

GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP

FRIDAY, 17th APRIL, 2009

MEETING OF THE GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP

- Members present: Councillor Long (Chairman); and
Councillor McCausland.
- External Members: Rev. S. Watson, CALEB;
Ms. M. Marken, Catholic Church;
Mr. P. Scott, Catholic Church;
Ms. S. Bhat, Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum;
Ms. M. de Silva, Voluntary/Community Sector;
Mr. L. Reynolds, Voluntary/Community Sector; and
Mr. S. Brennan, Voluntary/Community Sector.
- Also attended: Ms. E. Dargan, Consortium of Community Relations
Council and Border Action.
- In attendance: Ms. H. Francey, Good Relations Manager;
Mr. I. May, Peace III Programme Manager;
Ms. A. Deighan, Good Relations Officer;
Ms. M. Hand, Good Relations Officer; and
Mr. J. Heaney, Committee Administrator.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillor Stoker and Ms. A. McKenna, Mr. P. Mackel, Mr. T. Bunting, Ms. J. Hawthorne, Ms. E. Wilkinson, Ms. A. Chada and Dr. D. Morrow.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 13th March were taken as read and signed as correct.

Peace III Small Grants: Issue of Letters of Offer

The Partnership was reminded that, at its meeting on 16th January, it had approved the recommended scoring of applications received under the open call for small grants and had agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that £500,000 be made available for distribution among those groups which had achieved the 65% threshold, subject to further checks being undertaken, with funding to be awarded to those groups in rank order of scoring up to a maximum of £25,000 per organisation.

The Peace III Programme Manager submitted for the information of the Partnership a list of organisations which, following the successful completion of pre-contract checks and site visits, had been deemed eligible for support under the first call of the Peace III Small Grants Programme.

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He pointed out that those organisations which had not been recommended for funding failed to be shortlisted on the grounds that their applications were incomplete, had failed to score above the quality threshold, in respect of either the Programme, Priority and Theme criteria and general selection criteria or a combination thereof. Those groups had received debriefing sessions in respect of their applications and he reported that no applicant had requested that their application be reviewed.

The Partnership was informed that one organisation, Young at Art, had submitted a written request seeking to defer the start date of its project pending further consultation with key stakeholders. Accordingly, it was recommended that the issue of a letter of offer to this organisation be deferred pending consideration of the revised timescale for the completion of the project.

The Peace III Programme Manager suggested that, should the Partnership approve this course of action, then a pre-contract check should be carried out on the first organisation on the reserve list, namely New Life Counselling, with a view to issuing a letter of offer subject to satisfactory completion of site visit and pre-contract checks.

After discussion, the Partnership agreed, following the completion of the site visits and the pre-contract checks and approval of recommended scores presented to the Partnership by Council staff as delegated in January and the up-dates and further information considered by the Partnership in February and March, that letters of offer for funding under the first call of the Small Grants Programme within the Belfast Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan be issued to the undernoted groups. The Partnership noted that summaries of the projects were available on the Council's Modern.gov system:

Lead Applicant Name	SEUPB Ref No	Project Score*			% Overall Total
Forthspring Inter Community Group	1164	87	88	65	79
Ashton Community Trust	1093	86	80	72	79
Partisan Productions	1198	84	71	75	77
Headliners UK	1145	77	74	78	77

Lead Applicant Name	SEUPB Ref No	Project Score*			% Overall Total
Ballymacarret Arts & Cultural Society	1180	84	77	68	76
Intercomm	1196	83	81	68	76
Public Achievement	1193	78	81	67	75
Interaction Belfast	1015	85	78	65	75
The Ulster People's College	1169	80	76	70	75
Cavehill Antrim Road Regeneration	1170	81	76	67.5	74
North Belfast Community Development & Transition Group	1084	83	73	67	74
Co-Operation Ireland	1166	72	72	78	74
South Belfast Partnership	1021	70	77	71	73
Northern Visions	1211	76	76	68	73
Feile an Phobail	1194	73	69	75	73
Glentoran Partnership	1202	77	88	65	73

Lead Applicant Name	SEUPB Ref No	Project Score*		% Overa II Total
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Lead Applicant Name	SEUPB Ref No	Project Score*			% Overall Total
Belfast Interface Project	1179	74	66	76	72
Mount Vernon Community Development Forum	1206	73	74	70	72
LINC Resource Centre	1158	77	70	67.5	71
Victims and Survivors Trust	1187	76	73	66	71
NICRAS	1162	73	72	69	71

