

Appendix 1 DRAFT COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUND – ACTION PLAN 24-25

Background

the recently launched Community Recovery Fund (CRF), which the Deputy Prime Minister is making available to support communities impacted by the public disorder that took place between July and August 2024, including Belfast. In England this will be issued under section 31 of the Local Government Finance Act 2003, and in Northern Ireland funds will be released to the Department of Finance, to support those communities most affected.

The CRF is allocative and offers a flat rate of £600,000 to each eligible local authority, to be spent before the end of the Financial Year 2024-25.

Expenditure is eligible under this scheme if it is in response to the violent disorder that took place between July and August 2024 and is on, or in connection with:

- a. Immediate action to safeguard life or property.
- b. To prevent suffering or severe inconvenience.
- c. To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.
- d. To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.

The Fund has deliberately sought to provide local areas with flexibility to design a package that responds to their circumstances.

Belfast City Council has designed a high-level Action Plan to utilise the Community Recovery Fund and optimise its impact to the City. This will be delivered under four main themes: -

- Theme 1 Good Relations Inclusion and Integration
- Theme 2 Wider University and Lower Ormeau
- Theme 3 Anti Racism and Hate Crime Community Initiatives
- Theme 4 Resource Recoupment

THEME	Ref	Project Title	Project Outline	Alignment to CRF Priority	Project Outcomes	Project Budget
Good Relations	CRF001	Restore the Physical Environment	<p>To work with Open Spaces and Street Scene Department and the Department for Infrastructure to restore the physical environment back to its original form pre–August Riots.</p> <p>Increase on Street Engagement through the Safety Neighbourhood Officer Team</p>	<p>Immediate action to safeguard life or property.</p> <p>To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.</p>	Public Property and Space returned to pre riot condition	£20,000
	CRF002	Integration and Inclusion	<p>Commission projects to support key stakeholders such as teachers, youth practitioners and community leaders to work with young people and adults to prevent the threats from new and evolving harmful ideologies, that sow division, and spread hate and intolerance.</p> <p>Projects may include the development of Programmes which Develop: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Capacity and Cultural Competence within host communities and organisations. • Integration and Orientation • Trauma Services in School and/or the wider Community • The development of a toolkit resource <p>Make Provision to develop the capacity of the Migrant Forum.</p>	<p>To prevent suffering or severe inconvenience.</p> <p>To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.</p> <p>To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.</p>	<p>A reduction in Anti-Muslim hate.</p> <p>An increase in integration, orientation, and inclusion.</p>	£35,000
	CRF003	Community Centre Programme (Reaching Out)	This programme is designed to enable Council Owned Community Centres and 8 Independently Managed Community Centres to create programmes within their	To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.	<p>Opportunity for Engagement</p> <p>Centres of Sanctuary</p>	£30,000

		<p>area to connect with Asylum seekers, Refugees and BAME community. The Programmes will be designed to: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create Centres of Welcome and Sanctuary • Foster local connections • Provide Opportunities for engagement. • Signpost to other Services both Internal and External 	To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.	Increased Community Connections	
CRF004	Challenging the Narrative	<p>Every year, people move to Northern Ireland to live, work and study, and others leave Northern Ireland to live in other countries.</p> <p>Migration is normal and has been increasing on a Global Scale. Northern Ireland is benefitting from migration, on several different levels.</p> <p>This programme is to develop a resource that clearly presents the facts in relation to migration, and the process of immigration. This will include, but is not exhaustive: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Facts - Who can come here and how, Migration in numbers, Migration, our economy, and services. • The Immigration System Explained • Integration and Community Supports • Accommodation Support • Misinformation - They're Taking our Jobs, what they Receive, They're Here Illegally, Migrants Bring Crime, Migrants are given Preferential Access to Social 	<p>To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.</p> <p>To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.</p>	Factual Resource	£35,000

			Housing, what do Migrants Contribute to the Economy			
	CRF005	Supporting Education – Expansion of Schools of Sanctuary and Drop-in Support Programme	<p>The Schools of Sanctuary programme is an award scheme currently available in the Urban Villages areas of Belfast.</p> <p>The programme is aimed at helping schools to further the concept that schools are welcoming places where every child feels safe and accepted regardless of what they believe, where they are from or what they look like; places where cultural diversity is valued and celebrated.</p> <p>The Intercultural Education Service and Urban Villages have worked closely with Belfast City of Sanctuary to develop a customised Schools of Sanctuary resource pack - 2nd edition for schools.</p> <p>Selected schools follow 7 steps online, along with school clusters, which help them to follow the Schools of Sanctuary programme in bite-sized, manageable chunks. This provides advice and support to enhance the experience for children, parents, staff, and those in the wider community. This proposal will see the Schools of Sanctuary Programme expanded to 8 other schools across Belfast, which are not in the Urban Village areas. The schools will be identified by the Education Authority based on the enrolment statistics.</p>	<p>To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.</p> <p>To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.</p>	<p>Development of 8 Schools to become Schools of Sanctuary across Belfast NSEW</p> <p>Expansion of Drop in Support</p> <p>Opportunity for Engagement</p> <p>Increased Community Connections</p>	£20,000

