms of identity, almost 39% consider themselves British only, and just over 21% consider themselves Irish only. Nearly 7% express their identity in terms of a combination of British/ Irish/ Northern Irish. The identity of almost 5% is reported as other.
- English is the main language of 98%, Polish accounts for 1.1%.
- Ten per cent said that they have some ability in Irish and 19% some ability in Ulster Scots.
- Population is nearly 99% white (139,696 people).
- Forty percent of residents stated they had been brought up in the Catholic religion (n 56,862) and 51% in the Protestant and other Christian religion (n72,530).
- Four percent fewer people identified as Protestant or no religion (total 8% less) in 2021 compared to 2011.

Representation of the seven DEAs

The electoral areas with a nationalist orientated majority and the respective populations are:

- The Glens n17,630 or 12%, and Benbradagh n18,280 or 13%.

²⁹ Freedom of Information Request

The electoral areas with a unionist-orientated majority and the respective populations are:

- Limavady n16,480 or 11%, Bann n17,730 or 12%, Causeway n25,110 or 17%,
Ballymoney 25,170 or 17%, and Coleraine n24,540 or 17%.

Cultural expression

Twelve parades or parade related protest in 2021/22 had conditions imposed upon them from a total of 290 notifications to the Parades Commission.

LOCAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK

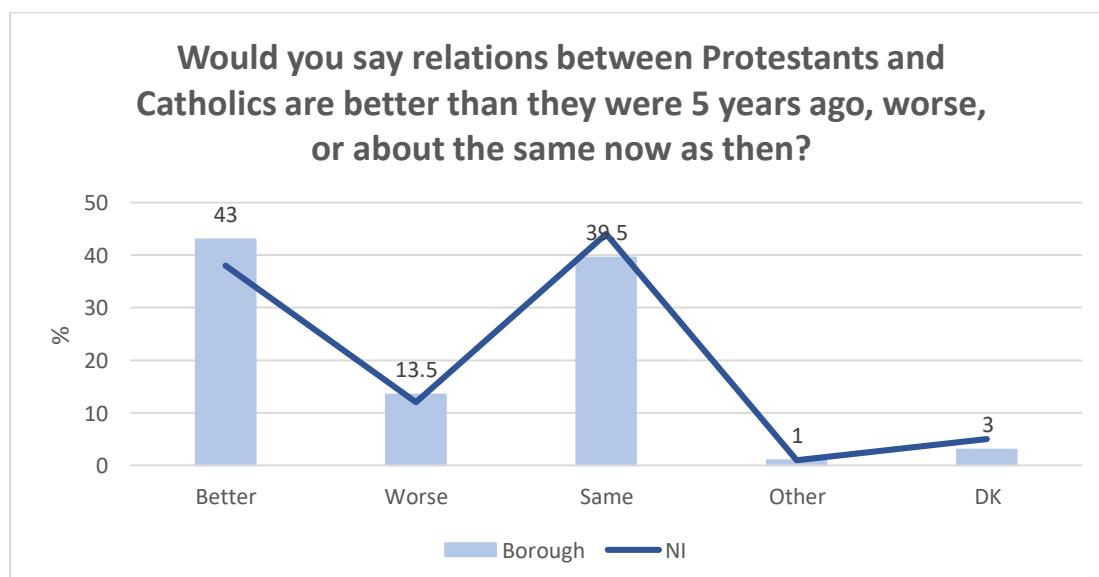
This section reviews the attitudes to good relations in the Borough. This concludes with a summary of the key points for audit and strategy development. The numbers of crimes and incidents relevant to community safety and the presence or absence of violence is detailed and key points are summarised. The principal strategies and initiatives relevant to the production of a Good Relations Audit and Strategy that will guide good relations work in Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council. principal strategies, are reviewed and the key points for audit and strategy development detailed include the Equality Action Plan, the Community Plan, the Community Development Strategy and the existing Good Relations Audit and Strategy. The relevance of PEACE PLUS is considered in the next section.

Attitudes to Good Relations Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Area

Since 1998, Northern Ireland Life and Times survey (NILT) has recorded the attitudes, values, and beliefs of local adults to a wide range of social policy issues. The following data is compiled from the NILT 2019-21 dataset which is broken down at District Council level to compare attitudes in the Borough against the NI average.³⁰

Respondents from Causeway Coast and Glens were more likely to say that relationships between Protestants and Catholics had improved over the last 5 years (43%), compared to the NI average (38%). They were also more likely to think relations between Protestants and Catholics will be better in 5 years' time than now (40%) compared to the NI average (32%).

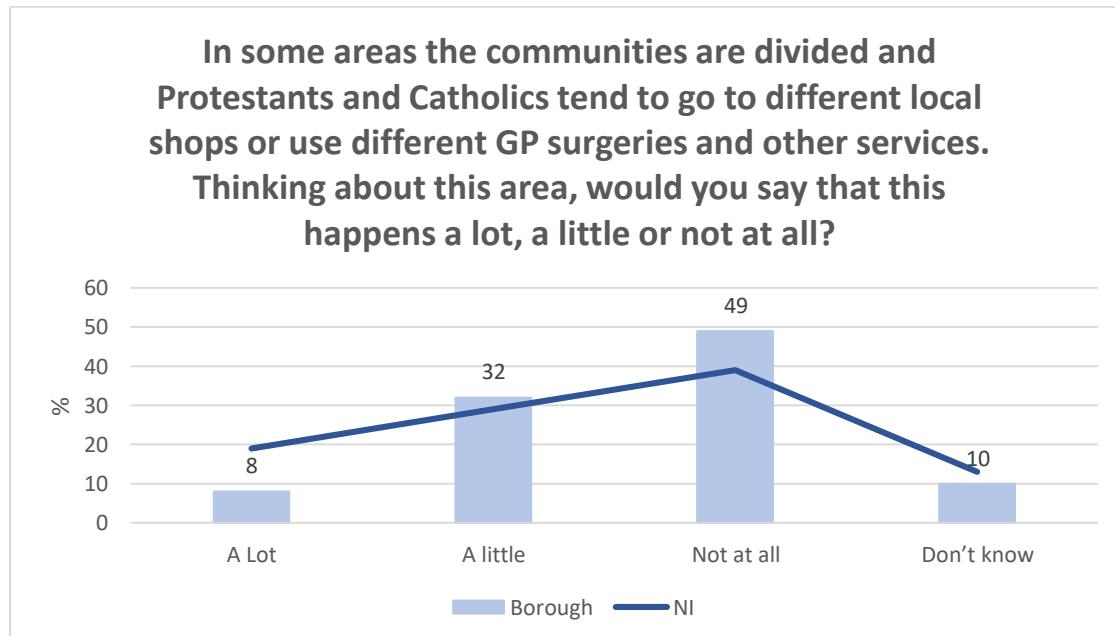
Figure 2 Perceptions of Relationships between Protestants and Catholics



³⁰ Causeway Coast and Glens Socio Economic Profile: A Thriving Community, 2022, Dr Joanne Wallace.

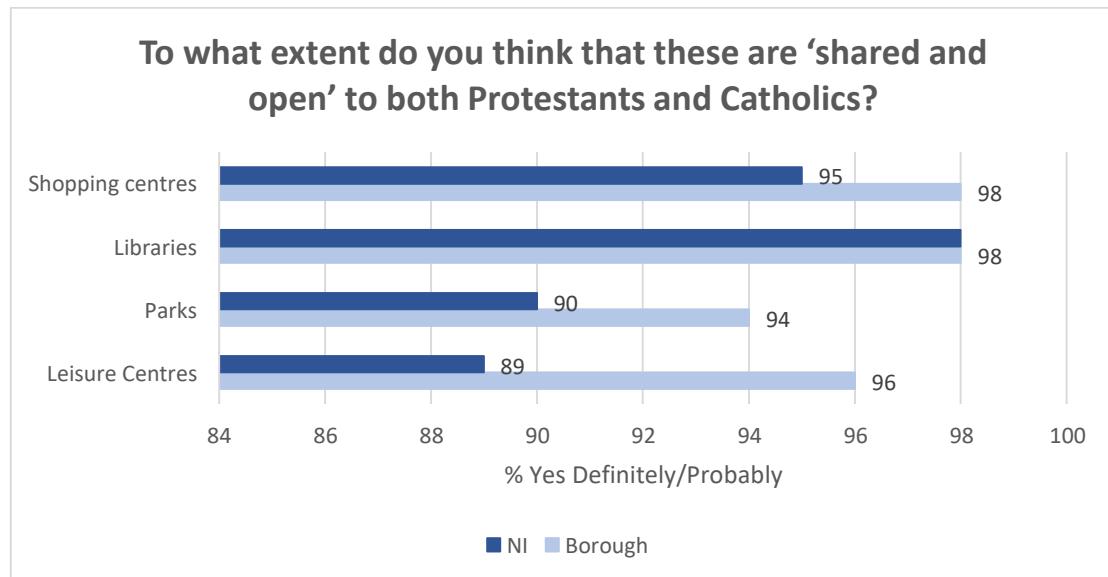
Respondents from the Borough were less likely to think that divisions between Protestants and Catholics were reflected in their use of different shops and services were used (A little/lot 40%) compared to the rest of NI (A little/lot 48%).

Figure 3 Use of Essential Services by Catholics and Protestants



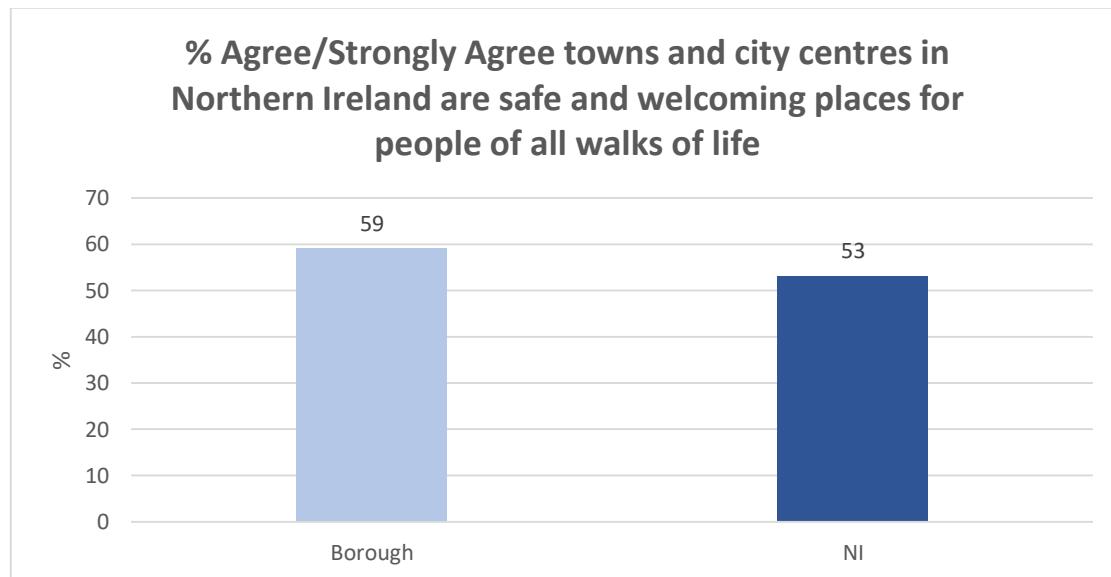
Respondents living in the Borough were more likely to believe that facilities were shared by both Protestants and Catholics compared to the NI average. A lower proportion felt that parks were shared, however the percentage remained high at 94% compared to 90% in NI.

Figure 4 Proportion Agree Facilities are Shared by Catholics and Protestants



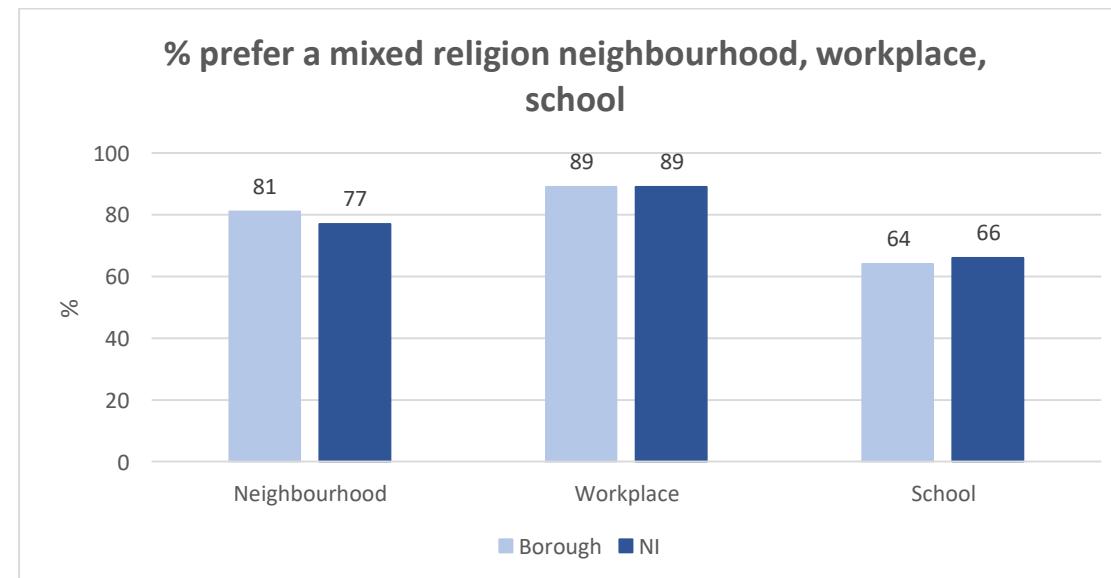
Fifty-nine percent of respondents from Causeway Coast and Glens believed that towns and city centres in NI are safe and welcoming, compared to the NI average of 53%.

Figure 5 Proportion Agree/Strongly Agree Towns and City Centres are Safe and Welcoming



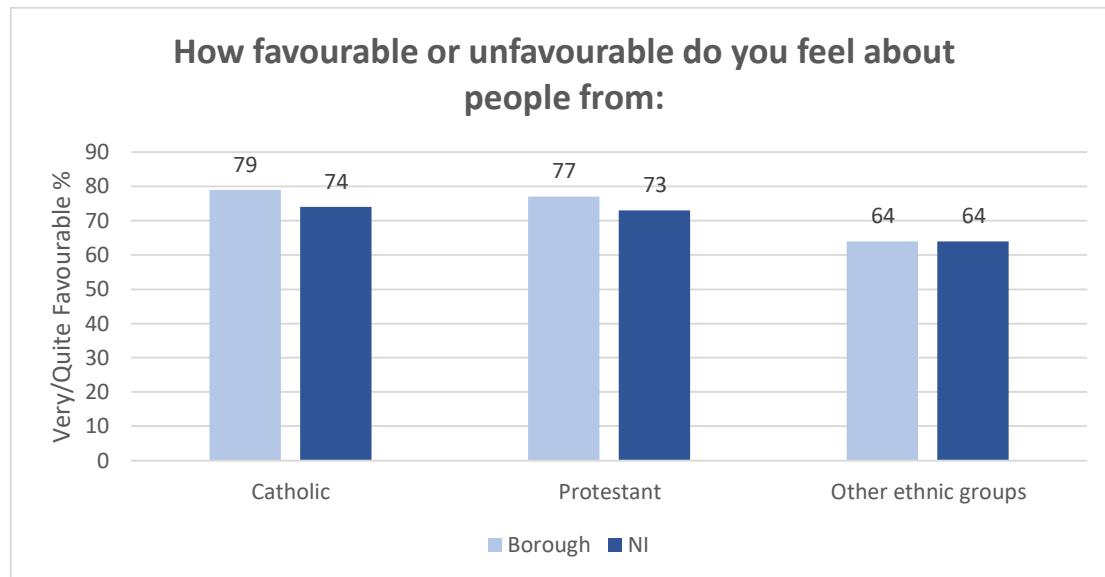
Respondents from the Borough are more supportive of mixed religion workplaces (89%), than mixed religion neighbourhood (81%) or schools (64%). The preference for mixed schooling was lower than the NI average of 66%.

Figure 6 Preference for Integrated Workplaces, Neighbourhoods and Schools



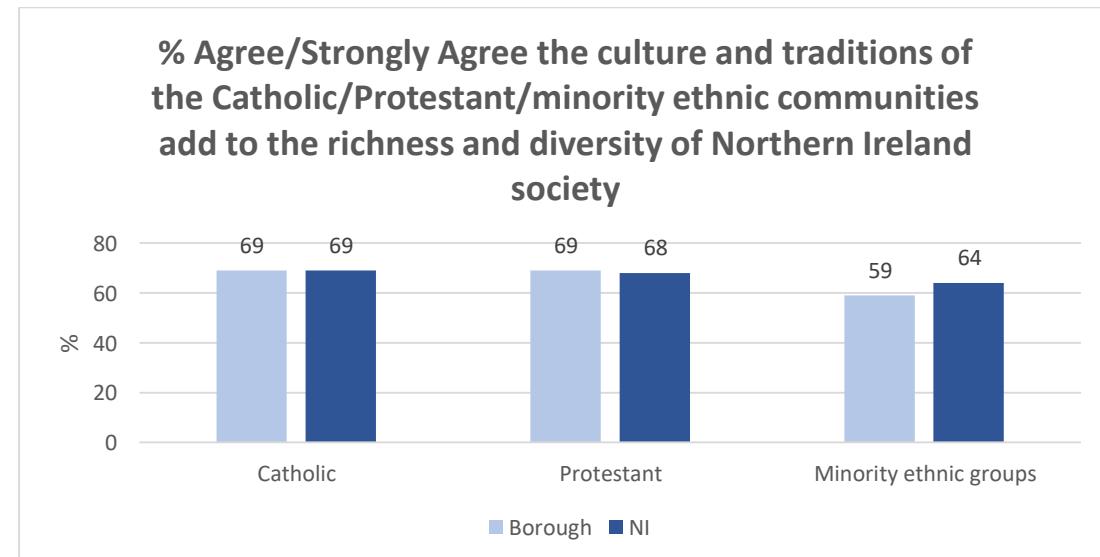
Aligned to the rest of NI, Causeway Coast and Glens respondents stated they were comparatively less favourable towards people from another ethnic group (64%) in comparison to Protestants (77%) and Catholics (79%).

Figure 7 Favourability towards Protestants, Catholics, and Minority Ethnic Groups



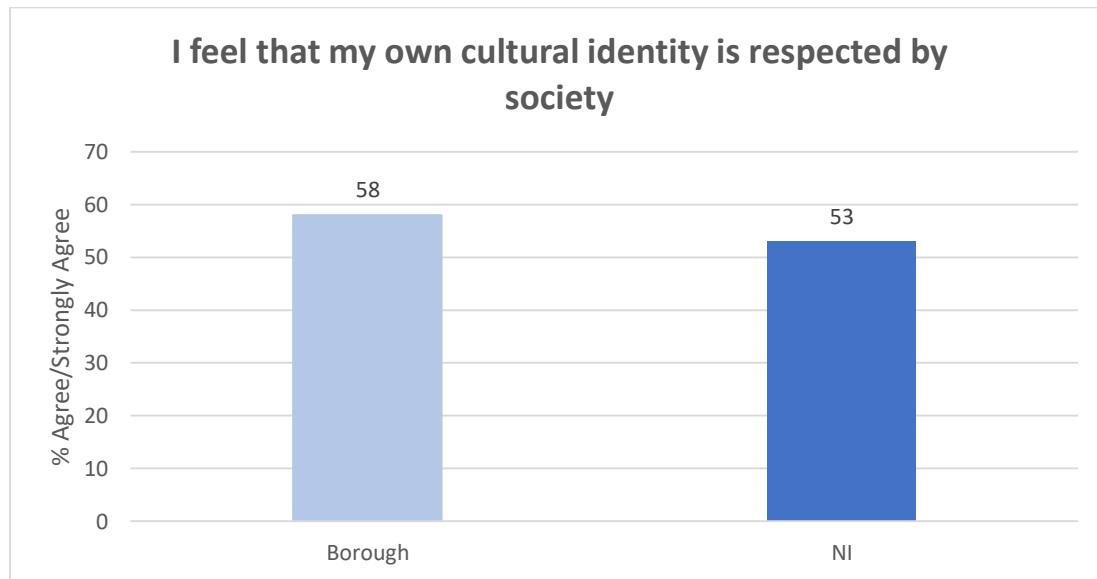
Similarly, Causeway Coast and Glens respondents were less likely to believe the culture and traditions from minority ethnic communities (59%) added to the richness of NI society, in comparison to the NI average of 64%.

Figure 8 Favourability towards Protestants, Catholics, and Minority Ethnic Groups



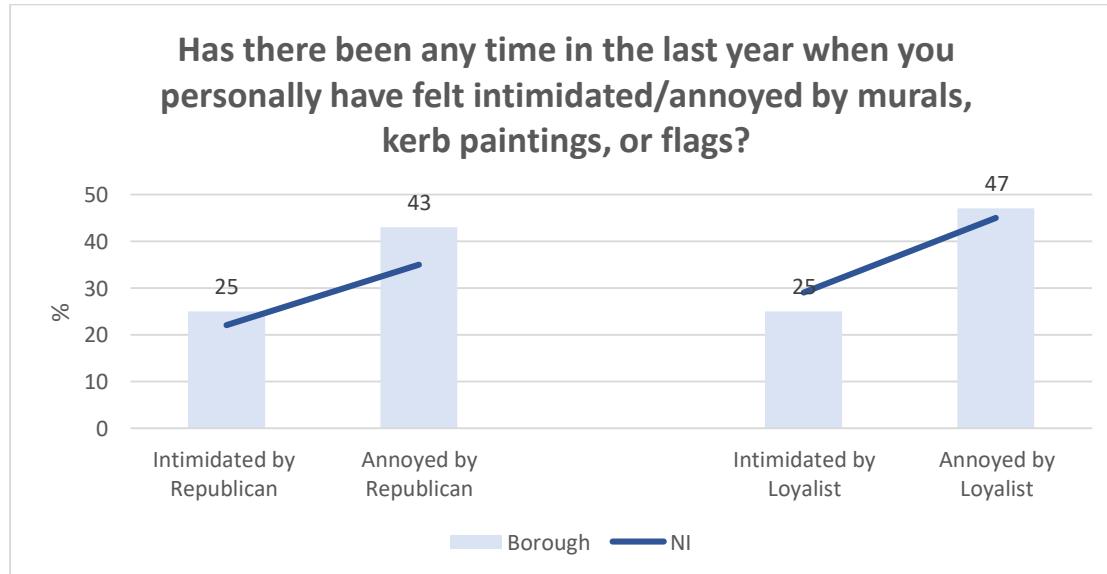
Causeway Coast and Glens respondents were more likely to feel that their cultural identity is respected by society (58%) compared to the NI average of 53%.

Figure 9 Proportion Believe Own Cultural Identity is Respected



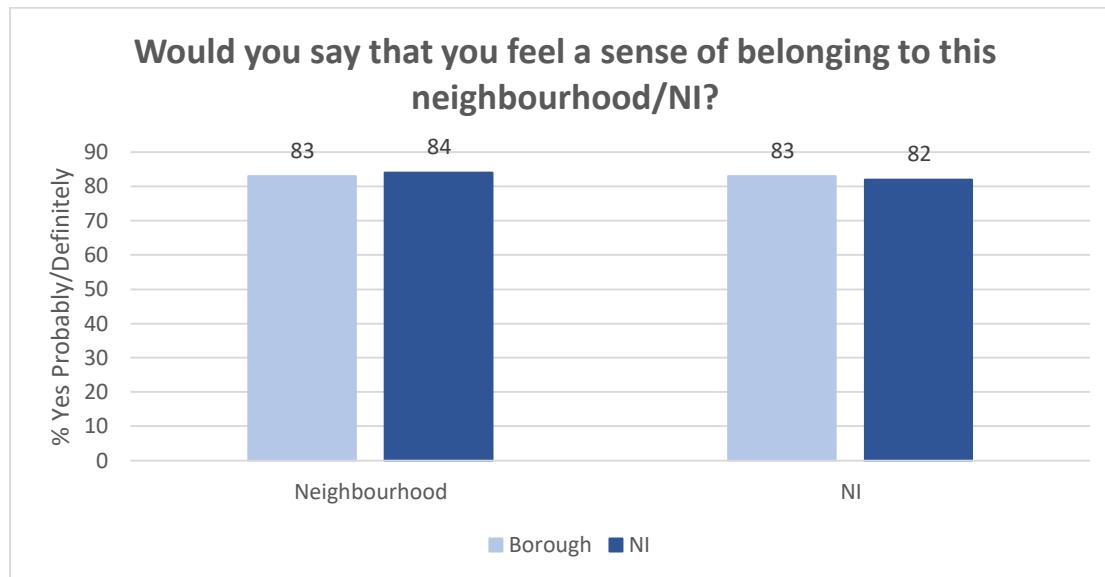
Respondents in the Borough and in NI as a whole, are more likely to feel annoyed, rather than intimidated by Loyalist and Republican murals, kerb painting and flags.