**Projects scored on pre-set Programme Criteria; Priority & Theme criteria and general selection criteria.*

The Partnership agreed further to accede to the request from Young at Art to defer the commencement date of its project and that the situation regarding the project be reviewed following consultation with the organisation's stakeholders. Consequently, the Partnership authorised a pre-contract check to be undertaken with New Life Consulting, the next organisation in order of scoring, and that a recommendation in this regard be submitted to the Partnership for consideration at its meeting to be held in May. The Partnership noted that 23 organisations had received debriefing sessions in respect of their applications which had not been recommended for funding and that no request for review had been received. The Partnership noted further that a second call of applications for small grants would be open as soon as was practicable.

**Update on Actions 1.4; 2.5 and 3.4
of the Belfast Peace Plan**

The Partnership was reminded that, at its meeting on 13th February, it had reviewed the progress which had been achieved in respect of the development of the key actions and themes contained within the Belfast Peace Plan.

The Peace III Programme Manager reported that, subsequent to that meeting, detailed proposals had been prepared relating to the delivery of Action 1.4 Community Cohesion at the Local Level under the Shared City Space Theme; Action 3.5 Dealing with Physical Manifestations under the Transforming Contested Space theme and Action 3.4 Culture and Arts Outreach under the Shared Cultural Space theme. These had been prepared following the consideration of the Special European Union Programmes Body's Guidance notes.

Building a Shared City Space –
1.4 Community Cohesion at Local Level

This action was designed to work within areas of the City which consisted of communities which are currently mixed to protect their character, continue to diffuse tension and to promote community cohesion. The focus was initially on the provision of a dedicated staff resource working with communities in the Lower Ormeau/Markets/Donnegall Pass and in the Woodstock/Lower Castlereagh/Albertbridge Road areas. The project would be managed by staff of the Community Cohesion Unit of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and a detailed project had been submitted for consideration.

After discussion, the Partnership approved, in principle, the proposed action 1.4 Community Cohesion and approved the progress towards the project initiation stage. The Partnership noted that a detailed copy of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's Neighbourhood Proposal was available upon request from the Good Relations Unit.

**Transforming Contested Space –
2.5 Dealing with Physical Manifestations**

The aim of this proposal in this regard was to support communities in the positive celebration of their cultural heritage and identity and promote their neighbourhood as open and welcoming to all visitors. The primary delivery mechanism of this proposal would be through local work carried out by the creation of six cultural networks. Since the proposal was primarily concerned with engagement on issues such as bonfires, the networks would be created in Loyalist communities in North, South, East and West Belfast and in Republican communities in North/West and South/East Belfast where bonfires had been a difficult issue. The proposal, by the nature of the different approaches to bonfire activities, would be different and separate for both communities, with different emphasis being placed on the basis of different needs. The networks would be mentored and managed by a suitably qualified community based organisation and the networks would meet monthly within a Council facility. The project would be managed by staff within the Good Relations Unit.

After discussion, the Partnership approved, in principle, the proposal in relation to Action 2.5 Dealing with Physical Manifestations, approved the progress to the project initiation stage and noted that a detailed copy of the proposal was available upon request from the Good Relations Unit.

**Building Shared Cultural Space –
3.4 Culture and Arts Outreach Programme**

The Partnership agreed to defer consideration of the matter and noted that a representative from the Council's Cultural and Arts Unit would be in attendance at a future meeting in order to provide further information in regard to the Culture and Arts Outreach Programme.

**Specifications for Procurement of Services
under the Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan**

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

“Relevant Background Information

At its meeting of 13th March the Partnership approved a list of organisations that would be invited to tender for provision of services under key actions within the Peace & Reconciliation Action Plan in line with the process established by the Partnership and guidance issued by SEUPB. Detailed specifications relating to these key actions have now been developed and are attached as appendices to this report.

