



# Good Relations Strategy April 2026 – March 2029



Derry City & Strabane  
District Council  
Comhairle  
Chathair Dhoire &  
Cheantar an tSratha Báin  
Derry Cittyie & Strábane  
Districk Council



The  
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## **FOREWORD**

### **Introduction by the Chief Executive of Derry City and Strabane District Council**

I am delighted to introduce Derry City and Strabane District Council's Good Relations Strategy 2026 – 2029 which outlines our vision for a City and District where people feel welcome, safe and included.

The goals and programmes outlined in this Strategy and associated Annual Action Plan, have been developed following an extensive consultation process that included feedback from our Community and Voluntary Sector, our Local Growth Partnerships, our residents, Council staff, Elected Members, Derry City and Strabane PCSP members and our statutory partners.

The issues which emerged from that consultation process demonstrate how our communities and therefore our Good Relations needs have evolved in recent years. We seek to address the issues identified, including those related to integrating and celebrating our minority ethnic communities, enhancing our community spaces as shared spaces and tackling the negative use of social media in creating a sense of community division among our young people.

We realise the Good Relations activity needed in our Council area is multi-faceted and involves an active partnership between Community, Council and Statutory organisations. Our dependence on centralised funding presents financial challenges in progressing this work and therefore we have concentrated on maximising the impact of Good Relations activity on key issues and on complementing wider funding streams such as funds dedicated to Ending Violence Against Women and Girls.

We will address current and emerging challenges for the area through strong civic leadership, active engagement with communities and all our stakeholders, supported by a committed, engaged, and skilled staff.

As a public body, we have responsibilities to promote equality, prevent discrimination and protect human rights. We will adopt a people-centred and inclusive approach in delivery and design of services ensuring Good Relations is embedded as a central ethos.

I am confident this Strategy will build on the success of the Good Relations activity undertaken to date and I look forward to working with communities in making Derry City and Strabane District a more inclusive area where we embrace and celebrate diversity and where our communities are strong and cohesive.

**John Kelpie**

**April 2026**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Derry City and Strabane District Council Good Relations Strategy reflects our increasingly diverse community and offers practical interventions which will ensure all our residents are able to live in harmony, with mutual respect and acceptance. The Strategy and associated Action Plan set out the key characteristics of our City and District, our understanding of our Good Relations needs and the key actions which will help to create a more cohesive society.

The Strategy Development process was undertaken between November 2025 and February 2026 and included:

- Community consultation focus groups through 14 meetings enabling two-way conversation and discussion on key issues impacting on Good Relations, ensuring both localised and sector specific issues were captured.
- Stakeholder consultation with key statutory partners including The Executive Office (who partner with Council on strategy development and implementation).
- External on-line community surveys for community representatives and a youth specific survey and a dedicated survey for Council staff.
- Desk research which reviewed key strategic policy documents, regional survey data from the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey and socio-economic data for the Council area.

Key issues identified which impact on Good Relations include the following needs:

- To engage and increase acceptance of newcomer communities through activities which increase respect for cultural diversity and community integration.
- To address coercion, cyber bullying and content which promotes unhealthy relationships to young people and engage young people in cross community / multi-cultural activities.
- To increase community / voluntary capacity and skills to enable delivery of community programmes and good relations activities to marginalised communities.
- To tackle common issues on a cross-community basis thereby increasing trust and exploration of commonality not difference.
- To animate shared community spaces to remove the fear of non-inclusion / accessibility
- To deliver trust / relationship building programmes and tackle issues related to hate crime, racism and sectarianism within our communities.
- To support positive cultural expression and identity (including the culture of ethnic minority / newcomer communities) thereby building respect and understanding for all.

**Our vision** for the next three years is:

Derry City and Strabane District is an area where people feel welcome, safe and included, where diversity is accepted and celebrated and where our communities are strong and cohesive.

We will seek to realise that vision by focusing our work on four thematic pillars through 14 key actions / programmes:

#### **Pillar 1: Children and Young People**

- Cultural diversity and cyber awareness programme addressing Good Relations sectarianism, racism, prejudice and coercion via social media
- Good Relations programme for young ambassadors (including a focus on leadership, civic engagement, cross community relationship building and local democracy).

#### **Pillar 2: Our Shared Community**

- Good Relations Grant Programme for District Electoral Areas addressing locally relevant issues
- Good Relations Strategic Priority Fund at district wide level with a focus on supporting groups who are core Good Relations practitioners
- Good Relations Training Programme to build the GR promotion capacity of community organisations and enable active engagement of all residents.
- Roots of Conflict and Prejudice Awareness Programme
- Special DEA Good Relations Initiatives Programme
- Good Relations Shared Learning Event.

#### **Pillar 3: Our Safe Community**

- Interfaces and Contested Space Programme with a focus on flags, emblems and murals and safe expression of culture
- Supporting Safety Community Spaces Grant Programme.

#### **Pillar 4: Our Cultural Expression**

- Minority Ethnic Inclusion and Celebration Programme.
- Traveller Awareness
- Good Relations Week
- Pupil Voice Democracy Programme.

While our vision and strategic priorities will set a consistent framework which will guide implementation, the actions included within this Strategy will evolve and will keep pace with current and emerging Good Relations challenges.

The Strategy will therefore be an active and evolving statement of intent which will guide the Council and its partners, offering a focus and framework for collaboration.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

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The Derry City and Strabane District Council Good Relations Strategy aims to reflect our increasingly diverse communities and offer practical interventions which will ensure all our residents are able to live in harmony, with mutual respect and acceptance. This document sets out the key characteristics of our City and District, our understanding of our Good Relations needs and key actions which will help to create a more cohesive society.

## 1.1 BACKGROUND

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### 1.1.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

Derry City and Strabane District Council area includes the second largest city in Northern Ireland. Derry~Londonderry is the ‘Capital of the Northwest’ and is at the core of the only functional economic city region of its scale which straddles the border into the Republic of Ireland.

Our wider Council area is home to 150,757 residents and covers 1245km<sup>2</sup>. It is set within the foothills of the Sperrin Mountains - a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It has a contrasting urban and rural land base and population.

Derry City and Strabane District has a remarkable and rich history, culture and heritage. The region has positioned itself as one of the most innovative, creative and cultural areas on the island of Ireland and is now a strong global competitor in health and life sciences, digital, tourism and creative industries.

However, the troubles, their historic impact and their ongoing legacy has had an intergenerational trauma impact on local communities. Our residents suffer from higher levels of health inequalities compared to the rest of Northern Ireland (with the exception of Belfast). This is a situation that is further exacerbated for those living in our most deprived areas – both within our high-density urban areas and our rural areas. We have a higher percentage of people who are economically inactive due to a disability or long-term illness. In terms of housing tenure, our council area has one of the highest proportions of social housing and has the second highest number of applicants on the social rented sector waiting list.

