

## **GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP**

**MONDAY, 11th August, 2014**

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

Members present: Councillor Hendron (Chairman);  
Councillors Mac Giolla Mhín and Kyle.

External Members: Ms. O. Barron, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;  
Mr. S. Brennan, Voluntary/Community Sector;  
Ms. A. Chada, Minority Ethnic Groups;  
Mr. R. Galway, Confederation of British Industry/  
Shorts Bombardier;  
Mr. P. Mackel, Belfast and District Trades Unions;  
Ms. M. Marken, Catholic Church;  
Mr. B. McGivern, Belfast City Centre Management; and  
Mr. U. Tok, Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum.

In attendance: Ms. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager;  
Mr. T. Martin, Head of Building Control;  
Mr. S. Lavery, Programme Manager;  
Mr. I. May, PEACE III Programme Manager; and  
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

#### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of Ms. J. Hawthorne, Dr. C. Hughes, Ms. C. Moore and Mr. P. Scott.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 9th June were taken as read and signed as correct.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Mac Giolla Mhín declared an interest in respect of agenda items 3 and 4, relating to the PEACE III and PEACE IV Programmes respectively, in that he was a member of the Special European Union Programmes Body's Evaluation Panel and took no part in the discussion.

#### **Equality Consultative Forum and Screening Outcome Report**

The Good Relations Manager reminded the Partnership that Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 required public authorities, in undertaking their functions, to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity and good relations across a range of categories as set out within the Act. In terms of the Council, it was committed to having in place appropriate internal arrangements for ensuring its effective compliance with the statutory duties contained within Section 75 and for monitoring and reviewing its progress.

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She explained that the Council met its statutory obligations in several ways, through, amongst other things, the Consultative Forum and the publication of a Screening Outcome Report. She reviewed the aims of the Consultative Forum, which had been held on a biannual basis since 1995, and pointed out that it played a crucial role in the consultative process by providing feedback to inform the Council's policies and strategies. The Council sought to ensure that the Forum was representative of the Section 75 categories and its membership had been reviewed with that in mind.

The latest meeting of the Forum had taken place on 14th May in the City Hall, during which the following policies had been considered:

- Disability Strategy, Disabled Go and Equality Monitoring Update
- Draft Good and Harmonious Working Environment Policy
- Draft Procurement Strategy
- Draft Tourism Strategy
- Leisure Transformation
- Local Government Reform
- Shadow Council Corporate Plan 2014-2015

The Good Relations Manager reported further that the Council's Equality Scheme set out how the organisation proposed to fulfil its statutory duties under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. The Council had provided a commitment within the Scheme to applying screening methodology to all new and revised policies, with a view to identifying those which were likely to have an effect upon equality of opportunity and/or good relations and their likely impacts. She confirmed that, during the period from January till May, screenings had been undertaken in relation to policies for the Centralisation of Grants, the Destination Belfast Programme, the Public Bike Share Scheme and a reduction in the number of black bins collected, the results of which had been published within a Screening Outcome Report which was now available on the Council's website.

Noted.

**PEACE III Implementation Update**

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

**“1 Relevant Background Information**

- 1.1 Two projects under the theme of Transforming Contested Space have been extended for activity until September 2014 in line with the extension request submitted in December 2013. All other projects in the Phase II Plan have now completed. Work is continuing on final verification of expenditure; collation of final project reports and project closure in line with SEUPB guidance.**

## **2 Key Issues**

- 2.1** An event was held on 19th June at the Oh Yeah Centre in Belfast to mark the achievements of the Belfast PEACE III Plan and to launch the evaluation report and summary document. The event included four project presentations. Feedback received on the event was positive with the audience consisting of a mix of community and voluntary organisations, statutory bodies, private sector, Partnership members and representatives from other PEACE Partnerships in Northern Ireland and from the Border Counties. A press release was issued to mark the event. Copies of the evaluation and summary report have been circulated to members of the Partnership.
- 2.2** All conditions contained in Council's Letter of Offer have been met as outlined in a summary report to SEUPB, a copy of which has been circulated to the Partnership. Progress on the Plan was discussed at review meetings with SEUPB on 28th May and 26th June, 2014.
- 2.3** Youth Engagement Project (034054)

The Youth Engagement Project has commenced delivery of a citywide training and mentoring programme for young people at risk in line with the approved extension activity. To date there have been 95 referrals which are being assessed by the Youth Justice Agency. In the last quarter the project has held four networking meetings across the city with delivery agents and local community representatives. The oversight group held a review session on 16th April to look at current statutory provision and consider future service provision requirements. A meeting of Chief Executives of the Interagency partners met on 20th May to consider the future sustainability of the initiative with a specific piece of work commissioned on capturing the social return created by the investment. This is due to report by 30<sup>th</sup> September. The Information Sharing Protocol developed through the Programme has been recognised as a service which can be of benefit to the wider community and a model for other organisations working with disadvantaged young people and families.