			The EA Drop-in Programme to be expanded and will be hosted X number of evenings per week and will be hosted by the Educational Authority and partners to provide advice, guidance through interpreters to assist integration. This is currently running in 2 Royal Avenue which is an accessible central location for families to visit.			
Wider University and Lower Ormeau	CRF006	Business Mentoring, Engagement, and Integration Programme	<p>A number of drop-in clinics could be organised in the areas where businesses have suffered in the context of Hate Crime and racist attacks.</p> <p>It will be in a business/building from 9-5 (or a recommended time to ensure engagement) and people can call in at their leisure to hear more about support.</p> <p>People can also arrange a one-to-one meeting in the area at their business premises.</p> <p>From this engagement Officers will establish what the needs are of individuals and help to identify common themes for workshops, mentoring and support.</p>	<p>To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.</p> <p>To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.</p>	8 Businesses Receive Mentoring and Engagement Support	£20,000
	CRF007	Wider University and Lower Ormeau Support Programme	<p>This programme will be designed around Migrant Support Programmes and Council's commitment to, and interest in the diverse community within the WULO area of the city.</p> <p>It aims to strengthen the integration and inclusion of the migrant population.</p>	<p>To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.</p> <p>To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.</p>	Number of Key Organisations supported in the WULO area	£40,000

			<p>Through this programme Council wants to support projects that will have a clear and identifiable impact on supporting and building integration and inclusion of the migrant population within the wider university and lower Ormeau area of Belfast.</p> <p>The most recent Good Relations Audit seeks to build on the work undertaken by the Council on supporting the participation and inclusion of minority ethnic residents over the last number of years. In making recommendations on how to progress this work further the Audit highlights the following as being key components: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop initiatives to address anti-Muslim hate. 2. Develop a programme focusing on minority ethnic leadership. 3. Examine and explore the response of Council's and communities in Britain, Ireland and further afield regarding managing diversity and tackling systemic racism. 			
Community -Integration and Inclusion	CRF008	Community Resource	<p>CRF008 will be divided into two parts: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Targeted Intervention £160,000 – Proposals will be sought and developed for 4 areas in Belfast which have been directly impacted by Racist Attacks, Officers will work with Community Organisations in the following 4 locations, and ensure Community Led proposals to increase Integration and 	<p>To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.</p> <p>To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.</p>	<p>A Number of Community Projects which will provide outcomes as follows: -</p> <p>A reduction in Anti-Muslim hate.</p> <p>Increase integration, orientation, and inclusion.</p>	£330,000

			<p>Inclusion of the Migrant population are developed and progressed: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Sandy Row/Donegal Roadb. Woodvalec. Connswaterd. Greater Falls <p>2. The remaining £170,000 under this theme; Council will support Projects led by Constituted Community Organisations in Belfast City up to a value of £20,000, through an open call, that support a proactive approach to integration and inclusion of the Migrant population in Belfast City.</p> <p>Council will invite projects that specifically address some or all the following, this criteria will apply to both parts of this proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposals that are innovative and do not duplicate the work of other services.• Proposals that engage host communities and people from the migrant community.• Proposals that foster contact and connections with host communities to improve the welcome that people from the migrant community.• Proposals that encourage and support groups to involve migrant population to get involved in the life of their communities through participation in local activities, networks, sports and organisations.		Increased Community Leadership and Competence	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposals that are delivered in areas where, to date, there has been limited infrastructure / funding for interventions supporting the inclusion of people from the migrant community. Proposals that provide orientation and advocacy support <p>It should be noted that this fund does not support one -off events / festivals.</p>			
CRF009	Hate Crime Hardship Programme	<p>From research undertaken via PCSP Council envision this programme will be able to assist through the provision of the following which have been the most communicated by victims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security equipment to act as a deterrent to further crimes and better protect victims in their homes. Perpetrators do 'think twice' more often when there is more of a likelihood of them getting caught. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security cameras Ring Doorbells Emergency door stops. Alarms Temporary cover for clothing, personal care/hygiene products: Having to leave a property in an emergency will lead to victims needing to replace some everyday products they would have had more readily available. <p>We are not limiting what could potentially be covered by the programme to the list</p>	<p>To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.</p> <p>To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.</p>	<p>Increase in the number of people who feel safe.</p> <p>Decrease in number of people affected by Hate Crime</p>	£20,000

			above – these are just <i>some</i> of the more common areas where victims of hate crime have little support and could positively impact their personal safety, confidence in public institutions and ease financial burdens. Again, the purpose of the programme would be to ease burdens that wouldn't otherwise be there were but for the unfortunate victims being targeted with hate crime.			
Resource Recoupment	CRF010	Associated costs	<p>Belfast City Council will need additional resources to ensure the Community Recovery Fund Action Plan is implemented and achieves the desired outcomes. This will be in the form of: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional Staff Resource • Additional Hours from existing members of the Team • Additional Administrative Support 	<p>Immediate action to safeguard life or property.</p> <p>To prevent suffering or severe inconvenience.</p> <p>To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.</p> <p>To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.</p>	All the above.	£50,000
					TOTAL	£600,000