Key Issues

Initial specifications have now been developed for the following key actions:

	Indicative Budget
<i>Transforming Contested Space</i>	£
2.2 Local Mediation Capacity Building Process	180,000
2.3 Intercommunity forum including dialogue on removal of interfaces	180,000
2.4 Engagement Capacity Building	50,000
2.7 Youth Intervention Programme	180,000
<i>Shared Cultural Space</i>	
3.1 City of Festivals	100,000
3.3 Cultural Diversity in Sport	180,000

These specifications are attached as appendices to this report.

The Partnership is requested to note that SEUPB and the Consortium have requested sight of these specifications and may suggest amendments or alterations.

Evaluation criteria

The evaluation criteria to be used in assessment of tenders received are as follows:

Criteria	weighting
Calibre and competencies of project team	20%
Methodology	20%
Value for Money	20%
Ability to work in partnership	20%
Ability to meet timescales	20%

Contracts will be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tender received.

Tender Panels

It is proposed that tender panels are comprised of Council staff with relevant experience and expertise in the subject area. In line with the implementation guideline issued by SEUPB in February this year which was considered by the Partnership at its March meeting it is further proposed that an independent member of the Good Relations Partnership and a representative of SEUPB be invited to observe the tender assessment panel.

Timeline

It is proposed to issue invitations to tender immediately for return within 21 days. It is anticipated that the tender panels will convene the week beginning 11th May.

It is anticipated that specifications relating to remaining actions will be presented to the Partnership later this year.

The development workshops originally envisaged to inform this process will be rescheduled following the award of contracts.

Resource Implications

Financial Implications

Eligible project expenditure under the four themes of the Peace Plan was included within the approved allocation of £6.3m and may be reclaimed at 100% from the SEUPB.

HR Implications

None

Recommendations

The Partnership is requested:

- To approve in principle the specifications relating to key actions within the Plan.
- To note the invitation for independent members of the Partnership to observe the tender assessment panel.
- To invite SEUPB to send a representative to observe the tender assessment panel.

Decision Tracking

The PIII Programme Manager will be tasked with actions arising from this report and will provide an update on Progress at the next Partnership Meeting.

Key to Abbreviations

SEUPB – Special European Union Programmes Body
CRC – Community Relations Council
BA – Border Action”

After discussion, the Partnership adopted the recommendation contained within the report and noted that details of the specifications were available on the Council's Modern.gov system.

Good Relations Grant-Aid Fund

The Good Relations Manager submitted for the information of the Partnership a report detailing a summary of applications to the Good Relations Grant-Aid Fund, together with the associated recommendations.

After discussion, the Partnership agreed unanimously that the grant-aid be awarded, under the delegated authority of the Chief Executive, to the following organisations:

Ref No	Organisation	Recommended Amount, up to ££
242/1484	Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) Northern Ireland Committee	3,000
256/1447	Belfast Festival at Queen's	3,000
302/1422	Women's Information Group (WIG.)	1,730
370/1467	Cumann Cultúrtha Mhic Reachtain (McCracken Cultural Society)	1,000
494/1431	Arellian Nursery School	2,500
591/1471	The Egyptian Society of NI	1,000
685/1429	Ligoniel Improvement Association	3,330
713/1433	Lower Castlereagh Community Group	1,669
771/1456	Tides Training	3,000
791/1441	National Union of Students–Union of Students in Ireland (NUS-USI)	3,000
811/1483	Polish Saturday School	1,000
801/1462	East Belfast Titanic Festival	2,800
790/1439	An Eochair	8,450
805/1472	Ballymacarrett Self-help Support Group	1,825
261/1485	Beyond Skin	875
810/1481	Belfast Reconciliation Network	9,300
807/1478	Clonard Monastery	995
793/1445	Crimson Cultural and Heritage Society	3,000
693/1450	Crossroads Project	4,360
803/1465	East Belfast Community's Historical & Cultural Assoc	3,000
789/1436	Greater Shankill Sports Committee	2,850
640/1474	Inverary Community Centre	2,500
809/1480	Life spring Health and Healing	6,510
728/1469	Sydenham Historical and Cultural Society	3,000
792/1443	Teach na Failte	4,400
345/1459	South Belfast Roundtable	2,800
458/1464	Ballymac Centre	4,140
788/1430	Crusaders Youth FC	1,800
368/1466	Finaghy Crossroads Group	3,725
783/1421	Linfield Ladies Football Club	500