Figure 10 Levels of Intimidation/Annoyance towards Murals, Kerb-painting, and Flags



Eighty-three percent of respondents from the Borough stated they felt a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood, slightly lower than the respective NI average. Sense of belonging to NI was slightly higher than the NI average (83% and 82% respectively).

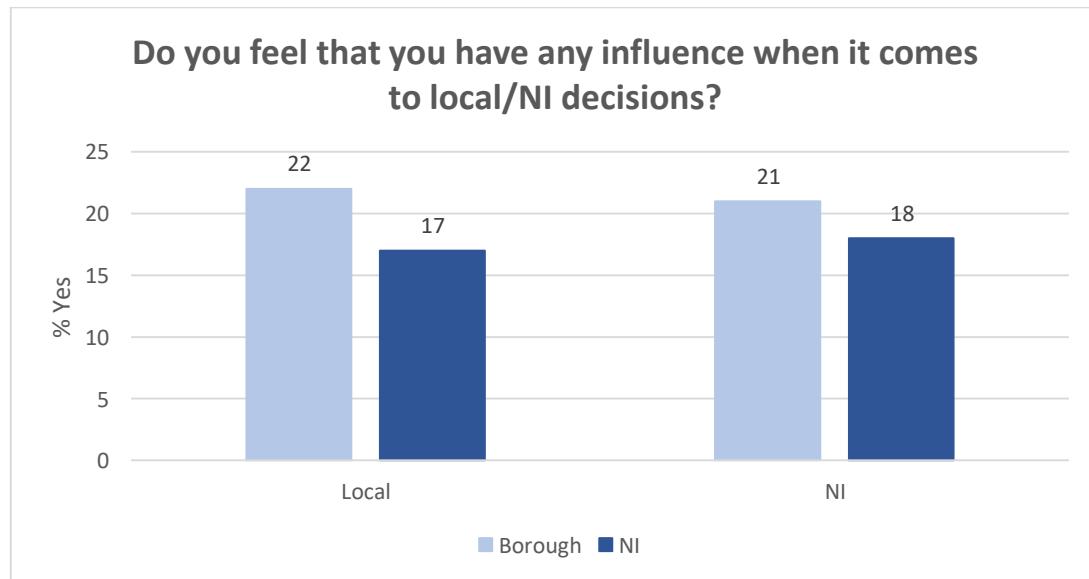
Figure 11 Perception of Belonging to Neighbourhood and NI



Civic voice

Although higher than the NI average, only 22% of respondents living in Causeway Coast and Glens felt they had influence over local decision-making and 21% felt they had influence over decisions made in NI.

Figure 12 Perception of Ability to Influence Neighbourhood and NI Decision-making



Key Points For Audit And Strategy Development

The figures are compiled from NILT 2019-21 dataset.

- Residents reported improved relations between Catholics and Protestants compared to the Northern Ireland average (43% to 38%). They anticipated these relations will get better in the next five years (40% compared to 32%)
- Forty per cent of residents compared to 48% throughout Northern Ireland believe that divisions influence access to facilities and shops. Ninety-four per cent compared to 90% in Northern Ireland, believe that the following facilities are shared- shopping centres, libraries, parks and leisure centres.
- Towns and city centres are open and welcoming – 59% of residents compared to a Northern Ireland average of 53% believe this.
- Eighty-two percent, which is five percentage points higher, of residents expressed preference for mixed religion workplaces and 89% for mixed religion neighbourhoods. However, Borough residents were below the Northern Ireland average in preferring mixed schooling.
- Borough residents indicated that they were less favourable towards people of ethnic minority background (64%) compared to Protestants or Catholics (77% and 79% respectively).
- Moreover, there were six percentage points difference between Borough residents and the Northern Ireland average, when asked whether the culture of ethnic minorities would add to the richness of Northern Ireland (59% compared to 64%).
- A higher average of Borough residents (58%) compared to the Northern Ireland average (53%) felt that their cultural identity is respected.
- Residents reported increasingly being intimidated or annoyed by Republican and Loyalist murals, care painting or flags.
- A slightly higher sense of belonging to Northern Ireland than to the neighbourhood was recorded.
- However, although higher than the NI average, only 22% of respondents living in Causeway Coast and Glens felt they had influence over local decision-making and 21% felt they had influence over decisions made in NI.

POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES

This section provides an overview of issues relevant to good relations and the development of a peaceful society in the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area. It commences with an overview of the Policing and Community Safety Partnership Strategic Plan (2019-24).

Statistics and trends in relation to hate crime and incidents - primarily but not exclusively race and sectarian. It then continues with security related statistics – bombing, shooting and paramilitary style shootings and assaults, are then presented. It concludes with a summary of the key points for audit and strategy development.

POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIC PLAN (2019-24)

Links to Department of Justice Community Safety Framework, Draft Organised Crime Strategy for Northern Ireland 2020-23, Adult Restorative Justice Strategy for Northern Ireland.

The following gaps and areas to enhance the interventions through PEACEPLUS are identified. The PCSP strategy places emphasis on prevention and early-stage intervention. PEACEPLUS could assist to extend and create innovative education and diversionary programmes with health and wellbeing, sports, arts, economic, delivery partners. PCSP works in partnership with primary schools in the Borough, to deliver drama-based interventions, but not within secondary schools.

Moreover, there are opportunities through PEACEPLUS to support the Statutory Cohesion Group by working closely with key individuals and groups to develop local solutions to community safety issues (e.g., environmental damage, contentious issues, early intervention, and diversionary activity). The aim is to empower communities to develop solutions that will help to tackle crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Key Points For Audit And Strategy Development

PCSP's emphasis on prevention and early intervention could support working with young people through locally identified solutions to community safety issues. It could promote innovative education and diversionary wide-ranging programmes and partners. This could complement the Good Relations action plan and address issues raised in community and targeted consultations.

Hate Motivated Crime

This section commences with a review of definitions. It continues with an examination of the reported heat motivated incidents and crime of a racist, homophobic, and sectarian nature.

Definitions of Hate Motivated Crime

Two distinct definitions are applied in cases involving hate crime, as recorded by the PSNI and PPS:

PSNI: Cases involving hate crime

There is no statutory definition of ‘hate crime’. So, in recording hate crimes, the PSNI have adopted the definition for racially motivated crime recommended by the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry, namely: ‘Any crime, which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person’. The PSNI apply the principles of this definition to record all types of hate crime, including those relating to:

- Racist incidents.
- Homophobic incidents.
- Sectarian incidents.
- Faith/religion incidents (non-sectarian).
- Disability incidents; and
- Transphobic incidents.

PPS: Cases considered by a prosecutor to have involved hate crime which was ‘aggravated by hostility’

Whilst there is no statutory definition of hate crime, the law does provide for a ‘statutory aggravating feature.’ This is applied if, in the view of a prosecutor, this aspect of a case can be proved to the evidential standard; that is, beyond reasonable doubt. If a Judge accepts that this aspect of the case is proven beyond reasonable doubt, he or she must increase the sentence imposed. The four statutory categories of aggravated offences are:

- Race.
- Religion.
- Sexual Orientation; and
- Disability.

There is no statutory category of ‘sectarian’ or ‘transphobic’ to correspond with the PSNI definition. Where applicable, offences motivated by sectarianism may be considered to be aggravated on the basis of race or religion. However, some offences which are broadly considered to be sectarian may not fall within either statutory category of race or religion, so the legislation relating to the aggravated element will not apply.³¹

Reported Hate Motivated Crime

During 2021/22 there were 35 racially motivated incidents and 19 crimes reported to the police in the Borough (3% and 2% of the respective NI totals). Causeway Coast and Glens had the lowest number of reported incidents and crimes and was one of only two police districts to report year on year decreases (20 incidents; 17 crimes).

During the period there were 18 homophobic motivated incidents and 10 crimes reported to the police in the Borough (4% and 3% of the respective NI totals). Causeway Coast and Glens had the lowest number of reported incidents and ranked 9th= in terms of crimes. There was an increase in reported homophobic incidents (n3), although homophobic crimes decreased.

³¹ Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. (2021) *Statistical Bulletin: Cases Involving Hate Crime, 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022*. Retrieved from <https://www.ppsni.gov.uk/sites/ppsni/files/publications/Statistical%20Bulletin%20on%20Cases%20Involving%20Hate%20Crime%202021-22.pdf>

During 2021/22 there were 83 sectarian motivated incidents and 68 crimes reported to the police in the Borough (8% and 9% of the respective NI totals). Reported sectarian incidents and crimes in the Borough increased over the year (n29 incidents; n31 crimes).

Table 9 Racist Homophobic and Sectarian Motivated Hate Incidents and Crimes in Causeway Coast and Glens, 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022.

| Motivation | Incidents (n) | % of NI Total | Crimes (n) | % of NI Total |
|------------|------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|
| Race | 35 (11 th) | 3 | 19 (11 th) | 2 |
| Homophobic | 18 (11 th) | 4 | 10 (9 th =) | 3 |
| Sectarian | 83 (6 th) | 8 | 68 (5 th) | 9 |

PSNI statistical data for Causeway Coast and Glens Borough about hate motivated crimes and incidents over two years between October 2020 and September 2022 indicate a decrease of 6.8% in reported race hate crimes and incidents. In the same period an increase in reported sectarian crimes and incidents of 0.2% was recorded. Over a ten-year period 2011-2021 the occurrence of both reported race and sectarian hate crimes and incidents show annual fluctuations but an overall downward trend. The PSNI quarterly statistical bulletin provides information on hate motivated crimes and incidents motivated by racism, homophobia, sectarianism, transphobia, disability, and faith/religion.³² The following tables provide information from the November 2022 bulletin on the most recent statistic relating to hate crimes motivated by sectarianism and racism. (Tables 10-12)

Table 10 Police Recorded Racist Incidents and Crimes in Causeway Coast and Glen (Oct 2020 to Sept 2022)

| Time Period | Racist Incidents | Racist Crimes | Racist Sanction Outcomes | Racist Sanction Outcome Rates |
|----------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Oct 2020 – Sept 2021 | 52 | 36 | 4 | 11.1% |
| Oct 2021 – Sept 2022 | 45 | 23 | 1 | 4.3% |
| Change | -7 | -13 | -3 | -6.8% |

Table 11 Police Recorded Sectarian Incident and Crimes in Causeway Coast and Glens (Oct 2020 to Sept 2022)

| Time Period | Sectarian Incidents | Sectarian Crimes | Sectarian Sanction Outcomes | Sectarian Sanction Outcome Rates |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Oct 2020 – Sept 2021 | 81 | 62 | 8 | 12.9% |
| Oct 2021 – Sept 2022 | 93 | 71 | 9 | 12.7% |
| Change | 12 | 9 | 1 | -0.2% |

³² Police Service of Northern Ireland. (2022). *Hate Motivation Statistics: Quarterly Update, Period ending 30 September 2022*. Retrieved from <https://www.psni.police.uk/about-us/our-publications-and-reports/official-statistics/hate-motivation-statistics>

Table 12 Trend Data on Hate Crime in the Causeway Coast and Glens (2011-2021)³³

| Year | Incidents Recorded with a Racist Motivation | Incidents Recorded with a Sectarian Motivation |
|------|---|--|
| 2011 | 36 | 137 |
| 2012 | 23 | 126 |
| 2013 | 35 | 108 |
| 2014 | 48 | 151 |
| 2015 | 56 | 97 |
| 2016 | 58 | 96 |
| 2017 | 32 | 79 |
| 2018 | 69 | 80 |
| 2019 | 36 | 78 |
| 2020 | 55 | 54 |
| 2021 | 35 | 83 |

| Year | Crimes (excluding fraud) Recorded with a Racist Motivation | Crimes (excluding fraud) Recorded with a Sectarian Motivation |
|------|--|---|
| 2011 | 21 | 100 |
| 2012 | 9 | 81 |
| 2013 | 16 | 81 |
| 2014 | 29 | 115 |
| 2015 | 34 | 77 |
| 2016 | 21 | 54 |
| 2017 | 13 | 50 |
| 2018 | 35 | 63 |
| 2019 | 22 | 54 |
| 2020 | 36 | 37 |
| 2021 | 19 | 68 |

Disability, faith/religion and transphobic motivated incidents and crimes are also recorded, although the numbers reported are comparatively lower. Table 13 indicates reported incidents and crimes for the Borough for 2020/21. Disability motivated hate incidents and crimes were comparably higher than those of faith/religion and transphobia (+2 incidents; +1 crimes).

³³ Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. (2021). *Statistics: Crime and Justice*. Retrieved from <https://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/PivotGrid.aspx?ds=10707&lh=73&yn=2004-2021&sk=131&sn=Crime%20and%20Justice&yearfilter=>

Table 13 Disability, Faith/Religion and Transphobic Motivated Hate Incidents and Crimes in Causeway Coast and Glens, 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

| Motivation | Incidents (n) | % of NI Total | Crimes (n) | % of NI Total |
|----------------|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Disability | 6 (8 th) | 7 | 8 (2nd) | 14 |
| Faith/Religion | 1 (6 th =) | 3 | 0 (6 th =) | - |
| Transphobic | 2 (5 th =) | 3 | 1 (7 th) | 3 |

Security Related Crimes and Incidents

During 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022 there was one security related death in NI (equivalent to the previous 12 months) and comparatively fewer bombings, shootings, and paramilitary style attacks. There were four bombing incidents, compared to seven in the previous 12 months and 25 shooting incidents, compared to 34. Causeway Coast and Glens police district saw the greatest decrease in the number of such attacks compared to the previous 12 months (from 8 to 3). In terms of bombing incidents Causeway Coast and Glens saw the greatest decrease in the number of bombing incidents compared to the previous 12 months (from five to one).³⁴ There were two paramilitary style shooting casualties and one assault casualty in Causeway Coast and Glens in the 12 months to September 2022. All 29 casualties of paramilitary style assaults in NI during the 12-month period were aged 18 years and above.³⁵

In NI there were 119 security related arrests under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000 (TACT), the same number as during the previous 12 months. Fourteen persons were subsequently charged, compared to 17 during the previous 12 months. Causeway Coast and Glens ranked 3rd highest with 16 TACT arrests in the 12 months to September 2022 and 2nd in terms of persons charged subsequent to TACT arrests (n3). Causeway Coast and Glens police district had a 5% arrest rate for Persons Stopped and Searched (n838; 4% of NI total) and Subsequently Arrested (n44; 3.5% of NI total) Under all Legislative Powers.

Key Points For Audit And Strategy Development

- During 2021/22 Causeway Coast and Glens had the lowest number of reported racially motivated incidents and crimes. It was one of only two police districts to report year on year decreases (20 incidents; 17 crimes). They continue to be very significant given the very small numbers of people from ethnic minority backgrounds living in the borough.
- Over a ten-year period 2011-2021 the occurrence of both reported race and sectarian hate crimes and incidents has an overall downward trend.
- The reported 83 sectarian incidents and 68 crimes in the Borough was an increase over the year (n29 incidents; n31 crimes). Thirty-five racially motivated incidents and 19 crimes were reported.
- There was an increase in reported homophobic incidents (n3), although homophobic crimes decreased.
- The numbers reported for disability, faith/religion and transphobic motivated incidents and crimes are comparatively lower. Three disability is the highest. While Security Related Crimes and Incidents remain at a low level there is no room for complacency.

³⁴ Bombing and Shooting Incidents by Police District, 2020/21-2021/22. PSNI, (2022). Security Situation Statistics to September 2022.

³⁵ Casualties of Paramilitary-Style Attacks by Police District, 2020/21-2021/22. Security Situation Statistics to September 2022.

EQUALITY ACTION PLAN 2019 – 2023

This strategy document addresses the need for Council to create a new corporate approach to equality and diversity issues with the following priorities identified:

- Design, commission and deliver services that are accessible, inclusive, and responsive to our customer's needs.
- Raise awareness of equalities issues and tackle prejudices, both internally and externally.
- Attract, recruit, retain and progress a diverse range of employees in a culture which celebrated diversity and inclusion; and
- Provide a working environment where employees are treated with fairness, dignity, and respect.

Within the plan the following issues, outcomes and actions are detailed which include or are relevant to those groups falling under the Good Relations Duty in Section 75(2) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. These aspects of the Equality Action Plan not only identify some issues which are also of concern in a good relations context but offer an opportunity for partnership and collaboration in achieving shared goals. (Table 14)

Table 14 Equality Action Plan

| Strategic Issues: Impacting on the organisation as a whole | | |
|--|---|--|
| Issue Identified | Desire Outcome(s) | Actions |
| Need for a process to ensure that equality of opportunity and good relations are incorporated and maintained at the strategic level of the Council | Section 75 duties integrated and mainstreamed into business planning processes | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop and incorporate equality and diversity targets for all aspects of the council's business processes.• Introduce an equality toolkit which covers all information staff need to effectively manage equality and diversity issues• Ensure good relations strategy is delivered reported on and communicated to staff• Incorporate rural needs assessment into the equality assessment. |
| Need to improve the coordination of all S75 monitoring information in relation to our services to all customers | Creation of a robust baseline of equality related information for use by staff in all aspects of the council business | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop and implement a corporate approach for the collection and recording of equality monitoring data• Create an equality database• Communicate with and train staff in the use of the database for equality screening and decision making |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and make public equality monitoring outcomes. |
| Skilled and committed workforce: Impacting on levels of understanding among our own staff | | |
| Need to improve levels of engagement with staff from S75 groups | <p>Staff feel welcomed and valued</p> <p>Improve participation engagement</p> <p>Staff and</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a staff engagement network |
| Participation Issues: Impacting on people seeking to use our services | | |
| Need to improve participation levels among under-represented groups in a range of the Council's activities and Services. | <p>Improved Services use and reduced risk of exclusion among marginalised groups</p> <p>Improved relationships with relevant S75 representative organisations</p> <p>Improved profile for the Council, and understanding of its activities among women, young people, people with disabilities and people from minority ethnic backgrounds</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programmes of engagement with groups representing young people, particularly those from deprived and social excluded communities • Programmes of engagement with groups representing older people, particularly those from rural communities • Programme of targeted actions to encourage participation among disabled people • Implementation of equality and accessible programmes related to leisure programmes • Implementation of cultural strategy and associated action plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deliver strategy plan to improve good relations (link to Good Relations Strategy) - Improve community networks relating to waste management services - Links to core strategies: cultural strategy/leisure |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Every Customer Counts initiative with ECNI to develop range of projects targeted at an identified group who face barriers to access • Improve monitoring data across all functions • Review membership and satisfaction of equality forums. |
|--|--|---|

Key Points For Audit And Strategy Development

- Corporate commitment to developing good relations and equality targets to deliver services that are accessible, inclusive, and responsive to the council's customer's needs.
- Commitment made to improve co-ordination of monitoring processes.
- Commitment to processes of engagement of S.75 groups across the council area.

COMMUNITY PLAN 2017 – 2030: A BETTER FUTURE TOGETHER

Following community engagement, the Community Plan is focused on the following three key strategic themes:

1. A Sustainable Accessible Environment
2. A Thriving Economy
3. A Healthy Safe Community

Whilst Good Relation is not mentioned or referred to within the Plan, a number of outcomes and actions identified are of relevance to good relations work in the Council area, particularly with regard to the third issue of ‘A Healthy Safe Community’ which *‘will contribute to a benefit from a healthy, connected and safe community that nurtures resilience, promotes respect and supports everyone to live well together’*.³⁶

Under this theme, the following five outcomes are listed:

1. All people of the Causeway Coast and Glens benefit from improved physical health and mental wellbeing.
2. Our children and young people will have the very best start in life
3. All people of the Causeway Coast and Glens can live independently as far as possible and access support services
4. The Causeway Coast and Glens area feels safe
5. The Causeway Coast and Glens area promotes and supports positive relationships

Outcomes 4 and 5 are of most relevance to Good Relations and offer opportunities for collaboration.

Outcome 4 means that:

- People in the Causeway Coast and Glens experience a reduction in levels of crime.
- The people of the Causeway Coast and Glens benefit from a reduction in fear of crime; and
- The people of the Causeway Coast and Glens will experience improved safety in the home, in the community and in public spaces.

Outcome 5 means that:

- There will be increased collaborative working across the Causeway Coast and Glens area,
- There will be increased promotion and sharing of community space across the Causeway Coast and Glens; and
- The Causeway Coast and Glens area will benefit from sustainable community and voluntary activities, leading to an increased sense of community belonging.

Key Points For Audit And Strategy Development

- Commitment made across the council that the people of the borough will benefit from a reduction in crime, fear of crime and improved levels of safety and increased collaborative working.
- Sharing of community space throughout the borough is a desired outcome.
- Sense of belonging will increase springing from sustainable community and voluntary activities.

³⁶ Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council. (2017). *A Better Future Together: A Community Plan for Causeway Coast and Glens 2017-2030*. Retrieved from https://www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/uploads/general/Community_Plan_Report_Design_WR.pdf

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2020-23

The Community Development Strategy provides a framework for Council's continued investment "*in strengthening local communities, increasing community participation and promoting social inclusion*".³⁷ Community development involves a long-term process beginning with people's own experiences and enabling communities to work together to:

- Identify their own needs and actions.
- Take collective action using their strengths and resources.
- Develop their confidence, skills, and knowledge.
- Challenge unequal power relationships.
- Promote social justice, equality, and inclusion.

Three outcomes for the Community Development Strategy are listed as follows:

1. Our community will be skilled and confident.
2. Our community will be connected.
3. Our community will be fair and inclusive.

It is noted in the Strategy that good relations is identified as one of the top ten issues that community groups are addressing according to a 2019 survey. Moreover, under Outcome 3 of the Strategy, tackling poverty, deprivation and social exclusion is identified as a key area of work, in addition to supporting community groups to carry out local engagement exercises to determine concerns and priorities and to encourage more active citizenship.

There is therefore much opportunity for partnering and collaboration tackling mutual concerns and achieve shared goals. The opportunity for partnership is identified in the Strategy, for example, under Outcome 1 in relation to a celebration of good practice in the community and voluntary sector and again under Outcome 3 in relation to local community engagement and participation exercises.

Key Points For Audit And Strategy Development

- Encourages active citizenship, partnership working and identifying local priorities.
- Commitment to community development approaches.

³⁷Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council. (2020). *Community Development Strategy 2020-23*. Retrieved from https://www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/uploads/general/COMMUNITY_DEVELOPMENT_STRATEGY_2020-23_FINAL.pdf

GOOD RELATIONS AUDIT AND STRATEGY 2018- 2023

Priority projects were identified based on the audit findings. And aligned to the T: BUC priorities as outlined in the table below.

- **Youth engagement:** Promoting Youth Civic Engagement Programme will aim to build confidence, resilience, citizenship, and raise awareness of the diversity among young people.
- **Shared Education:** Promoting shared education opportunities - Education Networking Programme aimed at establishing a shared education network across the CCG area encompassing as many primary schools as possible.
- **Cultural diversity and Integration:** Through the Looking Glass Programme – creating opportunities for people to examine and reflect on the different cultures, traditions and faiths of others who live within the Borough and creating every day opportunities for people to meet and engage with people from other community backgrounds.
- **Using CCGs attractive location for all:** Sense of Belonging Programme which will use the local assets of the area - building on the British Open in 2019 which will be hosted in the Royal Portrush Golf Club and creating a sense of belonging to the area for all but in particular those who are marginalised.
- **Shared Space maximisation:** Mainstreaming the GR Declaration in shared spaces – aiming to create more shared spaces in the area.
- **Elected Members Leading by Example:** Civic Leadership Programme – creating a safe space for elected members to reflect on their role in the creation of a shared society in the CCG area.
- **Building on CCGs rich heritage:** Heritage in Rathlin and the Glens Good Relations Programme - This programme recognises that there has not been as much council facilitated good relations activity in Rathlin, Glens and Ballycastle area in recent years but, there are a number of communities who undertake good relations activity however much of it is under the radar. There is a need to support this work. The project aims to promote the rich culture and heritage of these areas – rotational programme.
- **Asset based approach to addressing Community Tensions:** Community Tensions Forum Support Programme - this project will aim to increase the capacity of the existing Community Tensions Forum. Good Relations will continue to facilitate regular proactive dialogue with other Council departments and statutory agencies. The focus will be for members to monitor emerging issues that may cause an increase in community tensions during particular periods throughout the year (for example bonfire safety, flags, parading etc) agencies will, were possible, provide a collaborative response to manage shared priority issues.
- **Addressing hate crime:** Community Cohesion Programme - develop a programme / initiative to raise awareness of emerging issues particularly in relation to challenging attitudes which contribute to sectarianism, racism, and other forms of hate crime.
- **Fair Share approach to building good relations:** Building a United Community Fund is designed to promote positive citizenship and civic leadership through a fund that targets all TBUC themes. It includes support with applications and dialogue sessions for groups in receipt of funding on what is working and what is not in local areas, with an opportunity to celebrate success of local projects.
- **Celebrating cultural diversity:** Positive Promotion of Cultural Celebration Programme will provide support to communities to help promote positive expression of culture. The project will facilitate communication and dialogue in communities to develop positive, respectful, and inclusive perspectives towards cultural celebrations and traditions - “Our stories matter”. It will aim to address cultural identity erosion issues that some groups may feel, focusing on empathy building between communities, involving local institutions.

