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| Report to: | Centenaries Working Group |
| Subject: | Current position regarding proposed programme and draft budget |
| Date: | Monday 14 November 2011 |
| Reporting Officer: | Hazel Francey, Good Relations Manager (Ext. 6020) |

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| 1.0 | Relevant Background Information |
| | <p>Members will be aware that there was confusion at the last meeting regarding what had been agreed.</p> <p>This report aims to set out and clarify what has been agreed to date by the Centenaries Working Group in relation to the Decade of Centenaries 2012-2022 and to clarify what decisions have yet to be agreed.</p> |

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| 2.0 | Set of Principles |
| | <p>At its meeting on 17 October 2011 the Working Group agreed that the following set of principles should be used in the selection of events to be marked. These principles were agreed by the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee at its meeting on 21 October 2011 and adopted by the Council on 1 November 2011.</p> <p>“The decade in question marks a number of particularly significant dates that have shaped the history of Northern Ireland and Ireland and therefore our own identities and cultures – see list previously circulated.</p> <p>The marking of these events provides the Council with an excellent opportunity to broaden our understanding of the past and our respect for the complexity of our shared history.</p> <p>As a shared city in the twenty-first century, we should be able to deal with difference in a positive and constructive manner, demonstrating openness on the basis of shared civic values within a democracy and a mature respect for cultural diversity within our heritage.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Events supported by the Council should provide opportunities to include a range of different perspectives and ideologies, rather than a single viewpoint, aiming to increase understanding and appreciation of other perspectives and identities • They should be based on historic accuracy, robust academic expertise and critical analysis – engagement with universities, museums, libraries, PRONI etc is essential to ensure this evidence base |

- The interpretation of events should be in a broad historical context and understanding of the national and European setting of the time
- The Council should develop strong links with other institutions – i.e. museums, libraries, PRONI and other relevant organisations, to ensure that there is no duplication and that events and programmes are complementary
- We will provide/support a range of different types of events – from lectures, discussions, debates to films, drama, activities that attract schools and children/families etc – so that events can not only be educational but participative, creative and enjoyable
- We will provide/support events and activities that are not exclusive but are welcoming to all sections of our increasingly diverse community in Belfast.
- The Council, committed both to the promotion of equality of opportunity and good relations in the City, will not support events or activities that could be deemed to be triumphalist, to deepen or harden existing divisions, or belittle or demonise other groups*.

(*Adapted from the Irish School of Ecumenics, *Moving Beyond Sectarianism* research)

The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed that these principles should apply to any key anniversaries being marked by the Council – in other words, they will be applied corporately, across the Council.

The Working Group will be aware that the terms “provide and/or support” include the provision of direct funding, or the use of facilities, premises or public spaces owned or run by the Council, so similarly, will apply across the Council.

3.0 Programme of events

At its meeting on 17 October 2011 the Working Group agreed that the following programme of key events should be adopted. This programme was agreed by the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee at its meeting on 21 October 2011 and adopted by the Council on 1 November 2011.

The programme should be divided into 3 strands in chronological order:
1912 – 1914; 1914 – 1918; and 1918 – 1922.

1. The first period, 1912-1914, would be entitled “Shared History, Differing Allegiances” and would include the following events:

- the rise of the women’s suffrage movement
- the rise of the labour movement
- the emergence of the Gaelic revival
- the signing of the Ulster Covenant
- the formation of the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF)
- the ITGWU strike (lockout) in Dublin
- the formation of the Irish Citizen Army
- the formation of the Irish Volunteers (IVF)
- gun-running by both the UVF and IVF.