## **3 Resource Implications**

### **3.1 Financial**

A claim of approximately £135,000 has been submitted to SEUPB on 31st July. The April 14 claim of approximately £483,000 is undergoing verification by SEUPB. Remittances

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on the Jan 14 claim of £833,686 were received in May 14. Advance funding of £400,000 made available in 2012 by SEUPB has now been fully offset.

**3.2 Human Resources**

Current PEACE III Staff are contracted until 31 December 2014.

**3.3 Asset and Other Implications**

N/A

**4 Recommendation**

**4.1 The Partnership is requested to note the contents of this report.**

**5 Equality and Good Relations Considerations**

**5.1 The evaluation of the PEACE III detailing the impacts and outcomes captured to date plan has been circulated to the Partnership.”**

The Partnership adopted the recommendation.

**PEACE IV Programme**

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

**“1 Relevant Background Information**

**1.1 A public consultation on the draft Operational Programme for the PEACE IV programme opened on 3rd June, with responses sought by 29th July 2014. The Council submitted a response in the first stage consultation exercise conducted by SEUPB in November 2012. A response to the 2nd consultation on the Draft Operational Programme has been prepared and submitted to SEUPB, with the caveat that this is subject to ratification by the Shadow Policy and Resources Committee in August.**

**1.2 A PEACE IV Programme has been approved with a budget of €229 million ERDF plus 15% match funding. The key aims of the Programme are:**

- **Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination;**

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- **Contribute to the promotion of social and economic stability in the regions concerned, in particular through actions to promote cohesion between communities.**
- 1.3** The main focus will be on Children and Young people with a strong role for local authorities. Approximately 30% of funding has been ring-fenced for Local Authority led Action Plans (11 NI Councils and 6 Border Region Plans) building upon the experience of delivery under the PEACE III Programme. The programme has been designed to fit with Community Planning and LGR and the Together Building a United Community Strategy.
- 1.4** The Programme will be presented to the Northern Ireland Executive and the Irish Government for approval before being submitted by 22 September 2014 to the European Commission for negotiation and final approval.
- 1.5** It is estimated that the first call for applications is unlikely to happen before March / April 2015.
- 2** **Key Issues**
- 2.1** Key Themes and Indicative Funding Allocations in the proposed Programme are as follows:
- **Shared Education – €45 million**
  - **Children & Young People – €50 million (€20million through Local Action Plans)**
  - **Shared Spaces & Services – €90 million (€20million through Local Action Plans)**
  - **Civil Society – €30 million through Local Action plans**
- 2.2** All funded operations and all eligible groups or organisations that apply for funding, will be required to identify how they will contribute towards the achievement of the results that the Programme sets out to achieve. SEUPB has commissioned the University of Ulster and QUB to consider an approach to capturing impacts and outcomes.
- 2.3** The North Belfast Cultural Corridor has already been proposed to SEUPB as a key Council project for PEACE IV. This would fit as a capital project under the Shared Spaces theme. PEACE III Projects along similar lines to the PEACE IV themes identified above include the Migrant & Minority Ethnic Project (Good Relations Unit); Youth Engagement Project (Community Safety Unit); Interfaces Project (Good Relations Unit); Growing Respect (Parks & Leisure) and Creative Legacies project (Tourism, Culture & Arts Unit) plus

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various projects run by 3rd sector organisations under the PEACE III Plan.

**3 Resource Implications**

**3.1 Financial**

Match funding of 15% will be required. This can come from a range of non EU sources including central or local government or other public or private sources. Match funding can be in cash or non cash contributions such as staff time.

**3.2 Human Resources**

There will be a requirement for significant additional officer time and resources in developing outline proposals for submission to SEUPB.

**3.3 Asset and Other Implications**

N/A

**4 Recommendation**

**4.1 The Partnership is requested to note the report.**

**5 Equality and Good Relations Considerations**

**5.1 Screening conducted by SEUPB in developing the Operational Programme concluded that there were major positive impacts across four of the nine S.75 grounds and neutral or minor impact upon other S.75 grounds. These were all considered as impacts that would help to promote equality of opportunity and good relations with the result that the Programme will not be subject to a further Equality Impact Assessment at present. The proposed Local Action Plan will also require equality screening."**

After discussion, during which the Members highlighted the need to link the PEACE IV Programme into the community planning process, the Partnership adopted the recommendation and noted that the Council's response to the consultation on the Operational Programme would be circulated, once approved.

