

GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP

TUESDAY, 5th APRIL, 2011

MEETING OF THE GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP

Members present: Councillor Hendron (Chairman); and
Councillor Hartley.

External Members: Ms. S. Bhat, Northern Ireland Interface Forum;
Mr. S. Brennan, Voluntary/Community Sector;
Rev. L. Carroll, Presbyterian Church;
Ms. M. de Silva, Voluntary/Community Sector;
Archdeacon B. Dodds, Church of Ireland;
Ms. A. Chada, Minority Ethnic Groups;
Mr. R. Galway, Bombardier Aerospace/
Confederation of British Industry; and
Ms. M. Marken, Catholic Church;

Also attended: Mr. M. McAvoy, Department for Social
Development~~Community Relations Council~~.

In attendance: Mrs. H. Francey, Good Relations Manager;
Mr. I. May, Peace III Programme Manager;
Mr. D. Robinson, Senior Good Relations Officer; and
Mr. B. Flynn, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Crozier, Kyle, Maskey, McCarthy and Stoker. Apologies were received also from Mrs. J. Hawthorne, Mr. P. Mackel and Mr. P. Scott.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 7th March were taken as read and signed as correct.

(Councillor Hartley in the Chair.)

Belfast Citizenship Education Programme

The Partnership was reminded that the Belfast Citizenship Education Programme had been funded by the Council under its PEACE III Programme and it was reported that Ms. Susan Russam, GEMS NI Chief Executive, and Mr. N. Jarman, Institute of Conflict Research, were in attendance to provide a presentation on the outcomes of the Programme.

Ms. Russam informed the Partnership that the aim of the Programme was to promote two accredited citizenship qualifications, viz., Good Relations and Civic Leadership, together with the ideals of Understanding Rights, Responsibilities and Citizenship. She pointed out that, in total, 220 individuals had attended the Programme between April, 2010 and January, 2011. She explained that the Programme had been

viewed positively both by the participants and the partner organisations involved in its delivery. She added that individuals who had attended had expressed satisfaction that issues such as stereotyping, racism and sectarianism had been discussed and addressed.

Mr. Jarman then provided an overview of the methodology used to measure the success of the Programme and indicated that participants who had struggled with basic literacy and numeracy issues had found the format welcoming. Ms. Russam concluded by pointing out that the accredited nature of the Programme had been seen as a positive benefit by the participants.

After discussion, during which Ms. Russam and Mr. Jarman answered a number of Members' questions, the Partnership agreed to note the information provided and congratulated the representatives on their achievements to date.

(Councillor Hendron in the Chair.)

Peace III-PEACE III- Implementation Update

The Partnership considered a report which provided an update in respect of the implementation of Phase I of the Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan. The report gave an overview of the various themes and actions set out within the Plan, together with a summary of expenditure under each of its four elements. The Peace III Programme Manager drew the Partnership's attention to the following issues:

Project Extensions Financial Risk

The Peace III Programme Manager informed the Partnership that, further to the meeting of 7th March, confirmation had been received in writing from the Special European Union Programmes Body that the Council would not be liable for any payments ~~on projects which ended~~ made to projects after 30th June, so long as the Council was in a position to submit by 30th September, 2011 to the Programmes Body any claims on such expenditure.

Information and Networking Event

It was reported that an information and networking event for all projects funded under Phase I of the Plan had been scheduled for 14th April at the Wellington Park Hotel. It was noted that a number of presentations in respect of the projects funded would be provided at the event and that all Members of the Partnership had been invited to attend.

Peace, Place and People

The Partnership was informed that an evening of poetry readings, which was being funded as an inter-faith initiative under the PEACE III Programme, would take place at the Belfast Synagogue on the evening of 17th April. Prominent guests at the event would include Michael Longley, Ben Maier and Elaine Feinstein. All Members of the Partnership ~~would be~~ were invited to attend.

