

## **GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP**

**FRIDAY, 12th JUNE, 2009**

### **MEETING OF THE GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP**

- Members present: Councillors C. Maskey, McCausland and McCarthy.
- External Members: Ms. S. Bhat, Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum;  
Mr. S. Brennan, Voluntary/Community Sector;  
Rev. L. Carroll, Presbyterian Church; and  
Ms. A. Chada, Minority Ethnic Groups;  
Ms. J. Hawthorne, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;  
Ms. A. McKenna, Belfast City Centre Management;  
Rev. J. Rea, Methodist Church;  
Mr. L. Reynolds, Voluntary/Community Sector;  
Mr. P. Scott, Catholic Church;  
Mr. M. Wardlow, Voluntary/Community Sector;  
Ms. E. Wilkinson, Department for Social Development.
- Also attended: Ms. E. Dargan, Consortium of Community Relations  
Council and Border Action.
- In attendance: Ms. M. T. McGivern, Director of Development;  
Ms. H. Francey, Good Relations Manager;  
Mr. I. May, Peace III Programme Manager;  
Ms. C. Wilson, Good Relations Officer; and  
Mr. J. Heaney, Committee Administrator.

### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Hendron and Stoker and from Mr. R. Galway, Mr. P. Mackel, Mrs. M. Marken, Dr. D. Morrow and Ms. M. de Silva.

### **Chairing of Meeting**

The Partnership noted that, as the Chairman Councillor Long had been elected Lord Mayor, she had been replaced on the Partnership by Councillor Hendron. Therefore, in the absence of a Chairman, it was agreed that Councillor McCausland take the Chair.

(Councillor McCausland in the Chair.)

### **Election of Chairman**

The Partnership agreed to defer consideration of the election of a Chairman to the next scheduled meeting of the Partnership.

**Peace III Update on Actions 1.1 and 1.5  
of the Belfast Peace Plan**

The Partnership was reminded that, at its meeting on 13th February, it had reviewed the progress on the implementation of the key actions and themes within the Belfast Peace Plan. Subsequently, detailed proposals had been prepared in relation to the delivery of Action 1.1 Safe, Accessible and Shared City Centre and Action 1.5 Programming Open Spaces.

**Building Shared City Space – Action 1.1  
Safe, Accessible and Shared City Centre**

The Peace III Programme Manager reported that the action had been designed to secure the City centre as an integrated space and to ensure that major public spaces were shared and permitted open access. He reported that the proposal sought to commission a “train the trainers” project designed to tackle the specific issue of hate crime. The proposal was aligned to a programme of work on tackling hate crime undertaken already by the Belfast Community Safety Partnership.

The Peace III Programme Manager submitted for the Partnership’s attention a detailed proposal outlining the aims, objectives and activities, together with the delivery approach, timetables, expected outcomes and outputs and the cost of the proposed action.

After discussion, the Partnership approved the proposed Action 1.1 Safe, Accessible and Shared City Spaces and approved the commissioning of a training package in line with the proposal and the associated events which had been planned for 2009/2010.

**Building Shared City Space –  
1.5 Programming Open Spaces**

The Partnership was advised that the action had been designed to promote sharing, interaction and tolerance between and across different communities and groups in the City through the development and use of community gardens as shared spaces and cross-generational learning environments. The Peace III Programme Manager reported that two areas had been identified as suitable for the development of a community garden approach, namely Glenbank and Suffolk/Lenadoon. The proposal involved also a series of “Growing Together” initiatives aimed at allowing groups from different communities to learn about and share experiences of growing food and other produce. He pointed out that this aspect of the Programme would involve initially the Community Centres at Ligoniel, Horn Drive, Glen Road, Suffolk, Dee Street and Donegall Pass and would involve also the Council’s parks at Musgrave, Glenbank, Orangefield and Falls Road.

The proposal would include the development of a resource pack, a celebratory event in the Ormeau Park and the holding of a seminar to communicate lessons learned and best practice.

During discussion, a Member expressed the view that there appeared to be a lack of groups from the South of the City participating in the programme and he suggested that the officers should seek to encourage more participation from groups within that area.

In response, the Peace III Programme Manager indicated that the celebratory event would be held in the Ormeau Park in the South of the City and he stated that groups in all areas of the City had been and would continue to be encouraged to participate in the programme.

After discussion, the Partnership approved, in principle, the proposal in relation to Action 1.5 of the Belfast Peace Plan, Programming Open Spaces and approved the progress of the project to initiation stage.

