

## **GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP**

**MONDAY, 10th DECEMBER, 2012**

### **MEETING OF THE GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP**

- Members present: Councillor Hendron (Chairman); and  
Councillors Attwood, Kyle and Reynolds.
- External Members: Ms. A. Chada; Minority Ethnic Groups;  
Archdeacon B. Dodds, Church of Ireland;  
Dr. C. Hughes, Belfast Regeneration Office;  
Mr. P. Mackel, Belfast and District Trades Council;  
Mrs. M. Marken, Catholic Church; and  
Mr. U. Tok, Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum.
- Also attended: Mr. F. Murphy, 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 Alderman Stoker, Mr. S. Brennan, Mr. P. Bunting, Reverend L. Carroll, Mr. R. Galway, Mr. B. McGivern, Mr. P. Scott and Ms. M. de Silva.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 5th November were taken as read and signed as correct.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were reported.

#### **New Member**

It was reported that Dr. Chris Hughes had replaced Mr. Mark O'Donnell as the Belfast Regeneration Office's representative on the Partnership. The Chairman, on behalf of the Members, welcomed Dr. Hughes to his first meeting and thanked Mr. O'Donnell for the contribution which he had made during his time on the Partnership.

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**Presentation – Public Attitudes to Peace Walls**

The Good Relations Manager informed the Partnership that the University of Ulster had published recently the outcome of a survey on public attitudes to peace walls. She reported that Dr. J. Byrne, from the University's School of Criminology, Politics and Social Policy, was in attendance in order to outline the findings of the survey and he was welcomed by the Chairman.

Dr. Byrne informed the Partnership that the survey, which had been funded by the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, had taken the form of two postal questionnaires. The first of those had focussed on people living close to peace walls within the Greater Belfast and Derry/Londonderry areas, whilst the second had been forwarded to a cross section of residents throughout the rest of Northern Ireland. The surveys had sought the views of respondents on themes such as their proximity to a peace line and on their area as a place to live, why peace lines had been established, their overall impact, how they could be transformed or removed and their awareness of policy initiatives.

He reported that a total of 840 responses had been received from within the Greater Belfast and Derry/Londonderry areas and 611 from across the rest of Northern Ireland, with response rates being 26% and 32% respectively. He reviewed the survey's findings in relation to the aforementioned themes and highlighted in particular the following points:

In terms of people living close to peace walls within the Greater Belfast and Derry/Londonderry areas:

- 76% were of the view that peace walls made them feel safer;
- 69% maintained that peace walls were still required due to the potential for violence;
- 63% wished to learn more about initiatives and discussions on peace walls;
- 58% wished to see peace walls removed now or in the near future;
- 38% could envisage a time when there would be no peace walls; and
- 31% believed that the community had overall responsibility for making decisions regarding peace walls.

Of those people surveyed throughout the rest of Northern Ireland:

- 82% believed that peace walls were unsightly;
- 76% wished to see peace walls removed now or in the near future;
- 78% believed that segregation of communities was common even when there were no peace walls;

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- 64% were of the view that peace walls should be afforded a greater priority by the Northern Ireland Government;
- 60% could envisage a time when there would be no peace walls; and
- 38% believed that peace walls were necessary due to the potential for violence.

Dr. Byrne concluded by stating that it was hoped that the findings of the survey would help to inform future policy around peace walls and, having answered a number of questions which had been put to him by the Partnership, he retired from the meeting.