## 1.1.2 SOCIO ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF DERRY CITY AND STRABANE DISTRICT

According to the Census 2021 statistics<sup>1</sup> the total population of the Council area is 150,757. The majority of the population – 147,349 (97.74%) - is White. The key population characteristics are highlighted in the following infographics<sup>2</sup>:

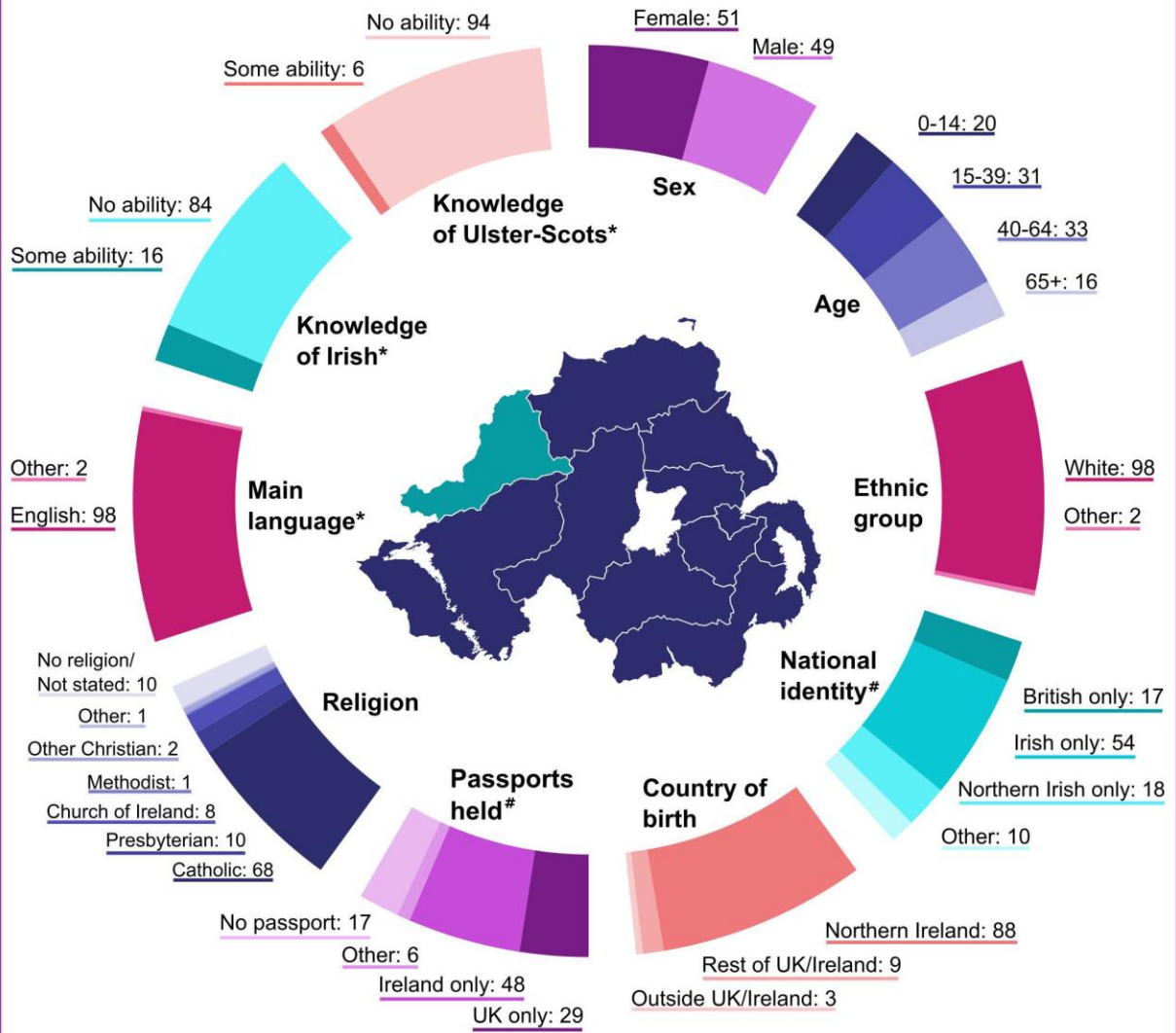
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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-bulk-download>

<sup>2</sup> [Derry City & Strabane - Your Council](#)

census  
2021

# Derry City and Strabane as 100 people



\*People aged 3 years and over

#Person based classification



[nisra.gov.uk/census2021](https://nisra.gov.uk/census2021)

[explore.nisra.gov.uk](https://explore.nisra.gov.uk)

census  
2021

# Derry City and Strabane



**Population**  
**150,800**

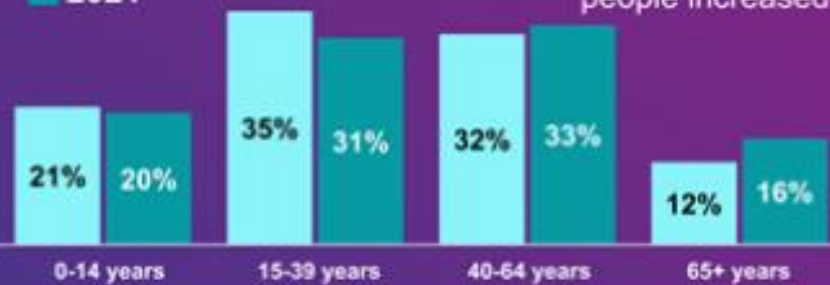
Up 2%  
since  
2011

**Households**  
with usual residents  
**60,900**

Up 10%  
since  
2011

## Age

2011  
2021



- Proportion of younger people decreased
- Proportion of older people increased



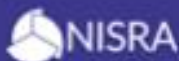
Northern  
Ireland:  
133,100

Rest of  
UK/Ireland:  
13,300

Outside  
UK/Ireland:  
4,400

## Country of birth

Number of people  
born outside  
UK/Ireland increased  
from 3,800 in 2011  
to 4,400 in 2021

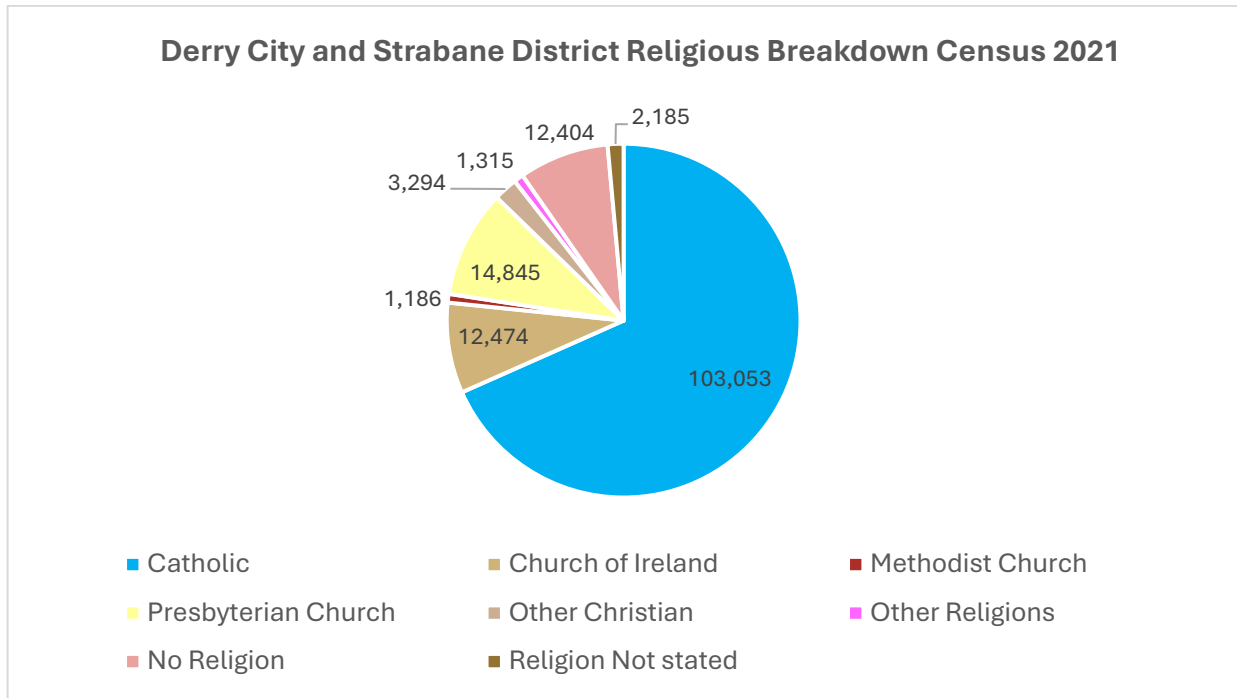


[nisra.gov.uk/census2021](http://nisra.gov.uk/census2021)

@NICensus2021

The 2021 Census indicates the religious breakdown of the resident population is predominantly Christian, with the most significant population identifying as Catholic (68%). 0.87% of residents within the City and District identify as being from a non-Christian religious background.