**Update on Work to Address Hate Crime**

The Good Relations Manager reminded the Partnership that an inter-agency event had taken place in the City Hall on 2nd June in order to highlight issues surrounding hate crime. The event had been chaired jointly by the Council and the Police Service of Northern Ireland and representatives from a number of relevant

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agencies had attended. It had been agreed at the event that a working group be established in order to formulate an action plan which would seek to address the issues which had been raised and that it would report to both the Good Relations Partnership and the Policing and Community Safety Partnership. That approach had been endorsed by the Good Relations Partnership at its meeting on 9th June.

She reported that a meeting of the working group had taken place on 2nd July and had been chaired by the Lord Mayor. Work had commenced around three specific areas, namely, Communication and Messaging, Community Activity and Support Services and a detailed plan, setting out relevant actions, had been developed for each element. It was now proposed that funding of £1,500 be allocated from within the Good Relations Programme, 75% of which was funded by the Office of the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister, to commission research into the social and economic benefits of diversity in the City, with a view to promoting them through a widespread media campaign. She confirmed that the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership would be required to meet the remaining £1,500 associated with the research.

After discussion, the Partnership agreed to allocate funding of £1,500 towards the aforementioned research and that the Good Relations Manager discuss with the relevant organisations and agencies the branding and language used in promoting the anti-hate crime message.

**Emergency Intervention Fund**

The Good Relations Manager reminded the Partnership that the Summer Intervention Fund had been established to support local programmes to address potential anti-social behaviour around interfaces during periods of heightened tension. Applications to the fund were considered once per year on a formal basis by the Good Relations Unit. However, the Partnership had agreed previously that funding could be allocated at other times to any group which was required in an emergency situation to undertake intervention work which would normally meet the criteria of the Fund.

The Partnership was reminded further that, at its meeting on 12th August, 2013, it had been advised by the Office of the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister (OFMdFM) that it was proposing to provide emergency funding in response to unforeseen community tensions in areas which had not been included in the planned programme delivered through the Summer Intervention Fund. OFMdFM had allocated in total £5,000 to the initiative and successful applicants could avail of up to a maximum of £1,000 for intervention work. In total, four applications for funding had been approved in 2013/2014.

The Good Relations Manager reported that OFMdFM had, in June, contacted the Good Relations Unit to confirm that the initiative would be repeated for 2014/2015. To date, the Council, which was responsible for administering the scheme, had received one application, from the Lower Shankill Community Association, seeking funding of up to £1,000 to undertake on 12th July in the Woodvale Park a number of diversionary activities for young people and adults. That application had been approved by OFMdFM, however, the funding had not been required as the event had not taken place.

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After discussion, during which the Good Relations Manager undertook to discuss with the Office of the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister ways of raising awareness of the Emergency Intervention Fund amongst minority groups, the Partnership noted the information which had been provided.

**Bonfire Management Programme 2014**

The Partnership was reminded that, at its meeting on 7th April, it had delegated authority to Council officers to deliver an in-house Bonfire Management Programme for 2014. The Programme Manager explained that, under the initiative, participating groups could avail of funding of up to £2,000 to undertake diversionary work, subject to their adherence to a number of criteria. The groups were required to attend a seminar outlining the conditions of the Programme, to agree in writing to the conditions set out within their Letter of Offer and to complete a post-event monitoring and evaluation form. Funding of 70% would be allocated to participants prior to events, with the remainder being paid upon the satisfactory completion of their project and the Council being satisfied that the conditions had been met. Groups which did not adhere to those conditions would risk having their payments withheld or clawed back and being prevented in future from accessing Council funding streams.

He reported that 46 groups had participated in this year's initiative and that they had been awarded in total £89,748. To date, £62,284 (70%) had been allocated and officers were evaluating those projects which had been completed in July with a view to determining whether they had adhered to the conditions of the Programme and, thereby, be eligible for the remaining 30% of funding. The same process would apply to those which would be delivered during the month of August. Accordingly, he sought the Partnership's approval to allocate the final payment to participating groups where clear evidence existed that they had adhered fully to the terms and conditions set out within the scheme. He confirmed that a full evaluation of the Bonfire Management Programme would then be undertaken, details of which would be presented to the Partnership in due course.