Showcase Event

The Partnership was advised that a conference and showcase for projects supported under Phase I of the Plan ~~would take place on~~ was planned for 21st June ~~at the Waterfront Hall~~. The event would be run in conjunction with the Growing a Shared City Programme, which was being funded under Priority 2.2 of the PEACE III Programme. The aims and objectives of the event would be to seek to promote the positive impact which ~~Peace III~~ PEACE III funding had brought to the City; to highlight the central role which good relations had played in the success of the projects; and to emphasise the Council's central role in promoting equality and good relations. ~~The Peace III Programme Manager indicated that further information would be submitted to the Partnership in due course.~~

After discussion, during which it was noted that an update in respect of the events outlined d would be submitted for the Partnership's information at its meeting on 6th June, the Members agreed to note the information provided.

Good Relations Partnership – Co-option of Member of Belfast City Trust

The Peace III Programme Manager reminded the Partnership that, at its meeting on 14th May, it had approved the Roots of Empathy Project and allocated a budget of £33,501 towards its delivery. The Programme, which the Council oversaw in conjunction with a number of partner agencies, had been shown to increase the social and emotional competence of children, which in turn broke cycles of poverty; promoted d educational attainment and encouraged d the development of positive and long-lasting relationships. He reported that the core aims of the programme were to:

- engender a positive understanding of diversity;
- teach children to respect one another and to build a culture of caring;
- develop empathy and enable children to value inclusion;
- value participatory democracy;
- promote a message of non-violence and anti-bullying; and
- advance the aims of the PEACE III Programme through peace and reconciliation by building positive relationships at local level and developing shared organisational space.

The Partnership was informed that the project had been launched in the City Hall on 15th November, 2010 and it had since been delivered successfully in sixteen schools across the Belfast area, involving 280 pupils. The Peace III Programme Manager reminded the Partnership that, originally, it had been envisaged that the project would be ~~overseen~~ led by the Council's Health Development Unit. However, it was reported that, as the project had developed and given the requirements of the PEACE III Programme, it had become evident that the Belfast Health Trust was in a better position to deliver the requirements of the project. Given the foregoing, the Peace III Programme Manager therefore requested that the Partnership consider co-opting a member of the Belfast Health Trust onto its membership to assist in the

future design, development and management of the project. He pointed out that this would enable eligible expenditure to be ~~be incurred and, in turn,~~ recouped ~~as part of the requirements of the~~ under the PEACE III Programme.

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After discussion, during which the Good Relations Manager confirmed that an evaluation of the Roots of Empathy Project would be presented for consideration in due course, the Partnership agreed that a representative of the Belfast Health Trust be co-opted onto its membership and the Partnership Agreement be revised accordingly.

**Peace III-PEACE III- City of Festivals:
Additional Programming**

The Peace III Programme Manager reminded the Partnership that, at its meeting on 7th March, it had been advised that an underspend of approximately £156,000 existed under the budget heading Shared Cultural Space and that it had agreed to authorise the Unit-PEACE III Team to begin a process of identifying additional festival-related activity, which could be delivered by those groups currently in receipt of a Letter of Offer under the City of Festivals Grants Programme. Accordingly, he reported that submissions had been invited and that six applications had been received and assessed by staff of the Peace III-PEACE III team, together with a representative from the Consortium, in accordance with the undernoted criteria:

- activity must help build positive relations at the local level with a focus on tackling sectarianism and racism;
- activity must complement work done and verified to date under the organisation's existing Letter of Offer under the PEACE III Small Grants Programme;
- activity must take place between 1st April and 30th June;
- all expenditure must be claimed from the Peace III-PEACE III Team in Belfast City Council by 31st July, 2011; and
- activity must provide value for money.

In addition, the Partnership was advised that the submissions had been amended in line with the project selection criteria issued by the Special European Union Programmes Body and had been weighted as follows:

- programme criteria – 30%;
- priority and theme criteria – 30%; and
- efficiency and effectiveness and the cross-cutting themes of equality sustainable development and its related impact on poverty and partnership warranting a 40% weighting.