**PEACE III – Implementation Update**

The Committee 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 summary of each of the approved Phase II projects has been forwarded to the Partnership. The summary includes key activities and expenditure at 31st October, together with a commentary on progress and financial update on the last quarter.**

***Expenditure Targets***

**Project Staff met with the Special European Union Programmes Body (SEUPB) on 26th November to discuss claims forecast and implementation issues. A revised claims forecast has been submitted to SEUPB which will form the basis of expenditure targets for the 2013 calendar year. In line with the decision of the Partnership last month, correspondence has been forwarded to the Chief Executive of the Special European Union Programmes Body (SEUPB) requesting that the delivery period for Phase II of the Programme be reviewed.**

***Project Issues***

**A number of projects are flagged as amber given concerns around implementation within the timescale, as has been noted previously by the Partnership. The Arterial Routes project has a staffing issue due to departmental re-organisation with contingency plans to be discussed with the project lead. The Tension Monitoring Programme is reprofiling following a revised procurement plan while City of Festivals and Creative Legacies are completing the procurement for remaining delivery partners. The Roots of Empathy Project has identified an underspend following lower than**

anticipated administrative, marketing and travel costs. There are number of ongoing procurement and partnership issues with several of the strategic grants projects which are being addressed with the project leads. In terms of Programme Management the quarter 3 claim has been verified by SEUPB as of 30th November, with a nil error rate.

***PEACE III Conference 'Creating Trust & Overcoming Division'***

The Lord Mayor, Alderman Robinson, welcomed delegates to a major conference at Belfast City Hall on 13th November 2012 to highlight the work of the PEACE III Programme across Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland. The event showcased collective experiences of peace building through a series of workshops, presentations and an interactive exhibition of project work from across the region. The cross-border event was attended by over 150 delegates made up of local community and voluntary groups involved in peace building, as well as councillors and other political representatives. Young people were represented at the conference by volunteers from youth advocacy organisation Public Achievement and members of the Belfast Youth Forum.

The Conference was chaired by the BBC's William Crawley and included a keynote address from Finance Minister Sammy Wilson and Republic of Ireland Minister Brian Hayes. Exhibiting at the conference were the Growing Together project led by the Parks and Leisure Department and the Belfast Integration and Participation Project led by the Good Relations Unit. The conference also received a presentation on the Interfaces Programme and the work with communities living in interface areas of the city.

***EU Structural Funds Consultation***

A submission has been made to the SEUPB on the proposed EU Structural Funds Programmes for the 2014 – 2020 period as previously considered by the Partnership. The response includes potential activities that could be covered in any PEACE IV Programme:

- Actions to create and promote use of shared public space, promote mobility within and between communities.
- Actions to develop and deliver integrated interface regeneration strategies. It is essential that local communities are involved in the process of re-developing contested spaces,
- Actions to promote inclusive cultural expression and celebration.

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- **Actions to align good relations/ peacebuilding and conflict transformation activities with the processes of existing policy development in areas such as education, regional strategic planning, urban and rural regeneration and community development and culture, arts and leisure provision.**

There will be further discussion with SEUPB on the content of any new proposed PEACE IV Programme and it is anticipated that there will be a further formal consultation on a draft Operational Programme in the 2nd Quarter of 2013.

***PEACE Event at Brussels January 2013***

The European Commission has extended an invitation through SEUPB for the Interfaces Programme the Belfast PEACE III Plan to present at an event to be held on 31 January 2013 in Brussels with EU Regional Policy Commissioner Johannes Hahn of the European Commission. The event is being organised by the European Commission and will be held at the Charlemagne Building. Ireland will hold the Presidency of the European Union from 1st January 2013 and it is likely that any potential PEACE IV Programme will be on the agenda. Authority is sought for the Chair of the Good Relations Partnership and the Good Relations Manager or their nominees to attend the event in addition to project presenters. It is anticipated that travel and accommodation costs for 2 nights would be approximately £1800 which will be met from the Programme budget. A full report will be brought back to the Partnership following the event.

**Resource Implications**

**Financial Implications**

None at present.

**HR Implications**

None at present.

**Equality Implications**

None at present.

**Recommendation**

The Partnership is requested to:

- i) note the information provided relating to implementation of the Belfast PEACE III Plan; and

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- ii) recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it approve the attendance at the Peace event in Brussels on 31st January, of the Chairman, (Councilor Hendron), and the Good Relations Manager, (or their nominees), and approve also the associated costs.”**

After discussion, the Partnership adopted the recommendation.