Ref No	Organisation	Recommended Amount, up to ££
430/1482	Markets Development Association	6,522
786/1425	Orangefield Old Boys Football Club	500
610/1460	PeacePlayers International – Northern Ireland	3,000
697/1434	Village Focus Group	4,600
472/1477	Polish Association NI	1,000
596/1442	Barnardo's Tuar Ceatha Service (Tuar Ceatha means Rainbow)	1,650
580/1435	Community Relations in Schools	8,800
613/1444	Dance Starz	600
787/1427	Embrace NI	200
785/1424	Holy Family Youth Centre	5,000
325/1476	Indian Community Centre	1,000
804/1468	Irish Pages	2,450
812/1486	2010 Now and Then Anniversary Project	4,700
305/1446	Shankill Womens Centre	3,872
784/1423	St. Colmcilles/Gilnahirk Inter-church Group	600
573/1461	Stadium Youth and Community Projects	2,980
795/1449	Success Dragon and Lion Dance Association	1,000
467/1432	Forward Learning	5,000
480/1437	Finaghy/Horn Drive Community Centre Committees Good Relations Project	1,600
Total:		146,133

The Partnership agreed further to defer consideration of the application received from An Munia Tober in order to enable further information to be obtained. In addition, the Good Relations Manager referred the Members to the list of organisations which had not been recommended to receive funding and highlighted the reasons in each case. She undertook to contact those groups which had sought funding in respect of Good Relations training in order to advise them of alternative sources of funding which might be available for this purpose.

Eurocities Project on Diversity and Equality

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

“Relevant Background Information

Belfast City Council is a member of the Eurocities Network. Eurocities brings together the local government authorities of more than 120 cities in over 30 European countries and provides a platform for its members to share knowledge and ideas, to exchange experiences, to analyse common problems and develop innovative solutions, through a wide range of forums, working groups, projects, activities and events. The network is active

across a wide range of policy areas, including economic development, cohesion policy, environment, transport and mobility, employment and social affairs, culture, education, governance and international cooperation.

In 2004, Eurocities members agreed to jointly promote and implement at the local level effective policies for the integration of immigrants by agreement on set principles and commitments. Eurocities was a partner in a major conference on integration in Rotterdam in October 2006, in collaboration with the European Commission, confirming the commitment of its members to work with the European Commission on the integration of migrants and to showcase good practice of local integration policies.

The formal title of this project was *Benchmarking Integration Governance in European Cities*, or INTI-Cities for short. Former members of the Good Relations Steering Panel may recall that Belfast participated in the INTI Cities project, which focused on benchmarking successful integration structures in European cities and promoting an innovative model for integration governance based on creating links between different actors at local, national and European levels.

Six European cities – Düsseldorf, Genoa, Helsinki, Lyon, Malmö, and Rotterdam – acted as host cities and were subject to peer reviews on local integration policies. Belfast was one of six additional European cities – Barcelona, Belfast, Milan, Tampere, Utrecht and Amaroussion – which acted as team members, actively involved in the project and contributing to the final report.

The INTI-Cities project used an innovative methodology known as peer review. This identified best practice and developed a benchmarking model, which allowed the review teams to collate validated comparative knowledge on integration practices in European cities as well as on the necessary supportive policy environments at local, national and European levels.

Key issues

The Good Relations Manager represented Belfast in the project; she received training in the project methodology and took part in 2 reviews, leading the review team in Lyon. The results and lessons of the peer reviews fed into a comprehensive report with practical guidance on innovative integration governance; the report was published in late 2008 and is available on the website www.inticities.eu

As a result of this, the Council has been requested to participate in a follow-up project, entitled DIVE, or diversity and equality in European cities, which will build on the expertise acquired during the INTI-Cities project and use the same peer review methodology

in another 4 cities. It will examine how municipalities use diversity and equality considerations when acting as policy-makers, employers, service providers and buyers of goods and services.

It is anticipated that the reviewers will undertake a desk review of the city's initial report, take part in a peer review and provide input into a final feedback report for the city. The final report will be a useful tool for policy makers and will be widely distributed within the wider European integration community.

Resources required

As with INTI-Cities, the DIVE project will be coordinated by the Eurocities office staff based in Brussels. All travel, accommodation and associated costs will be reimbursed by Eurocities; the cost to the Council will be negligible.

