

GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP

FRIDAY, 14th MAY, 2010

MEETING OF THE GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP

Members present: Councillor Hendron (Chairman); and
Councillors Humphrey (in place of
Councillor McCausland), Kyle, C. Maskey,
McCarthy and Stoker.

External Members: Ms. M. Marken, Catholic Church;
Mr. P. Scott, Catholic Church;
Mr. R. Galway, Bombardier Aerospace/
Confederation of British Industry;
Rev. J. Rea, Methodist Church;
Ms. A. Chada, Minority Ethnic Groups; and
Ms. J. Hawthorne, Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

In attendance: Mrs. H. Francey, Good Relations Manager;
Mr. I. May, Peace III Programme Manager;
Mr. D. Robinson, Good Relations Officer; and
Mr. H. Downey, Committee Administrator.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillor McCausland and from Ms. S. Bhat, Mr. S. Brennan, Mr. P. Mackel, Mr. M. O'Donnell and Ms. M. deSilva.

Mr. Michael Wardlow

The Good Relations Manager reported that she had been informed by Mr. M. Wardlow that, due to work commitments which had prevented him from attending a number of recent meetings and would limit his participation in future, he would be resigning as a representative of the voluntary and community sector from the Partnership. She explained that the Partnership would, in the near future, be reconstituted in preparation for the next phase of the Peace Plan and that this would lead to a review of the representation thereon.

Accordingly, it was agreed that a letter be forwarded to Mr. Wardlow thanking him for his contribution to the work of the Partnership and wishing him well in the future.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 16th April were taken as read and signed as correct.

Matters Arising

Peace III – Proposal for Youth Intervention Programme

The Partnership was reminded that, at its meeting on 16th April, it had approved a proposal to develop a Youth Intervention Programme for South Belfast. The Partnership had agreed that information regarding the appointment of a Manager to deliver the Programme be submitted to its next meeting.

The Good Relations Manager explained that the full-time Manager had been seconded from within Alternatives and that that post was being funded by the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Assets Recovery Agency. However, two part-time workers, whose posts would be funded by the Council under the Peace III Programme, would be recruited from within the local area using an open recruitment process in order to assist with the project.

During discussion, a Member pointed out that the local community in South Belfast had been unaware of the full-time appointment having been made and highlighted the need to ensure that all future recruitment exercises were undertaken in a transparent manner.

The Partnership noted the information which had been provided.

Creative Legacies Programme

Suicide Awareness

The Good Relations Manager reminded the Partnership that, at its meeting on 16th April, it had agreed to allocate funding under the Shared Public Arts Projects to six organisations within the City. The Partnership had agreed further that a report, providing further information in relation to an unsuccessful application for funding which had been submitted by Suicide Awareness, be submitted to its next meeting.

The Good Relations Manager reported that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, in considering at its meeting on 23rd April the minutes of the Good Relations Partnership, had requested the Chief Executive to submit to a future meeting a report outlining all activities being undertaken within the Council in relation to the issue of suicide.

Noted.

Funding Applications from Community Centres/ Management Committees

The Partnership was advised that the Council, at its meeting on 4th May, had, at the request of a Member, agreed that a report be submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee detailing the process employed to differentiate between applications to the Creative Legacies Programme from Community Centres and their Management Committees. Accordingly, she submitted for the Partnership's information the following details:

“Belfast City Council Community Centres

Good Relations Funding Applications

This report sets out the grants made to Council Community Centres over the past 5 years. In each case, the application met the criteria and grant was awarded because of the quality of the project proposal. Details of the applicants are listed below. The Legal Services Department has confirmed that this approach is entirely appropriate.