The number of people born outside the UK / Ireland has increased and makes our community an increasingly diverse community, culturally and religiously.



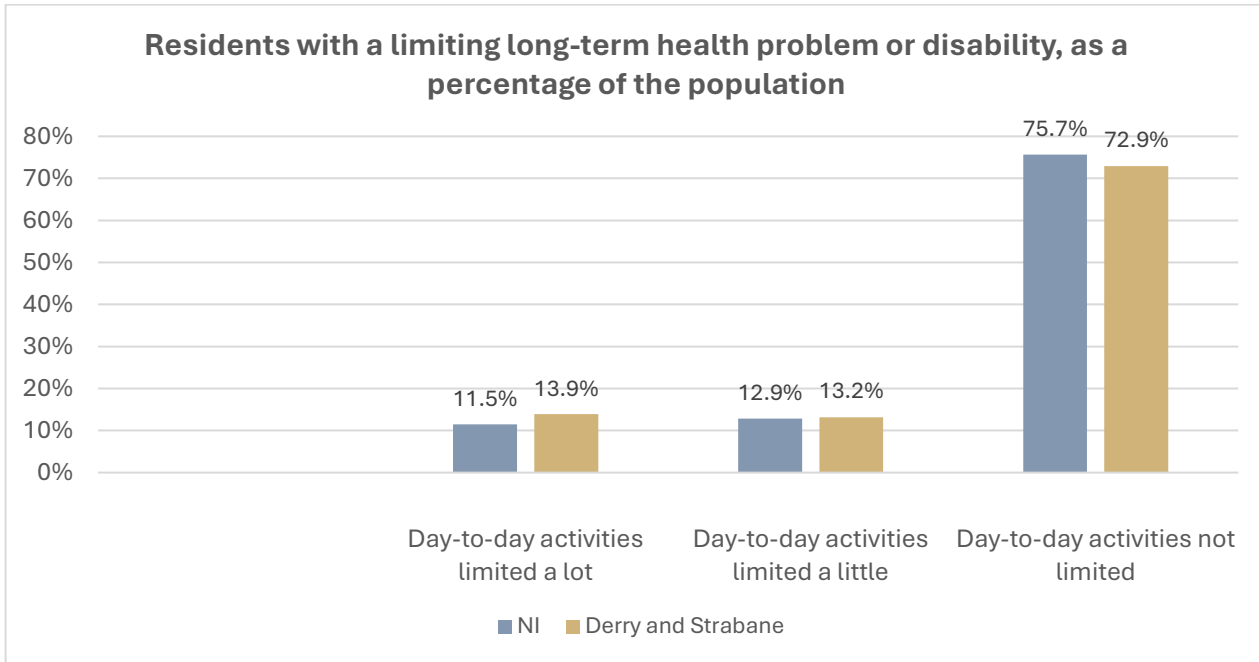
The Census 2021 also indicates that, of those aged 16 years and over 2.1% identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual or other. A further 7.6% did not state their sexual orientation. 90.3% said they were straight or heterosexual.<sup>3</sup> It should be noted however, the Rainbow Project has provided a number of qualitative contextual reasons why they believe studies, especially the census, aren't fully reflective of actual figures and may be an under-representation of the LGBTQIA+ population in the District.

The Multiple Deprivation Measure Report 2017 shows that almost 16% of the population in the Council area had an equivalised income of 60% below than the NI median – of these households there were 21% in which there are children aged 15 and under and 5.4% households where there were people aged 65 years and older living.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/system/files/statistics/census-2021-main-statistics-for-northern-ireland-phase-3-statistical-bulletin-sexual-orientation.pdf> (accessed 11/07/23)

According to statistics for Census Day 2021 the health profile of the Council area showed higher levels of health inequalities than the Northern Ireland average with 13.9% of the population having a health condition which limits their day to day activities a lot, as follows<sup>4</sup>:



### 1.1.3 POLITICAL MAKEUP OF DERRY CITY AND STRABANE DISTRICT

The Council is comprised of 40 Elected Members representing the seven District Electoral Areas,

- 18 representing Sinn Féin
- 8 Representing the SDLP
- 5 representing the DUP
- 5 Independent Councillors
- 3 representing the UUP
- 1 representing People Before Profit.

67% of the elected representatives indicate they are from a Catholic background, the same proportion of the population which indicate they have nationalist views generally. 17% of

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-health-disability-and-unpaid-care-tables>

elected representatives indicate they are from a Protestant background and 13% indicated neither religion. The profile of elected representatives is majority male (67%) with a minority of female representatives (30%). 2% of elected representatives indicated they are from a non-UK / Ireland background. 2% of elected representatives indicate they are a member of the gay or lesbian community.

#### 1.1.4 CRIME STATISTICS

Figures released from PSNI<sup>5</sup> show that between October 2024 end of September 2025 there was an increase in crimes related to race, sexual orientation and transgender identity across Northern Ireland when compared with the previous 12 months. Crimes related to a race hate motivation saw the largest increase (270 more incidents across Northern Ireland), whereas those related to faith / religion saw the largest decrease (33 less than the previous year across Northern Ireland).

In Derry City and Strabane District there was an increase in race related incidents and crimes with an increase of 11 (9%) from the previous year (112 incidents in 23/24 compared to 123 in 24/25), however this level of increase was lower than that experienced in some other Council areas e.g. Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon which saw an increase of 95 incidents (93% increase from the previous year).

Derry City and Strabane District also saw an increase of 8 additional incidents (18%) related to sexual orientation and an additional 23 incidents (18%) related to sectarianism.

While proportionally the rate of increase of these incidents is lower than some other areas, the City and District has seen increases and therefore there is work to be done to ensure a safe and accepting society for all.

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<sup>5</sup> [Incidents and Crimes with a Hate Motivation Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland Update to 30th September 2025](#)

### 1.1.5 NORTHERN IRELAND LIFE AND TIMES SURVEY

In the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey<sup>6</sup> over 1,200 adults from across Northern Ireland were interviewed between September 2024 and November 2024 to determine their attitudes and perspectives on several issues.

The positive perceptions expressed by respondents included:

- 47% believe that relationships between Protestants and Catholics are better now than they were 5 years ago, an additional 42% believe they are about the same.
- 42% believe that relationships between Catholics and Protestants will be better in 5 years' time and 43% believe they will be about the same.
- 76% want to live in neighbourhoods of mixed religion.
- 62% of respondents consider the culture and traditions of the Protestant community add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society and 72% of respondents consider the culture and traditions of the Catholic community add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society. There is therefore an acceptance that culture is something which adds value.
- More than half of respondents (59%) said that they had not personally felt intimidated by loyalist murals, kerb paintings, or flags, whereas 37% said they had felt intimidated. This is a slight positive change from the 2022 survey when 57% indicated they had not felt personally intimidated.
- However, when asked if they had been annoyed by loyalist murals, kerb paintings, or flags 51% said yes and 45% said no. Therefore, just over half of the survey respondents have negative perceptions and feelings about this type of loyalist expression of identity / culture, but not sufficiently to feel intimidated. This is a slight improvement on perceptions in the 2022 survey when 55% indicated they had been annoyed by this type of marking.
- Perceptions of republican iconography are less negative with 75% of respondents to the 2024 survey indicating they have not felt personally intimidated by republican murals, kerb paintings and flags. 22% of respondents indicated that they had felt intimidated. This compares with 69% stating no and 28% saying they had felt intimidated in the 2022 survey.
- 33% of respondents in the 2024 survey indicated that they have felt annoyed by republican murals, kerb paintings and flags (compared to 40% in 2022), with 63%

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<sup>6</sup> [Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey: ~year](#)

indicating they had not been annoyed. There is therefore a slightly lower, but still significant percentage of respondents who express negative perceptions of this type of expression of republican identity / culture.

- When asked whether July and August bonfires are a legitimate form of cultural expression 8% strongly agreed and 24% agreed (total of 32%) whereas 23% disagreed and 27% strongly disagreed (total of 50%), therefore half of respondents do not agree with this as a legitimate form of cultural expression.

