

**Minutes of the Joint Group of Party Group Leaders' Forum and Historic Centenaries
Working Group**

Thursday 18 October 2012

Present: Cllr Attwood, Cllr Hendron, Cllr Kyle, Cllr Maskey, Cllr McVeigh, Cllr Reynolds, Ald Rodgers and Ald Stalford.

In attendance: Peter McNaney, Chief Executive, Ciaran Quigley, Assistant Chief Executive and Town Solicitor, Duncan Morrow, independent facilitator, Hazel Francey, Good Relations Manager and Caroline Wilson, Programme Manager (note-taker).

Agenda Item 1 – Routine Matters

1. An apology for inability to attend was reported from Ald Browne, Cllr Hanna, Ald Ekin, Ald Humphrey and Ald Smyth. Ald Stalford was attending on behalf of Ald Humphrey.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting Friday 29 June were agreed subject to an amendment to the minute at Item 3, to read that Sinn Fein opposed all the options presented in relation to Operation Banner.
3. No declarations of interest were made.

Agenda Item 2 – Proposed spring Centenary programme

4. Members considered the report circulated and made a number of comments in relation to the proposed Centenary Programme:
 - To ensure that the list of political women was inclusive of all traditions;
 - Efforts were to be made to facilitate the participation of women from all socio-economic backgrounds in the programme, including access to grant-aid;
 - To seek advice from the Council's Women's Steering Group; and
 - To ensure that value for money was achieved for the concert.
5. H Francey assured Members that the Council was working closely with the women's sector and its own Women's Steering Group to deliver the programme.
6. It was **agreed** to recommend the draft programme to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for agreement.

Agenda Item 3 – Language Policy

Agenda Item 3a – DCAL Strategy for Protecting and Enhancing the Development of the Irish Language

7. Members considered the report circulated. It was raised that there was no clarity on the package that the Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure were proposing to resource the strategy, in particular, those available to local government. H Francey **agreed** to seek further information on this.
8. It was **agreed** that responses to the consultation were a matter for individual party groups.

Agenda Item 3b – DCAL Strategy for Ulster Scots Language, Heritage and Culture

9. It was **agreed** that responses to the consultation were a matter for individual party groups.

Agenda Item 3c – Up-date on the revision of the Council’s language policy

10. Members considered the report circulated. C Quigley outlined the nature of the legal opinion that the Council was currently seeking.
11. A Member highlighted that many of the actions undertaken to date were in relation to the Irish language. It was **agreed** that officers should further engage with the Ulster-Scots sector and other minority language groups to ensure that the future Council languages policy was as inclusive as possible.
12. It was **agreed** that a subsequent report would be brought back to the Joint Group, in the context of legal advice obtained and emerging strategies from the Executive.

Agenda Item 4 – Update on the EQIA consultations and revised timeline

13. Members considered the report circulated and noted the revised timeline for the completion of these two EQIAs.
14. It was **agreed** that the final EQIA reports including recommendations will be submitted to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee for consideration at its meeting on Friday 23 November 2012. In advance of this, it was **agreed** that the Joint Group would consider the reports.
15. It was also **agreed** that the action plan, prepared by Victoria Kingston (external consultant) on City Hall displays would be considered at a future meeting. It was noted that it would be useful to have visual aids for this discussion.

Date of next meeting

16. It was agreed that the date of the next meeting would be Friday 16 November.

Chief Executive