

GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP

MONDAY, 11TH JUNE, 2012

MEETING OF THE GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP

- Members present: Councillor Hendron (Chairman);
Alderman Stoker; and
Councillors Attwood, Kyle, McVeigh and Reynolds.
- External Members: Ms. O. Barron, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;
Mr. R. Galway, Confederation of British
Industry/Shorts Bombardier;
Mrs. M. Marken, Catholic Church; and
Mr. P. Scott, Catholic Church.
- Also attended: Ms. D. O'Loan, Community Relations Council/Pobal.
- In attendance: Mrs. H. Francey, Good Relations Manager;
Mr. I. May, Peace III Programme Manager;
Mr. D. Robinson, Senior Good Relations Officer; and
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Ms. A. Chada, Ms. J. Hawthorne, Mr. B. McGivern, Mr. M. O'Donnell, Ms. M. de Silva and Mr. U. Tok.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 8th May were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Presentation – Community Cohesion Programme

It was reported that Ms. J. Hawthorne, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's representative on the Partnership, had been due to provide a presentation on the Executive's Community Cohesion Programme. However, she was unable to attend the meeting.

Accordingly, the Partnership agreed to receive the presentation at a future meeting.

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Tension Monitoring Programme

The Partnership was advised that Mr. R. McLernon, Community Safety Co-ordinator, was in attendance in order to provide an update on the Tension Monitoring Programme and he was welcomed to the meeting.

The Community Safety Co-ordinator reported that the Tension Monitoring Programme, which was led by the Council's Community Safety Unit, had evolved from established tension monitoring process initiatives which had been operating since September, 2009 in conjunction with partner organisations such as the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the Department of Justice, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and the Belfast Community Safety Partnership. He reviewed the aims of the initiative which included focusing on racism and sectarianism, building community engagement and maintaining a City-led focus with added priority neighbourhoods, all of which were aimed at diverting young people away from anti-social behaviour and violent crime at interface areas and helping local communities to build their resilience.

He reported that, following the submission of a funding application to the Special European Union Programmes Body, a Letter of Offer had now been received which would provide in the region of £500,000 for the development of the Programme. That funding would be utilised in part to recruit a Community Tensions Officer, who would undertake the management of the Programme and administrative duties, together with two Tension Reduction Officers who would be involved primarily in community outreach work. In addition, the Council's Procurement Unit was in the process of inviting tenders for the provision of a Race and Sectarianism Advocacy Service and Race and Sectarianism Interventions, the latter of which would include a mediation service, community-based monitoring and environmental improvements. Funding would be allocated also for training, cross-border activity and neighbourhood interventions and community engagement and communication plans would be developed as part of the Programme. He pointed out that funding under Phase II of the Belfast PEACE III Plan would cease in December 2013 and that discussions were taking place with Atlantic Philanthropies regarding the provision of funding beyond that date.

The Community Safety Co-ordinator reported further that a number of outputs had been identified for each activity within the Tension Monitoring Programme and that four areas of the City, namely, Inner East, Lower Ormeau/Holylands, Woodvale/Ardoyne and the Village/Lower Falls were being considered for the delivery of the project. He indicated that a number of additional partners would be invited to participate in the Programme, including the Prison to Peace Project and the Council's Good Relations Partnership and that, in future, greater emphasis would be placed on addressing racism and sectarianism and more resources would be made available for intervention work. The monthly Tension Monitoring Group and existing sub-groups would continue to meet.

He then answered a number of questions which were put to him by the Partnership and, having been thanked by the Chairman, retired from the meeting.

Noted.

PEACE III – Implementation Update

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:-

“Purpose of report

To update the Partnership on the implementation of the Belfast PEACE III Plan.

Progress on Phase II projects

A meeting of all projects was held on 25th May which considered the monitoring and evaluation framework for Phase II of the Belfast PEACE III Plan and plan for the programme evaluation being carried out by Blueprint Consulting.

Strategic Grants Programme

Further to the report considered by the Partnership in May on recommended funding under the Strategic Grants Programme, the Partnership is requested to approve the issue of Letters of Offer for the following two additional projects. Individual reports on both projects have been forwarded to the Partnership.

Ref.	Lead Organisation	Project Title
35827	Forthspring Inter-Community Group	Cross Interface Planning Group
35854	Northern Visions Limited	A Century Later

The total value of recommended funding to these projects is approximately £175,000. The total number of participants is estimated at over 1,300. As previously agreed by the Partnership the projects have been assessed as meeting the criteria of the PEACE III Programme through clearly addressing the target groups and target areas of the Programme and demonstrating a meaningful focus on peace and reconciliation. They will also contribute to the aims of the Belfast PEACE III plan through contributing towards shared organisational space with a significant partnership element to each of these projects and also assist in the building of shared cultural space and transforming contested space in the city.

100% of expenditure on these projects will be vouched to ensure eligibility and compliance with the regulations governing the PEACE III Programme. Applicant organisations will receive training on the compliance requirements of the Programme and will provide quarterly progress reports and expenditure forecasts which will be reported back to the Partnership. It is also recommended that the Partnership receives presentations from the individual projects once they proceed to implementation.