Group	Reference No & Project Summary	Year	Award	Submitted by
Concorde Community Centre	BCC06/07/217 Promoting good relations and cultural pride via facts and fashion. Children learn new skills by redesigning old clothes. A fashion evening will be held at which the youth group will model their re-cycled fashions incorporating traditional Chinese and Indian costumes.	2006	£3110	Community Development Worker
Finaghy Community Centre	BCC05/06/178 Finaghy and Horn Drive Corrymeela./Kansas City visit – 12 young people from both sides of the community will visit Kansas City in July 2006. This will include a residential in Corrymeela prior to the visit. (US visit hosted by Ancient Order of Hibernians Children for Peace in Ireland Committee).	2006	£1820	Community Development Worker
Finaghy Community Centre/ Highfield Community Centre	572/910 Community Relations Project involving Tullymore/Highfield/Ballsillan, Taughmonah/Horn Drive Community Centres. 12 young people from both sides of the community will visit Kansas City in July 2007. This will include a residential in Corrymeela prior to the visit. (US visit hosted by Ancient Order of Hibernians Children for Peace in Ireland Committee).	2007	£5056	Community Development Worker
Finaghy/ Horn Drive Community Centre Committee	670/1122 Finaghy and Horn Drive Good Relations Project - 16 young people from both sides of the community(South & West Belfast) will visit Kansas City in July 2008. This will include a residential in Corrymeela prior to the visit. (US visit hosted by Ancient Order of Hibernians Children for Peace in Ireland Committee).	2008	£6045	Vice Chairperson of the Committee

**Good Relations Partnership,
Friday, 14th May, 2010**

Group	Reference No. & Project Summary	Year	Award	Submitted by
Finaghy Community Centre Committee	480/1437 Finaghy and Horn Drive Community Centre Committees Good Relations Project - 16 young people from both sides of the community from South & West Belfast will visit Kansas City in July 2009. They will participate in an 8 month Belfast based programme prior to travel. (US visit hosted by Ancient Order of Hibernians Children for Peace in Ireland Committee).	2009	£1600	Community Development Worker
Woodvale/Cambrai Youth Community Group (based in Woodvale CC)	386/1647 A 6 week programme educating the group on racism and sectarianism in the community. The group will work with an organisation in Dublin on issues around identity and racism and shared history in Ireland – this will include an overnight visit to Dublin.	2009	£1000	Treasurer of the Group
Inverary Community Centre Committee	640/1474 Promoting a Shared Society – a series of education workshops on the 1st and 2nd World Wars over the months of May and June 2009 and then an exhibition of war memorabilia during the Titanic Festival in July on 2nd, 3rd & 4th July.	2009	£2500	Treasurer of the Community Centre Committee
Inverary Community Centre Committee	640/1755 St. Agnes and Inverary Youth Project – 4 groups of young people from St. Agnes, Short Strand, Inverary & Ashmount will be brought together 1 night per week with a view to integrating the 4 areas in future.	2010	£1000	Community Centre Chairperson
Donegall Pass and Markets Community Centres	883/1752 A youth based community relations programme drawing on the participants' experience of living on a community interface as the basis of a peace building workshop.	2010	£1000	Community Development Worker
PEACE III CREATIVE LEGACIES PROGRAMME – PUBLIC ART WORK PROPOSALS				
North Queen Street Community Centre	The project intends to involve a wide range of people of all ages from the community, focusing mainly on the groups using the Community Centre Building – about 15 groups and volunteers are involved in working for the local community.	2010	£5000	Community Development Worker
Dee Street Community Centre	The Project involves participants from Dee Street Community Centre, Carew Family Centre, Connswater Community group, Connswater Greenway Project.	2010	£5000	Community Development Worker

The Partnership noted the information which had been provided.

Good Relations Grant-Aid Fund

The Partnership was reminded that, at its meeting on 16th April, it had agreed to defer an application for funding from Charter NI to enable further information to be obtained. The Good Relations Manager explained that the request for funding related to the appointment of a research consultant in order to determine the needs and issues affecting local communities within East Belfast and that the information derived would be used to inform current plans and proposals for the City.

The Partnership agreed that funding of up to £5,000 be awarded from the Good Relations Grant-Aid Fund to Charter NI.