The perspective on Loyalist and Republican murals, kerb paintings and flags has therefore slightly improved within the last 2-year period, however significant proportions of respondents still have some negative feelings towards this type of cultural expression .

When considering perceptions of minority ethnic communities 59% of respondents feel favourable about people from a different ethnic group than themselves, with only 4% indicating they feel unfavourable. However, only 32% of respondents indicated that they personally know quite a bit about the culture of some minority ethnic communities living in Northern Ireland.

## 2 STRATEGIC AND POLICY CONTEXT

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The Good Relations Strategy and Action Plan for the Derry City and Strabane District area fits within a wider national and regional strategic policy framework which has established principles and priorities for action. To be effective in delivering change, the proposed priorities for local action must consider and complement those priorities.

Regional priorities are encapsulated in the following documents:

- Our Plan: Doing What Matters Most - Programme for Government 2024 – 2027
- Together Building a United Community Strategy
- Racial Equality Strategy for NI
- Promoting Good Relations: A Guide for Local Authorities

Local priorities identified are contained in:

- Derry City and Strabane Strategic Inclusive Growth Plan 2017-2032
- Good Relations Strategy for Derry City and Strabane District Council area 2022 -2025
- Derry City and Strabane District Council PEACEPLUS Action Plan
- Derry and Strabane PCSP Action Plan 2025 - 2026

The key priorities identified in these documents relate to: creating open and accessible communities; ensuring acceptance of diversity and social inclusion; ensuring safe communities and enabling cultural identity and expression and these are outlined in the following infographic.

# Good Relations Strategic Priorities

- Everyone feels safe moving around (TBUC)
- Tackling Racism and Hate Crime (Racial Equality Strategy)
- Reduce crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and inter-community tensions and improve safety (Strategic Growth Plan & PCSP Action Plan).
- Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (Programme for Government, PCSP Action Plan))
- Tackling fears around the inclusiveness of spaces (FICT report)

- Improved attitudes in young people and active participation in cross community youth activities (TBUC & PEACE IV Action Plan)
- Establish opportunities for development of 'Youth Voice' in local decision making (Inclusive Growth Plan)



- Development of indoor and outdoor community spaces as a focus for community action and participation (PEACEPLUS Action Plan,
- Adopting a commitment to good relations throughout the organisation (Promoting Good Relations: A guide for Local Authorities)

- Mutual respect and understanding of cultural traditions and identities (TBUC, FICT Report & PEACE IV Action Plan)
- Creation of positive community identities (Inclusive Growth Plan)
- Cultural expression celebrated and embraced through shared public spaces and activities (TBUC, FICT Report & PEACEPLUS Action Plan)
- Greater consistency in understanding of cultural identity for young people (FICT Report)
- Tackling fears around cultural identity being diluted by including others (FICT Report)

- Unrestricted life opportunities (Programme for Government and TBUC)
- Open, animated and shared civic spaces which deliver health and wellbeing benefits (FICT Report, Inclusive Growth Plan and Local Plans)
- Shared cultural and civic activities (Programme for Government, Inclusive Growth Plan, PEACEPLUS Action Plan)
- Integration and accessibility to and through sport (FICT Report)
- Enhanced community capacity and wellbeing (Inclusive Growth Plan & PEACEPLUS Action Plan)

Made with VISME

## 2.1 REGIONAL STRATEGIC CONTEXT

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The context of the outlined priorities in each of these strategic documents is outlined in the following sections.

### 2.1.1 OUR PLAN: DOING WHAT MATTERS MOST - PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT 2024 – 2027

The Our Plan: Doing What Matters Most - Programme for Government 2024 – 2027 identifies nine priorities which aim to make real improvements across our society with the goal of improving the wellbeing of everyone living and working in Northern Ireland. The Programme aims to make sure that everyone has the best possible opportunity regardless of religious belief, political opinion, sexual orientation, gender, race, disability, age, marital status and dependants. The nine priorities identified include:

- Ending Violence Against Women and Girls, and
- Safer Communities

Priorities for Ending Violence Against Women and Girls aim to focus on early intervention and prevention of violence. Strategic action will aim to include raising awareness of the issues and deliver investment to grass roots communities via local councils to tackle damaging attitudes and behaviours in order to equip people to have safe and healthy relationships.

Priorities for safer communities build on and complement proposals to end Violence Against Women and Girls, tackling issues such as domestic abuse as well as paramilitary activity in our communities. Priority actions include preventing people from entering the justice system through early intervention and diversion.

The Programme for Government also affirms the importance of culture and language with intentions to fulfil duties around the Identity and Language (NI Act).

These priorities will be embedded in future Good Relations activity in Derry City and Strabane District.

### 2.1.2 TOGETHER BUILDING A UNITED COMMUNITY STRATEGY

The ‘Together: Building a United Community Strategy’ (TBUC) 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 Northern Ireland Executive’s commitment to improving community relations and continuing the journey towards a more united and shared society.

The following principles underpin the implementation of the Strategy: cohesion, diversity, fairness, inclusion, integration, interdependence, respect, responsibilities, rights, sharing and tolerance.

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

1. Our Children and Young people - Shared Aim: to continue to improve attitudes amongst our young people and to build a community where they can play a full and active role in building good relations
2. Our Shared Community - Shared Aim: to create a community where division does not restrict the life opportunities of individuals and where all areas are open and accessible to everyone.
3. Our Safe Community - Shared Aim: 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 - Shared Aim: to create a community, which promotes mutual respect and understanding, is strengthened by its diversity and where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced.

The Good Relations Strategy for Derry City and Strabane District aims to align fully to these objectives, deliver localised positive impacts and aid in the achievement of the TBUC Strategy and its key priorities.

### 2.1.3 COMMISSION ON FLAGS, IDENTITY, CULTURE AND TRADITION - REPORT (DEC 2021)

The Commission’s report (FICT Report) was published in December 2021 following a stakeholder engagement process which aimed to scope the extent and nature of issues relating to flags, identity, culture and tradition within Northern Ireland. The consultation process has identified a range of issues and proposals related to flags, identity, culture and

tradition<sup>7</sup> which are important to note in the development of a Good Relations strategy and associated action plan at local level. These are as follows:

Issues related to Children and Young People: The Commission found that many young people finish school without an understanding of their own cultural identity and of other communities within our society. The Commission met and engaged with youth groups and organisations, who spoke about how they sometimes feel that they are forced into aligning themselves with one or other of the two dominant communities, reinforcing their sense of difference. Despite that, young people displayed a keen desire to be involved in more shared cultural and civic activities, outside of the traditional ‘green’ and ‘orange’ events.

Issues related to Shared Community: The creation of shared space requires the rights of individuals and groups to use and express themselves in public spaces to be maximised. Initiatives which enable the creation of places of interaction and development of common experiences through events that are open, welcoming and that encourage diversity and learning are perceived to be beneficial. The fear of identity and culture being diluted because communities are opening space up to others, needs to be addressed.

Issues related to Safe Communities: The report emphasises that our sense of place is connected to a sense of safety and belonging and that this relates to our sense of citizenship and inclusion. A society with safe, welcoming, accessible and connected public spaces is likely to foster good social cohesion.

Issues related to Cultural Expression: The report states public celebration of the various differing and shared cultural identities that exist within our community should be encouraged, if such celebration is undertaken in a respectful and dignified manner.

We have been mindful of these findings when consulting on and developing our future Good Relations Strategy and will aim to address these issues in our ongoing work within and for communities.

#### 2.1.4 RACIAL EQUALITY STRATEGY FOR NI

This strategy provides a framework for action:

- To tackle racial inequalities and to open up opportunity for all,

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<sup>7</sup> [Commission on Flags, Identity, Culture and Tradition - Final report | The Executive Office \(executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/Commission-on-Flags-Identity-Culture-and-Tradition-Final-report)

- To eradicate racism and hate crime and
- To promote good relations and social cohesion (linked with T:BUC Strategy).