**Bonfire Management Programme – Participant Criteria for 2013**

The Partnership was reminded that, at its meeting on 10th September, it had deferred consideration of a report on the annual review of the Council's Bonfire Management Programme with a view to considering possible sanctions which could be imposed on participants which permitted the burning of flags and emblems on their bonfires. The Partnership was reminded further that, at its meeting on 5th November, it had been presented with three possible options for consideration. However, in the absence of a consensus, it had deferred the matter until its meeting in December.

The Senior Good Relations Officer reported that, following that meeting, discussions had taken place with groups, agencies and partners involved in the Bonfire Management Programme. In addition, a number of groups involved in the East Belfast Cultural Network, only one of which was a participant in the Programme, had, on 8th November, met with a representative of the Polish Association to discuss the issues which had emerged following the burning in July of the Polish Flag on some bonfires in East Belfast.

He explained that, as a result of that meeting, the following course of action had been agreed:

- the representative of the Polish Association would join the East Belfast Cultural Network in order to develop engagement, discussions and improved working;
- the East Belfast Cultural Network would undertake a Polish cultural awareness programme, which would include a specific engagement element for young people; and
- East Belfast Cultural Network members would work to issue a public statement which would seek to use their collective influence to dissuade groups from burning Polish flags. The community and the Polish representatives would pledge collectively that, should such events occur, they would be addressed through local engagement and not through the media.

It had been pointed out during the discussions that local community leaders had undertaken considerable work within their respective groups to address the issue of burning Polish flags and that the risk of a recurrence would be most likely to originate from those outside of the Bonfire Management Programme.

The Senior Good Relations Officer reported further that, in order to balance the concerns of Members with the need to maintain maximum participation in the

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Programme, it was now proposed that a debate and challenge programme be rolled out between now and July across all Cultural Networks to facilitate progress around issues such as the burning of flags and emblems on bonfires. Each group participating in that programme would be eligible for an additional payment of £100 to promote the cultural aspects of their festivals. However, that would be withheld until after their event and would be paid only to those groups which had both participated fully in the debate and challenge programme and which did not, in 2013, burn any flags, posters or emblems on their bonfires.

He pointed out that the programme, the content of which would be consistent across each group and the cost of which would be met from existing budgets, would be aimed primarily at young people involved in bonfire committees. All participants would be presented with an award at a ceremony which would take place in May in the City Hall, as part of a wider event around promoting positive expressions of culture. He drew the Partnership's attention to guidelines for participation in the Bonfire Management Programme which had been revised in line with the aforementioned proposal. Accordingly, he recommended that the Partnership note the progress which had been made in East Belfast between participants in the Bonfire Management Programme and the Polish community and approve the undernoted Programme participation criteria and associated guidelines for 2013:

**“PROMOTING THE POSITIVE EXPRESSION OF CULTURAL  
HERITAGE PROGRAMME 2012 – 2013**

**CONTRACT OF PARTICIPATION**

**Introduction**

**Under Phase I of the Belfast Peace Plan (2010-2011) a series of Cultural Networks were established under the theme of transforming contested space.**

**Recognising the impacts achieved through the development and delivery of the cultural networks programme over the past two years, an application was made for funding in Phase II of the Belfast Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan. This has been approved under Project 3 'Promoting the Positive Expression of Cultural Heritage' Programme, which will run from 2012-2013.**

**The aim of the programme is to create a vision for Belfast as a city in which different communities can celebrate their diverse cultural heritage in a positive, open and community focussed manner.**

**Objectives**

- To transform contested space within the context of cultural expression and to develop cultural events that are shared and open to all.**

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- To develop further the structure of local community led cultural networks through effective partnerships with civic bodies, promoting good practice regarding contested space in order to promote positive expressions of cultural heritage.
- To work directly with and support local communities to facilitate positive improvements in their cultural expression and heritage in areas such as bonfires and community art.
- To consolidate the improving relationships between communities and statutory bodies/government agencies in the delivery of local cultural events.