Peace III Youth Intervention Programme

The Partnership was reminded that, at its meeting on 16th April, it had granted approval to initiate under the Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan a Youth Intervention Programme which was aimed specifically at encouraging long-term engagement for young people in interface areas. The Partnership was advised that the Scoutlink Trust was delivering currently a City-wide programme under the Plan and that representatives of that organisation were in attendance in order to outline the extent of this work. Accordingly, Mr. K. Gillespie and Ms. J. Reid, on behalf of the Trust, were welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman.

Ms. Reid informed the Partnership that the Scoutlink Trust was a cross-community organisation involved currently in facilitating an i-citizen project for groups of young people, based around citizenship and leadership. She explained that the themes of the project were centred around relationship building, good relations and civic engagement and that it sought to develop cross-community partnerships between young people of similar interests and needs. She outlined the nature of the activities provided over the course of the programme and pointed out that these were tailored to suit the needs of each group. Activities such as climbing, abseiling and team challenges provided participants with an opportunity to develop a range of values, including good relations and civic engagement. She reported each group was required to undertake an environmental project and that a conference was being planned for later in the year which would discuss important issues such as community participation, anti-social behaviour and the misuse of alcohol and drugs.

The Partnership commended the valuable work being under by the Scoutlink Trust through the i-citizen project and, having been thanked by the Chairman, Mr. Gillespie and Ms. Reid retired from the meeting.

The Partnership noted the information which had been provided.

Peace III - Implementation Update

The Peace III Programme Manager submitted a report which provided an update in respect of the implementation of the Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan. The report provided an overview of the various programmes and projects, together with a summary of expenditure under each of the four themes of the Plan and of actual and planned activity from April till May. He explained that the Programmes Body had established a

target of £2.5 million to be spent before the end of September and pointed out that all projects had been advised of the implications associated with any failure to meet that target and had been requested to submit realistic spend forecasts for the remainder of the programming period. In addition, he drew the Partnership's attention to the conference being hosted by the Special European Programmes Body in the Belfast Waterfront Hall on 20th May to mark the mid-point of the Peace III Programme.

The Partnership noted the information which had been provided.

Peace III Proposal for Roots of Empathy Project

(Mr. T. Crossan, Principal Environmental Health Officer, attended in connection with this item.)

The Peace III Programme Manager reminded the Partnership that it had identified previously a need to consider how programmes and projects which had been funded under the Peace Plan could be aligned with the health and wellbeing agenda. He reported that, in order to achieve this objective, the Council was proposing to develop a Roots of Empathy Project, similar to that which had been developed in Canada and which had been shown to increase social and emotional competence in children. This, in turn, meant that they remained longer in school, had lower levels of aggression and higher levels of mental health, were less likely to have addiction problems and gain a better overall education. He explained that the core themes of the project were as follows:

- to engender a positive understanding of diversity;
- to teach children to respect one another and to build a culture of caring;
- to develop empathy and to enable children to value inclusion;
- to value participatory democracy; and
- to encourage non-violence and anti-bullying.

He reported further that the project, which would be managed by the Council's Health Development Unit, would be rolled out to Primary 5 pupils in ten schools across the Council area. He pointed out that Primary 5 had been selected, since research which had been carried out by Queen's University Belfast had determined that this represented the peak age for victimisation in the school environment and marked the commencement of Key Stage 2 within the Northern Ireland Curriculum. The programme would run from September, 2010 throughout the academic year and would include organisations such as the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, the Public Health Agency, the Catholic Council for Maintained Schools, Barnardo's and Queen's University Belfast.

The Peace III Programme Manager informed the Partnership that the project would be delivered in each school by trained instructors who would be sourced from the participating organisations. Each instructor, who could, for example, be a Health Visitor, a Classroom Assistant, or a Community worker, would undertake four days of intensive training. He pointed out that the total cost associated with the delivery of the project would be £33,501, provision for which had been made under the theme of Shared Organisational Space and, specifically, the allocation for learning and dissemination activities. Accordingly, he requested that the Partnership approve, in principle, the Routes of Empathy Project, subject to further consultation being undertaken with the Special European Union Programmes Body and participating organisations.