Accordingly, it was reported that the undernoted organisations had been assessed as outlined and the following recommendations made:

| <u>Organisation</u> | <u>Event</u> | <u>Recommendation</u> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| The Beat Initiative | Creating Carnival Together – Shared Celebration in our City | £15,000 |
| ArtsEkta | Belfast Mela – A Unique International Summer Festival | £8,920 |
| Festival of Fools | Festival of Fools 2011 | £15,000 |
| Féile an Phobail | August Féile – Community Arts Festival | £13,500 |
| Irish Congress of Trade Unions | May Festival – a Celebration of Working People | £13,000 |

The Peace III Programme Manager pointed out that ~~the project led by , due to a number of issues concerning the application submitted by the Trans-Urban Arts and the related additional programming proposals had been deferred pending , its Letter of Offer had been suspended and the proposal for additional activity delayed pending receipt of further information.~~

After discussion, the Partnership approved the revision of the Letters of Offer in line with the recommendations.

Peace III-PEACE III– Dealing of Physical Manifestations: Re-profiling of Budget/Request for Extension

The Partnership was reminded that, at its meeting on 7th March, it had agreed to re-profile its 'Physical Manifestations' programme budget to permit participating groups to undertake some additional activity in the form of spring-time community events. At that meeting, it was noted that with the total budget allocated for this purpose would not exceed £60,000. However, the Good Relations Manager reported that, given that there had been a delay in the Council receiving an official funding letter of offer for Phase II, it had become necessary to re-profile the budget again in order to ensure that sufficient resources would be in place to permit the main programme to be delivered— ~~in July 2011.~~ ~~It~~ was reported that, after consultation with the Special European Union Programmes Body and the Consortium, it was proposed to extend Phase I of the programme until the end of July, 2011. She added that an anticipated underspend of £90,000 had been forecast for the programme, which had been realised as a result of cost efficiencies and the lower than anticipated cost ~~of~~ community-related events.

The Good Relations Manager indicated that the primary element within the programme proposed under Phase II entitled 'tackling sectarianism and racism'; was in assisting communities in the transformation of their bonfire work over the 11th July period. However, apart from the Council's annual contribution of £50,000, which had been approved by the Council in December, there was no defined resource identified to

assist with this work. She reminded Members that, at its meeting on 7th March, the Partnership had noted that an underspend of approximately £60,000 had been

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identified within the programme and it was agreed that it could be re-allocated to enable [those participating](#) communities to undertake additional small community events. She pointed out that it was now proposed to reduce that figure to £20,000, thus permitting the majority of the underspend to be incorporated within an extension to the current Phase I of the programme, until 31st July, 2011, to cover the main programme activities in that period.

Accordingly, the Partnership was requested to approve:

- the extension of Phase I of the programme until 31st July; and
- the re-profiling of the programme budget, as agreed at the meeting on 7th March, to incorporate the additional activity as set out, but at a reduced total of £20,000.

The Partnership agreed to this course of action.

Good Relations Grant-Aid Fund

(The Reverend Lesley Carroll declared an interest in that she was associated with one of the organisations which had applied for funding, namely, Fortwilliam and Macrory Presbyterian Church, and took no part in the discussion.)

The Good Relations Manager reported that the first call for applicants to the Good Relations Grant-Aid fund for the 2011/2012 financial year had opened on 14th February, with a closing date of noon on Friday, 12th March. It was reported that at the end of the aforementioned period, 56 applications had been received, all of which had been assessed in accordance with the pre-agreed scoring matrix.

After discussion, during which the Good Relations Manager agreed to clarify the position of statutory bodies and agencies in respect of their eligibility for funding under this scheme, the Partnership agreed unanimously that grant-aid be awarded under the delegated authority of the Chief Executive to the following organisations:

| Ref No | Organisation | Recommended amount, up to £ |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 815/2198 | Trans Urban Arts | 3,000 |
| 801/2070 | East Belfast Titanic Festival | 2,300 |
| 609/2210 | Greater Village Regeneration Trust | 3,000 |
| 838/2201 | Lamb Films | 3,000 |
| 1035/2216 | Love Music, Hate Racism NI | 1,000 |
| 1036/2218 | The MAC | 4,250 |
| 1001/2183 | New Life Counselling | 900 |
| 1034/2212 | NI Interfaith Forum | 1,000 |
| 1029/2186 | QUB School of History & Anthropology | 1,000 |
| 820/2190 | Ransom Productions | 2,240 |
| 894/2209 | South West Action Team (SWAT) | 10,000 |
| 878/2207 | Tigers Bay Men's Group | 1,000 |
| 1026/2184 | Ugandan Community in NI | 500 |

