

# Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Wednesday, 27th June, 2012

## SPECIAL MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

- Members present: Councillor Hargey (Chairman);  
Councillors Attwood, Convery, Haire,  
Hanna and Maskey.
- Also attended: Councillors Hartley, Reynolds and Spence.
- In attendance: Mr. C. Quigley, Assistant Chief Executive/Town Solicitor;  
Mrs. H. Francey, Good Relations Manager;  
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager;  
Ms. A. Deighan, Good Relations Officer;  
Ms. K. Mullen, Good Relations Officer; and  
Mr. B. Flynn, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were reported.

### **Decade of Centenaries - 1912/1914 Exhibition**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 22nd June, it had agreed to hold a special meeting, to which all Members of the Council would be invited, to receive a presentation from Redhead Conference and Exhibition (Redhead) regarding the design and content of the exhibition which had been commissioned by the Council to mark the 1912/1914 period of the Decade of Centenaries.

The Good Relations Manager reminded the Committee that the specification for the exhibition, which would be mounted in the East Entrance of the City Hall and opened to the public from early-August, had been formulated in accordance with the principles adopted by the Council for marking events associated with the Decade of Centenaries and in line with the decisions made by the Committee during the autumn of 2011. She pointed out that Redhead had been appointed to manage the exhibition and that they had worked closely with the Good Relations Unit to ensure that the content and layout was to the agreed specification. It was reported that Mr M. Lyons and Mrs. S. Lyons from Redhead were in attendance to brief the Committee and they were admitted to the meeting and welcomed by the Chairman.

Mr. Lyons outlined the principal features of the exhibition which would be entitled 'Shared History - Different Allegiances'. He provided an overview of the historic events which would be covered, which included the Home Rule crisis, the signing of the Ulster Solemn League and Covenant, the growth of the volunteer armies, gun-running, the suffragette movement and the Gaelic revival.

In addition, the role of key individuals, such as Sir Edward Carson, Sir James Craig, John Redmond and James Connolly, would feature within the exhibition which, he added, would be enhanced by the inclusion of historic artefacts and archive footage.

Mrs. Lyons outlined the range of multi-media devices which had been incorporated to enhance the visitor experience at the exhibition. She indicated that inter-active features, such as an online record of all those who had signed the Covenant, would be included, together with listening stations which would allow visitors to hear recordings of the biographies of key personalities. Two puzzles demonstrating the history of both national flags - the Union Flag and the Irish Tricolour – would be included for educational purposes. She added that the exhibition would seek to be relevant to all sections of the community and that the guiding ethos had been to highlight the concept of a shared history. She pointed out that the limited space within the East Entrance had curtailed the number of topics which could be addressed within the exhibition. However, she indicated that the content had met the Council's original specification for the exhibition.

Mrs. Lyons and the Good Relations Manager then answered a number of Members' questions in relation to the programme of events which would be organised to coincide with the exhibition, together with the feasibility of extending the duration of the exhibition beyond its original timescale.

After discussion the Committee noted the information provided and agreed that consideration be given to the possibility of extending the length of the exhibition beyond its closing date of February, 2013.

Chairman