The Partnership granted the approval sought.

Peace III – Funding for Shared Cultural Space

The Partnership was reminded that, at its meeting on 12th February, it had approved the undertaking of an open call for applications under the theme of Shared Cultural Space. The Peace III Programme Manager reported that the call for applications had closed on 1st April and that eleven applications had been received. He provided a brief overview of each application and advised the Partnership that they had been subjected to an assessment process which had been developed in line with guidance laid down by the Special European Union Programmes Body. Each application had been evaluated against pre-determined criteria and a minimum of score of 65% was required before funding could be considered under the Peace Programme. He pointed out that initial assessments had been subjected to a moderation and quality assurance process involving senior Council staff and that scores and rationale would be made available to all applicants, together with a debriefing session where requested. The Special European Union Programmes Body had established a review procedure for the entire programme, details of which would be communicated to all applicants.

The Peace III Programme Manager explained that six applications had achieved scores above the required threshold of 65% and, therefore, would be eligible for funding under the Peace III Programme. He stated that the approved allocation of funding in relation to this latest call for applications had been £225,000 and that the total amount requested had amounted to £149,780.

During discussion, several Members highlighted the fact that several notable organisations had been unsuccessful in their applications. The point was made also that the Council needed to undertake more outreach work in order to encourage other groups to avail of funding under this theme. In response, the Peace III Programme Manager explained that those organisations which had failed to secure funding had either failed to submit sufficient detail within their application or did not meet the requisite funding criteria.

After further discussion, the Partnership agreed that letters of offer be issued to the following organisations, subject to site visits and further checks being undertaken by Peace III Programme officers:

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Recommended Amount up to £</u>
The Beat Initiative	Creating Carnival Together – Shared Celebration in our City	25,000
ArtsEkta	Belfast Mela 2010 – A Unique International Summer Festival	25,000
Festival of Fools	Festival of Fools 2011	25,000
Feile an Phobail	August Feile – Community Arts Festival	25,000
Irish Congress of Trade Unions	May Festival – a Celebration of Working People	24,780
Trans Urban Arts	Trans Festival including Base International Street Art Festival	25,000

Peace III - Proposal for Respect through Sport Programme

The Partnership was reminded that, at its meeting on 12th March, it had requested that further consultation take place between Council officers and the Partnership in order to develop a proposal under the theme of Shared Cultural Space aimed at using sport as a mechanism for tackling sectarianism and racism. The request had arisen in response to a level of uncommitted funding being available within in the current phase of the Belfast Peace and Reconciliation Plan, under Action 3.3 Cultural Diversity in Sport.

The Good Relations Officer reported that a proposal had been formulated in relation to Respect through Sport Programme which would bring together young people from socially disadvantaged and diverse communities across the City. The programme was designed to use sport and physical activity as a mechanism for developing awareness and understanding of community diversity and the consequences of anti-social behaviour, leading to sectarianism and racism. He explained that a pilot project, which had been funded by the Good Relations Partnership, had been delivered successfully at the Indoor Tennis Centre and Ozone Complex. It was proposed that this work be built on through a new project, incorporating delivery of two simultaneous, complementary programmes based at this location and at Shankill Leisure Centre in order to provide engagement with a wide cross-section of communities. He pointed out that the total costs associated with the project were £60,593, provision for which had been identified within the current uncommitted allocation under the theme of Shared Cultural Space and, specifically, the allocation for Action 3.3 Cultural Diversity in Sport.

The Partnership approved, in principle, the Respect through Sport Programme, subject to further consultation being undertaken with the Special European Union Programmes Body.

**Consultation Document – Public Assemblies,
Parades and Protests**

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

“Relevant Background Information

The Partnership will be aware that, as part of the agreement reached at Hillsborough Castle on 5th February, 2010, a Working Group was established to bring forward a framework capable of achieving cross community support in addressing the contentious issue of parades and protests.