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| Ref No | Organisation | Recommended amount, up to £ |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 813/2188 | Anti-Racism World Cup | 500 |
| 595/2211 | Afro Community Support Association Northern Ireland (ACSONI) | 3,000 |
| 702/2222 | Ballynafeigh Community Development Association (BCDA) | 1,000 |
| 780/2224 | Early Years – the organisation for young people | 3,500 |
| 480/2193 | Finaghy Community Centre on behalf of South Belfast Cultural Network | 2,620 |
| 368/2182 | Finaghy Crossroads Group | 1,700 |
| 905/2220 | George Best Community Cup | 1,000 |
| 896/2223 | Place of Victory for all Nations | 1,000 |
| 959/2172 | St. Teresa's Youth Centre | 1,000 |
| 879/2192 | Children for Peace in Ireland | 2,000 |
| 937/2205 | Ardoyne Youth Providers Forum | 2,000 |
| 608/2213 | Arts for All | 5,000 |
| 1030/2187 | Ballymurphy Research Group | 1,000 |
| 419/2176 | Basement Youth Centre | 1,000 |
| 814/2175 | Churches Community Work Alliance (CCWA) | 2,000 |
| 1025/2178 | Fortwilliam & Macrory Presbyterian Church | 5,000 |
| 882/2177 | Friends of the Grove Park | 400 |
| 685/2214 | Ligoniel Improvement Association | 3,000 |
| 370/2200 | Cumann Cultúrtha Mhic Reachtain (McCracken Cultural Society) | 3,000 |
| 1032/2194 | PSNI | 1,000 |
| 1024/2173 | NI Youth Forum | 1,000 |
| 1008/2180 | Totally Trim | 500 |
| 975/2189 | Rivers Community Project | 1,000 |
| 437/2196 | St. Peter's Immaculata Youth Centre | 1,000 |
| 600/2199 | St. Colmcille's RC Church & Gilnahirk Presbyterian Church Cross-Community Group | 600 |
| 1037/2219 | St. John Bosco Amateur Boxing Club | 500 |
| 1038/2221 | Aquinas Football Club | 500 |
| 573/2225 | Stadium Projects | 3,000 |
| 243/2195 | Ballymacarrett Arts & Cultural Society | 5,000 |
| 1028/2185 | Aisling Ghear Theatre Company | 995 |
| 596/2197 | Barnardo's Tuar Ceatha Services | 1,000 |
| 770/2215 | East Belfast Partnership | 3,500 |
| 336/2203 | POBAL | 3,525 |
| 472/2202 | Polish Association NI | 3,000 |
| 279/2206 | Féile an Phobail | 3,370 |
| 294/2137 | Belfast Festival At Queen's | 4,000 |
| 1022/2168 | Ashton Community Trust – REAL Project | 875 |
| 568/2217 | Sandy Row Residents Association | 2,702 |
| TOTAL | | 1069,997 |

Forum for Cities in Transition

The Good Relations Manager informed the Partnership that the Forum for Cities in Transition had been founded in April, 2009 by Derry-Londonderry, in conjunction with Kirkuk and the Greek-Cypriot and the Turkish-Cypriot communities of Nicosia and Mitrovicë/Kosovska Mitrovica. The aim of the project was to encourage mutual learning, dialogue and the resolution of conflict through non-violent methods and operated on the principle that people from societies in conflict would be in the best position to help and advise others living in ~~living~~ societies in transition.

It was reported that the Forum's second annual Conference would be held from 23rd till 26th May in Derry-Londonderry and that three Councillors from Belfast had been invited to attend. Given that Derry City Council would be sending representatives from the Democratic Unionist Party, the Social Democratic and Labour Party and Sinn Féin, the organisers had suggested that 'it would be fitting if members from the Ulster Unionist Party and Alliance Party were willing to put their names forward'. It was pointed out that an officer from the Good Relations Unit would be invited to make a presentation at the Conference.

After discussion, the Partnership agreed that it would nominate up to three political Members, together with the Good Relations Manager and one officer, to represent it at the aforementioned conference in Derry-Londonderry from 23rd ~~until~~ till 26th May, 2011. It was noted that the costs associated with attending the conference would be met from within the Good Relations budget.