Table 15 The aims and projects of the Good Relations Plan were linked to the four TBUC Themes & Outcomes

| Theme | Outcomes | Aim | Projects |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1.0 Our Children and Young People – to continue to improve attitudes amongst our young people and to build a community where they can play a full and active role in building good relations | 1.1: Improving attitudes of children from diverse backgrounds | Aim 1: To enable children and young people in the Causeway Coast and Glens area to engage in good relations activities through building their resilience and leadership skills and their trust, understanding and tolerance for people from diverse cultures, traditions, or political backgrounds with a longer-term outcome of improving in their attitudes towards others | Project 1: Promoting youth civic engagement Programme Project 2: Education Networking Programme |
| | 1.2: Young people engaging in bringing the community together | | |
| 2.0 Our Shared Community – in moving from contested spaces to shared spaces, we aim to create a community where division does not restrict the life opportunities and where all areas are open and accessible to everyone. | 2.1: Increased use of shared space and services (e.g., leisure centres, shopping centres, education, housing) | Aim 2: To create a more equal, shared, and inclusive area for all in the Causeway Coast and Glens area, with a range of shared and welcoming spaces and activities in which all people are able to engage, where people feel comfortable engaging, where tolerance and understanding of other cultures, traditions and political backgrounds has increased and where myths, misperceptions, fears and barriers to sharing, visible or invisible, are slowly removed | Project 3: Through the Looking Glass Project 4: "We are Open" Sense of Belonging Programme Project 6: Mainstreaming the GR Declaration in shared spaces Project 7: Civic Leadership Programme |
| | 2.2: Shared space is accessible to all | | Project 5: Heritage in Rathlin and the Glens Good Relations Programme |

| Theme | Outcomes | Aim | Projects |
|--|--|---|--|
| 3.0 Our Safe Community - to create a community where everyone feels safe in moving around and where life choices are not inhibited by fears around safety. | 3.1: Reduce the prevalence of hate crime and intimidation | Aim 3: To increase awareness of the factors that contribute to hatred based on religious belief, political opinion, and racial group and that result in intimidation and anti-social behaviour, and which may cause the area to feel unsafe for some and to create a safe community for all | Project 8: Community Tensions Forum Support Programme |
| | 3.2: A community where spaces and places are safe for all | | Project 9: Community cohesion programme |
| 4.0 Our Cultural Expressions – To create a community, which promotes mutual respect and understanding, is strengthened by its diversity and where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced. | 4.1: Increase sense of community belonging (widens contribution beyond community background) | Aim 4: To support communities in the Causeway Coast and Glens area to address hard issues, prejudice, and mistrust that they may have towards others of a different community background, to promote awareness, understanding and the respectful celebration of the different cultures that exist in the area and promote the value of diversity and the importance of dispelling myths in recognition of the multi-cultural nature of the area | Project 11: Building a United Community Fund |
| | 4.2: Cultural diversity is celebrated | | Project 10: Positive Promotion of Cultural Celebration |

Delivery Model

In terms of delivery, the strategy needs to take a locality approach to what it does as well as recognising that some good relations issues cut across the whole area. A thematic approach is required for this. In the coming years, a co-design approach should be taken to the development and delivery of action plans moving forward in partnership with other statutory agencies and in line with the community plan.

Key for Audit and Strategy Plan development.

- Monitoring and evaluation data including from the project was recorded against each of the 2022/23 projects in the 2022-23 4th Quarter Report to TEO. Where projects were successful in addressing current issues, the projects have been refined and included in the 2023/24 action plan,

- The preferred delivery model of the strategy required a locality approach, featured co-design to the development and delivery with statutory partners.

PEACEPLUS PROGRAMME

PEACEPLUS is a European Union funding programme designed to support peace and prosperity across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland, building upon the work of the previous PEACE and INTERREG Programmes. The design reflects the importance of peace-building activity, but also the importance of actions that will contribute positively to the economy, building prosperity and adjusting to the new environment and future challenges.

The overall objective of the PEACEPLUS Programme will be to build Peace and Prosperity and ensure that this Programme will leave a lasting and tangible legacy. The Programme's strategy is to continue to make the most of the opportunities and to address the needs arising from the peace process to boost economic growth and stimulate social and economic regeneration and secondly, to promote social inclusion, particularly for those at the margins of economic and social life. The Programme will help to address many long-standing social and economic challenges which continue to impact on rural and urban communities.

Peace and reconciliation are essential for ongoing socio-economic development and prosperity. Therefore, actions to improve community and social cohesion are a governmental priority. Continued and considered investment in proven pathways to reconciliation is required to build peaceful and thriving communities. Such investments should result in a legacy of change, achieved through physical and social improvements, which facilitate increased social inclusion and improved cross-community and cross-border relations.

PEACEPLUS is a major relevant initiative considered in developing the Good Relations Audit and Strategy 2023–26, the identification of synergies between PEACEPLUS and selected local plans relevant to good relations is critical. This is necessary in order to complement and to provide additionality to PEACEPLUS and related strategies. It is in this context that the PEACEPLUS priorities: Local Community Regeneration and Transformation; and the aims related Thriving and Peaceful Communities; and Building Respect for All Cultures and the synergies with a range of local strategies that have been selected from the PEACEPLUS Socio Economic Profile: A Thriving Community.

Within the strategies the specific identified gaps and PEACEPLUS additionality outlined within the Socio-Economic Profile) represent opportunities that could address both the findings of the Audit and contribute to the development of a complementary Good Relations Strategy that is sustainable in the longer term.

The opportunities relevant to Local Community Regeneration and Transformation are to be found in The Interim Local Rural Development Strategy, Recovery and Renewal - Economic Strategy for Causeway Coast and Glens, Tourism And Destination Management Strategy. Those relevant to Thriving and Peaceful Communities, are the Community Development Strategy and the Anti-Poverty Action Plan. The Good Relations Strategy, Culture, Arts and Heritage Strategy and The Causeway Coast and Glens Youth Service Area Plan are relevant to Building Respect for All Cultural Identities.

The peacebuilding needs identified through the Peace IV learning legacy will inform both the development of PEACE PLUS and the Good Relations Audit and Strategy. Those relevant are summarised below.

- Few opportunities for young people to engage on a cross-community basis, particularly in rural areas.
- Negative familial and peer group attitudes and perceptions of different cultures.
- Anti-social behaviour, drugs and alcohol abuse and mental health issues.
- Existence of murals, flags, graffiti, emblems, and memorials, including those along tourist routes and in residential areas.
- Weak leadership capacity of the statutory sector and community staff to work on cross-community basis.
- Prejudices and hidden sectarianism and racism.
- Rural isolation and poor links between isolated villages.
- Language and capacity barriers that exist in the Black Minority Ethnic (BME) community around accessing services.
- Existence of paramilitary influence and control.

- Need to develop stronger protocols for cultural celebrations and events.
- Continued fear and unwillingness around different cultural backgrounds working together and cross-border initiatives.

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council was allocated £3.4m in Peace IV to deliver a series of programmes targeting youth practitioners, cultural institutions, young leaders, community groups, older people, BME communities, people with disabilities, pre-schools, schools, sports clubs, and churches. Cross-border initiatives involved Donegal and Sligo communities. The following learning has been identified:

- Some groups do not have the capacity to engage.
- Despite overall positive cross-community engagement, there were challenges engaging some groups/organisations.
- It is likely that initial single-identity work will need to continue for some groups, to prepare for more meaningful engagement in PEACEPLUS.
- Cross border work requires more emphasis and careful planning.
- There is an opportunity to build on and extend successful initiatives such as Youth Leadership and Community Integration Programmes.
- Co-designed approach with local community/voluntary sector partnership to enable a better understanding of emerging community issues, quick response to those needs and the refinement of programmes to ensure full delivery of objectives.
- The need to grasp opportunities and be bold with our ideas and delivery - more strategic approach delivering District-scale activities to have a greater impact.
- Important to provide a range of opportunities and engagements that people will relate to, enjoy, have shared interest in but with peace and reconciliation objectives.

Local Community Action Plans

PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plans will be produced for the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area, co-terminus with and complementing the existing community planning structures. It is envisaged that localised plans will be developed for defined geographical areas (via DEAs or clustering) that will collectively extend to all parts of the borough. The Local Community Action Plan will enable diverse partnerships, led by the local authorities, to establish priority actions for their local areas and collectively address these, in a manner which will make a significant and lasting contribution to peace and reconciliation at the local Programme Area level. PEACEPLUS aims:

“To enable and empower local community partnerships, led by the local authorities, to select and deliver priority projects on a cross-community basis, which will result in shared and inclusive local services, facilities and spaces and make a significant and lasting contribution to peace and reconciliation”.

Actions within the localised plans will span the range of social, environmental, and economic interventions included within the PEACEPLUS Programme. However, principally, the plans will be centred around three core themes:

1. Local Community Regeneration and Transformation:

- Transformation and re-imaging of individual or collective areas within a community to include 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.
- Development of new shared outdoor spaces which enable increased levels of cross-community interaction and where possible capitalise upon natural assets.

2. Thriving and Peaceful Communities:

- Build the capacity of local organisations through cross-community collaboration.
- Develop new community leaders and enhance the capacity of existing leaders and volunteers to promote and facilitate peace and reconciliation.
- Enable cross-community interaction and collaboration across a broad range of areas of mutual interest to include parenting, arts and culture, sport, and social innovation/enterprise.
- Programmes developed to provide social and emotional support and opportunities for people of all ages.
- Programmes involving social prescribing initiatives.
- Community justice interventions that contribute to peace building and positive relations.

3. Building Respect for all Cultural Identities:

- 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 reluctant to engage/ alternative views/ hard to hear/ seldom heard, which if not supported to engage and therefore heard or challenged, will contribute to the status quo for the entire community
- Programmes which increase knowledge and understanding of individual and collective history and heritage.

It will be important that the process to identify priority actions and the interventions subsequently supported, demonstrate significant peace and reconciliation progress.

Projects within the co-designed Local Community Action Plans should result in increased levels of social inclusion and cross-community integration. Actions should incorporate the level of sustained contact between those from different community, cultural and political backgrounds, required to achieve significant attitudinal and behavioural change. Meaningful cross-community contact must be evidenced, and Action Plans must include cross-border working.

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council has been awarded an indicative allocation of €6,777,244 under Theme 1 Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities, dependent upon submission of a high quality co-designed Local Action Plan. It is envisaged that the Recovery and Renewal - Economic Strategy for Causeway Coast and Glens and the associated 25 Village Plans and Town Centre masterplans that have been developed by communities on a cross-community basis and provide the framework for a variety of local regeneration and transformation initiatives, will support PEACEPLUS desired outcomes. Further initiatives include programmes which enable community groups, small businesses, or individuals to occupy vacant spaces and shopfront revitalisation. There are opportunities to progress regeneration ideas that are not receiving funding from other sources.

PEACEPLUS: LOCAL COMMUNITY REGENERATION AND TRANSFORMATION

The following strategies are outlined as they place emphasis upon the promotion of urban and rural regeneration activities, both in terms of area-based physical improvements and tackling underlying systemic issues by promoting economic growth and addressing inequalities. These strategies and particularly the additionality PEACE PLUS offers have potential to impact positively on a continuing social peace process and the heightened desire evidenced in the community consultation for it to be accompanied and underpinned by social (and economic) transformation.

All strategies link to the Programme for Government at a central level. Additional local area-based strategies/research of note include Shared Space in Causeway Coast and Glens Community Centre Perception Study, Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust Management Plan for Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), Neighbourhood Renewal Plans, Strategic Framework for Community Centre Provision, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Play Investment Strategy and associated DEA audits, the Sports and Leisure Facility Strategy and Causeway Coast and Glens Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP).

Interim Local Rural Development Strategy (2014-20)

Links to DAERA Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-20

The identified gaps and PEACEPLUS additionality relevant to the Good Relations Strategy include the capital grants to aid village and small settlement for environmental enhancing outdoor leisure and recreation facilities and reclaiming vacant commercial buildings so that they are open to all.

Recovery and Renewal - Economic Strategy for Causeway Coast and Glens

Links to Causeway Coast and Glens Growth Deal (£72m), Economic Strategy Priorities for Sustainable Growth and Prosperity, draft Industrial Strategy for NI, Investment Strategy, Causeway Coast and Glens Local Development Plan (in development), The Housing Executive's Social Enterprise Plus Strategy, A Skills Strategy for Northern Ireland – Skills for a 10x Economy

The identified gaps and PEACEPLUS additionality relevant to the Good Relations Strategy includes village and town centre regeneration and management including the re-occupation if vacant buildings by all sectors. It will include opportunities progress discussions around disinvestment and socio-economic impacts of divisions.

Tourism and Destination Management Strategy (2015-20)

Links to DfE Sustainable Regenerative Tourism Strategy (in development), Tourism Recovery Action Plan (2021), Giants Causeway and Causeway Coast World Heritage Site Management Plan

The identified gaps and PEACEPLUS additionality relevant to the Good Relations Strategy Explore Causeway Coast and Glens promoting cross-community collaboration and appreciation of local heritage by clustering visitor attractions and itineraries, around the area's unique heritage and culture. This will include traditional music, dance, and food and opportunities to improve cohesion through expanding local festivals and events programmes, ensuring activities are welcoming and inclusive and supporting participation from marginalised and socially excluded groups.

PEACEPLUS: THRIVING AND PEACEFUL COMMUNITIES

The strategies reviewed have a specific focus on strengthening community resilience, capacity, and cohesion, through personal and group development, providing platforms for engagement with the most marginalised and socially excluded members of the community and supporting actions that help people and neighbourhoods feel safer.

There is recognition that community development approaches are core to reducing inequalities. Relevant local strategies and initiatives also include Neighbourhood Renewal, Causeway Coast and Glens Volunteering Policy, Causeway Older Active Strategic Team (COAST) inter-agency partnership, Age Friendly Action Plan etc.

Community Development Strategy (2020-23)

Links to The Health and Social Care Board and the Public Health Agency Community Development Strategy (in development), DfC Urban Regeneration Community Development (URCD) Policy Framework Links.

The identified gaps and PEACEPLUS additionality relevant to the Good Relations Strategy include a focus on community development approaches to good relations that focuses on common issues rather than divisions. PEACEPLUS also needs to create localised networking opportunities to enable civic leadership, participation, and engagement - equipping community and voluntary representatives to reach into their communities to connect with those experiencing exclusion and advocate on their behalf. Cross-community models of good practice have been identified through PB processes and these could be developed and extended specifically to promote good relations.

Anti-Poverty Action Plan

Links to Child Poverty Strategy, Anti-Poverty Strategy (in development), Making Life Better Strategic Framework for Public Health, Mental Health Strategy 2021 – 2031, Preventing Harm & Empowering Recovery: A Strategic Framework to Tackle the Harm from Substance Use, People and Place – a Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal

The identified gaps and PEACEPLUS additionality relevant to the Good Relations Strategy are through initiatives that reach into the S75 equality groups. This is in line with the council's commitments under the community plan. This refers to interventions that have the potential to provide additional infrastructure support and facilitate joint programmes to reduce common inequalities in health, education, employment.

PEACEPLUS: BUILDING RESPECT FOR ALL CULTURAL IDENTITIES

The Good Relations Strategy directly aligns to Together Building a United Community Strategy, (T:BUC) and reflects the commitment to improving community relations and achieving change against the interlinked priorities of children and young people, shared community, safe community, and cultural expression. There are many vehicles through which good relations may be delivered. Potential areas of additionality in relation to the Good Relations, Culture, Arts and Heritage and Area Youth Service action plans are highlighted.

Good Relations Strategy

Links to T:BUC, Section 75 of the NI Act 1998, Racial Equality Strategy 2015- 2025, Social Inclusion Strategies; Anti-Poverty, Disability, Gender Equality and Sexual Orientation (in development), Strategy for Victims and Survivors, Joint Protocol on the display of flags in public areas, Children and Young People's Strategy, Childcare Strategy, Sharing Works – A Policy for Shared Education

The identified gaps and PEACEPLUS additionality relevant to the Good Relations Strategy include the adoption of an area-based approach which is developed and driven by the

community according to evidenced need. DEA focused action plans must target specific areas and groups and address hard issues such as sectarianism, racism, community control, contested space and segregation. Some projects piloted under PEACE IV have continued under the good relations function. In view of the importance of leadership, succession, and positive role modelling is critical. Activities should include elected representatives in order that they understand community needs, challenges and aspirations.

Culture, Arts & Heritage Strategy 2016-2021 ‘Open Doors to Culture’

Links to Strategy for Culture and Arts 2016-2026, Arts Council NI Strategic Framework, ‘Inspire, Connect, Lead’, 2019-2024, NI Museums Policy, Libraries NI Corporate Plan (2020-24), Development of an Irish Language Strategy and an Ulster-Scots Language, Heritage, and Culture Strategy (in development)

The identified gaps and PEACEPLUS additionality relevant to the Good Relations Strategy provide the opportunity to include the following. The exploration of arts, music, dance, traditional crafts, language, and heritage helps build a greater understanding and appreciation of one another's cultural identity. These programmes also open up discussions on current contentious issues. Outreach approaches and opportunities for collaboration on shared history projects, myth busting etc can be delivered via PEACEPLUS. There is considerable scope to develop links under PEACEPLUS Community Regeneration and Transformation through public art and creative interpretation of the built and natural environment, in addition to supporting events and cultural tourism. Events for residents and visitors within cultural venues

Causeway Coast and Glens Youth Service Area Plan (2020-23)

Links to Priorities for Youth – Improving Young People’s Lives through Youth Work (2013), The Children and Young Peoples Strategy 2019 – 2029 (2019), The Children Services Cooperation Act (2015), Community Relations Equality and Diversity Policy (2011) and CRED Addendum (2016), Shared Education Act (2016), Fresh Start Agreement (2014), Rural Needs Act (2016).

The identified gaps and PEACEPLUS additionality relevant to the Good Relations Strategy were identified. They include:

- Youth focused programmes need to be relevant to young people include risk-taking, physical, and mental health, paramilitary/organised crime, sectarianism and racism, disaffection, and low levels of attainment in school.
- There needs to be more emphasis in building localised cross-community infrastructure which spans different age groups - moving away from geographically distant, short-term projects. There are gaps in sustained cross-community and inter-racial contact. PEACEPLUS activity can provide the momentum to further develop inter-club activity and promotion and improve accessibility by increasing the number of spaces that young people can attend.
- PEACEPLUS provides the opportunity to reconnect young people with neighbourhood activity, provide access to leadership/training opportunities and volunteering. This would assist community groups to become more representative and prepare for succession planning.

Key Points for Audit and Strategy Development

- The three core PEACE PLUS themes can complement the Good Relations Strategy.
- Particular areas include regeneration, young people, integration issues and building the capacity for good relations.
- Similarly, the Peace IV learning legacy should inform the audit practically.

Section Five CONSULTATIONS AND KEY THEMES MAPPED TO T :BUC

Consultation Methodology

The methodology to undertake the audit and strategy was designed to target partners, area-based communities, specific thematic groupings, elected members and the general public. The total number of people who participated in the consultations was 149. The online survey was closed at 157 persons. 306 individuals in total engaged with the Good Relations Audit.

The workshop-based consultations were organised to include four public, area based / geographical consultations, four thematic discussions, leading to three face-to-face interviews with community representatives working within one of the thematic areas because of difficulties in achieving the thematic meetings. Strategic partners were also engaged via two existing strategic partner forums and seven elected members took place in individual interviews.

The consultations were based around the following discussion:

- What is Good Relations? Why is it relevant?
- What works? To reflect and consolidate on good relations work to date. How has it impacted positively on your community?
- What matters? To invite you to share what you think is important in good relations and what you are noticing in your own work and context.
- Challenges and Opportunities? To explore how to overcome the current challenges and harness the good relations opportunities that are presenting themselves at this time.
- Future Focus:
 - ✓ To prioritise, where best for council to focus its energy, expertise, and resources at this moment in time for good relations. Key issues and next steps.

The discussions were wide ranging. They covered issues ranging from feeling safe in the area you live to the cost-of-living crisis. Therefore, the results have been further analysed under T: BUC's four key aims, capacity building and complementarity with the relevant policies, strategies and priorities identified and details in sections 1, 2 3, and 4 of this Good Relations Audit and Strategy. Meetings were held in Coleraine, Ballymoney, Limavady, Dungiven, Cushendun and online. Public participation was challenging. Despite the efforts of community networks and groups, promotion online through Council Facebook pages, and posters displayed locally, engagement was variable.

Specific issues and groups were targeted to achieve an input from young people, specifically disadvantaged hosted by BYTES in Coleraine, and LGBTQ+ youth with the Rainbow Project, loyalist and hard to reach in terms of good relations hosted by Ulidian in Ballymoney, those with specific needs and issues – Asylum seekers and Refugees (hosted by BCRC), and good relations practitioners.

(i) Thematic meetings included: BYTES Coleraine, Asylum Seekers Refugees, LGBTQ+ Rainbow Project and UU Coleraine and Community Relations Practitioners Focus Group.

(ii) Public/Area based/Geographical workshops co-convened and held were as follows: Roe Valley Residents Association and held in Community Hub, Catherine St, Limavady, Glenshane Community Development Group and held in Glenshane Business Centre, Dungiven, Limavady Drop-In Centre. A further meeting with promotion through NACN and the CDDA was held in The Old Church, Cushendun.

(iii) Statutory Partners were involved in interviews and planning sessions. These were generally multi agency and sector and included Causeway Coast and Glens Council officers

and elected representatives. They involved engagements with Strategic Partners Planning Session, Policing and Community Safety Partnership Focus Group, and the Bonfire Statutory Cohesion Group. Agencies involved included the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service, Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE), Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

(V) Elected members took part in individual interviews, representing six political parties and an independent councillor.

GOOD RELATIONS AUDIT (SURVEY AND CONSULTATION FINDINGS) AND EMERGING THEMES

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council undertook a Good Relations Audit to determine the current provision, identify gaps, and determine the needs within the borough. The Junction, Peace and Reconciliation Initiative have been appointed to carry out the audit and develop a new Good Relations Strategy for Council. The survey was completed by 157 people on line.

Good Relations Survey Quantitative Analysis

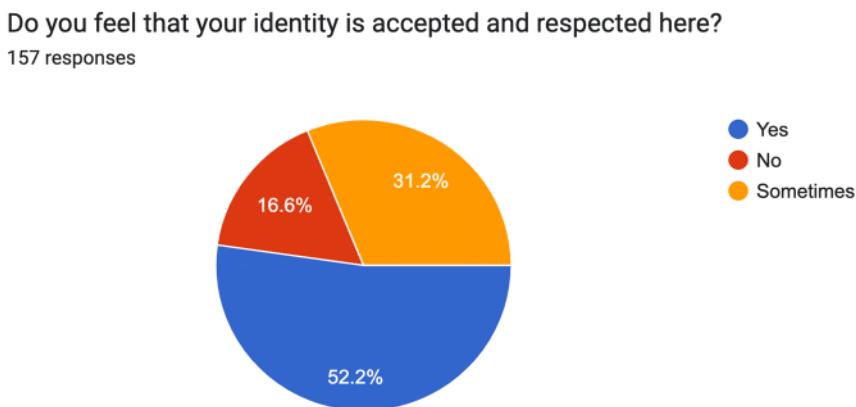
From 151 people who responded to this question, 98.7% think good relations work is really important (77.7%) or important.

Key findings are as follows:

- The three most common good relations issues identified in the area at this moment are sectarianism (n126, 80.3%), cultural diversity (n97, 61.8%) and racism (n44, 28%).
- Racism is just the same (n66, 42%), getting worse (n55, 35%), and getting better (n 38, 24.2%).
- Addressing the legacy of the past is really important (n72, 46.5%), important (n66, 42%), not that important (n16, 10.2%) and not important at all (n4, 2.5%).
- 79.6% of people felt safe in their community, 12.1% did not.

When asked about identity 52.2% responded Yes. 31.2% sometimes and 16.6% of people said their identity was not respected. (Figure 13).