The terms of reference reflected the key principles of the Hillsborough Agreement, namely:

- Local people providing local solutions
- Respect for the rights of those who parade and respect for the rights of those who live in areas through which they seek to parade. This includes the right for everyone to live free from sectarian harassment.
- Recognising that at times there are competing rights
- Transparency, openness and fairness
- Independent decision making.

Building on the interim report of the Strategic Review of Parading (2008), work was to be taken forward in the following areas:

- Procedures relating to the receipt and notification of parades; related objections; the facilitation of dialogue and mediation
- In the event of failure of mediation, to detail recourse to independent adjudications and procedures
- Adjudication arrangements
- A code of conduct which is legally enforceable
- The right of citizens to freedom from all forms of harassment.

The Working Group presented its report in late February and its proposals have been formulated into this consultation paper, published on 20th April. The paper publishes the Code of Conduct from the Working Group’s report and the Draft Legislation with Explanatory Guide. It seeks to enshrine in law a framework to allow for the implementation of the report’s recommendations and introduction of new procedures governing public assemblies. It has been issued for public consultation for a period of 12 weeks, with responses to be received by 14th July 2010.

Summary of paper

Basically, the paper outlines a new 2-stage process to replace the current government-appointed Parades Commission and includes a new focus on encouraging dialogue, formal and informal, between those who organise parades and those who object to them.

The first body, to be known as the Office of Public Assemblies, Parades and Protests (OPAPP), will administer parade applications and objections, facilitating dialogue or providing a mechanism for mediation, where required.

A second adjudicating body, the Public Assemblies, Parades and Protests Body (PAPPB), will make rulings where agreement cannot be found.

Dialogue will be the norm and failure to engage will be taken into account in subsequent adjudications.

Proposals

The report proposes new legislation - a Draft Public Assemblies, Parades and Protests Bill (Northern Ireland) - aimed at avoiding conflict over controversial parades, with the intention that this will be in place early next year. This will cover all public assemblies, defined as public processions¹, including parades, public meetings (of over 50 people) and protest meetings.

Central to the legislation is a legally enforceable Code of Conduct that will apply to all those who organise and participate in parades, along with any bands and supporters in the vicinity. It will also apply to those who take part in protests. The Code confirms that 'it should be borne in mind by all those participating in any form of assembly that with rights come responsibilities.'

The Code of Conduct is designed to ensure that organisers take account of the local context, particularly of any sensitive locations, including those associated with past conflict or previous public disorder. Where the location is sensitive, organisers must identify and seek to address reasonable local concerns and issues that may give rise to a dispute. Participants must show respect and tolerance and behave with due regard for the rights and traditions of others. The Code aims to ensure that disputes are resolved quickly by the parties and where possible through local dialogue and consensus. Local agreement is strongly encouraged and mediation and adjudication are only to be considered where this is not possible.

The paper states clearly that everyone has the right to live free from sectarian harassment; the Code of Conduct and the Draft Bill are both designed to ensure that all parties take measures to prevent sectarian harassment.

Office of Public Assemblies, Parades and Protests (OPAPP)

Under the proposals, the Office of the First Minister/Deputy First Minister will establish the first stage and administrative arm of the new system, the Office of Public Assemblies, Parades and Protests, (OPAPP), which will appoint professional mediators to encourage local dialogue to resolve disputes.

Those planning a parade must give notice to OPAPP 35 days in advance, with objectors obliged to file their objections or concerns within the next 7 days, while a further 21-day deadline will be put in place for permission to stage a protest against an event.

OPAPP must publish a notice on receipt of any notification of any parade, concern, objection or protest meeting, to a list of defined 'interested persons' including the PAPPB; PSNI; Fire and Rescue and Ambulance Services; elected representatives – MPs and MLAs; the local District Council and those who notify OPAPP that they want to be informed. For example, the Council will be automatically informed but a school, church or residents' group will have to register an interest to be notified.

OPAPP has no responsibility for adjudicating on public assemblies. OPAPP will aid discussion of issues in dispute, including paying venue costs of meetings and will publish copies of the results of such meetings to the interested parties. Where resolution through dialogue has not been possible, OPAPP will arrange for mediation, using an approved and agreed mediator.