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

The strategy presents 7 shared aims of:

1. Elimination of Racial Inequality
2. Combating Racism and Hate Crime
3. Equality of Service Provision
4. Participation to Increase Representation and Sense of Belonging
5. Social Cohesion
6. Capacity Building in Developing Leadership and Collective Capacity
7. Safeguarding People’s Rights to Maintain Their Cultural Identity.

## 2.1.5 PROMOTING GOOD RELATIONS: A GUIDE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Neither ‘Good Relations’ nor ‘promoting Good Relations’ is defined in legislation, nor is there a commonly agreed definition. The Equality Commission has developed a working definition of Good Relations, as follows:

“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.”

The Equality Commission is clear that Section 75 (2) formalises the shift from managing diversity and difference to promoting diversity and integration. It requires public authorities to be pro-active, recognising and acknowledging the legacy of conflict, and challenging sectarianism and racism. It encourages public bodies to create an ethos and culture of Good Relations, and to recognise the need to promote Good Relations both within and between communities.

The guidance recommends:

- Adopting a strong, visible commitment to improving relations throughout the whole organisation e.g. including Good Relations objectives in organisational business plans, training on good relations issues, and allocating appropriate resources to ensure objectives are realised.
- Communication of Good Relations objectives, why the organisation is doing it and how it will be achieved, both internally and externally.

Through our ongoing work to develop a Good Relations Strategy and associated action plan for community programme delivery, the Council is actively working to re-affirm its commitment to improving Good Relations both within Council structures and in our service delivery and partnership working with community stakeholders.

## 2.2 LOCAL STRATEGIC CONTEXT

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### 2.2.1 DERRY CITY AND STRABANE STRATEGIC INCLUSIVE GROWTH PLAN 2017-2032

The Derry City and Strabane District's Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan has a vision of a thriving, prosperous and sustainable City and District with equality of opportunity for all. The strategy aims to improve the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the city and district and to do so in a sustainable way. Good Relations is identified as one of four cross cutting themes alongside equality and inclusive growth, sustainability and rural development. Embedding Good Relations in programmes and activities is therefore a core priority for the City and District. The Strategy aims to deliver against the following three pillars - economic wellbeing, environmental wellbeing and social wellbeing.

As part of the extensive consultation process, Local Growth Plans were developed in the five urban District Electoral Areas and the three rural District Electoral Areas. The Local Growth Plans (LGPs) mirror the Strategic Growth Plan and the actions identified in the local plans contribute to the achievement of the outcomes in the Strategic Growth Plan. Good Relations is also a cross-cutting theme in each of the LGPs.

The development of enhanced Good Relations in the District will be supported by Local Growth Plan actions, and the Good Relations Strategy will aim to assist with their delivery.

### 2.2.2 DERRY CITY AND STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL PEACEPLUS ACTION PLAN

Council secured £8,047,327 PEACEPLUS funding in June 2024 for the DCSDC PEACEPLUS Action Plan funding 58 projects under three themes of:

- **Community Regeneration and Transformation** (13 projects). Projects under this theme are designed to empower local people to transform their communities on a cross-community basis. This can include physical appearance and functionality, developing new or re-imaging existing spaces, and projects must have the potential to create opportunities for an increased level of cross-community interaction.

- **Thriving and Peaceful Communities** (24 projects). Projects under this theme focus on wellbeing, connectedness and empowerment. They build and sustain relationships between different communities and people; invest in cross-community collaboration to identify issues and opportunities; and develop collaborative projects to bring positive change. Sectoral areas include children and young people; sport; environment; health and wellbeing; arts and culture; capacity building and community development focused training.
- **Celebrating Cultural Diversity** (21 projects). The focus of these projects is on providing support to the most marginalized within our communities. This includes migrants, refugees, Irish Travellers, women, the LGBTQ+ community, older people, those living with a disability and those with issues arising from the conflict. Projects aimed to build, improve and sustain relationships; increase knowledge and understanding, incorporate conflict resolution/more direct reconciliation and good relations work; increase civic participation and engage with those with very diverse views.

These projects are significant in extent and financial scale, making a substantial contribution to social inclusion, integration and Good Relations across the District. However, these projects will conclude by June 2027.

### 2.2.3 DERRY AND STRABANE PCSP ACTION PLAN 2025 – 2026

The PCSP Action Plan for 2025 – 2026 identifies local priorities for action. These priorities are:

- Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour
- Ending Violence Against Women and Girls
- Reducing Crime and its Impact on our Community. This includes Drugs, Alcohol and Addictions; Domestic and Sexual Violence Initiatives; Hate Crime; Tackling Business, Retail and Rural Crime; Tackling Cybercrime including scams and child sexual exploitation (CSE); Community Safety Warden Scheme; Safer Home Scheme; Road Safety Initiatives; Youth Engagement Initiatives.

The Good Relations Strategy also seeks to address these issues and their underlying impact on Good Relations and will therefore seek to complement the PCSP Action Plan activities.

## 2.2.4 DERRY CITY AND STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL DISABILITY ACTION PLAN 2024-27

The Council has prepared a Disability Action Plan in accordance with Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA 1995) (as amended by Article 5 of the Disability Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 2006). The Plan aims to promote understanding and awareness and encourage respect to bring about change for disabled people. Key actions include convening an Equality Assurance and Oversight Group, policy screening, training on disability awareness and ensuring the views of those with disabilities are sought in service planning and development.

The Good Relations Strategy will aim to further support this work and proactively consider and make provision for the inclusion of disabled people in community life.

## 2.3 EXAMPLES OF PROGRESS IN BUILDING EQUALITY AND GOOD RELATIONS INTO KEY INITIATIVES

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Progress has been made on building Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations into key Council initiatives and day to day activities. Examples include:

- Establishment of an internal Equality Working Group and a LGBTQIA+ Working Group
- Section 75 equality screening training for staff. It is also planned for Elected Members and Senior Staff to avail of Equality Commission training linked to their new guidance on Section 75: Demonstrating Effective Leadership.
- Meeting of Equality Assurance and Oversight Group, with attendees including those representing age, disability, women and race.
- RNIB Visual Awareness training for staff and Elected Members
- Human Resources provided initiatives for staff during Mental Health Awareness Week
- Delivery of OCR Level 1 Introduction to Ulster Scots for staff and elected members
- Men's Health Awareness Week
- Mayor promotes Council support for migrant communities
- Launch of new live commentary service for blind and partially sighted fans, with Derry City Football Club and RNIB at the Ryan McBride Brandywell Stadium
- A Mayor's birthday party for children and young people with autism and complex needs

- Section 75 monitoring of individuals requesting assistance through the Home Safety Service
- Continued progress in delivering the actions which gained UNICEF Child Friendly Status. Video link to North West Ministry of Youth – Voice of Children & Young People across the DCSDC area:  
<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/td95uo3bk2drtt7mbtwq9/youth-2.mp4?rlkey=6i5loqary442fga1wyy6owqal&st=i2k3229e&dl=0>
- Delivery of an Age Friendly Programme
- Delivery of targeted initiatives in leisure for women and people with disabilities
- Ongoing programme of language initiatives and services
- Delivery of the Good Relations Programme between 2022 and 2025
- Development and delivery of PEACEPLUS Action Plan and associated capital schemes and activity programmes.
- Participation in the Local Government Diversity Ambassador Programme which aimed to establish ambassadors promoting equality of opportunity, diversity and inclusion. Topics progressed included good relations support for people from ethnic minority backgrounds, supporting and raising awareness of LGBTQIA+ communities, tackling hate crime, corporate approaches to bilingualism and supporting people living with disability.
- Our Guildhall, Our Space Youth Initiative.

An overview of motions carried by Elected Members in support of Good Relations objectives is also contained in Annex 1 of the separate document capturing consultation feedback (available upon request).