Figure 13 Respect for identity

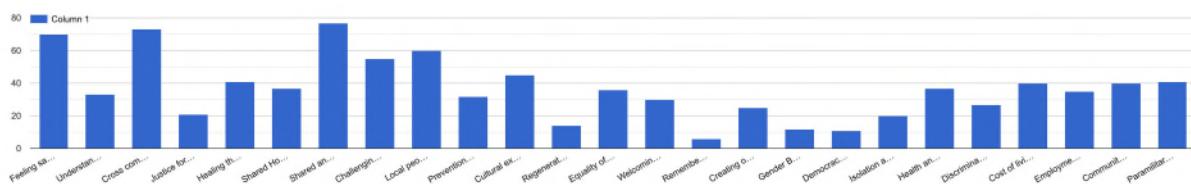


Key priority issues identified by 40 or more than 40 people

1. Shared and/or integrated education n77 people.
2. Cross community work n73.
3. Feeling safe in the area you live in n70 people.
4. Local people having an influence and voice in decision making process and civic life n60 people
5. Challenging discrimination (racism, sectarianism) n55 people.
6. Cultural expression including cultural celebration, language, music, and arts n 45.
7. Justice for the victims and survivors n41 people.
8. Paramilitary control n41.
9. Community Development n40.

10. Cost of living crisis n40.

Figure 14 Key Priority Issues



Key

1. Feeling safe in the area you live in.
2. Understanding history and the legacy of this today.
3. Cross community work.
4. Justice for the victims and survivors.
5. Healing of past trauma.
6. Shared housing development initiatives.
7. Shared and/or integrated education.
8. Challenging discrimination (racism, sectarianism).
9. Local people having an influence and voice in decision making process and civic life.
10. Prevention and de-escalation of issues causing tensions within and between communities
11. Cultural expression including cultural celebration, language, music, and arts
12. Regenerating segregated/interface areas.
13. Equality of opportunity for people
14. Welcoming communities for new arrivals, refugees and people seeking asylum.
15. Remembering the past and ethical commemoration.
16. Creating opportunities for safe dialogue on difficult issues.
17. Gender Based Violence
18. Democracy and civic participation
19. Isolation and community cohesion
20. Health and Well-being (Living well together)
21. Discrimination (disability, ethnicity, age, gender, religion etc)
22. Cost of living crisis
23. Employment and training opportunities.
24. Community Development
25. Paramilitary control

Good Relations Survey Qualitative Analysis

Three qualitative questions were included in the survey. The overall responses were thoughtful, detailed, and the main points are summarised below.

Q6. If good relations work is making a difference, what does/might that difference look like? For example, how would your local streets and neighbour interactions be?

Q6. Evaluative Summary:

In response to this question, the majority of respondents thought good relations work would make a difference on the streets and within local communities by contributing to and strengthening the sense of a Shared Community and would impact on the degree of

acceptance of cultural diversity and pluralism. Good relations would also impact on the streets and local communities by creating a Safer Community for all.

Our Children and Young People

A number of respondents have pointed to the need to be more future focused, putting the next generation first and creating more opportunities for young people to come together on a more regular basis.

Shared Community

- Based on the comments received a significant number of respondents expressed opinions around how good relations if working could contribute to 'shared community', through more intentional shared spaces, more extensive/widespread cross community and open community working at local community/neighbourhood levels.
- Many responses pointed to the need for 'ordinary people' to be supported in working together around social issues, everyday ordinary issues at local levels. Many expressed that good relations would lead to greater integration throughout community, including in education and housing.

Cultural Expression

Cultural Expression comes up as a significant impactful issue for good relations. Respondents reflecting the need for greater acceptance and understanding of difference. They both expected and identified the opportunity for greater awareness, understanding and respect for diverse cultures, inclusive of minority cultural identities, and unionist and nationalist communities. Activities and showcasing opportunities such as storytelling, diversity talks, cultural and heritage events could contribute positively to good relations by encouraging greater openness, acceptance, and understanding of diversity, and people from, different cultural backgrounds.

- The issue of overt public cultural expression of identity and culture is also raised as an issue which impinges on an increased sense of 'shared community', in particular where flags/emblems are used in a way which is perceived as 'designating areas' or 'marking territory' (reference to both 'loyalist' flags, painted kerbs, the marching session', GAA flags, Irish name signs).
- The CCGBC Council's policy on Flags on its own buildings and the various party-political stances is also perceived by some respondents to inhibit the development of more positive good relations.
- A small number of respondents question whether good relations can make a difference at all; whether the reach was limited and whether good relations efforts are equal across all geographic areas.

Q7. Can you share an example of good relations work that was impactful or that prevented further conflict or division.

When asked about the interventions they would like to see in a Good Relations Strategy, the response was again thoughtful and detailed. The evaluative summary is accompanied by an analysis by T: BUC.

Q.7 Evaluative Summary:

A number of examples of impactful good relations work are cited as taking place through shared education in schools, as well as within the youth sector. Greysteel and Limavady are singled out, including nonaligned cultural events e.g., Stendhal festival.

- A number of examples of impactful work are cited as taking place through community sector organisations.
 - Women's Groups, Men's Sheds, cross community contact schemes, community groups are working together as cross community groups or on a cross community basis, and art/creative lead initiatives.
 - There are suggestions made around the role of Church groups working together to support inclusive community.
 - It was identified that community venues are both potentially and actually important to enabling cross community work.
 - Festivals e.g., Halloween, Lammas are regarded as offering potential to be intentionally inclusive as non-aligned /shared cultural gatherings and events.
 - Peace IV organisations and programmes were also identified as playing a positive role.
- A number of specific initiatives - which have been designed purposefully as positive cultural encounter programmes and or as addressing the perceived negative impacts of 'flag flying' and of 'bonfires' which can be divisive - are also cited, as well as specific mediation and dialogue efforts.
- A number of respondents when challenged to identify impactful examples, or cite examples outside of the CCGBC area e.g., they referred to leadership at the time of the GFA and the better bonfire management now.

Q.10 Evaluative Summary

'What type of activities, projects or interventions would you like to see as part of a council good relations strategy?'

Respondents' answers point towards actions which fall within the four T: BUC aims: inter-relating themes of Children and Young People, Shared Community, Safe Community, and Cultural Expression. A number of respondents also expressed frustration around actions/activities perceived as being unhelpful, prohibitive or countering good relations, and a number of these relate to a wider perception around 'the politics of place' and a perceived polarising impact of unionism vs nationalism. Planning for good relations could become more consultative and the allocation of good relations funds could be awarded on agreement between Council and communities on where it needs to go, and less dependent on 'good application'.

Children and Young people

Many respondents expressed a desire for a greater emphasis on programmes, projects and services for young people as the next/future generation, via youth / community, education and church sectors. One response identified the need for supportive and critical civic leadership spaces for young Protestants. Many respondents requested further shared education and integrated opportunities for primary and post primary children and young people.

Shared Community

The emphasis in the survey responses focused on ' bringing people together' using common interests to build capacity and opportunity for cross community activities. Local neighbourhood

action, possibly through localised neighbourhood renewal projects could also facilitate building cross community relationships. There was also a desire for a greater sense of a shared community within housing areas.

Suggestions are also made which suggest a desire for supported targeted approaches whereby groups are encouraged and supported to reach beyond their areas or groups. They would be more comfortable coming together through programmes based on bringing people together, and including those who would not ordinarily come together. This included education and learning opportunities.

'Fund normal community activities but support them to reach out across local boundaries. It has to be built at interfaces - not among the great and the good. Fund sport to make a difference etc.'

Respondents have also spoken of the need to integrate community, in ways which connect with social inclusion and equality by including ethnic minorities, women, and the LGBTQ+ communities. Respondents identified a range of approaches, world café, myth busting, training and education, anti-poverty work and a community navigator.

Respondents' suggestions reflect a desire for inclusive shared community, which is intentionally cross community and inclusive of other and all diverse groupings in the area.

Safe Community

It was also suggested that intercultural awareness is a two-way street. Therefore, increased understanding within the majority communities could be promoted through their participation in awareness raising work that highlighted ethnic minority and LGBTQ+ peoples' experiences and women's safety within communities.

Cultural Expression

Actions to address contentious elements of cultural displays, parading, flag flying, marking of territory and 'identity badging' are suggested by a number of respondents.

Programmes exploring culture, its dynamics and traditions and valuing cultural identity, traditions/influence are suggested. These should not reduce cultural identity or reinforce a need for anyone to 'culturally identify as one thing or the other'. This includes exploring what is culture, how it develops, cultural literacy as well as the diverse cultural traditions.

Some respondents propose a more positive appreciation of Ulster Scots in some areas and the promotion of three languages alongside each other (English/Irish/Ulster Scots).

There are suggestions for more cultural work and opportunities to develop awareness around cultures as well as opportunities for safe discussions around sectarianism, racism and unconscious bias.

These suggestions highlight the importance of inter-cultural work and opportunities for all to showcase cultural identity, and targeted actions which include cultural/community spaces for ethnic minority community.

Summary Quantitative and Qualitative Good Relations Survey

In the context of the attitudes to good relations, the NILT 2020-21 data set recorded that in Causeway coast and glens Borough council area, 43% felt relations had improved in the last 5 years and 40% that they would continue to do so in the next 5 years. The 2023 Good Relations Survey undertaken for the audit highlighted the following.

The key findings are:

- The three most common good relations issues identified in the area at this moment are sectarianism (80.3%), cultural diversity (61.8%) and racism (28%).
- A strong majority (79.6%) of people felt safe in their community, 12.1% did not.
- On whether they felt their identity was respected 52.2% responded Yes.
- On whether their identity was not respected, 31.2% of people who answered this question said sometimes and 16.6% of people said it was not respected.
- Addressing the legacy of the past is really important to 46.5% of those who responded to the question, 42% said it is important. For 10% it is not that important.

The top 10 key issues are:

(Key priority issues identified by 40 or more than 40 people).

1. Shared and/or integrated education.
2. Cross community work.
3. Feeling safe in the area you live in.
4. Local people having an influence and voice in decision making process and civic life.
5. Challenging discrimination (racism, sectarianism).
6. Cultural expression including cultural celebration, language, music, and arts.
7. Justice for the victims and survivors.
8. Paramilitary control.
9. Community Development.
10. Cost of living crisis.

In response to Q.10 respondents identified key interventions to be made with young people and children. They also identified how common issues, local neighbourhood work, community education and training could bring people together and contribute to a shared community. Other themes identified included broadly based integration work. In terms of cultural expression, they identified as problematic the marking of territory and as positive the potential to increase understanding in Ulster Scots and the Irish language, cultures and traditions.

Summary of Good Relations Consultations

The thematic, area based, strategic partner, and councillor consultations have been extensively analysed as each meeting and interview took place. These are detailed in Appendix 2. They were then further analysed and mapped against the T: BUC aims. The consultations provides much of the evidence base for intervention as outlined in the next section on the key themes and mapping. A range of issues were raised at meetings and in the survey that cannot be directly addressed through the Good Relations Strategy. The summary of these issues is detailed below in terms of their links to other policies and practice. Further material is available in Appendix 2 at the end of each focus group and interview.

Links to Policy and Practice

The range of issues raised in meeting and on the survey that are not directly related to T:BUC but may none the less inform the conversation are summarised below. There was much frustration in evidence.

Challenges in Council related issues

- Loss of confidence in the commitment of council and elected representatives to work on social and economic issues with the community.
- Authentic and genuine consultation with community around big public spending decisions.
- More awareness of the need for structure around policy making.
- How do we get MLAs and councillors to listen to us?
- Council meetings needing to be more concise and welcoming of public assistance.
- Research international examples of participative democracy.
- Perception that the movement of council to Coleraine has left Limavady with less resources and attention.
- Councillors from diverse backgrounds.

Council funding issues

- Leases running out for local groups, Glens Estate Drop-in and Men's Shed.
- Perceptions of unfair distribution of resources from Council.
- 'Single identity area finds it difficult to access Good Relations Funding.
- Instability of funding.
- Application forms difficult to use.
- Payment to advertise on council site.
- High rental rates for council owned spaces.
- Could Council promote activities or centres for free?
- Target areas of need.
- Retrospective funding is problematic.
- Issues aggravated by insecure staff and project funding.
- Too costly to use Council facilities.

Needs and Service Issues include:

- Street lighting, bin collection for older people.
- Transport - to increase access and connections between villages and towns.
- Littering on outskirts of town.

Housing and Health

- More social housing needed.
- Men's mental well-being issues prevalent.
- Voluntary organisations providing regular care for elderly people: preventing loneliness and health problems.

Community building issues and needs:

- Workshop activities - for those of 55+ years plus to share skills, improves mental well-being, needs funding for materials etc.
- Not enough infrastructure.
- Voluntary group providing tea and coffee on Saturday nights for young people leaving the bars.
- Local people finding ways to connect with people who are suffering.

Community Planning

- Community Planning Review - Holistic and inter-connected needs and responses are required.
- Effects on communities of issues such as poverty, cost of living etc.
- Health and Wellbeing Services, Multi-Disciplinary Services,
- Access to a range of services for young people and adults,
- Issues around housing, transport, local peoples' needs.

Infrastructure

- Develop and support drop in for mental well-being support.
- Kids drop-in centre after school.
- Promote volunteering locally.

CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS BOROUGH COUNCIL KEY THEMES

Based on the consultations, survey, and the policy and planning frameworks reviewed, the key themes that emerge across the survey and consultations emphasise shared spaces, developing young people, addressing some difficult issues, the need for regeneration and integration, and challenging racism, negative attitudes and behaviours and sectarianism. These are set out below in terms of the four key T:BUC aims. Case studies illustrate two of these themes. In addition, other issues that were articulated by respondents have been mapped into other policies and practices so that they may be addressed outside of the Good Relations Strategy. A number of key delivery principles identified across the consultations and survey are indicated. The good relations issues have been mapped to the action plan, detailing complementarity, capacity building and good relations outcomes.

Supporting children and young people in good relations work and in integration work. In terms of community towns and villages there is an opportunity to develop shared spaces. This sits alongside increasing annoyance about difficult issues such as painted kerb stones, murals, flags and territory marking which need to be addressed. Culture, traditions and global diversity were also identified as area with considerable potential to contribute to a shared community. Community education and training to better understand the dynamic of culture, and traditions, good relations and building welcoming communities was also a common theme.

The findings strongly suggest that those, in consultation meetings, and those who responded to the survey had a view of Community Relations /Good Relations issues as being heavily influenced by the immediacy of cost-of-living pressures. The crisis is negatively affecting their families, children, communities, constituents, service users and partner groups. The community response to Covid -19 energised local groups to meet their community needs, building and renewing cross-community links, friendships, and mutual respect. It also drew attention to the value of community groups as an essential infrastructure in times of need. The repeated call for a new civic voice reflected a perceived frustration with the limited scope for local people to have an influence and voice in decision making processes and in civic life. That call came from communities, councillors, and statutory partners. It was accompanied by the call again from across the councillors, communities, and statutory agencies that the understanding of good relations must be broader and encompass community planning, community development, regeneration in order to address the challenges they identified and create a shared community. This approach is in keeping with the idea of social peace processes that require bottom up and multi- sectoral and agency approaches to cementing peace and also action to address inequality.³⁸ The six integrated strands of reconciliation as articulated by Johnston McMaster take a comparable approach. These include the socio-economic, socio-political, socio-environmental strands.³⁹ These linkages are outlined in the combined analysis of the community consultation and linked to the policy framework, local perspective, and local planning context based on the survey findings and tables in Appendices 1 and 2.

Key Themes Children and Young People

Many respondents expressed a desire for a greater emphasis via, more programmes, projects and services for young people as the next/future generation, via youth / community, education and church sectors. It has been suggested that young people should be enabled to come together more easily, on a cross community basis, around shared and common interests e.g., sport, and music. Suggestions also include focused projects and educational opportunities which enable young people to develop greater understanding for cultural diversity and equality. One response identified the need for supportive and critical civic leadership spaces

³⁸ John D. Brewer, *Peace processes: a sociological approach* (Cambridge, 2010).

³⁹ Johnston McMaster ‘What does reconciliation look like in a larger context’.

for young Protestants. Many respondents requested further shared education and integrated opportunities for primary and post primary children and young people. The need to support children and young people to live in a culturally diverse, pluralistic society in which there is respect for all cultural traditions and backgrounds, was also identified.

These points suggest that respondents regard inclusive approaches as being a part of creating community.

'Inter community, inter town, cross cultural approach inclusive of BME also'

'Integration of ethnic/religious minorities approaches from their community to local groups. I know living where I do that religious sectarianism happens, but what about other religions?'

The case study below illustrates how an environmental project can have an impact on developing relationships between schools and children and young people from different community backgrounds.

Case Study BYTES & Garvagh People's Forest: West Bann Forest Sessions

"The Over Story, My Story, The Under Story"

Purpose: To explore good relationships in the context of the history of the forest and the entanglement of relationships in the (natural) world.

Over-story: above us, in the trees, what we can see and imagine.

Under-story: under our feet, under the earth that we don't know everything about. Our past and our families' past, the land and its entanglements.

My Story: where the two connect in me and I choose which steps to take through the forest and which relationships are nurturing for me.

Between October '21 and April '22 15 young people aged between 10 and 13 from Bytes Coleraine from 9 different local schools across the CCGBC area were brought together for 3 sessions in Garvagh People's Forest to explore ways of understanding identity and relationship building in connection with nature. The project was framed in three parts; Over Story - the trees and their leaves and fruits, Under Story - under our feet, the roots of the trees and our communities, nurturing and entangled, My Story - where the two connect in me and I choose which steps to take through the forest and which relationships are nurturing for me.

We noticed that it really took some time for the young people to get into a different rhythm. They arrived all hyped up and excited and it was like they'd forgotten how to be calm if it wasn't in front of the tv. We saw and they did too, how there was a change of energy and focus over time, and in the end even the most hyper kids were really centred and calm and didn't really want to leave. That state of calm allowed them to really connect with the forest and open up to different kinds of conversations than they would have normally. It definitely was a strengthening experience in terms of good relations. It made us think that all our good relations programmes should be either focused around non-sectarian sports (like our ice hockey project) or in nature.

Key Themes Children and Young people

- Youth leadership.

- Learning about and experience of diversity, pluralism and cultural identities.
- Break down the barriers between the different clubs.
- Preparing for cultural diversity.
- Include disadvantaged young people and those in hard-to-reach groups.

Shared Community

Actions and activities envisaged would appear to reflect a strong desire for many more opportunities and programmes that ‘bring people together’ with many suggestions being made for greater ‘cross-community’ opportunities and cross community initiatives/programmes/projects which cater for all age groups around shared /common interests: sports, arts, local history, and nature/environment. Thus,

‘more joint projects involving communities that usually do not come together.’

This included advocating targeted approaches whereby groups are encouraged and supported to reach beyond their areas, groups and comfort zones. Education and training enabling people from Protestant and Catholic backgrounds to learn about each other was suggested. Through positive encounter projects and cross-community community education programmes new relationships could develop. Such attempts to integrate envisaged an inclusive shared community, which is intentionally cross community and inclusive of all from all diverse backgrounds. This suggests that respondents regard inclusive approaches as being a part of creating community.

In the promotion of shared space, the work could also consider and overcome the dilemma identified through the Good Relations Indicators 2020 Report – the need to build on places that the community perceives shared such as libraries, shopping centres and leisure centres and parks; and also, the need to counter feelings of being less safe - in town centres and in attending events in schools, cultural and sports places. At same time young people feel that they can be open about their identity in schools, and it is important not to undermine their sense of safety and identity but to build on it.

It was hoped and indeed anticipated that the Good Relations Programme would want to work with the existing infrastructure at community level to maximise the potential for common interests, links and relationships to engage on a cross community basis, to create a safe and shared society. The Shared Spaces potential is illustrated through the following Old Courthouse case study.

CASE STUDY: Relationships and Shared Spaces: The Courthouse Shared Space Creative Hub – Bushmills Village

Background to the Programme

In 2016 Enterprise Causeway purchased the Old Courthouse, a derelict Grade B1 listed building situated in the heart of Bushmills. with the long-term vision of restoring and developing the building, into a Creative Hub for the local community.

The shared space project received €7.8million of capital funding from the European Union’s PEACE IV Programme with match-funding from the Department for Communities, Northern Ireland and the Department of Rural and Community Development, Ireland

The new facility, which is scheduled to open in Spring 2024 will include a coffee shop and retail space, as well as two large messy studios, workshop facilities and meeting

rooms, providing a unique space where community, artisan makers and businesses can come together.

Running in parallel with the construction work is an Outreach Programme which focuses on building relationships, promoting opportunities, and providing support. Activities and workshops aim to bring people from all backgrounds, ages and abilities together, to learn, explore and acquire new skills and develop their interests in arts and crafts, heritage and artisan food.

The Twelve Wreaths of Christmas

One of our Community Outreach Initiatives was the Twelve Wreaths of Christmas Programme, which was an intergenerational programme designed to bring the local community together, to be creative, and explore their local heritage. Twelve local groups, including schools, community associations, church groups, early years, social enterprises, the Orange Order, youth and older people's groups participated in the programme.

Each organisation was supported to design and create their own 21-inch Christmas Wreath which represented their organisation. These workshops were held collectively over a three-week period and provided an opportunity for people to meet share ideas and build relationships. The Wreaths varied in their style and theme ranging from traditional Georgian to a Wreath made from an old lobster creel.

In early December, the Wreaths were placed at various locations, including community venues and local business premises, to form a walking trail around the village. Leaflets were produced detailing the trail, the wreaths and the organisations involved, which we placed in local businesses, so that the trail could be accessed at any time. In addition, two local historians facilitated heritage walking tours of the trail, providing opportunities for the group participants to contribute experiences, stories and facts about their organisations, their Wreaths, Christmas Traditions, and the local area. At the end of the Trail refreshments were served in the Parish Centre where everyone had the opportunity to continue discussions, catch up, or make new connections.

The feedback from the programme has been positive. People welcomed the opportunity to come together for a community initiative and for many groups it was the first time that they had been involved in a joint programme. They welcomed the intergenerational contact and people of all ages and interests learned aspects of the local heritage and Christmas traditions from around the world. It also provided a platform for people to ask questions about the heritage and formation of the various groups and for the members of these organisations to celebrate the valuable work they do and the services they provide in the community.

Key Themes Shared Community

- The development of a civic voice that can support and work with local groups across the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area.
- Memorials and inclusive remembering - addressing the legacies of the past. Inclusive remembering workshops with community groups.
- Building A United Community Fund & Participatory Budgeting.
- Positive media campaign, news articles, and Good Relations newsletter.
- Shared Spaces /Sharing Our Place Pride in Place – people. Involve active community groups in utilising common interests to create space that fosters engagement, interaction and relationships.
- Sharing Our Place Pride in Place – small capital works. Physical improvements and regeneration.
- Shared Environmental: T: BUC Trees Project and Forest project.
- Community capacity building: Civic Voice. Overarching group encompassing the experience and expertise of community and local business. Map networks and forums existing in the 7 DEAs to identify gaps and opportunities for collaboration with colleagues.
- Community/Good Relations Education and Training. Community education to promote understanding of the dynamic of culture as well as the traditions that exist within communities. This could include education/awareness around history, heritage and culture, and inter-cultural education which focuses on developing awareness around cultural traditions as well as the evolving nature of cultural identity and cultural dynamics of society.
- Succession planning for Good Relations work. Good /Community Relations Training and Education to include facilitation/mediation/training. Developing skills that are important to provide the skills to deliver good relations work and also be applicable to other areas of people's lives and work in general. This could also include focused training around 'remembering the past', as well as 'a social peace' and the social justice issues within society related to a deepening of peace, and the development of 'relationships' and structures.

Safe Community

The issues identified around safe communities referred to the safety on the streets for all groups, in particular young people, women and asylum seekers and refugees. The strategic partners and the council leadership were identified as key partners in continuing to support bonfire management and in addressing the marking of territory. It was recognised that local communities are also critical to resolving these issues. The integration and safety of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants - who are a small population in the borough, was identified as important in all meetings. The need to counter negative and extreme views and fears was considered to be important. Young people in particular drew attention to how experiencing a global diversity can enrich lives.

Key Themes Safe Community

- Strategic Partners- Bonfire management and protocols for cultural celebrations and events, with organisers and relevant bodies. Address increased public annoyance and intimidation associated with loyalist and republican groups and with kerb painting, flags, and murals.
- Integration of Asylum Seekers and Refugees and people of ethnic minority background. Myth-busting in relation to new communities. Sharing diversity through

working with new communities, schools, and communities. Community integration, and education and training. Signpost and support asylum seekers, refugees, and newcomers. Develop a one stop shop or Community Navigator for information, support and signposting and to ensure better co-ordination and information sharing between support organisations.

Key Themes Cultural Expression

Those consulted recognised the importance of creating two-way experiences of diversity in schools, with young people and in communities. The need to address rising tensions of both racism and sectarianism was identified. History and heritage offer community and museum led opportunities to promote understanding and to address difficult and different narratives. The capacity of groups to engage in cross community relationship building remains an issue and interim interventions may be necessary for some groups to take the next step.

- Exploring Culture and Diversity in schools; offer range of opportunities in person and online to primary schools. Culture café, small worlds. Refugee week and various festivals and religious holidays.
- Develop participation opportunities for people who have newly arrived.
- Address perceptions of rising tensions of sectarianism and racism.
- Hear Here: culture and language- culture and language of the two main traditions in Northern Ireland.
- Understand our history and the different historical narratives and respect the diversity of our cultural expressions, include multiple narrative and outreach activity, addressing difficult history.
- Developing capacity through engaging loyalist and hard to reach communities. Opening up single identity events to a broader, more diverse participation. Single identity work with women and rural groups, with a civic voice that is inclusive, diverse and independent.