**Peace III Implementation Update**

The Partnership considered the undernoted report in relation to the implementation of the Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan:

**“Purpose of paper**

**To update the Partnership on the implementation of the Peace & Reconciliation Action Plan.**

**Key Issues**

**Progress against Plan**

**Progress to date on the themes and actions within the Plan is summarised in the table below.**

<b><u>Peace Plan Theme &amp; Action</u></b>	<b><u>Status</u></b>	<b><u>Comments</u></b>
<b><u>Shared City Space</u></b>		
<b>Safe Accessible and Shared City Centre</b>	<b>In Preparation</b>	<b>As per attached report.</b>
<b>Arterial Routes Programme</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Economic Appraisal completed in May and sent to DFP for review. Decision due August 09.</b>
<b>Research Mobility</b>	<b>In Preparation</b>	<b>Linked with approval of Planning &amp; Transportation Strategy</b>
<b>Community Cohesion</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>NIHE to lead. Project Initiation underway</b>
<b>Programming Open Space</b>	<b>In Preparation</b>	<b>As per attached report.</b>
<b><u>Transforming Contested Space</u></b>		
<b>Local Mediation Capacity Building</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Return of Tenders end June 09</b>
<b>Inter-Community Forum</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Return of Tenders end June 09</b>

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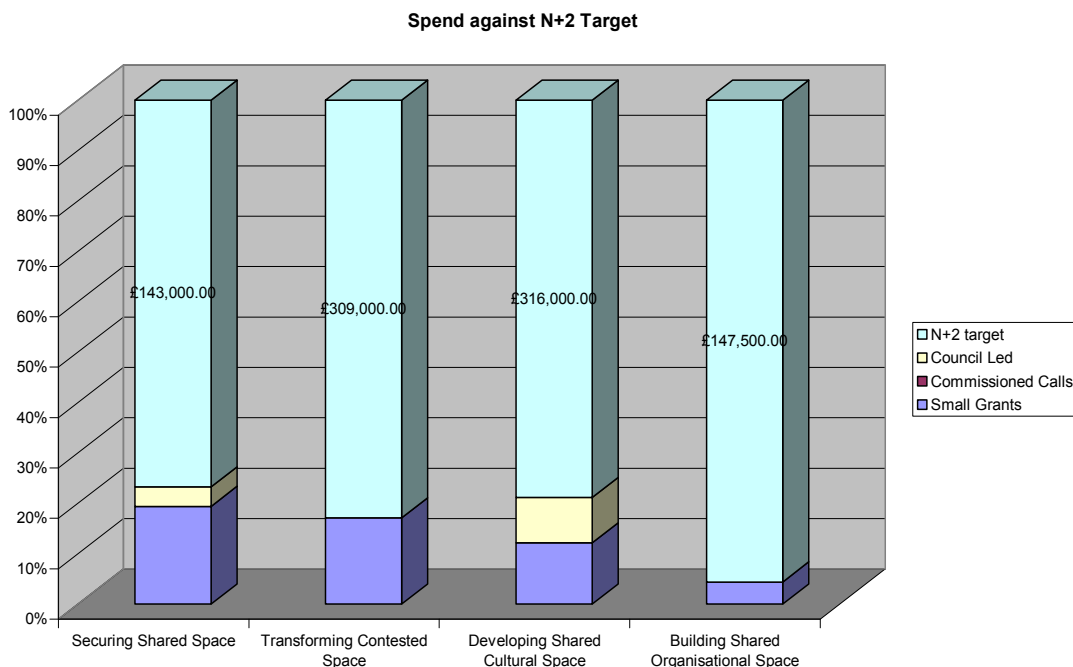
<u>Peace Plan Theme &amp; Action</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Engagement Capacity Building	Ongoing	Tenders anticipated for return Aug 09
Dealing with Physical Manifestations	Ongoing	12 July beacon programme underway in association with Groundwork NI
Youth Intervention Programme	Ongoing	Tenders anticipated for return Aug 09
<u>Shared Cultural Space</u>		
City of Festivals	Ongoing	Events planned 27 June/ 13 July/ 17 Oct.
Inter Faith Work	Ongoing	Inter-faith forum considering options and proposals.
Cultural Diversity in Sport	Ongoing	Return of Tenders end June 09
Culture & Arts Outreach	Ongoing	Expressions of interest sought for Creative Legacies Programme.
Migrant Workers Forum	Ongoing	As per attached report
Exhibition Space	Ongoing	Presentation on use of Ulster Hall Space 27 May 09 to PIII projects. Further consultation on themes aligned to re-opening of city hall
<u>Shared Organisational Space</u>		
Voluntary & Community Sector Training	Ongoing	Tenders anticipated for return Aug 09
Citizenship Education programme	Ongoing	Tenders anticipated for return Aug 09
Learning & Dissemination Programme	Ongoing	Info session on small grants. Review Process
<u>Small Grants Programme</u>	Ongoing	Across all four themes 2 <sup>nd</sup> Call opened June 09. Closes 10 July 09. Training seminar for 1 <sup>st</sup> Call 27 May 09
<u>Programme Issues</u>		
GRP Training	Ongoing	Further training needs to be identified and relevant training/ information sessions scheduled.
Communications	Ongoing	Press Release 27 May 09 attached. Ongoing info sessions with Project Managers re use of ERDF. Web pages being reviewed and updated. Publicity & Communications Strategy attached.