Public Assemblies, Parades and Protests Body (PAPPB)

Under the second stage of the process, the First Minister and Deputy First Minister will set up an Appointments Panel to select an 11-member adjudication panel, representative of the community, to be called the Public Assemblies, Parades and Protests Body (PAPPB). PAPPB will have the power to make decisions and adjudicate on all public assemblies that are the subject of notified concerns or objections not resolved through local dialogue or mediation. PAPPB must make and publish its decision at least 7 days before the proposed event. It may impose conditions or restrictions relating to:

- management or stewarding
- the behaviour of participants and non-participants

- commencement and dispersal times and its duration
- the size, position, location or route
- the participation or attendance of persons who have breached the Code of Conduct.

The Code states clearly that failure to comply with conditions may result in criminal charges.

Banning of parades

Parties can seek a judicial review of decisions and, with the backing of the First and Deputy First Minister acting jointly, the new Justice Minister will have the power to ban a parade, if this is necessary in the public interest. The paper makes it clear that prohibition orders are to be measures of last resort.

Key Issues

The consultation paper proposes a more accountable, though more bureaucratic, series of structures. It introduces the importance of dialogue at local level, currently not encouraged by the Loyal Orders. It recognises the need for respect for those who parade and for those who live in areas through which they seek to parade. The right of all citizens to freedom from all forms of harassment is enshrined in law.

Under these proposals, the City Council will only be regarded as an interested body and will be automatically informed of proposed parades/protests. (Under the previous proposals of the Interim Ashdown Report, as reported to the Good Relations Steering Panel in June 2008, the Council would have had an increased role, that of administering procedures in non-contentious areas.)

Recommendations/Decision required

The paper has been circulated to all the political parties seeking comments and individual party groups will make their own responses on the issue.

The Good Relations Partnership is requested to note the information provided, with the expectation that the new framework will help to resolve what has been a deeply divisive and contentious issue in Belfast. Some previous parades and protests have proved costly, not only in financial terms, but in terms of community relations and Belfast's image abroad.

The Partnership is requested to support an initiative which should assist in improving local dialogue, reducing tension and promoting better understanding and relationships within the city."

During discussion, several Members expressed concern that the proposed legislation, if implemented, would prevent people from assembling in public in order to express their sympathy or opposition in relation to events occurring at both a national and international level, thereby removing their freedom of expression. The point was made that the document had been circulated to all of the Political Parties on the Council and that each of them would be making a detailed response in relation to the proposals.

Accordingly, the Partnership agreed to note the information which had been provided.

St. Patrick's Day 2010

The Partnership was reminded that, at its meeting on 4th December, 2009, it had agreed to allocate from its St. Patrick's Day Small Grants Scheme funding of up to £39,666.40 to 105 groups throughout the City. The Partnership had requested feedback in relation to those events and projects which had been funded under the Scheme. The Good Relations Manager explained that organisations did not receive funding until the event had taken place and all receipts had been received by the Good Relations Unit. In addition, organisations were required to submit to the Unit an evaluation form detailing the main activities of their project and were encouraged to submit also any photographs or media coverage associated with their event. Some of the photographs were on display at the meeting for the information of the Partnership. She pointed out that a wide range of projects had been undertaken as part of this year's St. Patrick's Day celebration, including visits to Armagh Cathedrals, Downpatrick Museum and Slemish Mountain, the holding of arts and crafts classes, ceilidh dancing, sports events, multi-cultural fun days and social events for senior citizens' groups. She reviewed the feedback which had been received and pointed out that it had been particularly positive and had provided a valuable opportunity for promoting good relations.

Noted.