Overarching Good Relations Themes

- Enhance partnership and collaborative working.
- Re-brand and develop and implement a wider understanding of good relations at a council corporate level, in the context of the community plan and community development and regeneration.

Key Delivery Principles

These are the key delivery principles identified across the consultations and survey.

- Co-design and delivery through local partners, particularly at community level, in keeping with Community Development Strategy.
- Active citizenship, partnership and locally identifying priorities, in keeping with Community Development Strategy.
- Delivery across the 7 DEAs.
- Network and share learning.
- Complementarity and build sustainable capacity.

MAPPING THE THEMES

The following tables indicate how the key and overriding themes and the principles for delivery have been mapped against the T: BUC aims. This is evidenced, with elements of the capacity building needs identified, the complementarity to policy, and Good Relations project outcomes included. (Tables 17 GOOD RELATIONS THEMES MAPPED TO T: BUC KEY AIMS CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS BOROUGH COUNCIL). Included below is a summary table. (Table 16)

Table 16 Summary of consultation mapped to T :BUC

| T :BUC Key AIM | Project Title | Existing, Enhanced , New |
|--|--|--------------------------|
| T:BUC Children And Young People | Different Ball, Same Goal Engaging and empowering young people | Existing New |
| T:BUC Shared Community | Memorials and inclusive remembering -addressing the legacies of the past. Building A United Community Fund & Participatory Budgeting. | Existing Existing |
| | Positive Promotion of Good Relations. | Existing |
| | Shared Spaces / Sharing Our Place - Pride in Place - people | New |
| | Shared Spaces / Sharing Our Place - Pride in Place – capital works. | New |
| | Shared Environmental: T: BUC Trees Project | Enhanced |
| | Community capacity building: Civic Voice. | New |
| | Community Relations Education and Training. | New |
| T:BUC Safe Community | Partnership and Collaborative Statutory and Community Cohesion Group Bonfires and beacons | Enhanced Existing |
| | Support Integration efforts, challenge fears, and prejudice, and myth bust about migration. | Enhanced |
| | Community (Navigator) Officer - one stop shop resource. | New |

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|----------|
| T:BUC Cultural Expression | Exploring Culture and Diversity: Cultural Diversity in schools. | Existing |
| | Exploring Culture and Diversity: Community Integration Projects. | Existing |
| | Exploring Culture and Diversity: Diversity awareness / education and training. | Existing |
| | Hear Here: culture and language culture and language of the two main traditions in Northern Ireland. | Enhanced |
| | History and Heritage | Enhanced |
| | Developing capacity: Engaging loyalist and hard to reach communities. | New |

Table 17 GOOD RELATIONS THEMES MAPPED TO T: BUC KEY AIMS

CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS BOROUGH COUNCIL

| T:BUC Children And Young People | Evidence In Consultation (Name of Group) | Linkages, Complementarity and Capacity Building Needs | Good Relations Outcomes |
|--|---|---|---|
| Different Ball, Same Goal Sharing sport and games | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ People have no opportunities to mix from an early age. ✓ Few sports that both sides of the community get involved in. ✓ Football clubs are representative of the divided society. ✓ Bring school children from different backgrounds together on a regular basis before the age of 14. ✓ More young people getting together before their teens. (Councillors). ✓ Good Relations survey responses to Q.6 Children and young people. | <p>Good Relations Indicators 2020 Report.</p> <p>Shared and safe community.</p> <p>Builds school capacity for cross-community engagement.</p> | <p>Increased respect for people from different traditions and ethnic groups.</p> <p>Enables cross-community engagement in schools.</p> |
| Engaging and empowering young people Youth leadership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Leadership development. ✓ Engage young people from across all 7 DEAs in comprehensive learning about and experience of diversity, pluralism and cultural identities (include section 75 groups). ✓ Target young people in disadvantaged areas. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Youth forum ✓ Cross community youth engagement programmes - targeting areas with community issues and /or significant levels of segregation and divisions. ✓ Engage with local young people about what is acceptable in the area. (Community meeting). ✓ Young people connect good relations with their own experience. ✓ Feeling safe personally, professionally, and socially. ✓ Inclusion. ✓ Ballysally summer workshops and Nerve Centre's rock camp with | <p>T :BUC aims Shared and safe community.</p> <p>Good Relations Indicators Report 2020, young people feel less favourable to other groups than adults and that they have less influence on local decision making (only 9%).</p> <p>Peace IV learning legacy - build on leadership and community integration programmes.</p> | <p>Increased respect.</p> <p>Breaking down barriers.</p> <p>Building capacity for cross-community engagement.</p> <p>Changes in knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours.</p> <p>Increased respect shown for diversity, the cultural heritage of others and of one's own.</p> |

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Break down the barriers between the different clubs – overcome perceptions – Young Farmers Clubs, Gaelic Clubs, Orange Halls, different sports activities, musical and marching traditions. etc. (Community meeting). Preparing for cultural diversity ✓ Support the preparatory work within specific groupings. necessary to enable barriers and capacity issues to be overcome. ✓ Engage S75 groups with preparatory work. ✓ Engage young asylum seekers, refugees, and young people from new communities. ✓ Utilise refugee week, cultural café etc. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> young people from all backgrounds was positive. ✓ Portrush & Coleraine Drag nights that meet with no trouble. (Rainbow Project) ✓ Project to bring young people from diverse backgrounds together for projects, spend social time together, diversionary and education for cultural diversity. ✓ Delivery - Diversionary, empowerment and personal-development work with post primary young people at risk and include community development, and rural groups in delivery. (Strategic partners). ✓ Council Youth Board - direct helpline to council for young people and listening to youth. ✓ Role models and learning new skills. ✓ More and improved shared outdoor spaces/clubs for youth. ✓ Gatherings, festivals, and ✓ T: BUC camps. ✓ Multicultural celebrations so we are not thinking about bonfires and stuff all the time. Something else to look forward to that is every year. ✓ Cultures - understanding different cultures so you feel safer and see that in the different estates we are not so different. ✓ Celebrating important dates for different cultures. | <p>Potential for a project with PEACE PLUS, core themes Thriving And Respectful Communities and Building Respect for Cultural Identities.</p> <p>T:BUC, RES and Council Equality Action Plan.</p> | <p>Delivery across 7 DEAs.</p> |
|--|---|---|--------------------------------|

| | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| | (BYTES Coleraine/ Ballymoney). | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|

| T:BUC Shared Community | Evidence In Consultation | Linkages, Complementarity and Capacity Building Needs | Good Relations Outcomes |
|--|--|---|---|
| Memorials and inclusive remembering - addressing the legacies of the past. Inclusive remembering workshops with community groups. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Implementation of draft memorial policy (Community meeting). ✓ Memorialisation issues needs to be addressed. ✓ Legacy – addressing its transgenerational and educational implications. ✓ Long term impact of trauma. ✓ Targeted communities, some aware that there is a momentum for change. Regretful on behalf of their youth. (Strategic Partners). | <p>Good Relations Action Plan 2023/24.</p> <p>T:BUC Key aims - Safe community and cultural expression.</p> <p>History and heritage.</p> | <p>Changes in knowledge, behaviours and attitudes.</p> <p>Increased understanding of inclusive remembering.</p> |
| Building A United Community Fund & Participatory Budgeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Mentor groups to apply. ✓ Review grant processes. | <p>Good Relations Funding processes (Ulidian Ballymoney focus group).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Council application process is difficult. Single-identity communities only involved, perceived to fail. ✓ Applications from single identity groups would be better understood as culture, preventative work with young people (drugs etc.), supporting communities and community empowerment . ✓ Difficult for small community groups to get | Building capacity. Complementary with T:BUC key aim Our shared community. | <p>Sense of belonging to my neighbourhood.</p> <p>Positive changes in knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours.</p> |

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| | <p>funding- (Lambeg Drumming for example).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ PUL/CNR terminology is not useful. ✓ Secular society, revise advertising and criteria. ✓ Filling in forms and returns is difficult. ✓ Asking for identity before and after – doesn't fit single identity work. <p>Instead of targeting Catholic/Protestant, publicly advertise and service those who turn up.</p> | | |
| <p>Positive Promotion of Good Relations.</p> <p>Positive media campaign, news articles, and Good Relations newsletter.</p> <p>Share a (re-branded) understanding of Good Relations.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Challenge stereotyping in social media; promote critical awareness and thinking. ✓ Council promotes group activities for free via newsletter Facebook. (Community meetings). | <p>T :BUC key aims.</p> <p>Links to myth busting around asylum seekers and refugees and newcomers.</p> | <p>Positive changes recorded.</p> <p>Increased understanding and support for Good Relations.</p> |
| <p>Shared Spaces / Sharing Our Place Pride in Place – people.</p> <p>Involve active community groups in utilising common interests to create space that fosters engagement, interaction and relationships.</p> <p>Co-design and draw on PEACE PLUS Local Community Action Plans and in keeping with community development strategy.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Bushmills Old Courthouse. ✓ Arts, Urban, Environmental. ✓ Shared Interests: Coming together on the importance of common interests – environmental, arts, crafts, spaces etc. – warm and well-being hubs. (Community meetings). ✓ Strong common interests can be used to develop projects with lasting relationships and impact. E.g., Holocaust Memorial Day. ✓ Men's Shed - They went to Stormont and presented themselves | <p>Our Cultural Expression and Shared Community.</p> <p>Good Relations Indicators 2020 Report – build on places community perceives as shared libraries, shopping, centres and leisure centres and parks and counter feelings of being less safe - in town centres and in attending events in schools, cultural and sports spaces.</p> | <p>Creating more welcoming spaces.</p> <p>Increased comfort in socialising in a space person would not traditionally use.</p> <p>Increased knowledge of cultural traditions / backgrounds.</p> <p>Improved attitude towards people from different religious backgrounds.</p> |

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| <p>Co-design with statutory partners, noting the other issues raised in the consultations (Appendix 2).</p> <p>Support town centres, schools, cultural and sports spaces to be welcoming, safe and deliver a positive experience of diverse cultures and traditions.</p> <p>Deliver across 7 DEAs.</p> | <p>as the Presby-fenians from Limavady - important. To get out and talk to people and share good examples of GR at work."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Coach people and allow them to flourish in a safe, mixed community, accepting of all perspectives and backgrounds in the community. ✓ Members doing GR work when they don't even realise it. (Councillors). ✓ Good Relations survey responses to Q.6 bringing people together, Q.7 churches together, festivals, cross sectoral Peace IV groups. Q.10 shared and common interests arts, crafts, gardens, talks, walks. | <p>Community Development Strategy – active citizenship and community development approaches.</p> <p>Links to PEACE PLUS Theme 1: Local Community Regeneration and Transformation.</p> <p>Peace I learning legacy - prejudices and hidden sectarianism and racism.</p> <p>Flags, Identity, Culture, And Tradition Commission – in improving shared space the objective is to create space that fosters engagement, interaction and relationships.</p> <p>PEACE PLUS Themes core themes 2 and 3 - Thriving And Respectful Communities and Building Respect for Cultural Identities.</p> | <p>Improved attitude towards people from different ethnic backgrounds.</p> <p>Events have played a positive role in bringing people together.</p> |
| <p>Shared Spaces / Sharing Our Place</p> <p>Pride in Place – capital works.</p> <p>Physical improvements and regeneration drawing on the PEACE PLUS local</p> | <p>As above Pride in Place - people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Good Relations survey responses to Q.10 local efforts supporting neighbourhood regeneration. <p>Regeneration and local economic development</p> | <p>Our safe Community, Our Cultural Expression.</p> <p>PEACE PLUS Theme 1: Local Community Regeneration and Transformation.</p> | <p>Creating more welcoming spaces.</p> <p>Increased comfort in socialising in a space person</p> |

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| <p>community action plans.</p> <p>Ensure benefit across 7 DEAs.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Economic -cross-community workspace. ✓ Decrease in the local economy/online shopping. ✓ Regeneration of the town. ✓ Standards slip in small towns -larger towns that have cross-community population thrive. ✓ Uplift the main street- derelict houses throughout the town /traffic volumes. ✓ Develop tourism – local tour guides. ✓ Farmers Market. ✓ Support older and young people, and disability/ability support centre for young people. ✓ No funding for Jazz Festival – community suffered. ✓ Improve the economic environment to encourage young people to live locally. ✓ Rates holiday for self-employed people/entrepreneurs. <p>(Public consultations).</p> | <p>Good Relations Indicators 2020 Report – build on places community perceives as shared libraries, shopping, centres and leisure centres and parks and counter feelings of being less safe - in town centres and in attending events in schools, cultural and sports spaces.</p> <p>Flags, Identity, Culture, And Tradition Commission – in improving shared space the objective is to create space that fosters engagement, interaction and relationships.</p> | <p>would not traditionally use.</p> <p>Increased knowledge of cultural traditions / backgrounds.</p> <p>Improved attitude towards people from different religious backgrounds.</p> <p>Improved attitude towards people from different ethnic backgrounds.</p> <p>Spaces have played a positive role in bringing people together.</p> |
| <p>Shared Environmental:</p> <p>T: BUC Trees Project</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Utilise common interests to foster relationships and improve good relations. <p>Environmental projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Shared Interests: Coming together on the importance of common interests – environmental, arts, crafts, spaces etc. – warm and well-being hubs. <p>(Community meetings).</p> <p>Good Relations survey responses to Q.10 Shared community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ identifies environment as opportunity to bring | <p>Complements OCSP – safe and welcoming spaces.</p> | <p>Open and welcoming outdoor spaces.</p> <p>Positive changes in knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours.</p> |

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| | <p>people together for good relations, a common goal.</p> <p>BYTES ✓ Forest Case Study.</p> | | |
| <p>Community capacity building: Civic Voice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Overarching group encompassing the experience and expertise of community, local business. ✓ Co-design how civic voice can be developed and included in local decision-making, ✓ Map networks and forums existing in the 7 DEAs to identify gaps and opportunities with colleagues. ✓ Identify the type of issues such forums would address across the 7 DEAs. ✓ Understanding decision-making structures and facilitating civic society voices. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Supporting the community infrastructure and networking to share, exchange and gather information, build relationships. (PCSP and community meeting). ✓ Coordination among the community groups operating within an area. (PCSP) ✓ Sustainability and succession of paid and volunteer roles in community groups (Community meetings and Strategic Partners). ✓ For councillors and citizens to feel engaged and that they have a political and social responsibility to contribute to GR work. ✓ Forum across the CC&G - inter town and inter community network to allow people to be more proactive and share learning. ✓ Opportunity to highlight and celebrate more the great work happening in the area. ✓ Publicise - local heroes, projects etc. (Councillors). ✓ Develop civic participation structures to engage with council and communities. Civic involvement. | <p>T: BUC Safe Community, Shared Community, Children and Young People, Cultural Expression.</p> <p>Building sustainable capacity of community groups for Good Relations work.</p> <p>Good Relations Indicators Report 2020, identified link between identity, sense of belonging and perceived influence over decision making.</p> <p>CCG Good Relations Attitudes survey- strong sense of belonging and only 22% felt they had an influence on decision-making locally.</p> <p>Reference to community planning reviews.</p> <p>Linked to RES (p. 24).</p> <p>Community Development Strategy, active citizenship,</p> | <p>Positive changes in knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours.</p> <p>Breaking down barriers.</p> <p>Delivery across 7 DEAs.</p> <p>Increased knowledge about and influence on local decision-making.</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Build capacity at all levels in formal and non-formal settings. ✓ Grow community partnership and joined up working. ✓ Intentionally involve young people. (Bonfire Statutory Cohesion). | partnership and identifying local priorities and community development approaches. | |
| Community Relations Education and Training. Community education to promote understanding the dynamic of culture as well as the traditions. Community education about what is culture, tradition and cultural literacy. Community/Good Relations Education and Training. Community education to promote understanding of the evolving nature of cultural identity and cultural dynamics of society and awareness around cultural traditions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Including on history, heritage and culture, and inter-cultural education. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Community relations engagement, facilitation and training with all including councillors. (Community Relations Practitioners). <p>Peace IV Learning Legacy.</p> | Builds capacity for implementation of T:BUC and PEACE PLUS. | Increased capacity to engage, interaction and relationships across diverse traditions and heritage backgrounds. Increased knowledge of cultural traditions / backgrounds. Improved attitude towards people from different religious backgrounds. Improved attitude towards people from different ethnic backgrounds. |

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| Support PEACEPLUS and other good relations initiatives. Succession planning for Good Relations work. Good /Community Relations Training and Education to include facilitation/mediation/training and 'remembering the past', 'a social peace' and social justice and deepening peace. | | | |
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| T:BUC Safe Community | Evidence In Consultation | Linkages, Complementarity and Capacity Building Needs | Good Relations Outcomes |
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| <p>Partnership and Collaborative (Strategic Partners, Statutory Cohesion Group, PCSP).</p> <p>Strategic Partners meetings.</p> <p>Multi agency Statutory Cohesion meetings.</p> <p>Bonfire site visits PCSP problem solving meetings.</p> <p>Co-design protocols of cultural celebrations and event, with organisers and relevant bodies.</p> <p>Address increased public annoyance and intimidation associated loyalist and republican with kerb painting, flags, and murals</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Referenced as on-going effective partnership by partner groups. ✓ That GR becomes embedded structurally. (Councillors). ✓ Parties coming together to make positive change. ✓ Rebranding of GR – not always Community or Good Relations. ✓ Collaborative work in communities and with other agencies. ✓ Taking forward the statutory responsibility for Good Relations. ✓ Despite constant pressures, anticipating and proactively responding to the changing policing and community safety issues with partners. ✓ Problem solving meetings. (Strategic Partners). <p>Good Relations survey responses to Q.6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Shared Community – flags, graffiti, painted kerb stones. ✓ Cultural expression- flags, territorial marked etc. <p>Safe community – good bonfire management.</p> | <p>T:BUC key aims - Our children and young people Our shared community, Our cultural Expression.</p> <p>T:BUC review.</p> <p>Community Plan process.</p> <p>(Re-defining) Good Relations and transcend artificial boundaries between community development, community planning and community relations.</p> <p>(Cohesion community meeting and Strategic partners).</p> <p>Good Relations Indicators Report 2020 – 18- 20% points increase in number of adults who are annoyed or intimidated by painted kerbs, flags and murals.</p> <p>Peace IV Learning legacy – need for stronger protocols around cultural celebrations and events.</p> <p>Flags, Identity, Culture, And Tradition Commission (FICT) notes need for:</p> | <p>Effective partnership and collaborative.</p> <p>Quality of partner relationships.</p> <p>Reduction in tensions and incidents.</p> <p>Changes in knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours.</p> |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Flag protocols are subject to section 75 considerations. ✓ Civic leadership in challenges of reducing fear, distrust around expression of cultural identity. <p>PSNI reports increased reported hate motivated crimes and incidents in respect of sectarianism, racism, homophobia and disability. (2021/22).</p> | |
| Statutory and Community Cohesion Group Bonfires and beacons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Memorandum statement of understanding around beacons needs to be finalised. (Strategic Partners). ✓ Cohesion meetings and site visits. ✓ Cultural exchanges: Revise purpose and co-design with partners. ✓ Divisionary and youth engagement. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The programme deals with HARD Good Relations and community safety issues resulting with longer term results. ✓ Improved community practice around cultural celebrations - bonfires and beacons. ✓ Grew family and environmentally friendly celebrations of culture by using beacons. ✓ Statutory Cohesion Group working in partnership and engaging the community and taken on board their input has made the difference. ✓ Partnership working leads to decreased community policing interventions. ✓ Showing that the benefits include being part of the overall forward movement. | <p>(Re-defining) good relations and transcend artificial boundaries between community development, community planning and community relations. (Cohesion and community meeting and Strategic partners).</p> <p>Communities need to connect with the Good Relations team.</p> <p>Empowered and supported communities are a valuable resource. (Bonfire Statutory Cohesion Group).</p> | <p>Effective partnership and collaborative.</p> <p>Quality of partner relationships.</p> <p>Reduction in tensions and incidents.</p> <p>Changes in knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours.</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Common goals. ✓ Trust grew between groups and Council (listening ear). ✓ Established boundaries and parameters on the use of tyres in bonfires avoids potential tensions. ✓ The importance of getting the right people involved from communities - people with the right frame of mind. (Bonfire Statutory Cohesion Group and Statutory Cohesion Group). ✓ Trip to the Somme - opportunity to teach all sides of history. ✓ Experimental project with the memorial process and rituals of people from both communities. ✓ No follow-on impact from cultural exchanges. ✓ Cultural exchanges are too small scale and not frequent enough to build sustainable relationships. ✓ Not achieving enough. ✓ NI as sectarian as ever: geographically polarised. (Councillors). | PEACE PLUS Theme 3 Building Respect for Cultural Identities. | |
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| T:BUC Safe Community | Evidence In Consultation | Linkages, Complementarity and Capacity Building Needs | Good Relations Outcomes |
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| <p>Support Integration efforts, challenge fears, and prejudice, and myth bust about migration.</p> <p>Areas of work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Myth-busting in relation to new communities. ✓ Interagency and policy responses ✓ Sharing diversity- work with new communities, schools, and communities. ✓ Signpost and support asylum seekers, refugees, and newcomers. ✓ Exploring Culture and Diversity: In schools, Community integration, and education and training. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Integration of newcomers into the community. ✓ Ethnic minority festivals like the Asian Festival in Coleraine, Portstewart, and Portrush. (Councillors). ✓ Growth of negative narratives about asylum seekers. ✓ Factors include myths, social deprivation, spread of racist sentiment, housing pressures and inadequate planning leads to claims of 'preferential treatment'; fears of diluting 'our culture', cost of living pressures. (Bonfire Statutory Cohesion Group). Sustained work to integrate refugees and asylum seekers etc., to prevent issues arising and escalating. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Dialogue, consultation, genuine engagement by decision-making agencies. Difference between economic migrants and refugees. ✓ Promote learning about and respect for culture and diversity and the local situation, by the Asylum Seekers, refugee, migrant, schools and settled communities. ✓ Challenge fears, and prejudice. Myth bust about immigration. | <p>T:BUC key aims Cultural expression, children and young people, shared community.</p> <p>Racial Equality Strategy -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Intercultural education aids competence and confidence to relate to people who we see as others. ✓ Promote equality of opportunity in the social and cultural life. ✓ Combatting Racism and Hate Crime locally with partners. ✓ Promote through shared spaces and signposting access to services. ✓ Increase the participation, representation, and sense of "belonging" of people from minority ethnic backgrounds in all aspects of public, | <p>People are better informed. Continued reduction in reported hate motivated cries and incidents.</p> <p>Increased co-ordination among partner agencies.</p> <p>Increased access to and use of appropriate services as recorded (e.g., confidence in policing, increased reporting).</p> <p>Increased knowledge of cultural traditions / heritage.</p> <p>Changes in attitude towards people from different ethnic backgrounds.</p> <p>Changes in attitude towards people from different religious backgrounds.</p> <p>Changes in knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours.</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Positive messages - Newcomers could support the survival of small rural schools. (Ulidian Ballymoney focus group). ✓ Build capacity and transparency with schools and community. ✓ Council could hold open meetings. ✓ Define, share and co-ordinate roles and responsibilities to support the arrival and care of asylum seekers. (Bonfire Statutory Cohesion Group). ✓ Communities need to understand distinction between asylum seekers, refugees, migrants, and rights. ✓ Social media and negative reporting / misinformation can be toxic when tensions are raised. How do we work to counteract myth and negative input. ✓ Work with three community networks to communicate accurate information before tensions rise. (Strategic Partners). ✓ Coordination of services – absence of a go-to person/point of contact. ✓ Lack of information about benefits, national insurance etc. ✓ Role: Signposting, organising, supporting with removing integration barriers and raising wider issues. ✓ Role in myth-busting. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ social, and cultural life. ✓ Strengthen social cohesion. ✓ Transmit their cultural identity to subsequent generation. <p>CCG Community Plan.</p> <p>Capacity Building for integration and diversity.</p> <p>Co-ordination among agencies and groups.</p> <p>Good Relations Indicators Report 2020.</p> <p>PSNI increased numbers of reported Hate Crime and Incidents- 2021/22.</p> <p>PEACE PLUS Theme 3 including action to building respect and integration for minority communities.</p> | <p>Increased respect.</p> |
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| | <p>(Asylum Seekers Refugees Community Cohesion and Integration focus group).</p> <p>Good Relations survey responses to Q.10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Shared community – inter-community, inter town, cross cultural approaches inclusive of minorities. ✓ Safe community Public safety work. <p>Good Relations survey responses to Q.7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Everyone feels welcome, fear of diversity is gone. | | |
| Community (Navigator) Officer - one stop shop resource. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A One Stop Shop or Community Navigator for information, support and signposting designed to ensure better co-ordination and information sharing between support organisations. <p>(Asylum Seekers Refugees Community Cohesion and Integration focus group).</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Communities need to understand distinction between asylum seekers, refugees, migrants, and rights. ✓ Social media and negative reporting / misinformation can be toxic when tensions are raised. How do we work to counteract myth and negative input. ✓ Work with three community networks to communicate accurate information before tensions rise. (Strategic Partners). ✓ Coordination of services – absence of a go-to person/point of contact. ✓ Lack of information about benefits, national insurance etc. ✓ Role: Signposting, organising, supporting with removing integration barriers and raising wider issues. ✓ Role in myth-busting. | <p>T:BUC key aims Cultural expression, children and young people, shared community.</p> <p>Racial Equality Strategy -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Promote equality of opportunity in the social and cultural life. ✓ Combatting Racism and Hate Crime locally with partners. ✓ Promote through shared spaces and signposting access to services. ✓ Increase the participation, representation, and sense of “belonging” of people from | <p>People are better informed.</p> <p>Continued reduction in reported hate motivated cries and incidents.</p> <p>Increased co-ordination among partner agencies.</p> <p>Increased access to and use of appropriate services as recorded (e.g., confidence in policing, increased reporting).</p> <p>Increased knowledge of cultural traditions / heritage.</p> <p>Changes in attitude towards</p> |