Letters of Offer for those projects already approved under the Strategic Grants Programme are being issued.

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Events

The Special EU Programmes Body is planning a major conference later in 2012 to highlight the work of the PEACE III partnerships under Priority 1.1 of the PEACE III Programme. The conference aims to focus on the strategic models of collaboration developed by the various Partnerships to promote greater levels of peace and reconciliation at the local level. The Conference themes are anticipated to include leadership development and capacity building; innovative approaches to tackling racism and sectarianism and the various initiatives developed to overcome social segregation. The event plans to showcase the achievements and examples of best practice that have been made under the Phase 1 funding and act as the official launch of the collective award of PEACE III Funding to Partnerships under Phase 2. It is proposed that the event will take place in mid to late November. It is expected that there will be significant opportunity to profile work done under Phases 1 and 2 at the event.

The launch of the Strategic Grants Programme has been scheduled for 5th July 2012. A draft agenda has been circulated to the Partnership.

Resource Implications

Financial Implications

The total value of recommended funding to these projects is approximately £175,000.

Eligible project costs will be 100% recouped from the PEACE III Programme.

HR Implications

None at present.

Equality Implications

None at present.

Recommendation

The Partnership is requested to note the information provided relating to implementation of the Belfast PEACE III Plan and to approve the issuing of Letters of Offer under the PEACE III Strategic Grants Programme to the following organisations:

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Ref.	Lead Organisation	Project Title
35827	Forthspring Inter-Community Group	Cross Interface Planning Group
35854	Northern Visions Limited	A Century Later

After discussion, during which the Peace III Manager confirmed that local communities would be afforded the opportunity to contribute to the projects, the Partnership adopted the recommendation.

Summer Intervention Fund

The Partnership was advised that the Council's Good Relations Unit had, for the past two years, managed and administered, on behalf of the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, the Summer Intervention Fund, which had been established to support diversionary activities for young people during times of heightened tension within communities.

The Good Relations Manager reported that the Unit would again manage and administer the Fund in 2012, subject to the Council receiving a formal Letter of Offer from the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister. She reported that the information on the Fund and the associated application process had been publicised widely via the Council's website and Departments and through organisations such as the Belfast Education and Library Board and the Community Relations Council. The application process had opened on 16th April and eighty-four applications for funding had been received by the closing date of 11th May. Those had been assessed in accordance with the pre-agreed scoring matrix and, as a result, sixty-two applications had been recommended for funding, with amounts varying according to the quality of submissions.

After discussion, during which the Senior Good Relations Officer pointed out that funding providers were working to streamline the application process with a view to reducing the duplication of their services, the Partnership agreed unanimously that funding, totalling £115,345.00, be awarded under the delegated authority of the Chief Executive to the following organisations:

REF No.	Group Name	Amount awarded (£)
723/2728	Solway Stars FC	3,000
975/2778	Rivers Community Project	1,000
891/2782	North Belfast Interface Network	3,000
937/2773	Ardoyne Youth Providers Forum	3,500
1231/2760	Sporting Cromac AFC	1,600
1042/2712	Norman Whiteside Sports Facility	2,300
1225/2727	Shamrock Football Club	1,400
320/2777	Roden Street Community Development Group	2,500
806/2781	The HUBB Community Resource Centre	1,000
816/2759	Loughside Football Club	1,650
1152/2755	Suffolk Lenadoon Interface Group	2,000

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319/2726	Short Strand Community Forum Women's Group	600
387/2746	Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre	2,500
REF No.	Group Name	Amount awarded (£)
894/2789	SWAT	3,000
801/2780	East Belfast Titanic Festival	1,350
865/2713	Carrickhill Residents Association	1,500
464/2738	Families at the Waterworks Fishing Club	1,000
1131/2783	Blackie River Community Group	3,000
938/2718	Embrace Ballysillan	1,500
1221/2705	Ardoyne Fleadh	2,500
1186/2768	Amazing Brains NI	980
1056/2745	Ardoyne Kickhams GAC	3,000
932/2787	St. James's Community Forum	1,225
1228/2747	Pitt Park Women's Group	1,000
930/2740	Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum	2,000
922/2767	Tiger's Bay Concerned Residents Association	1,400
1208/2704	Centre for Health & Well-being	1,650
419/2776	The Basement Youth Club	2,500
430/2722	Markets Development Association	2,500
878/2730	Tiger's Bay Men's Support Group	2,200
870/2749	Tar Isteach	2,000
475/2739	North Belfast Play Forum	1,800
951/2762	Seaview Enterprises	3,000
1217/2707	Short Strand Community Forum	2,800
1051/2775	Ardoyne Women's Group	2,290
243/2723	Ballymacarrett Arts & Cultural Society	1,500
1200/2771	Skegoneill Glandore Common Purpose	2,000
893/2737	Donegall Pass Community Forum	1,000
323/2724	Greater Village Regeneration Trust	2,500
1220/2703	Greater New Lodge Forum	1,500
711/2769	New Lodge Arts	3,000
1224/2721	Graymount Community Group	700
1079/2751	The Bytes Project (Short Strand)	1,000
713/2736	Lower Castlereagh Community Group	1,500
926/2709	Glen Parent Youth Group	1,500
393/2720	Whitecity Community Development Association	700
278/2731	Wheelworks	1,500
239/2734	Forthspring Intercommunity Group	1,500
948/2784	Beechmount Residents Association	2,000
484/2729	Interaction Belfast	2,000
373/2717	Ballymac Friendship Trust	2,500
973/2788	Spectrum Centre	1,500
680/2754	Falls Youth Providers	2,500
1230/2752	Falls Residents Association	2,500