Recommendation

The issue of inward migration and cohesion of migrants into local communities is of increasing importance throughout Europe. The final report will be helpful in increasing knowledge and assisting in the transfer of experience among cities in Europe.

The Steering Partnership is requested to approve the Good Relations Unit's participation in this Eurocities DIVE project as outlined above."

After discussion, the Partnership adopted the recommendation contained within the foregoing report.

Community Relations Week

Ms. A. Deighan, Good Relations Officer, reminded the Partnership that the Community Relations Council had, for the past number of years, organised an annual Community Relations Week during which organisations working in the field including the Council, held individual events with regard to community relations. The aim of the week was to raise the media profile and public awareness of community relations work and to encourage others to become involved. She reported that this year's Community Relations Week would be held during the period from 27th April till 2nd May and she suggested that it provided an opportunity to showcase the Council's work and to engage with some of the region's ongoing community relations activities, which were designed to create a more tolerant, inclusive and shared society.

The Good Relations Officer advised the Members that the Council's Good Relations Unit had hosted an event each year and it was intended that this year the Unit's Migrant Worker and Minority Ethnic Liaison Officer would deliver an internal training session for Council staff during that week in order to raise awareness on minority issues within the City. In addition, the Unit would be working, in association

with Castlereagh Borough Council, to organise a cross-community religious artwork exhibition and discussion entitled "Exploring Faith and Reconciliation Through Art". She indicated that the Council's contribution towards the supporting of the exhibition was less than £500, provision for which had been made within the annual budget.

After discussion, the Partnership granted approval to the holding of the proposed events to mark Community Relations Week.

Proposed Development Event for Good Relations Unit Staff

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

"Relevant Background Information"

The Good Relations Partnership will be aware that over the past few months the Unit has expanded rapidly and now has 18 members of staff, including 7 in the Peace III Team.

It is important that all staff have adequate time to become aware of current developments in the area of good relations and it is proposed that a staff development event be held in May/June.

Key Issues

The purpose of the proposed event will be to work on the Unit's business plan, focusing on information sharing, good practice, improved communication and motivation.

The Unit plans to hold the event at an appropriate location, in the Corrymeela Centre, near Ballycastle, which is internationally renowned as having a central focus on improving relationships and on community relations work.

Resource Implications

The total cost of the event, for all 18 Unit staff members attending, is modest and estimated to be in the region of £1000; this includes all accommodation and meals. The cost of this can be met from within the Unit's training budget, with a contribution from the Peace III Fund made to cover the costs of the participation of the Peace III staff.

Recommendations

The Good Relations Partnership is requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee that it grant approval to the organisation of the staff development event as outlined above."

After discussion, the Partnership adopted the recommendations contained within the report.

On-going Items and Updates

**Border Action/Community Relations Council
Consortium - Peace III Partnership Workshop Event**

The Good Relations Manager reported that the Border Action/Community Relations Council Consortium would be holding a workshop event on 23rd April in the offices of Magherafelt District Council entitled "Sectarianism - Writings on the Wall" at which Dr. D. Morrow, Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Community Relations Council, would be presenting a paper entitled "Sectarianism - Everyday Exclusions". She reported that all Peace III Partnership members were invited and she anticipated that Dr. Morrow could present the same paper to the Members of the Partnership at a future meeting.

The Partnership noted the information.

Polish Cultural Week

The Partnership was advised that the Good Relations Unit would be hosting an event in the Ulster Hall on Thursday, 14th May to mark Polish Cultural Week and the Members of the Partnership had been invited to attend.

Noted.

Racist Attacks in the City

The Partnership noted with concern the increase in the racially motivated attacks on members of the migrant community within the City and expressed its condemnation of such actions.

"Top 40 under 40"

The Good Relations Manager reported that David Robinson, a Council Good Relations Officer, along with two elected Members from the Good Relations Partnership, Councillor Naomi Long (Chairman) and Councillor Conor Maskey, had been included in the Belfast Media Group's "2009 Belfast Top 40 under 40" list, representing Belfast's new generation of leaders and civic champions. The Partnership congratulated them on this achievement.

Belfast Friendship Club

The Good Relations Manager informed the Partnership that a Belfast Friendship Club had been established, which met every week and which aimed to assist migrant workers and newcomers to the City to adapt to life in Belfast and Northern Ireland.

Noted.