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| | <p>(Asylum Seekers Refugees Community Cohesion and Integration focus group).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Build capacity and transparency with schools and community. ✓ Council could hold open meetings. ✓ Define, share and co-ordinate roles and responsibilities to support the arrival and care of asylum seekers. <p>(Bonfire Statutory Cohesion Group).</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ minority ethnic backgrounds. ✓ Strengthen social cohesion. <p>CCG Community Plan.</p> <p>PEACE PLUS Theme 3 including action to building respect and integration for minority communities.</p> <p>Capacity Building for integration and diversity.</p> <p>Co-ordination among agencies and groups.</p> <p>Good Relations Indicators Report 2020.</p> | <p>people from different ethnic backgrounds.</p> <p>Changes in attitude towards people from different religious backgrounds.</p> <p>Changes in knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours.</p> |
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| T:BUC Cultural Expression | Evidence In Consultation | Linkages, Complementarity and Capacity Building Needs | Good Relations Outcomes |
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| <p>Exploring Culture and Diversity: Cultural Diversity in schools.</p> <p>Offer range of opportunities in person and online to primary schools.</p> <p>Culture café, small worlds, Refugee week, minority and national/ religious festivals engaging asylum seekers, refugees and ethnic minority groups as appropriate.</p> <p>4 people from different countries who have settled in Northern Ireland visiting 8 - 10 local primary schools throughout the Borough to talk to pupils about their country of origin, their culture and why they came to live in Northern Ireland.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Education about diversity in schools and community requires education and other partners to be active. (Strategic Partners). Good Relations survey responses to Q.s 6,7 and 10 Our Children and young people. ✓ Children and young people working together and respecting one another. Communities open to having other cultures and identities within them. ✓ More cross community work and educating today's youth about how far we have come as a country yet still have much more work to do. ✓ Focused on young people and education. ✓ Opportunities for conversations on sensitive & controversial issues. ✓ More cross community interaction for young people/schools etc ✓ Continuing work with children from different background and church groups. | <p>T:BUC Children and young people, safe and shared community.</p> <p>Racial Equality Strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ pride in our particular identity or identities, and that ✓ intercultural education which aids competence and confidence to relate to people who we see as different to ourselves. <p>PEACE PLUS Theme 3 Building Respect for Cultural identities.</p> <p>Project: Engaging and empowering young people.</p> <p>Capacity Building for integration and diversity.</p> | <p>Positive changes in knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours.</p> <p>Increased knowledge of cultural traditions / heritage.</p> <p>Increased respect shown for diversity, the cultural heritage of others and of one's own.</p> <p>Delivery across 7 DEAs.</p> |
| Exploring Culture and Diversity: | ✓ Arts led community relations work, cultural activities, interest in the past. | Children and young people, safe and shared community. | Increased knowledge of cultural traditions / heritage. |

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| <p>Community Integration Projects.</p> <p>Develop a range of projects that help newly arrived individuals and families to participate in activities that will assist to help them to integrate into the Causeway Coast and Glens area.</p> | <p>(Glenshane community meeting).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Fear around the conversation of integration. Suits people to maintain the current environment. ✓ More integration in working class areas. ✓ Integration of newcomers into the community. (Councillors). <p>Community integration Projects</p> <p>Integration and welcome,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Engagement with the community particularly ➢ refugee and immigrant work. ➢ Refugees – real progress, involving community, towards their integration. ➢ Volunteer Centre - giving refugees work, pride, and a place in their local communities. ➢ Asylum Seekers – a mapping, framework for Race Relations. Best practice in other places / Ireland –integration both adults and children. ➢ Safe area for asylum seekers and refugees. ➢ Reduce risk of rising community tensions through education and information. <p>(PCSP).</p> <p>(Strategic Partners).</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Racial Equality Strategy – Transmit cultural heritage. ✓ Gain intercultural competence and confidence. ✓ Increase participation and representation. <p>Capacity Building for integration and diversity.</p> <p>Integration and cohesion work benefits from Warm and more hubs – support by funding in partnership (PSCP).</p> <p>Community Development Strategy.</p> | <p>Positive changes in knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours.</p> |
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| T:BUC Cultural Expression | Evidence In Consultation | Linkages, Complementarity and Capacity Building Needs | Good Relations Outcomes |
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| <p>✓ .</p> | <p>Good local support:</p> <p>Syrian participants valued:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ NRC and BCRC provided English lessons. ✓ Portstewart Community Association and Portstewart Men's Shed. ✓ Threads of Culture. ✓ Homework club /coffee mornings hosted by Portstewart Baptish Church. ✓ Portstewart football Academy. ✓ Education for children and teenagers. <p>Ukrainian participants valued:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ kind an open-hearted people. ✓ Supportive. ✓ Communities and churches who care. <p>Challenges to Community Cohesion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Language barrier. ✓ Cultural differences. ✓ Poor communication leads to misunderstanding. ✓ More English language in schools, education settings and for adults. ✓ Translation and interpreting specially for banking and medical appointments. ✓ Support to employment. ✓ Better education for local people on issues of asylum seekers and refugees - facts and reality instead of "hearsay". <p>What matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Safety. | <p>Children and young people, safe and shared community.</p> <p>Racial Equality Strategy.</p> <p>Project: Engaging and empowering young people.</p> <p>Capacity Building for integration and diversity.</p> | <p>Positive changes in knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours.</p> <p>Increased knowledge of cultural traditions / heritage.</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Integration and ethnic or inter-cultural events. ✓ Understanding of diverse cultures and religions, both for incoming communities and receiving communities. ✓ Events and opportunities for everyone to mix in the community. ✓ Staff and reception training. ✓ Offer a variety of language and culture classes in Flowerfield – Polish, Ukrainian, Arabic, Bulgarian, including for children and local communities, (Asylum Seekers Refugees Community Cohesion and Integration focus group). <p>Asylum seekers and refugees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Funding to counter fears about refugees. Recognizes tensions in working class communities with economic and housing pressures and the power of fear fuelled negativity about immigration. ✓ Integration work is long term. (Ulidian Ballymoney focus group). | | |
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| T:BUC Cultural Expression | Evidence In Consultation | Linkages, Complementarity and Capacity Building Needs | Good Relations Outcomes |
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| <p>Hear Here: culture and language, culture and language of the two main traditions in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Develop with the Hear Here steering group and programme of work with the local individuals and groups representatives of Ulster Scots and Irish language and culture on the Steering group.</p> <p>Increase opportunities for the membership to learn, hear and explore their shared culture and heritage.</p> <p>Explore extension to include Asian festival, minority ethnic cultures and traditions.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Cultural exchanges: Ulster Scots and Irish traditional cultural nights. (Councillors). Good Relations survey responses to Q. 10 Our Cultural expression. ✓ Visits to other (different backgrounds) areas for community reps, volunteers, residents to break down misconceptions/ barriers. ✓ More interactions and events with different groupings. ✓ More Ulster Scot Irish language activities and Irish heritage project such as the rich history and heritage of music our area has to offer. ✓ Language and cultural events for all citizens. ✓ Having events and making sure that all cultures must be catered for. | <p>Nurture respect for traditional languages and culture and will include crafts, music, sport etc. (Good Relations Plan).</p> <p>Build cultural expression capacity.</p> <p>Good Relations Indicators 2020 Report – address decreasing % who think that the cultural expression of Catholic and Protestant communities can add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland.</p> | <p>Breaking down barriers.</p> <p>Building capacity for cross-community engagement.</p> <p>Increased respect shown for diversity, the cultural heritage of others and of one's own.</p> <p>Changes in knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours toward people from a different religious and/ or ethnic background.</p> <p>Delivery across 7 DEAs.</p> |
| <p>History and Heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Co-design programme with Museum services and add projects which provide opportunities for difficult and inclusive remembering. ✓ Outreach, workshops, | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Common interests including looking at the past. (Community meeting) ✓ Heritage Services- how do we work alongside GR to make work effective. (Strategic partners). We are a Protestant group. ✓ We need to foster pride in our identity, to understand and challenge ourselves, and from this base | <p>T:BUC Shared community.</p> <p>Children and Young people.</p> <p>Community Development Strategy.</p> <p>Peace III Programme Evaluation ON the Brink Volunteer Strand.</p> | <p>Increased respect shown for diversity, the cultural heritage of others and of one's own.</p> <p>Breaking down barriers.</p> <p>Building capacity for cross-community engagement.</p> |

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| <p>building local capacity in addressing difficult heritage and history, using local archives, multiple narratives, exhibitions, supporting local groups.</p> <p>✓ Supporting inclusive remembering work based on best practice through CCG Museum and Heritage Services. (Plantation, and decade of Centenaries), and Coleraine Bomb Oral History/Narrative project).</p> | <p>engage in good relations with others. Good Relations criteria can impede this. Fundraising is difficult. ✓ Understanding the history and background lays foundations for better understanding. For example</p> <p>✓ Membership of a band can provide structure, camaraderie, support, and belonging and can steer people away from more negative activities. (Ulidian Ballymoney focus group).</p> <p>✓ Heritage Services has benefited – shared heritage, following from Council's principles of remembering. More than an objective history. Strong sense of community here, not just orange, and green, not a single homogenous community. How do we humanise those different narratives. (Strategic Partners).</p> <p>Good Relations survey responses to Q. 10 Cultural Expression</p> <p>✓ Site visits and educational tours of Derry walls, Battle of the Boyne Bloody Sunday, & Siege and the Free Derry Museums, Famine village in Ballyliffen.</p> <p>✓ Learning about local Forts around the area and the history of Newton about different cultural backgrounds.</p> | <p>Increasing capacity around cultural expression.</p> <p>FICT Commission evidence that participation in bands, festivals, drama and art installations can promote Good Relations.</p> | <p>Breaking down barriers.</p> <p>Changes in attitudes and behaviour.</p> <p>Building capacity for cross-community engagement.</p> <p>Delivery across 7 DEAs.</p> |
|--|--|--|---|

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| Developing capacity: Engaging loyalist and hard to reach communities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Threat: That we leave people behind in terms of people just not engaging. ✓ Opportunity: To engage for example with Orange Lodges and Bands in a more inclusive way, to openly engage as a collective. ✓ Opportunity to support families by taking away the labels and get to the significant issues - PCSP (Councillors). ✓ Women's Group attend 'All Island' events, but there is a perception that as Loyalists, we are judged, and perceived negatively. ✓ Consider rural Loyalist women's needs. ✓ Community isolation – urban and rural. (Ulidian Ballymoney focus group). ✓ Unionist community-census results, sense of safety and security contributing to an identity crisis. (Strategic Partners). ✓ Threat: Loyalist community seen as a "risky" community to support. Therefore, the strategy becomes irrelevant to certain groups. (Councillors). | <p>Our safe and shared community, Cultural expression history and heritage.</p> | <p>Increased capacity to engage in Engaging and empowering young people project.</p> |
| | | <p>Increased respect.</p> <p>Breaking down barriers.</p> <p>Building capacity for cross-community engagement.</p> <p>Change behaviours and attitudes.</p> <p>Increased respect shown for diversity, the cultural heritage of others and of one's own.</p> | |

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 GOOD RELATIONS SURVEY QUALITITIVE RESPONSES BY T: BUC THEME

Q6 IF GOOD RELATIONS WORK IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE, WHAT DOES/MIGHT THAT DIFFERENCE LOOK LIKE? FOR EXAMPLE, HOW WOULD YOUR LOCAL STREETS AND NEIGHBOUR INTERACTIONS BE?

Children and Young People

I don't think enough is being done to encourage both communities to mix. Particularly with young people socialising outside of schools.

Children and young people working together and respecting one another. Communities open to having other cultures and identifies within them.

Young person's not poisoned by what has happened in the past.

We need to draw away from the past and look to the future with fresh ...youthful ideas.

Early intervention is key. The young, who do not discriminate have as much interaction with diverse communities of all sorts as possible, taking understanding and tolerance forward with them.

Children from different backgrounds can mix together easily and comfortably.

Where I live there is some antisocial behaviour among youths - they have nowhere safe to meet and congregate

Better knowledge and values for each other beliefs. A Better future for the next generation coming up in the community.

Shared Community

More cohesive inter-generational community

Good relations work allows us to promote inter community relations in a Limavady.

I teach many students from many different ethnic backgrounds; their ability to interact with the 'locals' is vital to successful integration.

Getting better locally.

Changed dramatically in last 10 years, normal now to meet different cultures on the streets.

Respect for each other

Not homogeneous.

Single identity community housing, social, sports clubs etc would move purposefully towards integration.

All genders classes and creeds respected in the community.

More involvement of people from different backgrounds within groups

Having events that bring people together and not being selective to a particular Culture.

Community assistance groups, neighbourhood watch, community unity schemes, e.g., community gardens. Encourage interaction and respect for property and neighbours.

Good cross community work

In Coleraine area there is no interactions between groups. Any group keeps separated by other group or individuals.

It would look like increased integration at the economically and socially poorest levels. Less of an issue, the greater the income

More courteous, respectful, tolerant and working together for common goals in terms of progressing wider issues, Health and Wellbeing, Education etc

More accepted shared spaces and events that are reflective of the wider community.

Think it is making a difference for those who are working in the sector but not sure how much of an impact it is having in the wider community. Think there is still a lack of community cohesion and no sense of community in some areas. Neighbours are just people who live next door with no or little interaction. Having mixed areas where people can meet and chat. More integrated community.

More shared spaces and activities not just in town centres.

Anything that makes everyone feel welcome in the area.

Mixed community groups gives opportunities for both sides of the divide to meet/mix
Respectful & open minded.

Equality for all. No side made to feel uncomfortable in their own neighbourhood.

There would be more honest and open conversations where people wouldn't be so nervous/defensive about the fact that it's normal to disagree with people and for people to be different. There would also be more self-reflection and honesty.

The flying of The Union Jack and Tricolour to designate religious areas should be discouraged.

Better involvement with all the community, communities getting together and connecting.

No flags

We would have moved beyond the white right-wing values so evident across our community. Difference would be celebrated from an early age.

Ordinary people in ordinary day life forming friendships- not contrived feel good, cosmetic, contrived funded photo opportunities to meet demands or outputs of the funding body.

CCG Council would not make decisions based on their inherent unionist sectarianism.

People taking part in cross community activities.

An integrated society.

Good relations events create neutral space for people from all backgrounds to meet, learn and grow. This can only be a good thing. It will make people more tolerant and knowledgeable.

Good communications system. sharing and caring for each other.

Better interaction between groups.

Well attended cross community social occasions.

There would be more joint projects with different religions, nationalities and races all involved.

Be very good.

Normality with no barriers applying - people living with acceptance to each other.

Getting together with your neighbours for a barbecue/Street party at least once or twice a year.

People agreeing better.

Helping and mixing more.

Streets would be improved greater mutual respect for cultural traditions and friendlier atmosphere.

Getting together with your neighbours for a barbecue/Street party at least once or twice a year.

People are interacting more with others and learning that we are all people no matter what our background is.

More work in the community.

More communication between neighbours.

More mixed and diverse population.

A town that has no divisive symbols e.g., flags, banners etc. A place that anyone can live or visit and not feel that their religious beliefs will threaten their quality of life.

Housing localities not dominated by particular religions, decked in flags of allegiance/political belief. Progress could be measured by more accepting communities with less allegiance flags of locality.

No flags of painted kerbs and no parades.

Go into areas that you never were allowed to as a child.

No flags of any kind allowed.

More interaction with different cultures.

Less focus on religious aspect of things and celebrate how we are the same.

Respectful amiable behaviour towards all neighbours regardless of race, religion, country of origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, social class and age. Regarding others as having more in common than first meets the eye.

More neighbourly concerns.

I have a good relationship with my close neighbours and some of them are Polish and Lithuanian, there is a good mix of different religions also.

More integrated schools in the area, encouraging acceptance of people from different religions and cultural backgrounds to come together.

People being treated as equals- issues that make the community together and finding out what is important to each community. getting them together under shared arrangements and also education. acceptance of the diversity.

Communicate relationship.

Shared education, no flags anywhere - especially in schools.

More integration.

Integrated shared community events.

Safe Community

People would feel safe to walk or drive anywhere in the Borough and feel comfortable in culturally diverse groups and situations.

It would mean that people of any background would feel safe moving around the borough, and not be at risk of being verbally or physically abused just because of their religion/ culture/ skin colour/ political views etc

Streets would feel safer.

Everyone feels welcome. Everyone feels welcome and settled where they live. No-one lives in fear of intimidation.

A lot more peaceful.

People being able to live their lives without fear of sectarianism/racism.

Streets would be a lot friendlier, no/little conflict or contention.

Everyone feels safe and secure to walk, cycle, drive in our town centres.

Less hate crime.

Less sectarianism and racism, both verbal and physical.

Research surveys and PSNI reports show that there are less incidents of racism and hate-based race crimes.

Less hate incidents/crime, more cultural exchange and competence, more openness to all diversity in our community.

Fear of diversity is gone. Respect for all race and religion is actively working.

Cultural Expression

We would all have some understanding of different cultures and religions, and we would welcome and celebrate difference.

There would be a better political environment. Our politics continues to focus on the green and orange rather than the real bread and butter issues. Culture awareness and mural respect for each other.

Less political graffiti and flags.

No graffiti! No tattered flags and emblems! No kerb painting!

No flags policy. Remove all paintwork.

It would be reflected in the numbers attending good relation events. There would be a lessening of segregated areas by getting rid of flags, murals, kerb painting and other sectarian displays. There would be an increase in visibility of good relations symbols and values with local residents involved in how they would like to reflect that visibility within their own communities.

Flags should be removed soon after the 12th

The post-Brexit negotiations around the NI Protocol have been hijacked by loyalists as used as a vehicle to inflame sectarian division. This is fuelled by BBC Nolan and media such as The Newsletter. Tribalism is showcased by flying of Union flags and paramilitary flags. Good Relations work will directly counter the narrative by the DUP and LCC and show that we can live together peacefully.

Address the issue of discrimination against the unionist community.

The confidence to be who you are so that you show respect & receive respect in return.

The acceptance of each other's culture, realising we can be different, but we can also work together....to obtain the best for our people and culture a sense of empowerment.

Not having the Council paying lip service to good relations whilst being insensitive in its flying of a flag on council property every day of the year.

1. It would mean that persons would not erect offensive posters, slogans etc on public property.

2. It would mean that decisions would not revert to orange /green issues or be treated in that way. Decisions should be based on need, and what is best for all residents/visitors.

3. Events, festivals & sporting events would be treated respectfully by all sides and the right to join in or not join in should be respected.

On the whole they are good locally although a street full of GAA flags is a bit overwhelming for me who am English!

People feel safe to walk or drive anywhere in the Borough, free from any sort of hate inspired prejudice. A reduction in territorial marking. A greater understanding of the needs and experiences of people from other cultures, whether they are from the indigenous community or newcomers.

Not having my journey delayed most weekends in the “marching season “by band parades which are usually intimidating, especially when collections are “invited ”

Streets without intimidating flags every July. More integrated schools. A Pride festival or celebration every summer. More safety initiatives for women (from community workers, NOT police). A more culturally diverse roster of councillors.

The difference would be a reduction in flying of flags that create bad community relations; a reduction in the duration of the cultural marching season so that it does not go on for weeks and weeks and weeks from April to August; a reduction in the hate generated by the annual bonfire season; an end to the divisive and incredibly expensive British military air show that is funded by Council at ratepayers expense.

People would stop coming out to be offended, instead stay away and let that group enjoy their culture.

The Good Relations programme should showcase how Irish and British (Northern Irish) people can have different heritage. And that migrants and refugees are welcome.

Storytelling, Re-enactments, Key Institutions/talks [Diversity talks]
people would in general be more open to difference whatever that might be.

Streets would be improved greater mutual respect for cultural traditions and friendlier atmosphere.

Diverse

Better understanding of cultures.

Not subjected to Irish name plates on our streets and roads.

Q7. CAN YOU SHARE AN EXAMPLE OF GOOD RELATIONS WORK THAT WAS IMPACTFUL OR THAT PREVENTED FURTHER CONFLICT OR DIVISION.

Children and Young People

Cultural diversity awareness programme with primary schools

Teaching children that diversity is a good thing - to be embraced & not feared. Initiatives that allow you to get to know the person behind the labels usually have a positive impact. Ex-paramilitary members telling young people that sectarianism should be a thing of the past and that we should work together in the future.

Youth work in Greysteel

Inclusive public spaces for very young children e.g., playgroups and nurseries work really well. Unfortunately, from 4-18 kids are then segregated and never learn about other histories and stories.

cross community social events for children and joint activities with primary schools from both denominations.

Work with young people

Work with school children to promote cultural diversity in a positive light.

Schools from different religious backgrounds sharing lessons.

Work in local schools across all communities

Shared education at secondary level

Limavady education

Shared education, game of three halves shared cultural events.

Shared education in Further education. Non targeted cultural events like Steinbeck.

Shared Community

Dialogue is always a good starting point for Good Relations.

Sports. People generally showing kindness towards others of a different persuasion.

One of the many ESOL programmes I teach - I try to include cultural and pastoral elements in addition to teaching the English language.

Our Reach project in a Portrush serves all in the community.

The formation in Dungiven of Dungiven Community Restoration Group during COVID 3 years ago and gone from strength to strength working for both communities.

Cross sectoral group projects like Peace IV have produced some legacy groups formed out of bonds made during the good relation work that took place such as Limavady Hens shed. We were asked to facilitate weekly sessions on good mental health and resilience for a group of participants that included both sides of the NI divide and overseas refugees. The group was designed to break down barriers and find common ground, share stories of resilience and develop an art project to celebrate resilience in all its forms. The resulting art is now on display at a local men's shed for all to see. Participants reported a greater understanding of difference; an increasing openness to accepting and respecting the journey of others.

Glenshane House used to host a lot of cross community activities that encouraged friendships that would not have been created otherwise because of the lack of opportunities to meet people from different backgrounds.

Local women's group interacting with group from different background. Sharing similar experiences.

Summer festival in Cushendall was attended by mixed cultures and everyone enjoyed it.

When I was growing up (in Yorkshire) we had a community garden that the whole street worked together on, and we had BBQs etc which encouraged friendship and respect for the gardens.

There has been significant Shared Education work across many schools/partnerships.

Good relations has occurred in the past when groups went away from both sides of the divide and learnt that we are all different but the same...take people out of N Ireland and go across to England...it doesn't matter what your religion is ...you're still from N Ireland

How well everyone pulled together through lockdown.

Courses for everyone

Annual Halloween Festival

all BCRC work

Community groups starting up for all abilities and ages.

Cross community contact schemes

Sing Club

Working groups

Mens Sheds- I have witnessed the slow but lasting integration of men from different community backgrounds, race and culture through regular and collective community work at the Mens Sheds

Shared culture initiatives to help residents feel that they are more similar than they thought in terms of shared history/ religious backgrounds.

the art sculptures in local villages which brought beside members from all communities.

Community events which all cultures have enjoyed together have been beneficial and impactful.

Events to support new residents in the area. Making them feel welcome and allowing people to engage and learn from them.

Welcoming refugees into a community setting and learning about their culture as well as showing them ours.

Including broad sections of people to all events involving diversity

Bringing the Churches together to discuss how to help the Asylum Seekers

The cross-community work being undertaken in Rasharkin community by bringing all sides of the community together with common goals and hopes.

Queens Jubilee

Lammas Fair and Maritime Festival North in Ballycastle

Winter wellness

Safe Community

Working together to promote safety across the NC.

Cultural Expression

Mediations and public meetings to discuss contentious murals and bonfires in association with targeted training.

Killywakey races in Kilrea a few years ago. Stopped protests at band parades.