The main medium through which this will be achieved will be the consolidation of a number of locally based cultural networks. These networks will contribute to the outcomes and impacts envisioned by the Peace Plan, creating shared space. Networks will be tasked with creating a process of addressing issues concerning the perceived negative aspects of cultural expression and identity within their locality and will be resourced with facilitation, capacity building/training costs and programme activity costs. By agreeing to participate in the programme communities are committed to continuing to work towards a number of outcomes in partnership with Belfast City Council and Groundwork NI. These are:

- A decrease in incidents at bonfire sites and anti-social behaviour
- A decrease in tension around cultural events
- Increased practical sharing on the delivery of cultural activity
- The creation of cultural events that are safe, welcoming, accessible and good quality.

The Council, being responsible for the administration of public funding, is obliged to have agreed criteria and guidelines to work off. The criteria set out below, has been developed with participating communities:

**Programme Guidelines for 11th July events**

1. Successfully create a community committee by March 1st that is representative of the key stakeholders in the area and includes a balance of people in terms of age, gender, role within the community and young bonfire builders.



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- 2. Attend at least 4 and not miss 3 successive meetings, training programmes and other events and activities within the programme from September 2012 – June 2013. The timing and location of meetings, events and training programmes will be pitched to accommodate participants schedules. Participants will be able to nominate a representative and where appropriate a mentoring system will be operated. Only those groups who fulfil these requirements between now and June 2013 will be invited to 'sign-up' to the programme in order to access the programme resources for events.**
- 3. Have no collection of bonfire materials before 1st June**
- 4. Consult within the local community and with relevant statutory agencies on the site, location and size of the bonfire. Bonfire Beacons and frames will be made available to groups on the programme who wish to avail of them (as resources allow)**
- 5. Successfully maintain a clean, compact, tidy, tyre-free site, also free from other materials such as plastics and other toxic materials up to and including July 11th**
- 6. Communities should refrain from the displaying of flags/emblems and other symbols that could be perceived as being offensive on or in the vicinity of the bonfire site and communities on the programme will ensure that there will be no paramilitary shows of strength at bonfires**
- 7. All groups agree that the burning of any flag or symbol is unacceptable. Participating groups and bonfire committees will use their positive influence and endeavour to prevent the burning of any flags or symbols on bonfires, in accordance with the spirit and aims of the programme. Groups are committed to showing leadership on this issue ultimately with a view to eradicating this practice. In order to support progressive moves on this, an additional funding award of £750 will be provided to each network, as part of their training budget for this coming year. This will be used to facilitate training programmes, primarily (but not exclusively) with young people, on flags and emblems, myth busting and educational programmes. Each group that participates in this programme will be eligible for an additional £100 towards cultural aspects of their festival events. This additional payment will be made after the event and only paid out to those groups that participate in the training programme and do not burn any flags/posters/emblems on bonfires in 2013.**

**Programme Guidelines for 8th August events**

- 1. Successfully create a local committee by 1st March to assist with developing plans for diversionary activities & cultural events over the August period**
- 2. Attend at least 4 and not miss 3 successive meetings, training programmes and other events and activities within the programme from September 2012 – July 2013. The timing and location of meetings, events and training programmes will be pitched to accommodate participants schedules. Participants will be able to nominate a representative and where appropriate a mentoring system will be operated. Only those groups who fulfil these requirements between now and June 2013, will be invited to 'sign-up' to the programme in order to access the programme resources for events.**
- 3. Work with community representatives, statutory bodies & other stakeholders to address the gathering and collection of materials & anti-social activities associated with 8th August bonfires as and when they arise**
- 4. Promote broader community involvement through an inclusive family / community oriented festival on or around the 8th August as a diversion to any potential bonfires. Programmes will also incorporate initiatives to educate the wider community on the negative impact of bonfires around the 8<sup>th</sup> August, particularly the impact that the burning of flags and emblems has on wider community relations. In order to support progressive moves on this issue, an additional funding award of £750 will be provided to each network to develop suitable training and engagement programmes on this issue with the wider community.**