St. Patrick's Day Grant – Divis Youth Project

The Partnership was reminded that, at its meeting on 4th December, 2009, it had approved funding of up to £39,666.40 under its St. Patrick's Day Small Grants Scheme to 105 groups. The Good Relations Manager reported that a list of groups which had applied, together with the amount requested and the level of funding which had been recommended, had been included within the report which had been presented to the Partnership. She pointed out that an award of £500 for Divis Youth Project had been included in the list of groups contained within the appendix to the report and had been included also in the overall total for funding. However, due to a typographical error, that group had not been included in the full list of recommendations within the main report and, therefore, had not been recorded within the minutes of the meeting.

Accordingly, the Partnership agreed that the minute of the meeting of 4th December be varied to include the allocation of £500 to the Divis Youth Project.

Summer Intervention Fund

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

“Relevant Background Information

For the past few years, the North Belfast Community Action Unit of the Office of the First Minister/Deputy First Minister has provided summer intervention funding for a range of groups within North Belfast seeking to address the needs of young people at interfaces. The North Belfast Community Action Unit has now been disbanded and its staff transferred back to the Community Relations Unit within OFM/DFM headquarters.

Within the past few days, a request has been received from the Community Relations Unit that their Summer Intervention Fund, total value around £100,000, could be administered by the Council’s Good Relations Unit. In previous years, this funding was only been available to groups working on interfaces in North Belfast, being channelled via the Community Empowerment Partnerships.

Key Issues

It was explained to them that, if the Fund were to be managed and administered by the Council, it could not be ring-fenced for North Belfast and would have to be open to all areas of the city, although we could give priority to work with young people that live at or near interface areas.

As this funding is intended for summer intervention work, it is essential that all the necessary documentation – application forms, guidance – was prepared as quickly as possible and that the whole scheme is advertised immediately after Partnership approval.

To meet the very tight deadline for Partnership approval of our meeting on 11th June, the proposed timetable is:

Monday 17 May	Call for applications via website, e-mails etc
Friday 28 May	Closing date 12.00 noon
Tuesday 1 June	Assessments by Good Relations and Community Relations Unit staff
Friday 4 June	Report with recommendations go out to Good Relations Partnership
Friday 11 June	Good Relations Partnership approval
Monday 14 June	Letters of offer sent out to successful groups

Work will continue next week to devise the scoring matrix required for the assessments.

Partnership members are requested to note that this Summer Intervention Fund is primarily for intervention and diversionary work in times of heightened tension over the summer months in Belfast. In accordance with our own Good Relations criteria, we propose offering support for longer-term engagement, particularly for cross-community work. This is in accordance with recent research by the Terry Enright Foundation, where young people who live at interfaces pointed out that one-off activities had limited value and they preferred programmes that ran over a longer time period.

The Fund seeks to promote and build on existing partnerships within and across communities. It will support direct interaction with young people and encourage their involvement in programme development and delivery.

Applications for the Fund will be assessed according to pre-set criteria, with a maximum amount available being £5,000, for projects that will take place over the summer period and ending before the end of October, 2010. Salaries will not be included but costs of facilitation to deliver programmes can be met, as is the case with the Good Relations grant aid programme.

Resource Implications

Financial

£100,000 total value of Fund – to be met 100% by the Community Relations Unit within the Office of the First Minister/Deputy First Minister; a large proportion of this to be transferred to the Council in advance to allay any cash flow problems.

Human Resources

Although our Unit is currently under-staffed, we feel that this is an important task and our Good Relations Officers have worked hard to prepare the necessary documentation in a very short time. All assessments will be undertaken in-house with Community Relations Unit observers.

Recommendation

The Partnership is requested to grant approval to the Unit's management and administration of this Summer Intervention Fund on behalf of the Community Relations Unit as outlined above."

The Partnership adopted the recommendation, subject to approval being granted by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

Funding for Hazelwood Youth Providers' Forum

The Partnership noted that a request from the above-mentioned organisation seeking funding of £3,500 to attend a Challenge for Youth Summer Camp would be processed through the Summer Intervention Fund.

Noted.

Wider Issues for Discussion

Living in Belfast Guide

The Partnership noted that an invitation to the launch of "Living in Belfast" pocket guide which was taking place in the City Hall on 19th May had been extended to Members of the Partnership.

Chairman