<u>Peace Plan Theme &amp; Action</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Monitoring	Ongoing	Draft M&E Framework forwarded to NISRA. Attached as an appendix to this report.
Consultation	Ongoing	Ongoing Consultation with key stakeholders

### Spend Profile

The SEUPB Letter of Offer includes the allocation of funding for 2009/10 and states that failure to meet agreed annual spend targets may result in the unspent balance being removed from the project under the process of automatic decommitment of funds, known as the N+2 rule. The N+2 target for the Belfast Peace & Reconciliation Action Plan has been revised to £1.25 million for 2009

The following table illustrates levels of actual spend to date under each of the four themes of the Plan, broken down by delivery method (Council led; commissioned; small grants etc) and measured against profiled spend.



The above does not include eligible expenditure incurred in preparation of the plan nor management support costs included in the first claim to SEUPB.

### Proposed Review of Progress

It is proposed that the Partnership convene for a review session in late summer/early autumn along with relevant council staff. The aim of the session would be to review progress against the plan identify any issues arising and plan for the calendar year 2010. Issues for review include:

- Progress against Plan including N+2 target and review of individual themes and actions.
- Stakeholder Relationships
- Monitoring & Evaluation Framework
- Communications
- Strategic Fit and Complementary initiatives

The anticipated outputs from the review are:

- A Year 1 Progress Report
- A revised Action Plan
- A revised communications plan
- A revised Monitoring & Evaluation Framework
- Identification of initial key themes for consultation on the 2011-2013 plan

The budget for this review is £5,000 which will be funded from the budget for management support costs.

### 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:

- Note progress to date on implementation of the Belfast Peace & Reconciliation Action Plan.
- Approve review sessions for late August/ early autumn 09, the initial issues for review and the anticipated outputs
- Note the draft Monitoring & Evaluation Framework
- Note the revised Communications Strategy for the Project.

### 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  
DFP – Dept of Finance & Personnel.”

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

### City of Festivals 13th July Belfast City Centre

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

#### “Relevant Background Information

At its meeting of 17th April the Partnership approved a number of events to be supported under Action 3.1 City Of Festivals. Among these was a programme of events to enhance community cohesion within Belfast City Centre on 13th July.

Following a procurement exercise Belfast Community Circus has been contracted to provide street entertainment in key locations within Belfast City Centre on the 13th July.

#### Key Issues

Following consultation with the contractor, Belfast City Centre Management (BCCM) and stakeholders on the Orangefest Working Group which is facilitated by BCCM the need has been identified for additional marketing and communications activities to contribute to making 13th July 2009 a shared cultural event and to maximise footfall in the city centre. This specific event was identified under Action 3.1 City of Festivals within the Shared Cultural Space theme of the Belfast Peace Plan. The cost of marketing literature, city dressing; communications and event management for the programme on 13th July is estimated at £7,000.

In line with the SEUPB guideline on implementation of projects re-issued in February, Belfast City Centre Management will incur these costs as a partner organisation and reclaim them as eligible expenditure under the Belfast Peace & Reconciliation Action Plan. The total expenditure on the event will be within the original budget allocation of £25,000 approved by the Partnership in April.

### Resource Implications

#### Financial Implications

There are no additional costs associated with the event and costs are within the budget of £25,000 approved by the Partnership in April. 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 marketing, publicity and communications and event management costs incurred by Belfast City Centre Management relating to the programme of events to enhance community cohesion in Belfast City Centre on 13th July.

### 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

BCCM – Belfast City Centre Management  
SEUPB – Special European Union Programmes Body  
PSNI – Police Service of Northern Ireland”

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendation contained with the report.

### Specification for the Procurement of Services under Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan

The Partnership was reminded that, at its meeting on 13th March, it had approved a list of organisations which would be invited to tender for the provision of services under key actions within the Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan. The process had been in line with the procedures established by the Partnership and guidance issued by the Special European Union Programmes Body.