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REF No.	Group Name	Amount awarded (£)
1044/2708	Star ABC	1,200
788/2757	Crusaders Youth Football Club	1,000
1057/2756	Woodvale Football Club	1,500
1227/2743	Ainsworth Residents Association	2,500
322/2742	Lower Shankill Community Association	2,500
354/2744	Concerned Residents of Upper Ardoyne	1,500
1048/2714	Mountcollier Evangelical Sunday School	1,000
1232/2761	Cliftonville Youth Development Centre	1,000
TOTAL		£115,345

Roma Awareness Workshop

The Partnership was informed that, since 2007, there had been an increase in the numbers of Roma people travelling to Belfast from Romania. The Good Relations Manager reported that there were now approximately five hundred Roma people residing in Belfast and that attempts to engage with that community had proven to be difficult.

She explained that, as part of the 'I am Roma' project, which was led by the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, practitioners and statutory bodies attended workshops in order to raise their awareness of Roma-related issues. She added that the Council, through its PEACE III Migrant and Minority Ethnic Project, was hosting on 29th June in its Learning and Development Centre a workshop for staff and members of the Belfast Migrant Forum to provide information on working with the Roma community, its history and culture and on immigration issues. The total cost of the event would not exceed £150, which could be recouped in full through the PEACE III Migrant and Minority Ethnic Project.

The Partnership approved the hosting of the event.

Update on Bonfire Management Programme

The Partnership was advised that the Council had, for a number of years, been working with agencies and communities to address issues surrounding the management of bonfires across the City. The Senior Good Relations Officer reported that that work had now been included within the Council's PEACE III Phase II Programme entitled 'Promoting the Positive Expression of Cultural Heritage'. He reminded the Partnership that, in 2010, it had agreed that a list of those groups participating in either bonfire or diversionary programmes be submitted in June of each year to the Good Relations Partnership and the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee seeking their approval for funding to be allocated to them under the Bonfire Management Programme.

He explained that, over the course of the previous four months, the Good Relations Unit had been working closely with a number of groups across the City and, as result, a number of them had indicated their willingness to participate in this year's Programme.

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After discussion, the Partnership commended those officers who had been involved in progressing the Bonfire Management Programme and agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the following groups be approved for participation in this year's Programme:

East Belfast (16)

Ballarat Street/Mount
Chamberlain Street - Forward Group
Ard Cairn
Clarawood
Cluan Place
Inverary/Sydenham
Island Street
Isthmus Street
Knocknagoney
Lower Castlereagh Community Group
Orangefield
Pitt Park
Tamar Street (Connswater Community Centre)
Templemore Avenue Residents Action Group
Walkway Community Association
Cosy Somme Association/
Woodstock Rd

North Belfast (8)

Wheatfield Community (Beacon)
The HUBB, Shore Road
Lower Oldpark
Whitecity (Beacon)
Shore Crescent
Sunningdale (Beacon)
Tiger's Bay (Beacon)

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Graymount

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South Belfast (12)

Annadale

Donegal Pass

Donegall Road

Dunluce Avenue/Lisburn Road

Donegall Road (Monarch)

Finaghy/Benmore

Flush Park

Sandy Row

Suffolk

Taughmonagh

Erinvale/Wedderburn

City Hospital

West Belfast (10)

Browne Square (off Shankill Road) (Beacon)

Conway Street

Dover Street – Lower Shankill

Glencairn Community House

Highfield

Springmartin

West Belfast Athletic and Cultural Society

Woodvale

Denmark Street

Lanark Way

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Diversiory/Alternative Programmes in August (9)

Lower Falls Youth providers

Ligoneil Improvement Association

Lower Ormeau

Markets Development Association

Parkside

Short Strand Community Forum

Upper Springfield

Beechmount

Ballymurphy

(In addition, provision has been set aside for work with new groups, Fairhill and King George V, as developmental groups.)

Social Investment Fund – Information Seminars

The Partnership noted that a series of information sessions to provide details on the nomination process for persons wishing to apply to participate in the steering groups being established to deliver the Social Investment Fund would be taking place across Northern Ireland during the month of June, one of which would be held in the City Hall at 7.00 p.m. on Monday, 18th June.

Chairman