Summer Intervention Fund

The Good Relations Manager ~~reported reminded the Partnership~~ that the Community Relations Unit within the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister had, in previous years, provided summer intervention funding for a range of groups within North Belfast which sought to address the needs of young people living at or beside interfaces. She ~~remindreported~~ the Partnership that the Council had received a request from the Community Relations Unit to administer, on their behalf, the Summer Intervention Fund in 2010 and that this had been completed successfully. The Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister had now again requested the Good Relations Unit to manage and administer the Summer Intervention Fund in 2011. The Partnership was advised that, whilst a majority of interfaces existed in North Belfast, the Fund could not be ring-fenced specifically for that area and it would have to be accessible to organisations from all areas of the City. However, the Council would ~~have a degree of discretion to~~ give priority to projects involving young people who live at or near specific interface sites. It was noted that the aim of the Fund was to encourage direct interaction with young people and encourage their involvement in the development and delivery of ~~the diversionary activities over times of heightened tension. associated projects.~~

The Partnership was advised that it was envisaged that applications for the Fund would be assessed in accordance with a pre-agreed criteria, with the maximum amount available being £5,000, for projects which would take place over the summer period and ending before 31st October, 2011. Accordingly, given time restraints, the Good Relations Manager requested that the Partnership grant approval for the Unit to oversee and manage the Summer Intervention Fund on behalf of the Community Relations Unit on the terms outlined. She added that a full report with

recommendations in this regard would be submitted for the Partnership's consideration at its meeting on 6th June.

During discussion, a Member indicated that, in previous years, concern had been expressed that the funding ~~available~~ had not been ~~available used specifically~~ to target ~~those so-called interface~~ areas where he suggested that the greatest need existed. In response, the Good Relations Manager acknowledged the difficulties ~~in which~~ defining ~~priority an 'interface areas.'~~ ~~posed given that there was no agreed definition.~~ She indicated that the Unit would seek to utilise existing statistics regarding interface violence and consult with other statutory bodies and agencies in respect of their definitions of ~~potential hotspots and areas of tension.~~ ~~She assured the Partnership an interface and that is would enable~~ applications ~~would to~~ be assessed ~~by a panel comprised of representatives from a range of appropriate agencies properly.~~ However, she reminded the Partnership that there was an explicit obligation that the Fund be made available to all parts of the City.

After discussion, the Partnership granted authority for the Good Relations Unit to oversee and manage the Summer Intervention Fund, subject to final approval being granted by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 15th April.

Migrant and Minority Ethnic Support Project – Update –
'Ending Hate and Schools' Unity Project'

The Members were reminded that, at its meeting on 10th January, the Partnership had agreed to provide support for the development and delivery of a training programme for post-primary schools which would build the capacity of pupils and school staff to enhance their skills and strategies to identify, intervene and prevent hate crime. At that meeting, the Partnership had ~~agreed, for this purpose, to re-profile budgetary funding, in the sum of £25,500, and~~ granted approval for the instigation of a tendering exercise for the delivery of the project to a number of post-primary schools. The project would incorporate a cross-section of students, between the ages of 13 to 16, representing eight schools to participate in a number of events and workshops, which would address the themes of prejudice, hate crime ~~and,~~ leadership and ~~would~~ assist young ~~people~~ ~~sons~~ to tackle the issue of hate crime in schools. It was noted that the expenditure on the project, which had commenced in late March and would end in late May, would be recouped in full from the PEACE III Programme.

The Good Relations Manager reported that, subsequent to the Partnership's meeting in January, quotations for the delivery of the project had been sought, received and assessed against ~~an~~ agreed criteria which measured the ability of interested organisations to deliver the project in the most professional, cost effective and efficient manner. It was reported that on completion of this process, the delivery of the project had been awarded to Community Relations in Schools (CRIS) which had engaged, for this purpose, the Centre for the Prevention of Hate, which was based in Maine, United States of America.

After discussion, during which it was noted that, following the completion of the project, a shared learning workshop would be hosted in conjunction with the Migrant Forum, the Partnership noted the information provided. It was noted also that officers in the Good Relations Unit would undertake to bring this project to the attention of schools within Belfast where a wide range of languages were spoken.

Chairman