The Peace III Programme Manager reported that detailed specifications relating to the undernoted key actions had been developed under the heading of Building Shared Organisational Space:

- 4.1 Citizenship Education Programme, with an indicative budget of £180,000; and
- 4.2 Voluntary and Community Training, with an indicative budget of £180,000.

Accordingly, he submitted copies of the specifications for the information of the Members.

In addition, the Partnership was advised that, under the theme of Developing Shared Cultural Space, the Peace Plan had sought to lead a project, in association with a range of agencies, to establish a city-wide forum and support network for migrant workers in Belfast and to support advice groups in order to ensure that adequate information and advice on a range of issues was available for migrant workers. In this regard, the Council had appointed an officer with a specific responsibility for migrant and minority ethnic issues. The work of the Migrant Workers Forum included the development and delivery of an accredited training programme for Trades Union members.

The Peace III Programme Manager reported that a specification had now been developed in relation to the work of the Forum. In this regard, he recommended that tenders be sought in relation to Action 3.5 of the Belfast Peace and Reconciliation Plan, the Migrant Workers Forum and Advice Support, in order to support the employment needs of migrant workers and he reported that an indicative budget of £75,000 had been proposed. The Partnership was advised that the evaluation criteria to be used in assessment of the tenders received in regard to key actions 3.5, 4.1 and 4.2 would be as follows:

<b><u>Criteria</u></b>	<b><u>Weighting</u></b>
Calibre and competencies of project team	15%
Project proposal	25%
Value for money	20%
Ability to work in partnership	20%
Ability to meet timescales	10%
Complementarity	10%

The contracts would be awarded on the basis of the most advantageous tender received.

The Partnership was advised further that the tender panels would be comprised of Council staff with relevant experience and expertise in the subject area and, in line with the implementation guidelines issued by the Special European Union Programmes Body, independent observers and representatives of the SEUPB would be invited to attend the tender assessment panels. The Peace III Programme Manager reported that it had been proposed to issue invitations to tender as soon as possible and that returns should be made within twenty-one days. He stated that it was anticipated that the tender panels would be convened in late July or early August.

After discussion, the Partnership approved, in principle, the specification relating to the key actions within the Plan, noted the invitation of Members of the Partnership to observe the tender panel and agreed also that representatives of the Special European Union Programmes Body be invited to observe the tender assessment panel. The Partnership noted further that copies of the specifications were available on the Council's Modern.gov website.

### **Peace III Small Grant Issue of Letter**

The Committee considered the undernoted report in relation to the issue of a letter of offer to Young at Art:

#### **“Relevant Background Information**

At its meeting in April the Partnership agreed to defer the commencement date of the Young at Art Project 'Return to the Park' project and that the situation regarding the project be reviewed following consultation with the organisation's stakeholders. Young at Art have now supplied a revised action plan and revised timeline for the consideration of the Partnership.

#### **Key Issues**

The proposed project required revision due to the loss of a key funder in Spring 2009. With some funding already secured, Young at Art undertook consultation with key stakeholders in a one-day programme on 'Making Events Happen in the Waterworks' in April 2009.

Following this, Young at Art propose continuing with the project as originally envisaged and note the following amendments and enhancements.

The consultation process and discussions arising from it more clearly identified those key stakeholders and local partners to deliver the project alongside Young at Art and New Lodge Arts, this includes Belfast City Council staff from the Parks and Leisure Department. Within the five communities – Cavehill, Cliftonville, New Lodge, Newington and Westland – the groups identified are:

Cavehill Antrim Road Regeneration; 174 Trust, Antrim Road;  
Westland Community Group; Greater New Lodge CEP;  
Cliftonville CEP (subject to review of CEP's future);  
Holy Family Youth Club – Newington.

The consultation process also involved local residents and their input and voice within the community will be harnessed and brought into the process. A number of lead-in activities that will increase the role of the park as a shared space, particularly for children have also been identified as part of the consultation.

The project also proposes to utilise existing relationships with all the local primary schools, the Surestart and playgroup network and local secondary schools and New Lodge Arts' relationship with local youth groups and the Inner North Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership. In addition, a number of neighbouring communities will be encouraged to be involved through the following organisations:

Loughview Community Action Partnership; Lower North CEP (Tiger's Bay/Shore Road); Upper North CEP (Oldpark/Ardoyne)

Other stakeholders identified are those groups with a role in the park and those that bridge communities including Friends of the Waterworks; Families at the Waterworks Fishing & Outdoor Club; Waterworks Sports Facility; PIPS; North Belfast Interface Network.

Statutory agencies and bodies also were involved in the consultation and will play a part in the project including PSNI, Belfast City Council Parks staff and Culture & Arts Unit; Arts Council of Northern Ireland and Belfast Regeneration Office – North.