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| | <p>2. The second period, 1914-1918, would cover the period of World War I, including the Somme and the Easter Rising.</p> <p>3. The third period, 1918-1922, would cover the establishment of both governments in Northern Ireland and the Irish Free State.</p> |
| 4.0 | Exhibitions |
| | <p>Major exhibitions would be commissioned for the following 3 key events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Signing of the Ulster Covenant and the Home Rule Crisis and covering all the individual events for that period listed above. The East Entrance area has already been booked from August – December 2012 for this purpose. • The Battle of the Somme • The Easter Rising. |
| 5.0 | Civic hospitality |
| | <p>The Council has agreed with the recommendation from the Working Group that it should take the lead in hosting a civic dinner to mark each of the three key historical events in the programme round which major exhibitions would be commissioned – i.e. as above:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Signing of the Ulster Covenant and the Home Rule Crisis • the Battle of the Somme and • the Easter Rising. <p>In each case, the Council would be responsible for the invitation list and would ensure that this was broadly based and as inclusive as possible. Appropriate civic hospitality would be provided as appropriate for supplementary events in the programme, such as lectures, drama productions and so on.</p> <p>The Council has also agreed that external organisations that wish to apply for the use of the City Hall for the holding of events or provision of hospitality associated with keynote anniversaries would be encouraged to do so in accordance with the Council’s own guidelines for the use of the building and subject to approval in the normal way by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. (The Working Group is reminded that all of this is currently under review).</p> |
| 6.0 | Additional events |
| | <p>The Council has also agreed that in the period 2012-2014, in addition to the exhibition for the period and the civic dinner, there should be additional events to mark:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the signing of the Ulster Covenant • the rise of the women’s suffrage movement and • the rise of the labour movement in Belfast. <p>a The signing of the Ulster Covenant</p> <p>The Working Group agreed that in view of the important role played by both the City Hall and Ulster Hall in the Covenant signing, that lectures e.g. on the life of Edward Carson or Joe Devlin be arranged. The text of the Ulster Covenant could be compared with that of the Irish Proclamation of 1916 and the parallels between the two examined.</p> |

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| | <p>b The rise of the women’s suffrage movement</p> <p>The Working Group had agreed that this theme could be linked to the wider work of the Council, and in particular to the current imbalance within City Hall of memorabilia or items relating specifically to women. A drama production and archive photographs could be displayed, supplemented by details on women in the Council and in broader political and civic life over the period 1971-2011.</p> <p>c The rise of the labour movement in Belfast</p> <p>This theme could also be linked to the wider work of the Council within the promotion of the concept of shared history.</p> <p>In fact, both of the themes b) and c) have been proposed within the broader context of City Hall memorabilia and have received broad political agreement and support.</p> <p>Without wishing to prejudge the results of the Equality Impact Assessment currently underway on City Hall memorabilia, it is proposed therefore that further work on both themes – of women and the labour movement - be undertaken with a more detailed report and proposals to be submitted to the Working Group early in the New Year.</p> |
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| 7.0 | Equality and Good Relations Implications |
| | <p>The Working Group has agreed that the Decade provides an opportunity for the Council to contribute to a better understanding of the past and to promote respect for the complexity of our shared history.</p> <p>If the programme is undertaken on accordance with the principles adopted it should have positive implications in terms of the promotion of equality of opportunity and good relations.</p> |

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| 8.0 | Financial Implications |
| | <p>An estimated budget for the period 2012- 2014 is attached as Appendix A.</p> <p>I have discussed this with the Director of Finance & Resaources and he has agreed that an appropriate budget stream of approximately £50,000 per year for the period 2012-2014 should be developed to support this work.</p> |

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| 9.0 | Diversity strategy |
| | <p>I understand that there has been some discussion about the possibility of the principles agreed by this Working Group being extended across the Council in the context of the development of a broader diversity strategy. The party group leaders may attend future meetings of the Centenaries Working Group for discussion on this issue.</p> |

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| 10.0 | Recommendations |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note the contents of this report • To agree that an officer based Working Group, consisting of Council officers and representatives from appropriate external partner agencies, be set up to prepare an appropriate specification and invite submissions for the commissioning of an exhibition on the period 1912-1914 – the Signing of the Ulster Covenant and Home Rule Crisis as agreed • To agree that a report outlining additional events to be held in the period 2012-2014 be submitted to the next meeting of the Working Group in January 2012. |

Appendix A

Budget required for Centenaries Working Group – Decade of Centenaries 2012-2014 period - anticipated expenditure (over 2 year period):

| | Estimated cost £: |
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| Exhibition covering period, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the rise of the women’s suffrage movement • the rise of the labour movement • the emergence of the Gaelic revival • the signing of the Ulster Covenant • the formation of the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) • the ITGWU strike (lockout) in Dublin • the formation of the Irish Citizen Army • the formation of the Irish Volunteers (IVF) • gun-running by both the UVF and IVF | 25,000 |
| Artwork/drama/lectures to mark key events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the rise of the women’s suffrage movement • the rise of the labour movement | 10,000 10,000 |
| Community outreach/educational programme | 6,000 |
| DVD, including copyright and production costs | 10,000 |
| Publications | 6,000 |
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| Hospitality | |
| Civic Dinner to mark occasion of Signing of Covenant | 20,000 |
| Hospitality to mark other key events/launches | 12,000 |
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| TOTAL | 99,000 |
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