Collective approach with council community NIHE, PSNI, and the Fire Service. Addressing the issues with bonfires. Multi agency approach inclusive if participants will always result in a better outcome.

Good bonfire management

Involvement with the local band community.

Flags or flag removal initiative

The work of Glenshane Development Limited with the LOL and AOH.

learning about other cultures and sharing understanding and knowledge

Intervention and alternatives around bonfires is a positive and demonstrates leadership by local lodges and bands.

Cross community attendance at a GAA game and a rugby game showing each other that a game is a game and how to appreciate the skills of the sports people.

Q10. WHAT TYPE OF ACTIVITIES, PROJECTS OR INTERVENTIONS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE AS PART OF A COUNCIL GOOD RELATIONS STRATEGY?

| Children and Young People |
|--|
| More youth engagement |
| More programmes for teenagers. They are the future. More activities geared for teenagers...e.g., outdoor sports skating, climbing basketball and tennis facilities. |
| Youth work & community development |
| More services for youths within the area - Geographically I am Ballymoney and there is limited provision for youngsters. |
| More projects involving youths. |
| Litter picks involving Catholic and Protestant youth together. |
| More playing areas for young children |
| More community integration, social clubs for adults...and teenagers. children's projects from both community |
| More cross community interaction for young people/schools etc |
| Continuing work with children from different background and church groups |
| Focused on young people and education. Opportunities for conversations on sensitive & controversial issues. |
| Youth club and school programmes. Greater integration of young people at a young age. Greater inclusion and acceptance of GAA sports which are widely participated by many young people in the council area. Work with local GAA clubs and create good relations. |
| More cross community work and educating today's youth about how far we have come as a country yet still have much more work to do. |
| All cultures being taught and acknowledged in schools, Irish language classes being more easily available Irish as an optional study in Catholic and protestant schools. Irish history included in school curriculum. |
| Projects which address and improve the critical analysis ability of young Protestants. |
| Better nightlife in small towns like Limavady, such as support for small bands and initiatives for young people to form bands. Music is a great connector, and live music nights offer the chance for people to congregate together despite their religious differences. |
| All Primary Schools should be integrated so that children learn at an early age that religion has no place in the modern World to divide society. |
| Support integrated education. |
| Integrated schools. Integrated youth clubs. |
| Work with schools, both primary & secondary. |
| Integrated schools' youth clubs etc |
| Elderly and youth projects. |
| More inter-generational work. |

| Shared Community |
|--|
| Council support for cross-community events |
| Cross community projects E.g., sports days, summer activities. |
| Participation in events and projects that promote good relations through shared experiences and values. |
| Any project that could bring people together and challenge the separatism. |
| More crafts |
| ANYTHING THAT IS COMMUNITY BASED TO BRING PEOPLE OF ALL AGES / DIVERSITIES TOGETHER |
| Good neighbour schemes for elderly, unable. Community activity schemes such as converting a piece of waste land or bare grass into gardens. These are a great way to bring a community together. |
| Take suggestions from members of the public, possibly informal activities for all age groups and abilities - e.g., walks, talks, events, something which promotes interaction and discussion in areas of common interest, could be sport, music, drama etc |
| More financial support from Council for groups that bring people together. |
| More cross community activities. |
| Any projects that simply bring people together. |
| More cross community leisure and sporting events. A good example would be the park run events. They bring people from all walks of life... young /old /white /black /walkers/ runners. This is only an example the activity could be anything. |
| Use the environment and nature as an opportunity to bring people to create good relations, a common goal. |
| More outdoor events. |
| Arts events. |
| Community gardens. |
| Fund normal community activities but support them to reach out across local boundaries. It has to be built at interfaces - not among the great and the good. Fund sport to make a difference etc. |
| Greater networking face to face. |
| More joint projects involving communities that usually do not come together. |
| Neighbourhood Regeneration through simple things like litter picking, tidying of areas and promoting goodwill through sustainability not wastefulness at all levels. |
| In the past there were projects that included visits to places abroad to reflect on the impact of conflict. These are usually hard hitting and great good relations for participants from different communities who spend the time away together. They build good relations that then continues. |
| Fun events. Nothing too serious. We don't need to learn more history. Events which encourage friendships and for us to see each other as friends, not enemies. |
| Craft or Storytelling event. Making differences human and relatable to reinforce commonalities. Perhaps community creation of public artwork that all can claim a part in |

Develop relationships with the hard-to-reach communities with an emphasis on real alternatives - Get this cohort onboard and the rest will fall into line. It's wasted energy and resources providing the same projects with the same people if nothing is moving forward. Meeting/planning together re projects. Agreeing to disagree without conflict.

Promotion of local history / community life using the resources of the library service and council's community development team

Political parties might not be able to get on but that doesn't mean integration of young people and school children isn't possible.

More LGBTQIA+-friendly initiatives. I have never seen this being done in the borough and there isn't even a proper Pride festival. Look to Derry and Belfast for inspiration. To me it feels like CCG Council have never done anything to support the LGBT community.

Community support initiatives for women's safety - perhaps a few sessions could be done within men's community groups to educate them on women's safety issues (as opposed to teaching women how to keep themselves safe). The onus is not on women to protect themselves.

Cross border initiatives

Educational projects to teach tolerance and respect.

Social adult club

Sporting activities are very good for integration, an all sports activity day ... from hockey to Hurling, Rugby to Gaelic Football.

Resources should be shared equally.

More availability of local community hall

Bringing people together

Create cross community clubs, with significant funding to encourage participation from both sides. Friends don't fight, it's the unknown that fuels fear and mistrust.

Street party/barbecue; walking group within our estate; visit older residents to check that they are ok.

Organising events that would make people of different cultures interact together.

More kids' activities. Locally. Less expensive for activities also. Less mixed schools' way too many in town it's madness. More mixed younger interaction activities groups, also for adults too. More elderly day centres and volunteers for elderly.

More opportunities for families to interact and do fun activities together. I think that if we teach our children to mix with others when we are with them hopefully it will carry on throughout their lives.

More cross community events and info

Integration of all ages. The emphasis seems to be mainly on young people, and I understand that. However, some older people 40's plus are very set in their opinions of other religions, races etc.

Cross community activities

Cross Community Work

Mixed projects

Mixing across all age bands

More projects for men

Inter-generational, supporting migrants, work with young people out of school in informal settings.

Things that bring people together regardless of religion & race

Multi-cultural events

More groups where our religious differences don't impinge on our friendships.

Projects to engage, support and include members of the LGBTQIA+ community
Increasing sporting venues. Increasing social venues.

More funded programmes to bring people together from different backgrounds and communities, ensuring that they have a safe space to speak and are respected while doing so.

Continue with cross communication workshops and have more groups encouraging all religions to come together.

Activities like our past our peace project, social outings to Derry walls, Battle of the Boyne Bloody Sunday, & siege museum and the museum, Famine village in Ballyliffen. Learning about local Forts around the area and the history of Newton about different cultural backgrounds and interventions with the immigrants. Trip to France for the history of the battle of the war. Trip to Poland to learn the history of the salt mines.

Move beyond taking groups of older and/or retired people away. We need to challenge communities more and be prepared to talk openly and honestly.

Greater understanding of older people's needs and age friendly strategy with core funding to back this up.

focus groups, community meetings, reaching out to the professionals and members in the community to come together. we have a walking group open to the all the community and how the people of that who would not normally socialise together have come together and look out for each other.

Community week activities.

Support our housing estate activities, money for a bouncy castle and a chip van, or a street party to bring everyone out. For people to plan it together. I think people are more inclined to speak to the neighbours in housing estates that are traditionally council estates because they are close together, shared parking and gardens next to one another. We live in a housing development and people wave at one another and disappear into their homes. We need a reason to get out and talk together!

Positive news articles proactively issued by Council to challenge the negative/ harmful rhetoric often communicated on social media - it's not enough to let people make up their own mind when only one (negative) view is expressed & not counteracted.

local community needs, and if this is single identity then so be it, as a better understanding of your community needs are needed before you can engage with others.

A Community Hub would be very useful.

There is not an arts/community centre in Ballycastle. It is badly needed.

More investment in community events/spaces
Warm rooms and more focus on mental health.

Key institutions involved in talks, debates.

Cross-community and multi-cultural activities

Multicultural events

Inter community, inter town, cross cultural approach inclusive of BME also.

Integration of ethnic/religious minorities, approaches from their community to local groups I know living where I do that religious sectarianism happens, but what about other religions?

Increased awareness about ethnic & cultural inclusion.

Multicultural events

A celebration of each other's achievements, identity and cultures no matter what religion is what is needed and less focus on the past.

Longer term cross border projects with shared outcomes.

More opportunities for intercultural contact, including education events using the World Cafe format. A return to prejudice awareness work and myth busting sessions, use local press and social media outlets to tell good news stories and share accurate information about the services offered to asylum seekers. Linkage with poverty mitigation

More opportunities to meet and support immigrants - I haven't seen anything in Limavady being done to welcome our Ukrainian immigrants and show them community support.

link, join up the activities of various voluntary groups working with refugees and asylum seekers. avoid duplication streamline funding, Create a Community Navigator post to sign post ethnic groups, help with formal applications.

More time and resources spent on our ethnic communities. Continued and consistent ESOL provision.

Food and cultural exchange projects. I believe that sharing food is an important integration tool. Learning about each other's cultural through participatory projects works e.g., art, media, growing etc

A Safe Community

Public safety work, building understanding for minorities both race & sexuality etc

Community support initiatives for women's safety - perhaps a few sessions could be done within men's community groups to educate them on women's safety issues (as opposed to teaching women how to keep themselves safe). The onus is not on women to protect themselves.

Cultural Expression

More direct activities to address structural and unconscious bias, training in cultural competency, the promotion of safer bonfires, the reduction of territorial marking.

Visits to other (different backgrounds) areas for community reps, volunteers, residents to break down misconceptions/barriers.

More interactions and events with different groupings

More Ulster Scot Irish language activities and Irish heritage project such as the rich history and heritage of music our area has

Language and cultural events for all citizens

Having events and making sure that all cultures must be catered for. I was at two last year and when it came to visiting the Catholic/Nationalist museums/murals etc both events ran out of time. Bad planning or good planning depends.

Street signs in Irish / English and Ulster Scot, to reflect the shared culture of area all bonfires replaced by beacons.

I do believe that the erection of offensive material should be challenged, posters, graffiti etc. I know this can be dangerous, but if unchallenged then our youth just learn it is ok to spread hate and untruths. These actions cause hurt and fear. Apologies, I have no actions as to how to do this but talking/conversation/listening always helps.

I would like to see more community events which celebrates all cultures not just orange and green and that our young people can get something out of and enjoy.

Regulation of bonfires

Less parades

More family events and awareness days to show all nationalities.

Showcasing culture. There was a great multicultural event at Flowerfield during the summer a few years ago. this was great to experience activities and people from different cultures and their traditions.

More intercultural activity

Projects that provide education that is OK to be Protestant and Irish and have a Scottish / British heritage. We can embrace the rich diversity of Irishness without the sectarianism of the Orange Order.

Cultural celebrations and interventions in anti-social behaviour
more inclusion events to celebrate culture.

Events where different cultures take a dish to share during a night of food, song and dance. A place for the ethnic groups to call their own and for locals to access diverse cultures in the area.

Removal of flags from primary schools. Should be disallowed by Dept of Education.

Team building, cultural traditions shared through groups those difficult conversations of the past shred in safe place in a relaxing mindfulness way.

Targeted, specific work where tensions prevail

APPENDIX 2 THEMATIC, PUBLIC, STATUTORY AND ELECTED MEMBER CONSULTATIONS

| SUMMARY OF THEMATIC CONSULTATIONS | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Ulidian Ballymoney Cohesion issues | | | |
| WHAT'S WORKING | WHAT MATTERS | CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES | FUTURE FOCUS |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Women's Group. ✓ Women's Group attend 'All Island' events, but there is a perception that as Loyalists, we are judged, and perceived negatively. ✓ Ulidian works on the TEO funded Bonfires programme across the Council area and with the Bonfire statutory community cohesion group. ✓ Think outside the box – bring people together on a cross-community basis and help to develop relationships (e.g., First Aid programmes). ✓ Work well with Council | <p>Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Us and Them regarding statutory agencies – We are not always included and sometimes excluded from the Bonfire Community Cohesion Group (statutory) meetings. We know Bonfire builders and we are the communication between them. ✓ New bonfires strategy hopefully will change dynamic. Good Relations Funding processes. ✓ Council application process is difficult. Single-identity communities only involved, fail. ✓ Applications from single identity groups would be better understood as culture, preventative work with young people(drugs etc.), supporting communities and community empowerment . ✓ Difficult for small community groups to get funding- | <p>Asylum seekers and refugees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Funding to counter fears about refugees. Recognizes tensions in working class communities with economic and housing pressures and the power of fear fueled negativity about immigration. ➤ Integration work is long term. <p>Good Relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Good Relations team's resources are limited in covering the area and remit. ➤ Revisit PCSP to include Good Relations. (Good relations rely on safety being in place.) ➤ We are a Protestant group. We need to foster pride in our identity, to understand and challenge ourselves, and from this base engage in good relations with others. Good Relations criteria can impede this. Fundraising is difficult. ➤ Understanding the history and background lays foundations for better understanding. <p>For example</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Membership of a band can provide structure, camaraderie, support, | <p>Community Relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Combine work on Good Relations, Community Planning, and Community Development. ✓ CCGBC could undertake a Community Relations mapping exercise particularly at the small group level. ✓ Support a civic voice at community level to emerge. <p>Sustained work to integrate refugees and asylum seekers etc., to prevent issues arising and escalating.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Dialogue, consultation, genuine engagement by decision-making agencies. Difference between economic migrants and genuine refugees. ✓ Promote learning about and respect for culture and diversity and the local situation, by the Asylum Seekers, refugees, migrants, schools and settled communities. ✓ Challenge fears, and prejudice. Myth bust about immigration. ✓ Newcomers could support the survival of small rural schools. |

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| Good relations and Community Development teams. | <p>(Lambeg Drumming for example).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ PUL/CNR terminology is not useful. ✓ Secular society, revise advertising and criteria. ✓ Filling in forms and returns is difficult-Asking for identity before and after – doesn't fit single identity work. ✓ Instead of targeting Catholic/Protestant, publicly advertise and service those who turn up. | <p>and belonging and can steer people away from more negative activities.</p> <p>Post covid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ After Covid the small and/or new community groups that achieved extraordinary outreach to people in need, are ignored. ➤ Churches do not apply for good relations for funding – do not engage because it is not in their interest. | |
| <p>Other Issues, Policy, and Plan Linkages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Consider rural Loyalist women's needs. ✓ Community isolation – urban and rural. ✓ Central Information point. | | | |

| Asylum Seekers Refugees Community Cohesion and Integration focus group at West Bann Development 25 January 2023and Ethnic minority support worker interview | | | |
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| WHAT'S WORKING | WHAT MATTERS | CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES | FUTURE FOCUS |
| Asylum Seekers Refugees Community Cohesion and Integration focus group | | | |
| Good local support appreciated by the Syrian and Ukrainian people. ✓ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Safety. ✓ Integration and ethnic or inter-cultural events. ✓ Understanding of diverse cultures and religions, both for incoming communities and receiving communities. ✓ Events and opportunities for everyone to mix in the community. ✓ Staff and reception training. ✓ Ukrainian language for children and local communities. ✓ Overcome barriers to work. ✓ Qualifications-driving, professional and diplomas. | <p>Challenges to Community Cohesion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Language barrier. ✓ Cultural differences. ✓ Poor communication leads to misunderstanding. ✓ More English language in schools, education settings and for adults. ✓ Translation and interpreting specially for banking and medical appointments. ✓ Support to employment. ✓ Better education for local people on issues of asylum seekers and refugees - facts and reality instead of "hearsay." <p>More Council involvement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A One Stop Shop or Community Navigator for information, support and signposting designed to ensure better co-ordination and information sharing between support organisations. ✓ Coordination of services – absence of a go-to person/point of contact. ✓ Lack of information about benefits, national insurance etc. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Men's Shed for Ballycastle ✓ Bi-lingual online resources as well as advice provision. ✓ Speed dating/match making local help with newcomers with specific needs. ISARC. ✓ All the newcomers were keen to contribute to the local economy and community and wanted to work. ✓ Lobby elected representatives for help in streamlining training/recognition of qualifications to bring people up to speed with local requirements. ✓ Inter-Cultural trauma recovery group to share good practice learned in post-conflict Northern Ireland (WAVE). ✓ Offer a variety of language and culture classes in Flowerfield – Polish, Ukrainian, Arabic, Bulgarian. ✓ Community (Navigator) Officer - one stop shop resource. |

| WHAT'S WORKING | WHAT MATTERS | CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES | FUTURE FOCUS |
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| Ethnic Minority Support Worker | | | |
| ✓ BCRC/Multi Cultural Forum and its activities enable minorities to meet and support each other. | Integration so that the community as a whole will reap the benefits of the skills, talents and enthusiasm that these communities can bring to the table. | <p>Be more ambitious to reap the benefits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Growing community of minorities, and a lack of integration. ✓ Causeway Coast and Glens is a substantial rural area- difficult for people new to the area to integrate and seek support. ✓ Meet regularly (at least monthly) attracting all ages and cultures (not limited to online activities). | <p>Local activities that highlight diverse cultures and diversity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Food events, ✓ Musical events that local communities can get involved in. ✓ Physical HUB, drop-in place, social space, for support connection and feel a sense of belonging. |
| Other Issues, Policy and Plan Linkages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Childcare. ✓ Business start-up. ✓ Employability training. ✓ Housing and helping older children to live independently. <p>Ukrainian participants valued:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ kind an open-hearted people. ✓ Supportive. ✓ Communities and churches who care <p>Syrian participants valued:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ NRC and BCRC provided English lessons. ✓ Portstewart Community Association and Portstewart Men's Shed. ✓ Threads of Culture. ✓ Homework club /coffee mornings hosted by Portstewart Baptist Church. ✓ Portstewart football Academy. ✓ Education for children and teenagers. | | | |

| BYTES Youth Group, Coleraine & Ballymena aged 14-17 years, n14 on 21st March | | | |
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| WHAT'S WORKING | WHAT MATTERS | CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES | FUTURE FOCUS |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Forward Thinking projects. ✓ Garvagh forest cross community project - especially for young people with attention challenges. ✓ Festivals bringing people together to celebrate different cultures. ✓ T: BUC camps. ✓ Belfast Giants project - coming together with people from different backgrounds through new sports and activities where there is no sectarianism. ✓ Camp Shamrock. ✓ Trips away. ✓ Shared education. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Inclusivity. ✓ Diversity. ✓ Respect. ✓ Who is delivering your projects. ✓ Religion. ✓ Role models and learning new skills. ✓ Cultures - understanding different cultures so you feel safer and see that in the different estates we are not so different. ✓ If you take part or are running a project, being interested in the people and what you are doing. ✓ Celebrating important dates for different cultures. | <p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Prejudices. ➢ Fear of paramilitary groups and being targeted. ➢ Bigots. ➢ Scared to go into other estates to do stuff because of the flags. ➢ All the flags on our street and outside our schools. Don't see the point. ➢ Being targeted for your religion or your family history, or even just because of where you live. ➢ Homophobia. ➢ Racism. ➢ Prejudices. ➢ People are scared and blame certain communities - racism. ➢ No government affects funding and support. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Learning about new cultures, different traditions, skills, qualities. ✓ Being positive about diversity. ✓ Cross border projects - see how people live on the other side of the border. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ More and improved shared outdoor spaces/clubs for youth. ✓ Gatherings, festivals, and T: BUC camps. ✓ Multicultural celebrations so we are not thinking about bonfires and stuff all the time. Something else to look forward to that is every year. ✓ Council Youth Board - direct helpline to council for young people and listening to youth. |
| Other Issues, Policy and Plan Linkages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Shared education. ✓ Peer leadership projects - youth leaders. ✓ Fun. | | | |

| Interviews with LGBTQ+ Rainbow Project and UU Coleraine | | | |
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| WHAT'S WORKING | WHAT MATTERS | CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES | FUTURE FOCUS |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ballysally summer workshops with young people from all backgrounds. ✓ Nerve Centre rock camp. ✓ Portrush & Coleraine Drag nights that meet with no trouble. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Young people connect good relations with their own experience. ✓ Feeling safe personally, professionally, and socially. ✓ Inclusion. | <p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ No known GR provision directly connected with this community. ➢ No on-line vitriol monitoring. ➢ Little partnership working with the Rainbow Project. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Mutually beneficial partnerships with the Rainbow Project. ✓ Protection from online platforms. ✓ Action to ensure LGBTQ community is visible and safe. ✓ Increasing understanding and empathy - educational opportunity council wide ✓ Understanding we have a shared humanity instead of focusing on what's different. ✓ Mutual understanding of the importance of rights for all. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Council - meet and engage with the Rainbow Project. ✓ Designate a named Equality Officer and include contact details on council website. ✓ Include on the council website information provided about Rainbow Project's services and information. ✓ Reach out to the local LGBTQ+ around rights and support. ✓ Council attend Rainbow project public information evening. |
| <p>Other Issues, Policy and Plan Linkages</p> <p>Equality Action Plan Implementation Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ (including Section 75 sexual orientation review) due August 2020. <p>Feeling that council are not interested in the LGBTQ+ community.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No named Equality Officer, ✓ Motion to fly the PRIDE flag repeatedly turned down. ✓ Request denied for a blue plaque for Mark Ashdon as a gay person who contributed to society – (Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners 1980's). ✓ Portrush Pride faced numerous obstacles. | | | |

| Community Relations Practitioners Focus Group January 2023 | | | |
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| WHAT'S WORKING | WHAT MATTERS | CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES | FUTURE FOCUS |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Courthouse as shared space in Bushmills village focused on community development and employment. ✓ Corrymeela's regional work. ✓ Focus on food banks, warm spaces, dealing with bread-and-butter issues. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Demographics: Most of the villages are single identity. Cross-community groups are therefore crucial and there is a need to support and sustain their shared spaces. ✓ Building relationships and trust with the 'other'. ✓ Challenging myths and encourage critical thinking about sources of information or 'news'. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Amid cost-of-living crisis need to address paramilitarism and ensuring that paramilitaries do not take control of groups/villages etc. ✓ Remembering and Commemorating – need for ritualisation – inclusive remembering, Day of Reflection or similar. ✓ Validation and sustainability of the Community Sector and succession. ✓ Shared Interests: Coming together on the importance of common interests – environmental, arts, crafts, spaces etc. – warm and well-being hubs. ✓ Engaging young people, whose interactions were reduced, and fears increased due to Covid and who cope with mental well-being, misogyny, relationships, and community divisions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Community relations engagement, facilitation and training with all including councillors. ✓ Remembering - inclusive and non-threatening. ✓ Youth. ✓ Safe and Shared Spaces. ✓ Funding: Support needs to go into cross-community grassroots groups. ✓ Support opportunities for engagement to groups that work hard at outreach and service the community at different levels of need. ✓ Develop civic participation structures to engage with council and communities. |
| Other Issues, Policy and Plan Linkages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Growing interest in tourism and regeneration. ✓ Situation of groups that are struggling with deprivation issues at the local level, and that try to survive with little funding. ✓ Challenges of keeping the groups/community halls open. ✓ Understanding decision-making structures and facilitating civic society voices. ✓ Social Capital. ✓ Coordination and Collaboration. | | | |

| WHAT'S WORKING | WHAT MATTERS | CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES | FUTURE FOCUS |
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| ROE VALLEY 25 JANUARY 2023 | | | |
| <p>Equals, green or orange, not important.</p> <p>Limavady has strong community activities.</p> <p>The over fifty-five age group work very hard within the community.</p> <p>Joint Activities, common interests – cross-community gatherings, building relationships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Funding helps. ✓ Successful Cultural diversity events – dancing; Our past – place names, local history works well. ✓ Trips to places of interest (local and cross-border) exploring / discovering together. <p>Primary / post primary schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Cross-community engagement. ✓ Work together. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Limavady is left behind compared to all the other areas in the CCGBC. ✓ Perception that Council does not care. ✓ Not listened to. ✓ Councillors need to have gatherings to hear the voices of the Limavady community. ✓ The voice of civic society ought to be represented in work of Council /agencies i.e., PSNI, Housing Executive, Community Planning etc. ✓ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Criminality and related matters located in Limavady. ➤ Young people on drugs, need support. ➤ Hate crime, sectarianism, and racism prevalent. ➤ Perception foreigners are prioritized over local people. Opportunities ✓ Improve community cohesion across Limavady with events and activities using shared spaces. ✓ Bring community together- encourages mixing and building of relationships. ✓ Affordable activities for young people and children and for 55 years plus. ✓ More meetings with Councillors, on a regular basis. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Interaction with Councillors is desired so that their voices are heard. ✓ Good community relations are more than dealing with the Us and Them scenario. It is about building human relationships, building capacity for people to engage and includes building the next generation. ✓ Council support cross community work with well-being, outreach – enabling communities to help care for the people. ✓ Do things differently to build relationships and capacity – build skills, offer opportunities for apprenticeships – cross-community, inclusive, working together. <p>Radical improvement to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Community support hubs. ✓ Support / sustain community infrastructure. |

| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Joint classwork. <p>Men's Sheds are cross-community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Produce equipment. ✓ Mental well-being. ✓ Build trust and friendships. | | | |
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| WHAT'S WORKING | WHAT MATTERS | CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES | FUTURE FOCUS |
| Limavady Drop-in | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Community and voluntary groups. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Good support network that caters for everyone and their particular needs – gender, age, race irrelevant. | <p>Challenges</p> <p>Engage with the community to challenge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Stigma, inherited beliefs and segregation. ✓ Promote and recognise community engagement and volunteering. ✓ Increase facilities for young people. | <p>Civic Voice issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ People's forum to influence, lead and transform politics. ✓ Youth and Elders Council. ✓ A Limavady Civic Forum accountability. |

| WHAT'S WORKING | WHAT MATTERS | CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES | FUTURE FOCUS |
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| Glenshane Community Development Ltd 1 February 2023 | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Arts lead community relations work; cultural activities etc. ✓ Covid response endures - DCRG – 4/5 volunteers drive it /meets weekly. Practical help has evolved into looking after vulnerable; coal, food, warm space-scratching the surface. Needs funding to sustain the weekly attendance (16-20 people) and activities. Come regularly. ✓ Active volunteering. ✓ Challenging the reputation of Dungiven is negative and does not reflect the reality. ✓ Men's Sheds have been effective, bringing different groups | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Space for those who are in the minority. ✓ Integrated education. ✓ Women today are still denied opportunities. ✓ A general decline in groups and organisations where people would come together on a cross-community basis. The attitude of people has changed. ✓ Dungiven – work to change image and perception. | <p>Challenges Perception and standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Driving through, republican information, symbols etc., - that it is not safe for Protestant community – and the same goes for areas with loyalist symbols. <p>Opportunities Keeping the peace is important.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Engage with local young people about what is acceptable in the area. ✓ Bring people together naturally through common themes. ✓ themes; gardening, history etc. ✓ Activities that do not have a label – open and transparent for everyone. ✓ Bowling Club is cross-community and works well. Coming together in areas of common interest. <p>Supporting young people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sport facilities ✓ No time after jobs and family commitments. ✓ Young Farmer's Club is very strong in the area – | <p>Council issues: Establish a forum to share ideas and information, support each other.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Models of what works in other areas. ✓ Bring groups together. ✓ Develop leadership from volunteering. ✓ Over-arching group supporting local community activities. ✓ This strategy needs to incorporate what is important in the community – a much wider perspective to build relationships, build community relations. <p>Bring people together:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Festivals. ✓ Interest in the past. ✓ Common interests. ✓ Pride in place – Tidy Town and garden competitions. ✓ All kinds of music and choirs to break down barriers. ✓ Break down the barriers between the different clubs – overcome perceptions – Young Farmers Club, Gaelic Club, different sports activities etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Employment needed to revitalise the area. ➤ Younger people not interested in Catholic/Protestant. |