The revised timeline for the project is as follows:

Sep 2009 – April 2010	Planning, consultation and outreach programme
May 2010	Deliver of event
June – August 2010	Evaluation and review
September 2010	Completion of project

There appears to be a clear project aim to target areas where there has been clear evidence of relationships being affected by sectarianism and division caused by community conflict both in the past and recent history.

Through the project aim of being part of a large scale community event, involving all communities, there is a clear goal of promoting the Waterworks Park as shared space and welcoming to all sides of the community. The encouraged involvement of all the residents will contribute greatly to reducing inter-community tensions and support peace-building initiatives, supporting dialogue and engagement through practical collaboration.

Staff of the Peace III team carried out a Pre Contract Check on 5th March 2009. There were no issues of concern reported with all core policies in place, and evidence of strong financial management and sound operational management oversight.

### 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 the issue of a Letter of Offer for funding up to £24,830 to Young at Art on the basis of site visit, pre-contract check and approval of recommended scores presented to the Partnership by Council staff as delegated in January 2009 and the revised timeline and action plan.

### Decision Tracking

The PIII Programme Manager will provide regular updates to the Partnership on the progress of all projects in receipt of a small grant.

### Key to Abbreviations

**CRC – Community Relations Council**  
**PSNI – Police Service Northern Ireland**  
**CEP – Community Empowerment Partnership”**

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

### Good Relations Grant-Aid Fund

The Partnership was reminded that the Good Relations Grant-Aid Fund had re-opened in April and that a total amount of £350,000 had been made available for distribution. The Good Relations Manager reported that demand continued to be extremely high, with a total of £203,739 having been awarded already by the Partnership during the current financial year. She submitted for the information of the Partnership a report providing a summary of the applications which had been made to the Good Relations Grant-Aid Fund, together with the associated recommendations. After discussion, the Partnership agreed unanimously that grant-aid be awarded, under the delegated authority of the Chief Executive, to the following organisations:

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Recommended Amount, up to £</u>
St. Agnes' Parents Committee	2,380
Annadale and Haywood Residents Association	5,000
Ballynaveigh Community Development Association	3,000
Loughside Football Club	4,990
NI Community of Refugees and Asylum Seekers (NICRAS)	3,000
St. John Vianney Youth Club	3,926
Ardmonagh Family and Community Group	4,100
East Belfast Filipino Community	800
The HUBB Resource Centre	1,780
Arts Ekta	3,000
Greater Shankill Church Of Ireland Youth Initiatives	6,500
Public Achievement	2,955
Suffolk Lenadoon Interface Group	5,000
Glencolin Residents Association	3,000
Early Years – the organisation for children	1,000
Forthspring Inter-Community Group	4,240
Mount Vernon Community Development Forum	5,000
Northern Ireland Somali Community Association (NISCA)	1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,671</b>

The Partnership was advised that the allocation of the £60,671 would bring the total amount of funding awarded to date to £264, 410. The Good Relations Manager pointed out that, as the total available for the financial year was £350,000, only £85,590 remained for distribution during the remaining months of the financial year. Accordingly, she recommended that the fund be closed to new applications over the summer months and she undertook to submit a further report to the Partnership at its meeting in September in regard to the remaining budget.

The Partnership adopted the recommendations.

#### **Survey of Young People in the Greater Whitewell Area**

The Good Relations Manager reported that a request had been received for assistance in the funding of a joint initiative with Newtownabbey Borough Council in regard to the promotion of good relations in the Greater Whitewell area through the work of the Hazelwood Community Partnership. The Partnership was an interagency approach to building good relations through social, physical and economic regeneration of the Greater Whitewell area and was comprised of representatives from across all sections of the community.

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As part of its work, the theme of youth had been identified by all partners as a major area of concern and, in particular, it had been established that there was a lack of information, collated facts and opinions of young persons in the catchment area. Accordingly, it had been proposed that an independent consultant be engaged to conduct the development of a "young person centred survey" for the Greater Whitewell area which would seek to identify year long intervention needs, including employment, educational training, health and social and recreational activities which would seek to aid the capacity of the area to move forward in the area of good relations.

The Good Relations Manager outlined the various stages and proposed methodology of the consultation process and reported that other partner agencies would include the Community Relations Council and the North Belfast Community Action Unit which would endeavour to provide support for the project.

The approximate cost of the project would be £7,000 and Belfast City Council had been requested to provide £4,000, which represented 60% of the total costs, with the remaining funds being provided by Newtownabbey Borough Council.

After discussion, the Partnership authorised the payment of £4,000 towards the proposed consultation exercise.

Chairman