# 3 CURRENT STRATEGIC VISION AND PRIORITIES

## 3.1 2022 - 2025 STRATEGY

The Good Relations Strategy for 2022-2025 aimed to deliver against objectives of the Northern Ireland Regional Strategy for Reconciliation, Together Building a United Community and therefore works to address the key themes of:

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



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The Strategy was designed to build on previous good practice and include significant new programmes. The programme for 2022-2025 included 14 programmes of activity under the 4 key themes with the following changes:

- A new programme called Breaking Barriers is included with a focus on tackling racism and sectarianism. The programme included: reviewing systems and procedures in Council to ensure fairness and equity; training for staff and Councillors; identification of role models to promote inclusion; promotion of inclusion and diversity locally and regionally.
- A greater strategic focus for the small grants programme.
- A bonfire engagement programme which sought to incorporate two aspects: a) why there is a need for bonfires and whether alternatives can be identified, and b) greater focus on their historical context.
- Broadening of the focus on Holocaust Memorial Week as a key event in itself but also to draw in other minority groups that have been discriminated against.

This strategy has now come to its conclusion, and the Council has taken the opportunity to reflect on current Good Relations needs within the Council area and opportunities for positive action in the development of a future Strategy and Action Plan.

### 3.2 2025-2026 GOOD RELATIONS ACTION PLAN

The existing Good Relations Strategy and Action Plan (funded with support from The Executive Office) identified a range of priority actions aligned to the objectives within the T:BUC Strategy. These actions have been reviewed within the context of the feedback gained from community consultees and the strategic priorities for the area, as follows:

TBUC Theme	Aim	Key Actions	Continuing relevance and need?
<b>Our Children and Young People</b> – 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	Cultural awareness for primary schools	Engaging at least 30 schools in diversity workshops	Yes
2	Engaging Youth in their Communities Programme	Good Relations Programmes for young people to address Good Relations local issues delivered via District Electoral Area (DEA) structures.	Yes
<b>Our Shared Community</b> – 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			
3	Good Relations Grant Programme	Consensual grants across DEA's for Good Relations activity	Yes
4	Special DEA Good Relations Activities	Good Relations activities to address emerging local Good Relations needs via local community planning partnerships in each DEA.	Yes
5	Prejudice Awareness Programme	Developing understanding of the issues that cause hatred and segregation via skills training, education & awareness.	Yes – need to develop better understanding of other cultures.
6	Holocaust Memorial Week	Events to commemorate the Holocaust and other genocides	Wider focus sought.

7	GR Audit for DCSDC 2026-2029	Consultation and needs analysis of Good Relations issues in DCSDC area.	Time limited activity
<b>Our Safe Community</b> - to create a community where everyone feels safe in moving around and where life choices are not inhibited by fears around safety			
8	Interfaces and Contested Spaces	Activities to address tensions around holiday periods and contested spaces.	Yes – focus on flags, graffiti, murals and bonfires.
<b>Our Cultural Expressions</b> – To create a community, which promotes mutual respect and understanding, is strengthened by its diversity and where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced			
10	One World Festival	Festival activities to celebrate different cultures and traditions around the world.	More interactive activities sought.
11	Schools Dialogue Programme	Event designed to engage young people in how local democracy, specifically Council and political parties, work and generate greater interest in participating in the civic and political structures.	Yes
12	Good Relations Week	Programmes promoting understanding, respect and engagement between all sections of our community.	Integrate as a common theme across activity programmes.
13	Shared Voices	Events that highlight voices, cultures, and languages not commonly heard. Activities exploring Irish and Ulster Scots language commonalities and musical traditions.	Yes – need to develop opportunities to engage those with limited / no English.
13	Traveller Awareness	Support for the Traveller Action Group to address traveller acceptance.	Yes
14	Support for People from Ethnic Minority Backgrounds	Promotion of cultural diversity via supporting an inter-agency forum to assist integration of new arrivals.	Yes

## 4 METHODOLOGY FOR THE GOOD RELATIONS AUDIT

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The Good Relations Audit to inform the 2026 – 2029 Strategy and Action Plan comprised of consultation focus groups, internal and external stakeholder consultation, public survey and desk research as outlined below:

### 4.1 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION FOCUS GROUPS

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Consultation was undertaken through meetings enabling two-way conversation and discussion on key issues impacting on Good Relations in Derry City and Strabane. These consultation sessions were centred around District Electoral Areas and specific interest areas to ensure both localised and sector specific issues were identified.

It was agreed the consultation and stakeholder engagement process would comprise of online and public meetings, as follows:

- Public meetings across the DEA
- Meetings with key stakeholders where appropriate

To deliver on this, a series of meetings took place across the District from November to February 2026. The purpose of these sessions was to:

- Advise residents, community partners and wider stakeholders of the opportunities through the development of a new strategy
- Allow stakeholders to shape the priorities for the new strategy and action plan.

These discussions were focused on gaining feedback on the following issues:

1. *What do you think the biggest issues are within the community which prevent everyone from feeling comfortable and connected with others regardless of their background, beliefs, or opinions?*
2. *Do you think the right actions are included within the Good Relations Action Plan to help build better relations within the community? What's helpful? What would you leave out moving forwards?*

3. *What priority actions should be included for future Good Relations activities under the four identified themes.*
4. *Based on your understanding of current needs in Derry City and Strabane District which of the 4 themes are highest priority for action/investment? Are they all equally important?*

A total of 14 discussion sessions were held with over 60 participants in attendance, as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location / Focus</b>
01/12/25	North West Ministry of Youth
02/12/25	Local Growth Partnership Managers, Chairpersons and RAPID
03/12/25	Elected Member led Bonfire Working Group
04/12/25	PEACEPLUS Programme Manager DCSDC
05/12/25	Equality Policy Officer DCSDC
08/12/25	HSCNI – Traveller Action Group
13/01/26	Elected Members
13/01/26	Community consultation – Guild Hall
13/01/26	Community consultation - Claudy
15/01/26	Community consultation - Castlederg
19/01/26	Community consultation – Strabane
22/01/26	LGBTQIA+ Working Group
22/01/26	Virtual community consultation
19/02/26	The Executive Office (TEO)

#### 4.1.1 E-SURVEYS

In addition to consultation discussions, on-line external community-based surveys were developed to capture the perspectives of the wider community. In addition, a survey was also developed for Council staff. These included:

- Community survey with 47 responses
- Youth focused survey with 12 responses
- Staff survey with 75 responses.

The community surveys were advertised through the Council Community Services e-zine which was distributed to contacts of community organisations and social media.

Questions included:

- In your opinion what are the most important priorities for good relations in Derry City and Strabane District Council area?
- How much prejudice do you perceive there is in Derry City and Strabane District Council area?
- What do you consider the biggest barriers are to development of better community relations within the Derry City and Strabane District Council area?
- What activities should be included in the Good Relations Action Plan for 2026 - 2029 for Children and Young People?
- What activities / actions should be included in the Good Relations Action Plan to make our community a shared community?
- What activities / actions should be included in the Good Relations Action Plan to increase the sense of safety within our community for everyone?
- What activities / actions should be included in the Good Relations Action Plan to ensure understanding and celebration of culture and heritage in our community?

Staff were also asked about their perspectives on Council as a diverse workplace and priorities for Good Relations training which would be beneficial to their role.

#### 4.1.2 DESK RESEARCH

Desk research was undertaken including a review of:

- Good Relations activities undertaken to date
- Commission on Flags, Identity, Culture and Tradition - Report (Dec 2021)
- Our Plan: Doing What Matters Most - Programme for Government 2024 – 2027
- Together Building a United Community (The Executive Office)
- Good Relations Indicators 2024 report (The Executive Office) - [Good Relations Indicators 2024 Report | The Executive Office](#)
- Good Relations – A Guide for Local Authorities
- Racial Equality Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015-2025)
- Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2024
- Derry City and Strabane Strategic Inclusive Growth Plan 2017-2032

- Good Relations Strategy for Derry City and Strabane District Council area 2022 -2025
- Derry City and Strabane District Council PEACEPLUS Action Plan
- Derry and Strabane PCSP Action Plan 2025 – 2026

## 5 NEED AND DEMAND FOR GOOD RELATIONS INTERVENTION

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### 5.1 SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER PRIORITIES

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Across the range of community consultees and key stakeholders a range of key issues and priorities for community action were identified through the course of discussions. The full detail of feedback received is captured in a separate document (available on request). The issues captured are summarised in the following infographic.