**General criteria for all participating groups**

- 1. Local communities explore ways to work together with neighbouring communities in the sharing of resources through the cultural networks programme**
- 2. Compliance with any relevant Council health and safety, events management and licensing guidelines.**
- 3. Participation in a review and monitoring process with a view to further strengthening the programme for the future.**

4. Engaging with statutory bodies (PSNI, NIFRS, NIHE, DRD Roads Service, Belfast City Council, NIEA) as appropriate
5. Ensuring compliance with any relevant Council health and safety, events management and licensing guidelines
6. Complying with SEUPB requirements with regard to quotations – for every item of expenditure 3 written quotes must be obtained and supplied on company letterhead paper
7. Supporting information as required by Groundwork NI to comply with reporting & evaluation requirements

**Resources for Community Cultural Activities and Events**

Providing communities can demonstrate that they are actively working towards the above, then Groundwork NI will make resources of £1,500, (with an additional £100 for those groups not burning flags) available to each area. Details of eligible expenditure & procedures are included in the application pro-forma. Non-compliance may result in funding being withheld & ongoing participation in the programme being reviewed.

This project is part of Belfast City Council's Peace & Reconciliation Action Plan 2011-2013, funded by the EU Programme for Peace & Reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland (PEACE III) under Priority 1.1, Building Positive Relations at a local level.

**COMMITMENT OF PARTICIPATION**

Following discussions within our community, the \_\_\_\_\_ community wish to participate in the Promoting the Positive Expression of Cultural Heritage Programme 2012 - 2013 and agree to the conditions of participation set out in this document.

Two contact details are:

Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Mob:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Mob:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**This information will be treated as confidential and will only be used for the purpose of contacting each community during the Programme.**

**This project is part of Belfast City Council's Peace & Reconciliation Action Plan 2011-2013. It is funded by the EU Programme for Peace & Reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland (PEACE III) under Priority 1.1, Building Positive Relations at a local level."**

After discussion, the Partnership adopted the recommendation.

**Equality and Diversity Related Action Plans**

The Partnership was reminded that, at its meeting on 9th January, 2012, it had, based upon revised guidance which had been issued by the Equality Commission, approved a revised Equality Scheme and one-year interim Equality Action Plan. The documents had been approved subsequently by both the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and by the Commission. The Good Relations Manager reported that the Council's Equality and Diversity Officer, in conjunction with the Human Resources Section, had now prepared for consultation a draft Equality Action Plan which would cover the period from 2012 till 2015. The Plan had been developed following a detailed audit of the impact of the work on the nine equality group categories and actions were organised under the following headings, that is, strategic issues which impacted upon the organisation; communication with staff and customers; training and development for staff; workforce representation; and participation and access to Council services.

She explained that the Equality Action Plan would provide an overarching framework for other detailed action plans, namely, a Disability Action Plan, a Gender Action Plan, a Workforce Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Action Plan and a Workforce Race Action Plan. She provided a brief overview of each document and pointed out that they would, along with the Equality Action Plan, be submitted for approval by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee before being subjected to a formal twelve week consultation process. The Partnership would be advised, in due course, of any changes to the documents arising from that exercise.

After discussion, the Partnership approved the aforementioned Plans, copies of which were available on the Modern.gov website.

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**Good Relations Grant-Aid Fund**

The Partnership was advised that the third and final call for applications for funding under the Good Relations Grant-Aid Fund for 2012/2013 had been made on 8th October. The Good Relations Manager reported that, by the closing date of 26th October, a total of forty-seven applications had been received, requesting in total £176,866.66. Those had been assessed using pre-agreed criteria, following which forty-one submissions had been recommended for funding.

