



Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Decade of Centenaries– request for loan of Exhibition
Date:	Friday 19 October 2012
Reporting Officer:	Hazel Francey, Good Relations Manager

Relevant Background Information
<p>The Committee will be aware that a major exhibition <i>Shared History: Different Allegiances</i> was commissioned earlier this year to mark the Decade of Centenaries and covers the period 1912-1914. It was launched at the beginning of August and will be in place in the East Entrance area of the City Hall until the end of February 2013.</p> <p>The exhibition has received much positive media coverage and the feedback from the numerous visitors has been very encouraging.</p> <p>At the beginning of September, Ballymena Borough Council contacted us requesting us to facilitate a visit by a number of their elected Members and senior staff. This cross-party visit took place on 12 September and was very successful, with the Ballymena representatives stating that they had enjoyed their visit and were very impressed with our exhibition.</p>

Key Issues
<p>The matter has been discussed within Ballymena Borough Council and at their monthly meeting in October the Council unanimously agreed to host the exhibition. Their Chief Executive has now made a formal request (see letter attached) to borrow the exhibition and display it in their own Braid Town Hall Museum and Arts Centre for a period of 4 months next year, from March – June 2013. The Braid Centre is a new purpose-built museum & arts venue and would draw a whole new audience from a wider region.</p> <p>This exhibition was specifically designed so that it can be dismantled, transported and re-mounted elsewhere. We had envisioned it being displayed, for example, in another venue in Belfast and had also specified that the design should be modular so that individual elements or panels within the exhibition could be loaned out and displayed.</p> <p>The Ballymena representatives have already discussed the possibility of making slight amendments to some of the panels to give them more of a "Ballymena" focus. Some of the artefacts currently in the glass display cases would not automatically be included in the travelling aspect of the exhibition but Ballymena may be able to make</p>

their own loan arrangements with the owners of these objects and we will assist in this.

The exhibition was funded under the District Council Good Relations Programme by OFM/DFM at a total cost of around £45,000. The OFM/DFM as principal funder, has indicated that it is delighted to hear of the very positive feedback regarding the exhibition and is very supportive of the proposal to stage the exhibition in another district council area, since this would demonstrate collaborative working and sharing of public resources within the good relations sector.

Resource Implications

None – the cost of the removal and re-build of the exhibition would be met by Ballymena and would be at no cost to Belfast.

Equality and Good Relations Implications

Approval of this proposal would allow a wider audience to view the exhibition and would only have positive implications in terms of promoting good relations between local Councils.

Recommendations/Decision required

To approve of the loan to the exhibition to Ballymena Borough Council for a period of four months, subject to the satisfactory completion of an appropriate loan agreement being drawn up by the Legal Services Department.