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| together/inter-generational. | | young people, but 99% Protestant. | ➤ Integrated education is important but due to segregation there is no opportunity for people to mix. |
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Cushendun public meeting

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| ✓ Pride of culture rather than religious identity. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ In the narrative of things in Northern Ireland we are 'single identity'. That does limit access to community relations funding because we can't evidence enough cross-community engagement. ✓ The community's efforts to prepare its young people well for living in a pluralist world, is making a big contribution to good relations in society, that deserves to be acknowledged. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Red tape around funding – criteria is restrictive – do not receive funding from Council for these community facilities, made to happen by local community. The need for Council to look at the richness of the resources here and the community. ✓ The need to 'rural proof' areas. ✓ The area has its poor, we are not in a registered area of deprivation. ✓ Fewer volunteers. | ✓ Money should be focused in linking grants up to help in the sharing of culture. |
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Other Issues, Policy and Plan Linkages

Challenges in Council related issues

- ✓ Loss of confidence in the commitment of council and elected representatives to work on social and economic issues with the community.
- ✓ Authentic and genuine consultation with community around big public spending decisions.
- ✓ More awareness for structure around policy making.
- ✓ How do we get MLAs to listen to us?
- ✓ Council meetings more concise and welcoming of public assistance.
- ✓ Research international examples of participative democracy.
- ✓ Perception that the movement of council to Coleraine has left Limavady with less resources and attention.
- ✓ Councillors from diverse backgrounds.

Council funding issues:

- ✓ Perceptions of unfair distribution of resources from Council.
- ✓ 'Single identity area finds it difficult to access Good Relations Funding.
- ✓ Stability of funding.
- ✓ Application forms difficult to use.
- ✓ Leases running out for local groups, Glens Estate Drop-in and Men's Shed.
- ✓ Payment to advertise
- ✓ High rental rates for council owned spaces to gather/work.
- ✓ Council promotion of activities or centres for free.
- ✓ Target areas of need.
- ✓ Retrospective payment of funding is problematic.
- ✓ Issues aggravated by insecure staff and project funding.
- ✓ Too costly to use Council facilities.

Needs and Service Issues include:

- ✓ Street lighting, bin collection for older people.
- ✓ Transport - to increase access and connections between villages and towns.
- ✓ Littering on outskirts of town.

Housing and Health

- ✓ More social housing needed.
- ✓ Men's mental well-being issues prevalent.
- ✓ Voluntary organisations providing regular care for elderly people: preventing loneliness and health problems.

Regeneration and local economic development

- ✓ Economic -cross-community workspace.
- ✓ Decrease in the local economy/online shopping.
- ✓ Regeneration of the town.
- ✓ Standards slip in small towns -larger towns that have cross-community population thrive.
- ✓ Uplift the main street– derelict houses throughout the town /traffic volumes.
- ✓ Develop tourism – local tour guides.
- ✓ Farmers Market.
- ✓ Support older and young people, and disability/ ability support centre for young people.
- ✓ No funding for Jazz Festival – community suffered.
- ✓ Improve the economic environment to encourage young people to live locally.
- ✓ Rates holiday for self-employed people/ entrepreneurs.

Community building issues and needs:

- ✓ Workshop activities– and for 55 years plus share skills, improves mental well-being, needs funding for materials etc.
- ✓ Not enough infrastructure.
- ✓ Voluntary group providing tea and coffee on Saturday nights for young people leaving the bars.
- ✓ Local people finding ways to connect with people who are suffering.

Infrastructure

- ✓ Drop in for mental well-being support.
- ✓ Kids drop in centre after school.
- ✓ Promote volunteering locally.

| Strategic Partners Planning Session | | | |
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| WHAT'S WORKING | WHAT MATTERS | CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES | FUTURE FOCUS |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Safe area for asylum seekers and refugees. ✓ Peaceful marching season. ✓ Positive cohesion strategy ✓ Meetings. ✓ Statutory cohesion group. ✓ Heritage Services has benefited – shared heritage, following from Council's principles of remembering. More than an objective history. Strong sense of community here, not just orange and green, not a single homogenous community. How do we humanise those different narratives. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Collaborative work in communities and with other agencies. ✓ Taking forward the statutory responsibility for Good relations. ✓ Despite constant pressures, anticipating and proactively responding to the changing policing and community safety issues with partners. ✓ Memorandum statement of understanding around beacons needs to be finalised. ✓ More diverse society. ✓ Education about diversity in schools and community requires education and other partners to be active. ✓ History and heritage. ✓ Long term impact of trauma. ✓ Memorialisation issues needs to be addressed. ✓ Legacy – addressing its transgenerational | <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Difficult to meet community expectations and vulnerable communities more exposed. ➢ Tackling money laundering, drug dealing, organised crime gangs in loyalist community. ➢ External political, social, economic, and sectarian factors. ➢ Political vacuum. ➢ Organisational internal pressures. ➢ Hostility to reconciliation is there a percentage of us who will always be hostile to reconciliation? ➢ Programme for government not in place, T:BUC policy ends in 2023. ➢ Unionist community-census results, sense of safety and security contributing to an identity crisis. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Role for PCSP in holding multi partner problem solving meetings. ✓ Community plan- has shown the potential to deal with difficult issues such as | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Asylum Seekers – a mapping, framework for Race Relations. Best practice in other places / Ireland – integration both adults and children. ✓ Communities need to understand distinction between asylum seekers, refugees, migrants, and rights. ✓ Social media and negative reporting / misinformation can be toxic when tensions are raised. How do we work to counteract myth and negative input. ✓ Work with three community networks to communicate accurate information before tensions rise. ✓ Project to bring young people from diverse backgrounds together for projects, spend social time together, plus diversionary activities and education for cultural diversity. ✓ Rebranding of GR – not always |

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| | and educational implications. | <p>bonfires and public space.</p> <p>✓ Heritage Services - how do we work alongside GR to make work effective.</p> <p>✓ Targeted communities, some aware that there is a momentum for change. Regretful on behalf of their youth.</p> <p>✓ Succession planning and sustainability in community and good relations – both paid and volunteer roles.</p> | <p>Community or Good Relations.</p> <p>✓ Community planning approach on anti-poverty approach, practical models.</p> <p>✓ Working collectively on joint projects.</p> <p>✓ PEACE PLUS Project across 7 DEAs - Diversionary, empowerment and personal-development work with post primary young people at risk and include community development, and rural groups in delivery.</p> |
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Other Issues, Policy and Plan Linkages

Council issues

- Issues of leadership. Forthcoming elections, party interests.

Community Planning

- Community Planning Review - Holistic and inter-connected needs and responses are required.
- Effects on communities of issues such as poverty, cost of living etc.
- Health and Wellbeing Services, Multi-Disciplinary Services,
- Access to a range of services for young people and adults,
- Issues around housing, transport, local peoples' needs.

Policing

- Meeting community expectations.
- Budgets, time and links with partners decreasing.
- Dealing with social issues at weekends.
- Over stretched.

| Policing and Community Safety Partnership Focus Group PCSP Focus Group 2 March 2023 | | | |
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| WHAT'S WORKING | WHAT MATTERS | CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES | FUTURE FOCUS |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Good Relations officer and the great work being done by the team. GR is now very strong. Integration and welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Engagement with the community particularly especially refugee and immigrant work. ✓ Refugees – real progress, involving community, towards their integration. ✓ Volunteer Centre - giving refugees work, pride, and a place in their local communities. ✓ More partnerships occurring. ✓ Councillors are ready to support and advise on an individual basis. When you call them, their support is “second to none.” ✓ Warm and more hubs - funding in partnership. ✓ Extra volunteers. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sharing good practice, and not such good practice. For example: ✓ It's important to take care of people and communities suffering from isolation and loneliness. ✓ Giving people a menu of choice and see what they want to be involved in. | <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Funding. ➢ Non-sitting government. ➢ Political landscape ➢ Mixed views about whether Councillors are sufficiency involved or interested in Good Relations. ➢ Volunteers burn out. Usually, the same people asking the lead on projects and groups. ✓ Build on partnership working. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Partnership working and sharing of resources, experience, and expertise. ✓ A GR programme for the 40 councillors to attend together. ✓ Longer interventions vital to completing and continuing work. ✓ Coordination among the community groups operating within an area. |
| <p>Other Issues, Policy and Plan Linkages</p> <p>Council related issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Mixed views about the level of councillor involvement in GR. <p>Funding issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Re-think of evaluation and monitoring forms. <p>Housing, Community and Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Housing forum: Should community groups pay for admin across several groups. ✓ Partnership working between people who would never be in each other's company. ✓ Use increased connectivity (smart phones etc.). | | | |

Statutory Cohesion Group meeting 7 March 2023

Strategic Partnership: Statutory Cohesion Group established to work together around Cultural Celebrations in particular bonfires. It has representatives from: Environmental Services Good Relations Housing Executive Fire and Road Services and others.

| WHAT'S WORKING | WHAT MATTERS | CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES | FUTURE FOCUS |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improved community practice around cultural celebrations - bonfires and beacons. ✓ Statutory Cohesion Group working in partnership and engaging the community and taken on board their input has made the difference. ✓ Partnership working leads to decreased community policing interventions. ✓ Clear, regular and honest communication. ✓ AIMS engagement with local communities. ✓ Meeting throughout the year. ✓ Communication and the fostering of TRUST are key. ✓ Consistent membership and this has established a profile of commitment and trust. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning about building relationships with the community. ✓ Showing that the benefits include being part of the overall forward movement. ✓ Common goals. ✓ Trust grew between groups and Council (listening ear). ✓ Established boundaries and parameters on the use of tyres in bonfires avoids potential tensions. ✓ The importance of getting the right people involved from communities - people with the right frame of mind. ✓ Getting people in the room for fruitful conversation. ✓ To recognize community engagement is at different levels in different communities; support and interventions must be adapted/customised to suit the specific communities. ✓ To maintain hope when there are difficulties. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Funding for and engagement with AIMS. ➢ Poor decision making outside of partners' control. ➢ Political instability. ➢ Power dynamics; larger organisations overshadowing smaller ones. ➢ Poor communication with the Council from the top. ➢ Council has no statutory responsibility to asylum seekers. ➢ Good Relations overstretched. ➢ Cuts in neighbouring policing. <p>Growth of extreme negative narratives about asylum seekers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Factors include myths, social deprivation, spread of racist sentiment, housing pressures and inadequate planning leads to claims of 'preferential treatment'; fears of diluting 'our culture', cost of living pressures. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Successful (long term) community engagement. ✓ Decreased number of bonfires may give birth to a festival/family celebration approach. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Re-defining of good relations and transcend artificial boundaries between community development, community planning and community relations. ✓ Communities need to connect with the Good Relations team. ✓ Police - maintain presence in the partnership and statutory meetings. ✓ Face to face working to be more supported and encouraged post-lockdown. ✓ Empowered and supported communities are a valuable resource. ✓ New approaches to encourage and harness the resources of communities. ✓ Empowering the communities so they can act and identify issues with the |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To maintain communications so that we can get over any political blips. ✓ To facilitate cultural diversity and celebrations beyond the Northern Irish cultural celebrations. ✓ Communities who don't engage with AIMS, do engage with council. | <p>Myth-busting in relation to new communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Build capacity and transparency with schools and community. ✓ Hold open Council meetings. ✓ Define, share and co-ordinate roles and responsibilities to support the arrival and care of asylum seekers. <p>Civic involvement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Build capacity at all levels in formal and non-formal settings. ✓ Grow community partnership and joined up working. ✓ Intentionally involve young people. | cohesion group. |
| Other Issues, Policy and Plan Linkages | | | |

Individual interviews took place with representatives of Sinn Féin, independent Councillors, Social Democratic and Labour Party, Ulster Unionist Party, Alliance Party, Democratic Unionist Party, and Progressive Unionist Party.

| WHAT'S WORKING | WHAT MATTERS | CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES | FUTURE FOCUS |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Achieving something together for the common good. Cross community initiative around significant issues to do with the cost of living, covid, social housing - a shared objective. ✓ The work the Good Relations team do on the ground. ✓ One to one conversation to discover needs for groups and individuals - find ways to integrate more "edgy" or "risky" work into GR strategy. E.g., 2011 - Bonfire question by listening to the young people and supporting them to create the celebration they're really looking to create in conjunction with, as opposed to against the local community. ✓ Good Relations Team. In touch with what is happening and great at making connections and do the best job imaginable. ✓ Funding from TBUC and other sources. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Coming together around a common goal - then when other culturally related issues arise, now you can just pick up the phone and talk with the people you are used to talking and working with. ✓ Treatment of communities as individual communities with particular needs. To move away from the box mentality. ✓ Also supporting, guiding, and celebrating leadership in youth. ✓ Face to face engagement. ✓ Community Empowerment in terms of less power. ✓ For councillors and citizens to feel agency and that they have a political and social responsibility to contribute to GR work. ✓ Partnership working within and beyond the council area. | <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To highlight and celebrate more the great work happening in the area. ✓ Publicize it a bit - local heroes, projects etc. <p>Threat: Loyalist community seen as a "risky" community to support. Therefore, the strategy becomes irrelevant to certain groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Opportunity: To lead other councils by introducing "safe" ways to engage. <p>Threat: Labelling young people in Limavady area as vulnerable to paramilitary orgs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Opportunity: To create programs with a positive, future focus ✓ Threat: Elected reps seen to have all the power. ✓ Opportunity: Flip the power triangle so that community members are at the top of the power triangle. ✓ Opportunity: Limavady - an example of a community of living safely. ✓ Coach people and allow them to flourish in a safe, mixed community, accepting of all perspectives and backgrounds in the community. <p>Threat: Flag protests.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ More integration in working class areas. ✓ Two identities sitting side by side more often on common issues. ✓ Conversations around integrated living. ✓ Opportunity to support families by taking away the labels and get to the significant issues - PCSP & Council & service providers to work more closely together, to move away from the boxed in mentality into a more conscientious, hopeful, and practical relationship. ✓ Community capacity building and empowering programs to be facilitated by service providers from outside of the area - think outside the box by connecting with providers from outside the area. ✓ Youth Forum for council and Pensioners/Elders Forum, both to feed into and hold |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Involvement in the bonfire work - educating communities and working together really has helped ease tensions. ✓ Community works really well together. ✓ Very proactive and supportive community organisations. ✓ Relationship with council and community groups. "You only have to call, and you get great support for council." ✓ Councillors putting the community first. ✓ Neighbourhood renewal programme. ✓ Courage and openness to approach and connect with people from outside your community. ✓ Men's Shed - They went to Stormont and presented themselves as the Presby-fenians from Limavady - really important. To get out and talk to people and share good examples of GR at work." ✓ Councillors doing GR work when they don't even realise it. ✓ Cultural exchanges: Ulster Scots and Irish | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Green and orange less important to people than the economy, education, sexuality, etc. ✓ Making Limavady a more welcoming and multicultural town - every community is having to receive asylum seekers and refugees now. We need to be ready. ✓ Better understanding between neighbours. ✓ That GR becomes embedded structurally. ✓ Parties coming together to make positive change. ➤ That leaders of local community groups have good working relations. ➤ Provision of support for people arriving and looking for urgent housing, like Ukraine, Turkey, and Syria. ➤ Project have value, are not one off but have follow up. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Civic decisions taken without global consultation - e.g. No flags ✓ Opportunity: Consult the people and they will see sense. ✓ Opportunity: As an elected member putting the people first. Respecting the people all year round allows them to feel. <p>Threat: That we leave people behind in terms of people just not engaging.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Opportunity: To engage for example with Orange Lodges and Bands in a more inclusive way, to openly engage as a collective. ✓ Opportunity to support families by taking away the labels and get to the significant issues - PCSP. ➤ . <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Councillors invested in moving forward with their views could gain more traction. Support each other. ✓ Unionist councillors who are easier to approach than in other councils. Opportunity to open conversations and collaborations. ✓ Councillors staying informed about issues in their local community by participating in local organisations either on a professional, | <p>Council to account.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Good Relations Network Forum Council Wide. ✓ Getting Limavady and other smaller towns ready to be a more diverse town. ✓ Attending events for refugees in other towns to begin preparing. e.g., International Women's Day - Event celebrating Women's Day. ✓ Integrated education should be at the forefront of our conversations. ✓ Looking at what is being done and seeing how approaches can be adapted. What works and what can be adapted and improved? ✓ Bring school children from different backgrounds together on a regular basis before the age of 14. <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Cross border, cross community activities. ✓ Find ways to engage the people who do |
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| <p>traditional cultural nights.</p> | | <p>advisory, or voluntary capacity.</p> | <p>not normally engage.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Leadership and a Shared Society course. ✓ Ethnic minority festivals like the Asian Festival in Coleraine, Portstewart, and Portrush. ✓ People from ethnic backgrounds participating and having local businesses. ✓ Community hubs and organisations. ✓ Trip to the Somme - opportunity to teach all sides of history. ✓ Experimental project with the memorial process and rituals of people from both communities. ✓ Four schools in Limavady hosting the Prison to Peace organisations. ✓ Understanding shared learning and effective educational experiences. ✓ Interagency partnerships. ✓ Strategic discussion on issues about division - housing. ✓ Specific focus on young people. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Young people involved in decision making. ✓ Broad and inclusive decision-making and planning. ✓ Urban/ rural focus. ✓ More collective thinking on where we want to get to as a society. ✓ Ensuring good communication and understanding on issues such as bonfire materials. ✓ Safe communities - people don't want to be robbed or have people coming looking for money for drugs. | <p>✓ Establish a Good Relations Network Forum across the CC&G - inter town and inter community network to allow people to be more proactive - learning from the experience – as a space for a civic voice not cut down by politics that can operate with or without funding, and sustainable beyond Peace funding.</p> <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ No follow-on impact from cultural exchanges. ➢ Cultural exchanges are too small scale and not frequent enough to build sustainable relationships. ➢ Not achieving enough. ➢ NI as sectarian as ever: geographically polarised, education segregated, no sales of housing to particular members of the community. ➢ People have no opportunities to mix from an early age. ➢ Few sports that both sides of the comm get involved in. ➢ Football clubs are representative of the divided society. ➢ Peoples lack interest and courage to discuss the core issues. ➢ Fear around the conversation of integration. Suits | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Partnership working, across all sides of the community. ✓ Integration of newcomers into the community. ✓ Investment and support for genuine and engaging projects - will lead to positive impacts, and create long lasting, good relationships. ✓ Council and other organisations learning and building from past experiences. ✓ Develop the youth council, resource it and facilitate a greater Good Relations element. ✓ Community navigator – to access council resources. ✓ Preparation for the tension in local communities, where asylum seekers are begin housed. |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Women's group/event bringing women together from all backgrounds. ✓ Strong community sector but the focus is mainly Coleraine, Ballymoney - more central, larger towns. ✓ Events that happen locally on the estates in Coleraine. ✓ Building Ballysally Together project. ✓ Committed band of volunteers. ✓ During Covid - action locally, including food banks, food parcels for pensioners from council or local groups. Responding to real need - Religious divide isn't seen as so important when faced with real need. ✓ Festivals and sports days accessed by everybody from all different backgrounds. ✓ Partnership working - Housing Executive and Police and Council. ✓ Expanded gym facilities and easy access. | | <p>people to maintain the current environment.</p> <p>Opportunity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ More young people getting together before their teens. <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Intransigence, people reluctant to mix with the Catholic /Protestant or other communities miss experiencing other ways of seeing that might allow them to open up a little and understand more. ➤ Old sectarian attitudes. ➤ Funding for single identity projects; longer term funding. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Opening up single identity events to a broader, more diverse participation. ✓ Strong common interests can be used to develop projects with lasting relationships and impact. E.g., Holocaust Memorial Day. <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lack of shared, welcoming or community spaces and volunteers to run good relations projects in rural villages and towns. ➤ Young people difficult to engage in politics or good relations | |
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| | | <p>because of fears, disinterest, opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Deceasing resources. ➤ Influence of paramilitary groups. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Community representatives, not politicians, that could approach people in particular communities to encourage participation in GR work and be able to avail of funding etc. ✓ Local champions - A Good Relations Champion or maybe 3 that represent each geographical area. <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Stagnation. ➤ Low turn out for local events. ➤ Some people in the estates who have no interaction at all with the local projects. ➤ Funding cut back. ➤ Drug dealing a serious threat to people feeling they live in a safe community. ➤ Rioting locally. ➤ More polarisation now than a year ago. ➤ Tension and creation of racism when refugees are housed locally, and local people perceive that their needs are not being met locally. <p>Opportunities</p> | |
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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Real community spirit in the estates. ✓ Create better choices for young people. ✓ Increased and intensified education around drugs and the consequences. ✓ Anti-drugs or health programs including gym access, and that target people from different back-grounds. ✓ Protest parades - are better and avoid prison sentences and fines. | |
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Other Issues, Policy and Plan Linkages

Equality Section 75 Action Plan: to be fully understand and updated.

Council issues

- ✓ Perceptions of misogyny in council.
- ✓ Councillors not supporting all of the community.
- ✓ Councillors who are not engaging with the local community.
- ✓

Funding

- ✓ Lack of stable funding.
- ✓ More control on investment/funding could result in better value for money.
- ✓ With the lack of funding comes a decrease in achievement and then involvement falls too without that motivation.

Politics

- ✓ Uncertainty caused by Brexit.
- ✓ Political instability with the lack of Stormont. This impacts on council. Council is definitely less harmonious.
- ✓ No Government. makes everyone feel unstable.
- ✓ Not having the people's voice included in local and regional government.

Community

- ✓ Rural community transport.
- ✓ Involve older people in passing down a more positive message to the younger generations.
- ✓ Community groups supportive to each other during Covid.

Other

- ✓ High profile events with perceived little local benefit.
- ✓ Including the history of the Battlefields and the Holocaust on school curriculums.