During a lengthy discussion, a Member highlighted a number of issues which had arisen in relation to bonfires, primarily around the burning of flags and election posters, alcohol misuse, anti-social behaviour, the destruction of roads, danger to property and their impact upon the delivery of public services and on the environment. Those issues had attracted considerable media coverage which, he stated, would be likely to have a negative impact upon tourism. He pointed out that the Council had put in place within its Bonfire Management Programme strict conditions for participants, which had sought to eliminate many of the aforementioned issues, and stressed that it should be seen to be imposing penalties on those who had clearly failed to adhere to those conditions.

A further Member stated that, despite the fact that some participants had breached the conditions laid down by the Council, the Programme had been more effective than in previous years, particularly in terms of the burning of tyres and of flags and emblems. He pointed out that the absence of such a scheme would have a more negative impact upon communities and stressed that the Council should continue to work with groups to examine ways in which the Programme could be improved.



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After further discussion, the Partnership agreed that:

- i. where there was clear evidence of a group's adherence to the conditions set out within the Council's Bonfire Management Programme, that that group be allocated the remaining 30% of its funding entitlement;
- ii. a report be submitted to its next meeting providing information on groups which had clearly breached the conditions set out within the Bonfire Management Programme, with a view to deciding if penalties should be imposed; and
- iii. a report be submitted, in due course, to the Partnership setting out potential options for the future delivery of the Bonfire Management Programme and, in terms of this year's bonfires, to include statistics, where available, from the relevant agencies on the number of reported assaults, incidences of hate crime, theft of materials for use on bonfires, damage to roads and properties, their impact upon service delivery, including healthcare, and on air quality.

**Update on PEACE III Interfaces Programme**

(Ms. M. Hand, Good Relations Officer, attended in connection with this item.)

The Partnership was reminded that, at its meeting on 9th June, it had agreed to receive at a future meeting an update on the PEACE III Interfaces Programme.

The Good Relations Officer reported that the Interfaces Project sought to develop an inclusive community approach towards the regeneration of communities living at interfaces. In all, ten barriers across the City, located within Inner North (Duncairn), Inner West (Lower Falls/Shankill) and Upper North (Ardoyne/Woodvale) had been selected for transformation and funding of £421,531 had been allocated under the PEACE III Programme, of which £240,000 had been earmarked to deliver, in partnership with local communities and a number of agencies, environmental improvements and artworks at eight locations. She provided details around those projects and advised that it was the intention that the works be completed before the deadline of September 2014, as stipulated by the Special European Union Programmes Body.

In terms of future initiatives, she pointed out that functions around spatial planning, urban regeneration and community planning would, under Local Government Reform, be transferring to councils and that cognisance would, in future, be given to interface working within Council policies.

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The Partnership noted the information which had been provided and agreed to receive at a future meeting an update on the work of Dr. J. Byrne, Dr. C. Gormley-Heenan and Dr. D. Morrow from the University of Ulster, who were working with the Department of Justice on research around interfaces.

**Evaluation of Summer Camps/Schools**

The Partnership was advised that one of the four key priorities within the Office of the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister's 'Together: Building a United Community' strategy related to 'Our Children and Young People'. That priority sought to continue to improve attitudes amongst young people and to build a community where they could play a full and active role in building good relations.

The Good Relations Manager reported that one of the central actions under the aforementioned priority focused upon the development of a Summer Camps/Summer Schools pilot programme. The scheme would operate throughout the summer of 2015 and would consist of 100 projects, which would deliver sport and developmental activities. In order to inform and develop the programme, it was proposed that an independent evaluation of a range of activities/projects be commissioned. That exercise would include an assessment of pilot schemes which had been undertaken in 2014, together with other general summer intervention activities which had been arranged by the Council, other local authorities and the Department of Education. It would include also any relevant projects which had been funded by the Community Relations Council and the Office of the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister (OFMdFM).

She explained that the regional evaluation would seek to detail the various approaches being adopted to summer schools/camps by the various providers and to determine how those could be developed into a coherent programme for delivery in 2015 onwards. OFMdFM had indicated that the evaluation should be progressed through the District Council Good Relations Programme and had requested the Council to commission a suitably qualified independent consultant to oversee the exercise and to compile by 31st January a report for its consideration. The cost of the evaluation would be funded in total through the aforementioned Programme.

The Partnership approved the commissioning of the evaluation as outlined.

Chairman