It should be noted that whilst the issues raised are important issues to those who contributed to the consultation, not all fall within the parameters of Good Relations and the eligibility criteria of the Good Relations fund. Where these issues fall outside the scope of the current plan these issues have been relayed to the relevant statutory agencies.

## Children and Young People

- Work to address bullying / cyber bullying / coercion and non acceptance of young people based on their religious background, sexuality, race and/or political opinions
- Practical youth engagement activities on a cross community / whole community basis including opportunities for volunteering and use of multi-media activities
- Cultural awareness activities to increase understanding of newcomer communities
- Diversionary activities for young people at risk of being drawn into sectarian / racist behaviour
- Intergenerational activities to dispel misperceptions of youth by older people
- Continuation of local democracy activities to increase understanding of civic structures.

## Shared Community

- Skills training / upskilling and succession planning for community workers and volunteers to ensure adequate community capacity for development and delivery of Good Relations programmes
- Practical programmes to enable integration of newcomer communities / refugees particularly adults and early years.
- Animation of community spaces to ensure active cross community engagement and intercultural participation and expression
- Input into the management of flags, emblems and bonfires and opportunities for safe cultural expression
- Roots of conflict activities enabling wider understanding and dialogue
- Networking of community organisations to ensure sharing of best practice and development of opportunities for joint development and delivery of programmes.
- Opportunities for greater participation by those living with disabilities and older people
- Support for Traveller awareness and acceptance as an indigenous ethnic minority.

## Safe Community

- Cyber safety and safe use of social media
- Graffiti removal and quick community clean up of negative messaging to increase the perception of accessibility to the whole community
- Programmes to tackle hate crime and racism
- Programmes to tackle unhealthy relationships as a whole community issue
- Enhanced community links with PSNI enabling two way communication on issues impacting community safety.

## Cultural Expression

- Intercultural events programme throughout the year offering regular opportunities for exposure and familiarity with wider cultural traditions and perspectives
- Education and awareness initiatives on heritage and culture to inform new residents about the culture in the City and District
- Translation facilities for community organisations for integration of newcomer communities
- Increased awareness of Irish and Ulster Scots.

## 5.2 THE CHALLENGE – GAP ANALYSIS

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Public and stakeholder consultation has identified that there are a range of needs and opportunities for Derry City and Strabane District Council area to actively deliver enhanced Good Relations with the wider community. There was a significant degree of commonality between the issues identified by staff, the wider community and young people, indicating that the key priorities which should be addressed are:



## 6 THE VISION FOR 2026 - 2029

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### 6.1 OUR VISION

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**Our vision is:**

Derry City and Strabane District is an area where people feel welcome, safe and included, which celebrates and embraces diversity and where our communities are strong and cohesive.

### 6.2 VALUES

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A set of values have been established which are central to the development and promotion of Good Relations activities within Derry City and Strabane District Council area. These values are:

- A desire to welcome and embrace diversity.
- Equality – recognition of the rights of all.
- A belief in the dignity and rights of the individual.
- Respect for others.
- Fairness and honesty.
- Acceptance and compassion for all.

### 6.3 THEMATIC PILLARS AND OBJECTIVES

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To deliver the Good Relations Strategy in Derry City and Strabane District, four objectives have been identified which align with the key objectives of the Together Building United Communities Strategy, namely:

### Our children and young people

- **Objective:** To increase the opportunities for young people to engage and build relationships on a cross community basis and the skills to participate in leadership roles in civic life.

### Our shared community

- **Objective:** To facilitate and enhance community integration offering opportunities and facilities where people can come together in joint activities regardless of cultural/ethnic background, political perspective, religious background, gender, sexual orientation, or ability.

### Our safe community

- **Objective:** To create a community environment where everyone feels safe to participate in civic and community life.

### Our cultural expression

- **Objective:** To increase understanding of and enjoyment and engagement with the cultures represented in the Council area, ensuring that the cultural expression and heritage of others is celebrated and respected within our diverse community.

## 6.4 ACTION PLAN TO EFFECT CHANGE

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To assist with the development of proactive good relations activities, Council has developed an action plan based on the key priorities identified following stakeholder / community consultation and based on the findings of the public survey.

The actions within this plan have been aligned with the objectives expressed within the Together Building a United Community Strategy (T:BUC) and the objectives stated above.

It should be noted that separately funded initiatives will seek to address the issues related to Ending Violence Against Women and Girls / healthy relationships and community safety initiatives which include issues related to graffiti and anti-social behaviour via the Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP). As a result, these actions have not been included as separate dedicated actions under the Good Relations Action Plan to avoid duplication and maximise the impact of funding available. Local action will be possible within opportunities for DEA grant allocations.

## Children and Young People

**T:BUC Outcome: 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**

No	Objective	Proposed Actions	Success measures	Outcomes	Potential Partners	Budget
1	<b>Cultural Diversity and Cyber Awareness Programme addressing Good Relations between people of different backgrounds, sectarianism, racism, prejudice and coercion via social media.</b>	Primary schools programme which will be offered to all primary schools in the DCSDC area increasing understanding of diversity in our society.	At least 30 schools taking part  2000 pupils impacted p/a	Enhanced understanding and acceptance of diversity.  Young people empowered to identify and avoid coercion into racist / sectarian behaviour.	Freelance facilitators  Local schools	£8,000
2	<b>Good Relations Programme for young ambassadors (including a focus on leadership, civic engagement, cross</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practical community supports and volunteering.</li> <li>• Structured youth leadership training to enable quality contributions.</li> </ul>	200 Young People taking part each year.  Genuine and sustained engagement and	Young people empowered to lead on and engage in community activities.  Young people develop active cross	EA  DCSDC CYP Co-Ordinator	£8,000

**Children and Young People**

**T:BUC Outcome: 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**

	<p><b>community relationship building and local democracy)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support for community youth networks.</li> </ul>	<p>friendships developed on a cross-community basis.</p>	<p>community friendships. Young people understanding local civic structures / decision making.</p>		
<b>Total Budget Allocated</b>						£16,000

## Our Shared Community

**T:BUC Outcome: to create a community where division does not restrict the life opportunities of individuals and where all areas are open and accessible to everyone.**

No	Objective	Proposed Actions	Success measures	Outcomes	Potential Partners	Budget
3	<b>Good Relations Grant Programme for DEAs.</b>	<p>Groups supported to continue their work in promoting GR within DEAs addressing locally relevant issues.</p> <p>Good Relations Officers will continue to engage with Local Growth Partnerships and community organisations to develop Good Relations Action plans to address identified local GR need.</p>	<p>Groups supported to deliver local actions.</p>	<p>GR Action Plan developed for each DEA to address locally identified GR Issues.</p> <p>£10,000 offered to each of the 8 DEAs to address GR issues.</p>	<p>LGPs</p> <p>Community Organisations</p>	<p>£80,000</p>
4	<b>Good Relations Strategic Priority Fund at District wide level with a focus on supporting groups who are core GR practitioners.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groups supported to continue their work in promoting GR across the DCSDC area</li> <li>• Work supported across any of the three primary themes of GR (Race,</li> </ul>	<p>District wide initiatives funded and implemented.</p>	<p>At least 3 core GR Groups supported</p>	<p>Open call</p>	<p>£30,000</p>

## Our Shared Community

**T:BUC Outcome: to create a community where division does not restrict the life opportunities of individuals and where all areas are open and accessible to everyone.**