Accordingly, she recommended that the Partnership agree that grant-aid of £114,473 be awarded under the delegated authority of the Chief Executive to the following organisations:

| <b>Ref No</b> | <b>Organisation</b>                                 | <b>Recommended Amount,<br/>up to £</b> |
|---------------|---|--|
| 852/2860      | Artillery Youth Bank                                | 3,000                                  |
| 418/2875      | Basement Youth Club                                 | 3,000                                  |
| 865/2874      | Carrick Hill Residents Association                  | 3,000                                  |
| 785/2870      | Holy Family Youth Centre                            | 7,522                                  |
| 1244/2855     | Malachians Football Club                            | 1,000                                  |
| 711/2848      | New Lodge Arts                                      | 3,750                                  |
| 769/2879      | North Belfast Community Devt & Transition Group     | 5,000                                  |
| 951/2854      | Seaview Enterprises                                 | 5,000                                  |
| 917/2886      | Prime Cut Productions                               | 5,000                                  |
| 430/2872      | Markets Development Association                     | 5,000                                  |
| 751/2847      | West Kirk Community Project                         | 3,450                                  |
| 1068/2851     | Sandy Row Community Forum                           | 9,000                                  |
| 1267/2881     | Nigerian Association NI                             | 640                                    |
| 808/2858      | Healing through Remembering                         | 3,000                                  |
| 1270/2891     | East End Great War Society                          | 1,500                                  |
| 1259/2849     | Open Hands  | 830                                    |
| 1261/2861     | Newhill Football Club                               | 1,000                                  |
| 307/2853      | NI Tolerance, Education & Cultural Society (NITECA) | 1,000                                  |
| 879/2857      | Children for Peace in Ireland                       | 2,240                                  |
| 1266/2878     | St. Matthews FC                                     | 980                                    |
| 1264/2867     | South Belfast Youth Football Club                   | 1,000                                  |
| 1201/2883     | Albert Foundry Football Club                        | 963                                    |
| 1269/2887     | St. Andrews AFC                                     | 1,000                                  |
| 749/2876      | Gleann ABC  | 1,000                                  |
| 1263/2866     | Youth Link NI                                       | 1,000                                  |
| 468/2865      | Coiste-Na N-Iarchimi                                | 1,200                                  |
| 519/2869      | Denmark Street Community Centre                     | 1,000                                  |
| 747/2850      | Divis Youth Project                                 | 2,260                                  |
| 924/2884      | Shankill Area Project                               | 7,820                                  |

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| <b>Ref No</b> | <b>Organisation</b>                       | <b>Recommended Amount,<br/>up to £</b> |
|---------------|---|--|
| 245/2889      | Suffolk Lenadon Interface Group           | 2,920                                  |
| 364/2888      | Suffolk Community Forum                   | 1,880                                  |
| 792/2877      | Teach na Failte                           | 2,373                                  |
| 848/2890      | Black Box Belfast                         | 1,350                                  |
| 1260/2852     | Charter NI                                | 6,875                                  |
| 880/2885      | Corrymeela Community                      | 3,000                                  |
| 348/2893      | Chinese Welfare Association               | 5,000                                  |
| 1025/2864     | Fortwilliam & Macrory Presbyterian Church | 4,920                                  |
| 773/2892      | New Life Counselling                      | 1,000                                  |
| 1268/2871     | One World Creative                        | 1,000                                  |
| 1268/2882     | Rosario Youth Centre                      | 1,000                                  |
| 1032/2862     | P.S.N.I.                                  | 1,000                                  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  |   | <b>114,473</b>                         |

The Partnership adopted the recommendation and noted that 75% of the expenditure would be recouped from the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister under the District Council Good Relations Programme.

**Sharing Best Practice in Promoting Diversity Seminar**

The Partnership was advised that the Growing a Shared Future project was funded through the PEACE III theme which sought to develop key institutional capacity for a shared society. The Good Relations Manager reported that the project was due to end in December with the holding of a seminar entitled Sharing Best Practice in Promoting Diversity. The event, which would be held in the City Hall on Wednesday, 12th December, would share best practice in diversity management and celebrate the launch of the Council's e-learning programme. Good Relations Officers, Equality Officers and Diversity Champions from other councils, together with representatives of the Equality Commission, the Local Government Staff Commission and the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, had been invited to attend. The cost of hosting the event would be met in full through the PEACE III Growing a Shared City theme.

The Partnership noted the information which had been provided.

Chairman