		Religious Belief or Political Opinion)				
<b>5</b>	<b>Good Relations Training Programme to build the GR promotion capacity of community organisations and enable active engagement of all residents.</b>	<p>Training delivered on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to embed a Good Relations ethos across community activity.</li> <li>• The use of language translation technologies.</li> <li>• Understanding the needs of different religious traditions in project delivery.</li> <li>• Community connections and networks – working together for maximum community impacts.</li> </ul>	<p>At least 3 GR Training Programmes delivered.</p> <p>Courses offered to community organisations, staff and elected members.</p>	<p>Increased confidence and ability to embed Good Relations ethos in the delivery of community projects and increased inclusion of all residents in community life.</p>	Tendered Programme	£5,000

## Our Shared Community

**T:BUC Outcome: to create a community where division does not restrict the life opportunities of individuals and where all areas are open and accessible to everyone.**

<b>6</b>	<b>Roots of Conflict and Prejudice Awareness Programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lessons learned from societal conflicts across the world and communities directly targeted by conflict and associated genocides.</li> <li>• How to embed positive transformation , respect and mutual understanding in our changing society.</li> </ul>	Utilising technology to engage representatives to share testimony.	Increased understanding of the roots of conflict and appreciation for the need to ensure Good Relations embedded in community activities and life.	Tendered Programme	£5,000
<b>7</b>	<b>Special DEA Initiatives Programme</b>	<p>Using local community planning partnerships in each DEA to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respond to GR need when it arises requiring critical and quick intervention.</li> <li>• Encourage community organisations not engaged in GR work to do so</li> </ul>	Implement programmes at DEA level to respond to emerging GR issues.	<p>Enhanced Good Relations at DEA level.</p> <p>Community engagement in identification and delivery of Good Relations Programmes.</p>	LGPs	£16,000

### Our Shared Community

**T:BUC Outcome: to create a community where division does not restrict the life opportunities of individuals and where all areas are open and accessible to everyone.**

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build the capacity of community-based organisations to undertake GR work.</li> </ul>				
<b>8</b>	<b>Good Relations Shared Learning Event</b>	Organising and delivering an event in the DCSDC area which showcases best practice in tackling key Good Relations Issues.	Event Delivered	Increased awareness of Good Relations activities in the District	LGPs  Community Organisations	£2,000
<b>Total Budget Allocated</b>						<b>£138,000</b>

### Our Safe Community

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

No	Objective	Proposed Actions	Success measures	Outcomes	Activity Lead and Potential Partners	Budget
<b>9</b>	<b>Interfaces and Contested Spaces Programme with a focus</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proactive community engagement in flags protocols, management of</li> </ul>	At least 8 areas supported to deliver initiatives which aim to	Residents feel more able to access and use community	Local Community Groups	£8,000

## Our Safe Community

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

	<b>on flags, emblems and murals, and safe expression of culture.</b>	<p>cultural expression</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting initiatives which aim to remove negative messaging from community spaces</li> <li>Supporting Safe Communities Programme.</li> <li>Diversionary Programme for young people at risk.</li> </ul>	calm tensions at key times	spaces as safe inclusive spaces for all.		
<b>10</b>	<b>Supporting Safe Community Spaces Grant Programme</b>	Groups supported to continue their work in promoting safe community spaces across the DCSDC area.	At least 3 areas supported in delivering safer communities programmes	Residents feel more able to access and use community spaces as safe inclusive spaces for all.	Open Call	£30,000
<b>Total Budget Allocated</b>						<b>£38,000</b>

## Our Cultural Expression

**T:BUC Outcome: to create a community, which promotes mutual respect and understanding, is strengthened by its diversity and where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced.**

No	Objective	Proposed Actions	Success measures	Outcomes	Activity Lead and Potential Partners	Budget
11	<b>Minority Ethnic Inclusion and Celebration Programme: celebrating the diverse cultures in our community.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities to increase understanding and celebrate different cultures and traditions – what I want you to know about me and my culture.</li> <li>• Events that highlight voices, cultures, and languages not commonly heard.</li> <li>• Activities exploring Irish and Ulster Scots language commonalities and musical traditions.</li> </ul>	Cultural celebration delivered annually  Series of events, talks and lectures on Irish and Ulster Scots delivered annually.	Increased understanding and appreciation of the breadth of cultures within the City and District.	Local BAME Organisations  Statutory Partners	£15,000

## Our Cultural Expression

**T:BUC Outcome: to create a community, which promotes mutual respect and understanding, is strengthened by its diversity and where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced.**

<b>12</b>	<b>Traveller Awareness</b>	Support for the Traveller Action Group to address traveller acceptance.	Action Group supported.	Group active in developing initiatives.	Traveller Action Group	£1,500
<b>13</b>	<b>Good Relations Week</b>	Good Relations showcase events.	10 events supported	Increased awareness of Good Relations activities.	Community organisations Statutory partners	£7,000
<b>14</b>	<b>Pupil Voice Democracy Programme</b>	An event designed to engage young people in how local democracy, specifically Council and political parties, work and generate greater interest in participating in the civic and political structures.	Event delivered in the form of a Let's Talk debate between participants and elected representatives.	Increased understanding of civic and political structures.	Local Schools	£4,000
<b>Total Budget Allocated</b>						<b>£27,500</b>

# 7 OUR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

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## 7.1 HOW SUPPORTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED

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Following adoption of this Strategy by Derry City and Strabane District Council, and its acceptance and approval by The Executive Office, the Council will implement an action plan of the key actions and priorities identified. The implementation of this Action Plan will be co-ordinated by the Council's Good Relations Officers, with support from the wider Community Development Section.

Progress reports will be submitted on a regular basis to The Executive Office in line with their funding requirements.

During the course of Strategy implementation, Council will seek to maximise other funding opportunities and work jointly with other agencies, to further enhance Good Relations activities.

## 7.2 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

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Monitoring and evaluation of action plan implementation will be carried out on an ongoing basis by the Good Relations Officers and associated team within Derry City and Strabane District Council in compliance with any funding requirements for externally funded project activities.

The Good Relations programme will be monitored under The Executive Office Outcome Based Accountability (OBA) Framework.

The collection of Good Relations outcomes from each project running will be a key part of the delivery of Good Relations programme. This type of monitoring will provide evidence on the difference each project is making, and measures how it is contributing to the achievement of the aims of the T:BUC Strategy (Together, Building, a United Community). Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) will illustrate what is working well with each project, highlights areas for improvement and allows examples of good practice to be identified and shared with others.

How do we measure Outcomes for T:BUC?

Monitoring will be undertaken on a quantitative and qualitative basis:

- Quantitative – measuring the number of activities undertaken and participants engaged in those activities.
- Qualitative – measuring the outcomes and outputs of each activity e.g. how effective the activity was in delivering change, whether anyone was better off/experienced a change in attitude as a result of the activity. Outcomes data will be collected by having participants complete questionnaires at the start of a programme of activity to establish a baseline and the end of that programme to measure any changes in knowledge, attitude and behaviours.
- Additionally, for one-off events, we will have a separate, standalone questionnaire for those attending such events, capturing , Equality Data to inform DCSDCs' Equality Screening Process to inform decision making and impacts of same on minority groups .

The Good Relations Officers will review progress on action plan implementation on a quarterly basis and will seek to identify opportunities to maximise the positive impacts for Good Relations in Derry City and Strabane District.

## 8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Derry City and Strabane District Council would like to acknowledge and thank The Executive Office for the funding contribution to enable the development of this Good Relations Strategy and Action Plan and the contribution of all who participated in the public meetings / focus groups, or who contributed through the e-surveys. We value and appreciate the input of all those who participated in helping us to identify the priorities for Good Relations within the Council area.

The Council would also like to thank all the community and voluntary groups, as well as statutory agencies, who have worked tirelessly to support the entire community over the last three years. We look forward to developing our working relationships with these organisations and with new community partners in the delivery of this new Strategy to create a more shared, cohesive and integrated community.